



Trailwalker

Autumn 2013 Issue 127

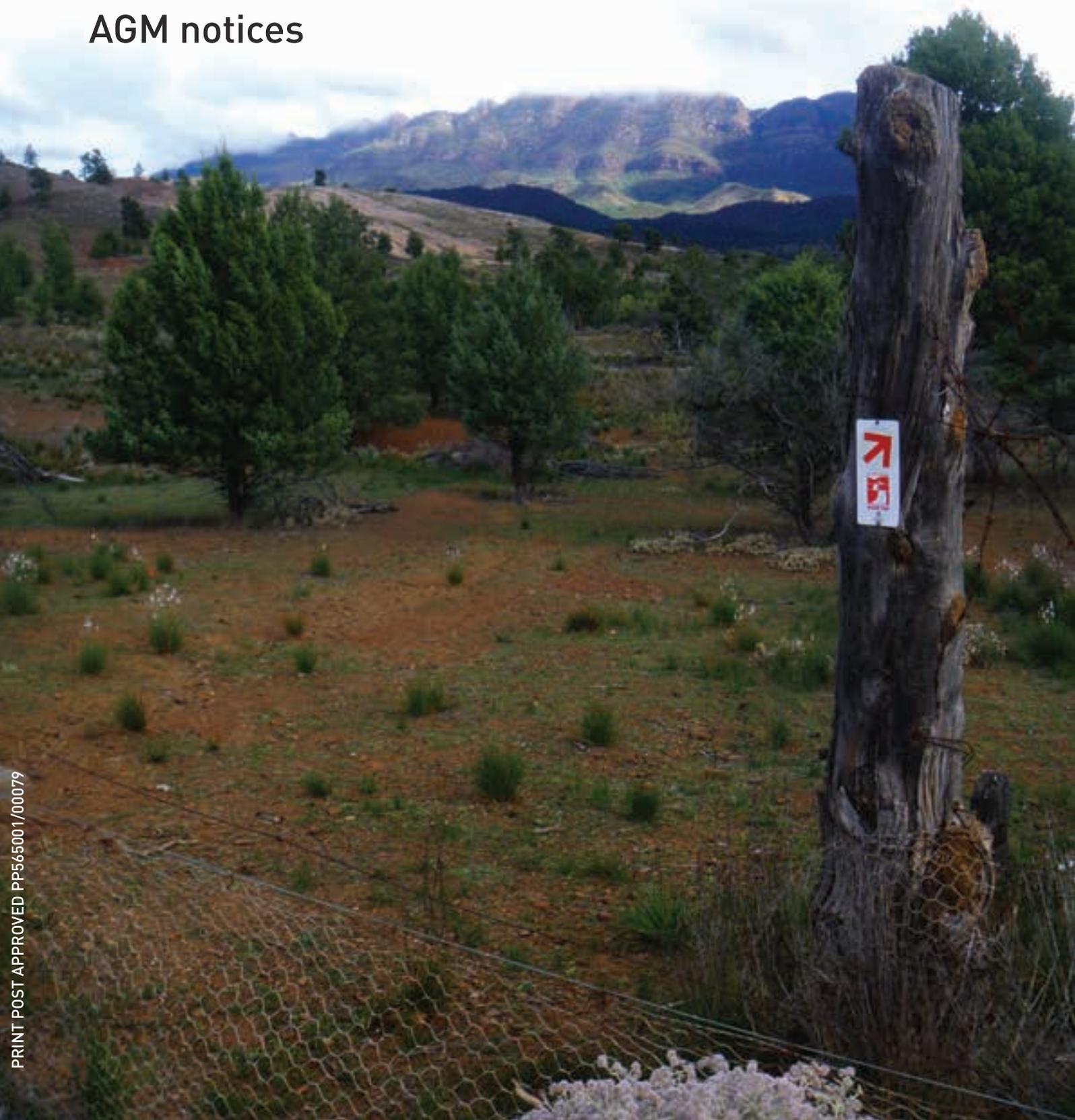
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Trail & Other Walking
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Membership Information

Joining Fee \$10
Single \$25 per year
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Membership is valid from the date of payment until the end of the corresponding month in the following year.

Trailwalker Magazine

Views expressed in contributed articles are those of the authors, and not necessarily those of the Friends of the Heysen Trail.

