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Film shows deafblindness no obstacle to trekking

A diverse group of adventurers, who are all deafblind, will be helping make a film when they walk one of Western Australia's most famous trails, the Bibbulmun Track this weekend (November 14).

The venture has been organised by the Senses Foundation (in Burswood) and is led by project officer and adventurer Michael House. The day trip is one of two walks planned by the Foundation this month – the other, an overnight adventure, is on November 24.

The Foundation is the primary advocate for people who are deafblind (or blind with an additional disability) in Western Australia. It has secured funding from the Disability Services Commission, to produce a film highlighting how it organises and runs its innovative activities.

The finished film will be used by other agencies interested in running similar programs.

"A lot of people who have a disability miss out on opportunities to do things that are new and challenging because they have to fit in with set routines and services, so they don't often get a chance to move outside the square they live in," Mr House said.

"This is a chance for them to do that in a supported environment and to mix with like minded people.

"We have already had success where one client is now a volunteer doing maintenance on the track and that evolved from his participation in a walk such as those coming up.

"The Senses Foundation has a very innovative approach to providing recreational activities for its clients and we hope this film gives other organisations the information they need to follow suit."



Pic Caption: Project Officer Michael House and Wilma Bass from Bassendean will film the walk to show other disability organisations how to do it.
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