The Trailwalker magazine is available by subscription or online at www.heysentrail.asn.au/trailwalker

The Trailwalker magazine is published quarterly:

- Autumn (March)
- Winter (June)
- Spring (September)
- Summer (December)

The Trailwalker magazine has a distribution of 1200, and an estimated readership of approximately twice that number.

Articles, reports and other submissions by members and other interested parties are welcome and should be emailed to the Trailwalker Editor at trailwalker@heysentrail.asn.au

The submission deadline is usually the first Friday of the month prior to the month of publication.

Advertising Rates

1/8 page vertical \$40 per issue
1/4 page \$60 per issue
1/2 page \$100 per issue
Full Page \$150 per issue

Flyer (supplied for insertion) \$180 per issue

A commitment for 12 months advertising – 4 issues, would attract 10% saving

Advertising specifications and article submission guidelines are available upon request or by visiting www.heysentrail.asn.au/trailwalker

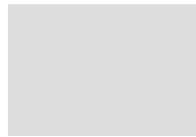
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Issue 127 Autumn 2013



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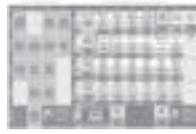
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The Friends of
the Heysen Trail
& Other Walking
Trails

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Mike Parsons
Robyn Quinn
Elizabeth Rogers

Tuesdays

Chris Caspar
Chris Porter
David Rattray
David Roberts

Wednesdays

Myra Betschild
Gilbert Downs
Wendy Fox
Glenn Marsland

Thursdays

Eve Buckley
Bob Gentle
Julian Monfries
Dominic Henschke

Fridays

Colin Edwards
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Jamie Shephard

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Myra Betschild

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Penny Shepley	Publicity Officer
Hugh Greenhill	Section Leader
Vic Breeding	Understudy

Council Meeting Dates

Wednesday 20 February 2013
Wednesday 20 March 2013
Wednesday 17 April 2013
Wednesday 15 May 2013

Winter Trailwalker Deadline

Friday 3 May 2013

Articles, reports and other submissions are welcome from: members walking on the Heysen Trail or elsewhere; non-members walking the Heysen Trail; other interested parties.

To submit an article, contact the Editor at trailwalker@heysentrail.asn.au.

Contributors are urged to contact the Editor to discuss their article prior to submission.

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Cover

Elder Range from near Black Gap
Photographer: Mary Cartland

President

A Word from the President

Robert Alcock



It's been summertime - the walk programme has only the one twilight walk a week, the Office was closed for a month, and little maintenance work has been done due to the weather and fire risk. It could be a time of rest. Yet our organisation has not been asleep. We have had a number of events and planning has continued for a

full year of work and walking when we do get back onto the trail.

Last November we had the annual Volunteers BBQ, held to thank all the wonderful people who help out in so many ways. It's also a chance for those volunteers to meet up, and in many cases, put faces to voices and names. Then in December the Christmas function, which included a Kris Kringle where we received a gift, some useful, but many were novelty items providing much mirth. It was a good chance for me to catch up with many members, even if too briefly. Christmas came and went and all of a sudden I was at the Office Training Day, where those volunteers gain valuable knowledge of our operations. The Office/Shop was then opened for a new year. On Australia Day we had our members BBQ at Kingston Beach. It was pleasing to see many new members, yet I missed seeing many of the regulars from previous years. It was a lovely day for the beach walk, then a relaxing BBQ and socialising into the twilight.

Our January Council meeting was a review and planning session. The 2012 achievements were checked against the plans made 12 months ago, and new plans were put forward. Of particular note is the increase in membership - 189 new individual members joined in 2012. Individual members at the end of 2012 numbered 835 - an increase of 12% from a year before. All areas of the Friends have proposals for 2013 which will again keep them busy with maintenance, enhancements, and with walking the Heysen Trail. The work we do is led by the Heysen Trail Strategy and the Trail Management Plan set out by the Department of Environment, Water & Natural Resource. We work together with the Department, with the Friends being invaluable to the future maintenance, development and promotion of the Heysen Trail. In 2013 the Walking Programme expands again, including the End to End 8 group commencing their walks on the Heysen Trail. With the busy programme comes the need to find and train new walk leaders. If you have an interest, come along to the walk leaders training day this year. The new Greening Committee will continue it's planting programme, advancing on the work done in 2012. Having more trees and bushes along bare sections of the trail will be

welcomed by future walkers, as we that walk now enjoy the developing growth along those sections planted by earlier groups. A restructure of the Maintenance Management has been approved, and it can now be implemented. The intention is to provide improved response to maintenance issues, and provide for updated reporting for better maintenance management. The Heysen Trail was again hit by bush/forest fire this summer, with the recent fire at Bundaleer Forest destroying many kilometres of trail markers. See the report on page 7.

The office staff will continue the valuable administration of the Friends, with the roles and functions of volunteers evolving as the technology changes and our organisation develops. We continue to promote the Heysen Trail and the work of the Friends through the efforts of the Marketing and Membership committee, with our website, social media, a printed magazine, calendar, and other opportunities that come up. More signs along the Trail are also being planned, to better inform the locals and visitors to our regional towns.

It is expected the Warren Bonython Heysen Trail Foundation will be formed in coming months. This will be a sister organisation to the Friends, to provide new opportunities to raise funds that will assist to continue the valuable work being done, and allow for implementation of new initiatives and infrastructure on the Heysen Trail. We will soon see more promotion of "A Day on the Heysen", with planning advancing for the October event. This event is being held to recognise and remember Warren Bonython, by having the whole Heysen Trail walked on the one day. Select the section you wish to walk and book in early to ensure you are accepted for that section.

Most will have seen the revamped website. It has been reprogrammed and simplified to better access the required information, and is now suitable for access by smartphones and tablets. Soon the walk bookings will be done through a membership login, simplifying the booking process, and making it more efficient for the Friends and members. Your comments on the use of the new site are welcome.

Remember our AGM. Featuring a special talk titled "Walking with Warren", it will be well worth your attendance. Terry Kreig joined Warren Bonython on many walks, including around Lake Eyre. With the meeting date being close to the anniversary of Warren's death, come along to hear from one who walked with, and knew Warren well. Who was Warren? What made him the unique character that he was? On Friday 15th March, I will see you there.



News

Friends of the Heysen Trail AGM

The 26th Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Heysen Trail and Other Walking Trails Inc will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday, 15th March 2013 at the Woodville Lawn Bowling Club, Oval Avenue, Woodville South (entrance to car park from Koolunda Avenue).

More details, including the agenda and details of the election of council members, can be found on page 20.

104 km Adelaide Hills Trail

The Adelaide Hills Council has been seeking public feedback concerning their Draft 20 Year Trail Strategy. The vision is of a 104km core trail, with additional loops, linking Hills townships and existing trails within the council area.

The strategy builds on popular trails such as the Amy Gillett, Mawson and Heysen Trails to create greater connectivity between townships and to link popular attractions, cellar doors and market villages.

The consultation process ended on 15 February.

More information on the proposal can be obtained by following the links in the News section of our website.

Website upgrade

Have you visited the website recently? If so, you will have noticed that it looks different.

Although the content is still the same, our webmaster, Jeremy, has redesigned it so that it can now work on smartphones and tablets.

Walk registrations will now be very easy to do on a smartphone.

It has been determined that 30% of our web traffic is via smartphone or tablet. Now it will not matter whether you are using a smartphone, like an iPhone or Android, or a tablet, like an iPad or galaxy, or a laptop or desktop computer.

The front page of the website has been streamlined to provide key information of interest to independent hikers, and people hiking with the Friends.

Walking Season Opening 2013

Tent (Garage) Sale

Sunday, April 14th, 2013

Elder Park, Adelaide

Do you have surplus bushwalking gear at home, just lying around?
Have you no idea what to do with that old backpack that is quite serviceable?
That self-inflating sleeping mat that you don't need any more!

Tents, boots, sleeping bags etc

Well, here is your chance to make some money, help the Friends and clear out the cupboards.

Label your gear (clearly) with your name and the price you want.

Deposit it at the Friends' shop by Friday 5th April and we'll do the rest.

Your gear sold, you get cash minus 10% (our cut)

Gear not sold, you get it back.

Report on Bundaleer Forest fire

Andrew Moylan was recently asked for an update on the effects that the recent fire in Bundaleer Forest had on Curnows Hut. Andrew's association with the hut goes back to the early 1990's when he was a member of the Dept. of Recreation and Sport - Outdoor Recreation Unit working with Terry Lavender in the establishment of the Heysen Trail from 1985-1995. He was involved in the process to negotiate access to use the Curnow's Hut ruin for use as a Heysen trail hut and also worked with the Friends of the Heysen Trail to coordinate its reconstruction by participants from a Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Program managed by the Adelaide Central Mission. His reference to the ginger bread house is because the building located in the forest always reminded him of that fairy tale.

He is always interested in how the Heysen Trail is developing and supports it when he can on sections that pass through Forest reserve.

What follows is Andrew's report.

Ginger Bread House Doesn't Get Cooked

The Bundaleer North Fire started on ForestrySA land within the Bundaleer Forest Reserve at approximately 4pm on Wednesday 16 January 2013. Over the next two days it burnt approximately 2,300ha of land, including almost 500ha of ForestrySA plantations before being contained on 21 January 2013.

The fire started to the west of Curnow's Hut and burnt both pine and hardwood plantations around the hut. The hut was protected by local CFS crews who put in a significant effort to protect it from the fire. Due to other fire management priorities and a significant number of burnt and fallen trees it was dangerous to access the hut until Tuesday 22 January. It was with great relief to me to see the hut had survived as I have a long history with this building going back to the early 1990s. Although the hut survived the fire the toilet has been burnt and completely destroyed and will need to be replaced. ForestrySA is currently working with the Department of Environment, Water & Natural Resource to consider options for its reconstruction. Sections of the Heysen Trail have also been affected by the fire and some remarking of trail will



Andrew Moylan at the front of Curnows Hut

be required. At this stage the area around the hut and the section of trail from Springs Road to New Campbell Hill are closed due to a significant number of dangerous trees and associated risk issues.

Andrew Moylan
Senior Coordinator – Conservation & Recreation, Ranges ForestrySA



Forestry SA fire crew attending to hotspots and mopping up



Andrew Moylan next to the burnt Curnows Hut toilet



News

Office Report

David Rattray, Office Coordinator

Welcome to the new year. Twilight walks are in full swing and soon it will be the 'real walking season'.

Staffing

We welcome Eve Buckley, an enthusiastic walker, as a new office volunteer. Eve will be working on Thursdays. Additional volunteers are always welcome. Please contact me via the office if you are interested in helping in the office.

End to End 8

The office has had several enquiries about bookings for End to End 8 including one from a group of eight. The advice is consistent - look at the website and book online as soon as bookings open at midnight on 14 April. Waiting until the office opens at 10:30am on Monday 15 April may be too late. Numbers are strictly limited. A waiting list is not maintained; it's definitely a case of first in best dressed. The office cannot book anyone onto a walk until bookings open.

Training Day

At the recent training day Jeremy Carter, our webmaster, previewed our redesigned website. It is exciting but the content has not changed. Thank you Jeremy. Jerry Foster also gave an excellent presentation on access to the Heysen Trail. Thank you Jerry.

Statistics

91% of walk registrations were done on line; only 9% were done by the office.

189 new members signed up in 2012.

Total membership increased in 2012 by 92 to 835 individuals.

Over 580 people walked with the friends last year.

Almost 2,750 walkers took part in our walking program involving almost 3,800 days.

One keen member undertook 31 walks, while another undertook 30 (both include twilight walks).

Walk Committee Report

Arrienne Wynen, Walking Committee Chairperson

How fast the Christmas New Year break has gone and the new walking season is quickly approaching. The official opening of the walk season will be held on April 14 at Elder Park in the city and the Friends will be there showcasing both the Trail and our walking program. It is a more central location than in previous years so come along and say hello.

The Wednesday twilight walks are continuing. We have had good weather for these walks. They are designed mainly to keep in touch and maintain some fitness.

Although our Sunday walk program will commence from April 21, after the Opening, our End to End program will not start until May when the fire bans have been lifted. It is a busy season with End to End 4, End to End 5, End to End 6, End to End 7 and End to End Minus 1 continuing their journey along the Trail.

There are some minor changes in dates for some of the End to End walks but the majority will maintain the schedule they followed last year with End to End 5 now doing weekends and End to End 6 finishing the season with their first weekend walk. End to End 8 will be starting on Sunday May 12 and I am sure will fill quickly. This is a chance to remind our members that there is no pre booking available for End to End 8 - bookings can only be made approximately one month prior to the walk when it becomes available through the website.

End to End walks are a great opportunity to walk the whole Trail and experience the variety and beauty of our state while spending time with like minded people and making new friends. Although End to End walks are open to all members, there is a limit on the numbers of walkers that we can take and I would encourage those members who have walked the Cape Jervis end before to give new members preference.

Greening the Heysen Trail

Neil Nosworthy, Coordinator

The new Greening Committee has been in operation for nearly twelve months. We have appreciated the support of many volunteers who helped us last year to plant nearly 1000 trees, shrubs and grasses in projects at Hiskey's Hut near Georgetown and at Centennial Drive at Mount Crawford. We also paid our membership to Trees for Life to discover that the Friends joined Trees for Life twenty years ago.

Plans are already in place for more projects in 2013.

Spalding and Burra

We have ordered 1000 trees from Trees for Life and plan to plant these along the Bundaleer Channel and the trail from World's End to Burra. One of our volunteers, Mark Hall, who is also a member of Trees for Life, has agreed to grow 10 boxes. The other trees are being grown by Pamela and Vladimir Humeniuk who are volunteer growers for Trees for Life.

A calendar of planting dates for 2013 is being developed. We need about four days to plant around Spalding and Burra - two days in each location. Depending on the season, plantings will occur between May and

August. One option being considered for the World's End planting is to seek the assistance of the End to End 5 walkers when they pass through there in June. The Committee will consult with volunteers in finalising our calendar of activities in 2013.

Mt Crawford Forest

We have discussed with Andrew Moylan from Forestry SA the possibility of another two days planting in the area and will clarify precise dates in May.

Cape Jervis

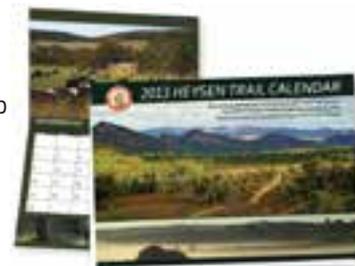
The Friends are assisting the Cape Jervis Coastal Community Group with its revegetation project at the start of the Heysen Trail at Cape Jervis. The project organisers scheduled a working bee in early February 2013 to pick up used tree guards and seed collection. A planting day has been scheduled for 2 June 2013 and a planting and weeding day on 4 August 2013.

Finally we are always looking for more volunteers and for ideas for future greening projects. If you want to be involved or have an idea for a greening project, please contact me by email at neil@noztours.com.au or by phone on 82786577.

2013 Heysen Trail calendar

Showcasing hikers' photographs of the Heysen Trail, an A4 wall calendar, opening up to A3.

Some copies of the calendar are still available from the office for the reduced price of \$12



New Members

The President and the Council would like to extend a warm welcome to the following 24 members, who have joined the Friends since the last edition of the Trailwalker, and urge them to become involved in the voluntary, walking and social aspects of the association.

Cathy Bowditch

Ken Bowditch

Paul Coddington

Ron Crehan

Jeff Frankish

Libby Frankish

Susan Gilchrist

Faye Joyce

Steve Joyce

Anna Lynch

Judy McKenzie

Julie Meegan

Isabel Michell

Sarah Radford

Creena Rischbieth

Hugh Rischbieth

Kay Sachse

Irena Skrzypczak

Roman Skrzypczak

Russell Stringer

Kym Tilbrook

Mark Waters

Miranda Waters

Jonathon Wright



Walking in the Snowy Mountains

by Rhonda Dempster



Following a very successful week walking in the Snowy Mountains in 2011 with the Friends, Graham Dunstan organised another week away for a group of 18 fellow walkers which included some walkers from the previous year. We all met at Schuss Ski Club Lodge in Thredbo Village on Sunday 25th November looking forward to the coming week.

The Snowy Mountains are located in Kosciuszko National Park which is the largest national park in NSW and one of the largest conservation reserves in Australia. The Park was declared in 1944 and is now a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. It contains Australia's highest mountains as well as a great variety of outstanding scenery, natural features and plant and animal communities. It is a beautiful area that offers many varied walks that include pristine alpine scenery with snow drift slopes and many species of wild flowers.

Walks over the following week included Cascade Hut,

Mt Kosciuszko Summit, Mt Townsend, Dead Horse Gap and Thredbo River Track, Alpine Lakes Walk, Merritts Nature Track, Rennix Trail Walk, Mt Twynam and also a walk around Lake Jindabyne for the less adventurous.

The Dead Horse Gap to Cascade Hut Walk followed the Thredbo River upstream before crossing it and climbing to the top of Bob's Ridge, where there were views over the Murray River valley into Victoria. The trail then continued to Cascade Hut, built in 1935 and has facilities for overnight camping. We saw brumbies in the distance from the track and also evident in the area was the impact of the intense bush fires of January 2003 when most of the area was heavily burnt.

The Mt Kosciuszko Summit Walk was a highlight of the week where everyone succeeded in standing on the top of Australia at 2228m and enjoyed the panoramic 360° views - even though at times it was a quick peek through the mist. To commence the walk we took the chairlift from Thredbo to Eagles Nest and then followed the path. The majority of the walk follows a raised mesh pathway which was completed in 1999 after 17 years construction. The track continues over the headwaters of the Snowy River which is actually several small creeks coming together to form the larger river. From various lookouts along the path you can see the Snowy River's tributaries and Lake Cootapatamba which is one of mainland Australia's five glacial lakes and the highest lake in Australia. From Rawson's Pass the track became steeper and we crossed snow drifts and passed through granite rock tors. Rawson's Pass is also notable as having the highest public loo in Australia. It was built in 2007, cut into the ground and covered with earth to ensure the building complemented the existing landforms. At the summit some of the group spent time there taking photos and phoning friends whilst the intrepid walkers of the group decided to tackle Mt Townsend - the second highest mountain on mainland Australia at 2209m. However, the weather wasn't in their favour and in the mists they decided not to continue to the summit. They made up for this later in the week when they reached the summit of Mt Twyman - the third-highest mountain in the area at 2196m.

The week in the Kosciuszko National Park was very memorable and everyone had a very enjoyable time - thanks to Graham for his excellent organisation of the trip. The weather on the whole was very kind to us because the following week it snowed in the area. The food was delicious and the games and dress-up bad hair night lots of fun.



Snow drifts and granite rock tors

Smith's Farmstay

Laura

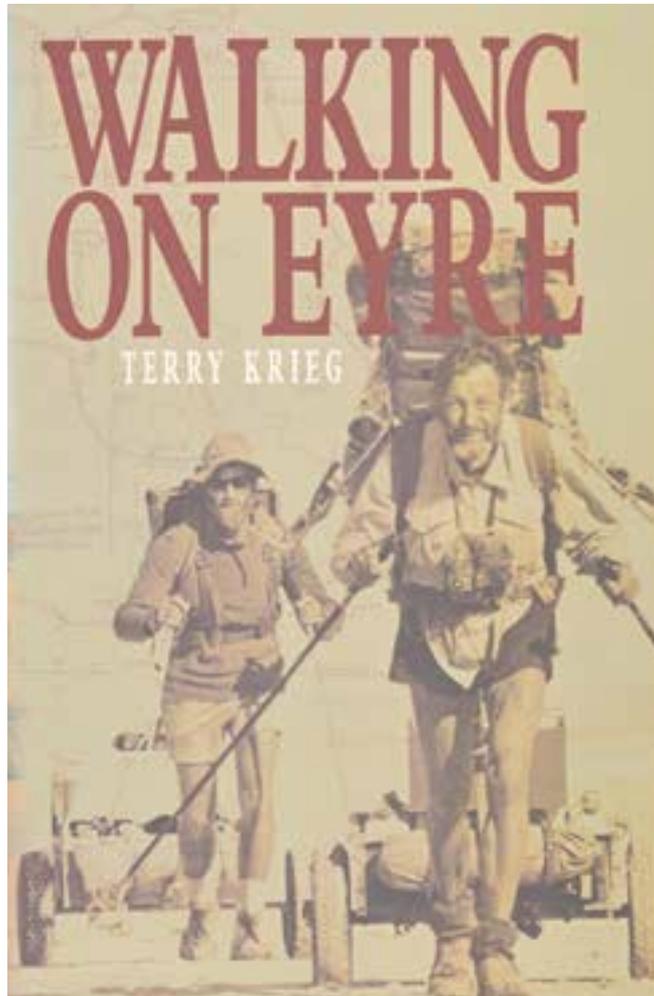
Talgala Hills at Laura in the beautiful Southern Flinders Ranges



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Friends of the Heysen Trail and Other Walking Trails Inc. AGM 2013

Come to the Friends' AGM

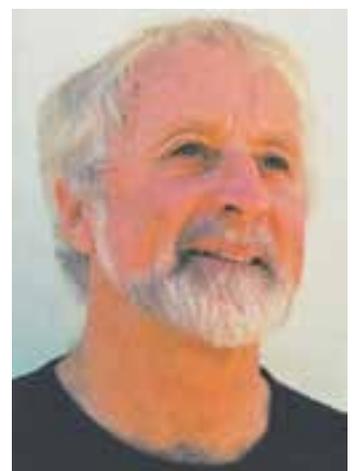
**7.30pm Friday March 15 2013,
at the Woodville Lawn Bowling Club,
Oval Ave, Woodville South.**

Hear about our Association's activities in 2012 and the plans for 2013.

**Meet your council (they are the people who make the decisions)
and find out how we spend your money.**

**Come and hear
Terry Krieg,
who circumnavigated Lake Eyre
on foot
with Warren Bonython AO
talk on**

"Walking with Warren"



Adelaide to China 1

By Michael Middleton

After arriving in Beijing, I wasn't looking forward to getting over the language barrier at Hotel Reception. But who should be at reception when I arrived at 9pm? None other than David & Coral assisting Jane & Margaret check in! It had been a long process for Jane & Margaret, but the ground work had been laid for a relatively smooth check in for me.

I then had 2 days in Beijing for sightseeing before we left for Zhangjiajie City & the main part of the tour. The first of these I spent the morning at Tiananmen Square with Jane, Coral, David & Margaret, where our every move was closely watched after passing through security. Chairman Mao was a must see, so off we went in pairs to file past his well pickled body, he having died way back in 1976! Then it was off to the Summer Palace in the afternoon, well worth a look, with great sweet potatoes cooked over hot coals at the exit. In the evening, a group meal was had in one of the many local restaurants in the hutong (alley) where our hotel was located. We cooked our own meal on the hotplate located over coals in the middle of our table which was fun.

My second day was spent mainly at the Forbidden City with Margaret. At least we knew which subway train to take this time, the City being located across the road from Tiananmen Square. The Forbidden City is huge, but 3½ hours was enough for us. I was keen to find the Hall of Clocks, many fascinating & elaborate clocks were on show here, many were gifts to the Qing Emperors from abroad. We had a 4pm meeting of the whole group back at our Hotel. It was great to see Lin, without whose hard work organizing the trip our adventure would not have been possible. Also to finally meet Chilla from Perth & Amanda from Canberra was great. After the meeting, we also enjoyed a more formal meal & show in "Ghost" Street for Halloween, it just happened to be 31 October! Here one of our courses was Peking Duck, delicious!



Michael with the other participants Xianlin Song, Coral Campbell, Margaret Liptak, Jane Walkley, David Meredith, Judith Rushton, Amanda Williams & Chilla Bulbeck

Day 1

Our flight to Zhangjiajie wasn't until evening. I decided to spend the day at the Silk Market with 3 women, Coral, Margaret & Amanda, which could have been dangerous! The day started slowly, trying to catch a cab proved impossible, so we gave up and made our way to the subway. We eventually located the market which wasn't easy either. I managed to avoid buying a nice white shirt which the girls insisted I buy, because I wouldn't have worn it. I did buy a couple of nice silk scarves for my sisters though. Back at the hotel, David and I decided to take the subway to the airport train, now thinking we were experts. The girls were getting worried at the boarding gate, but we did time it perfectly, arriving just as boarding commenced! A 3 hour flight saw us checking into our Hotel after midnight!

Day 2

Our first day walking in. We had met our tour leader, the nice "Mr. Victor" the night before. The photos I had seen on-line of the scenery here were great, but seeing the spectacular mountain scenery here for the first time was indeed jaw dropping. There were 3878 steps to the top this day, which proved to be hard work. But the 26 year old Mr. Victor was very impressed with us oldies' walking ability. The steps were all rock slabs perfectly placed in position by the Chinese. I thought I had

prepared OK, but it is totally different to bushwalking here. However, bottomless glasses of green tea at the top proved refreshing for some of us.

After lunch, there was the option of walking around the top and taking the cable car back down, or retracing our steps to the bottom. I chose to walk back down with Lin; the others took the cable car. I thought I didn't come to China to take the easy option, which wasn't wise as my knees played up a bit on subsequent days. I had never had knee trouble before.

After dinner back at the Hotel, some of us went off for a walk, and ended up having a foot massage. The guy in charge had to call in several local ladies; some of them didn't seem very experienced. I couldn't bear to put my feet in what seemed near boiling water to me, but eventually managed it. But the massage was OK and was a good way to finish the first day.



So many steps



Zhangjiajie National Park

Day 3

We awoke to dark clouds and rain, not the perfect weather of the previous day. So we all donned our wet weather gear. It was nice to see the mountains shrouded in misty weather though, which was just as spectacular. The walk across a natural rock bridge was great. We had lunch in a small private room in the local village in the mountains: Lin again was worried about the Chinese food safety, but we were fine afterwards. After lunch, it was down the cliff face via the world's longest glass faced exterior lift, which took 2 minutes. After dinner, another foot massage was in order, this time much more professional. But it nearly killed me. I put on such an act wincing and screwing up my face when my calf muscles were massaged - and the nice young lady was saying she was going easy on me! The others thought I was being a bit of a wimp I think, and I would have to agree after seeing them in control.

Day 4

Before today's walk up even started, there was a 2km walk beside the monorail track to the start of the day's walk. Another fine day though, so it was a good way to start the day. A highlight of the day for me was coming across a mini archery range half way up the mountain. A cute little toddler was playing with the arrows and was taking careful aim at various targets, one of which was Judith! I'm happy to report that all escaped unharmed. It was our final day in the National Park, a bit sad, but there were other sights to behold in China!

Day 5

Amanda, Judith, David & I spent our free morning at the Huanglong caves. Very spectacular indeed, huge caverns & a boat ride on the 2.8km river inside the caves. After lunch, it was off to the beautiful Baofeng Lake for a 20 minute cruise. Then it was



back to Zhangjiajie City & the Tujia Museum, where we were treated to a spectacular performance of drums and dancing.

The evening was spent at the Chinese Opera. A very impressive outdoor set, and of course it had to rain! Ponchos were supplied to spectators, as umbrellas weren't allowed for obvious reasons. Not really my type of storyline, I'm not into love stories! But the set and performance was great. Pity the Chinese aren't into recycling much, ponchos were discarded all over the place. (David however did his bit in Beijing, taking all our plastic water bottles to a depot around the corner from our hotel).

Day 6

Our final day in Hunan Province. After breakfast, it was a short drive to the cable car up Tianamen Mountain. The Chinese claim it to be the world's longest, at 15km. I timed the ride at 24 minutes. It was an amazing ride though. Over rooftops at the start, no space was wasted with several rooftop gardens producing veggies. As we got higher, it was up among the clouds with glimpses back down to the city. Undoubtedly a highlight for me was the glass skywalk at the top. The Chinese just have to try & build the biggest or the highest, this time copying the glass walk at the Grand Canyon. Everyone was required to wear covers over their shoes so as to avoid scratching the thick glass. I thought I would be clinging to the side of the mountain; I'm not the best when it comes to heights. But I surprised myself and even managed to take a video, looking down to the bottom. After walking around the top, it was back on the cable car for a ride part way down the mountain. Then a mini-bus took us up a very precarious winding road to the start of another 908 steps up to a huge hole in the side of the mountain. The bus ride back down again to the cable car station for the final descent was a bit nerve racking!

Our flight back to Beijing was due to take off at 10.15pm, but we spent an hour on the tarmac due to "air traffic control". This made for a rather late arrival; bed time was around 3am back at our hotel. Thank goodness there was a rest day before our first day trip to the Great Wall. Some of us spent the evening at a Chinese Acrobatics show, which was on my list of things to do. The balance displayed in the various acts was incredible. One act was described as ballet on the shoulders, but the ballerina was on tip toes on the guy's head underneath. Also motorcycles speeding around inside a large globe were amazing. It started with 2, then 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and finally 8 going around inside, although the last couple could only circle around the bottom and not upside down!



Great Wall snakes its way across the mountains

The Great Wall

Our first day was spent on the Jin/shan/ling section (Gold/Mountain/Peaks). Amazingly, we had the wall to ourselves in the morning. The going was fairly easy, with some moderately steep bits. We got to the end of where the wall was fully renovated, where there was a jump of a metre or so down. Judith & David jumped down to continue the walk. The others turned back to walk in the opposite direction. I eventually jumped down, minus my pack, as there was no-one around to pinch it or any of its contents. I'm glad I did, because it was interesting to see what most of the wall is now like. The 3 of us passed through a few watch towers before coming to a military zone. Barbed wire at the top and razor wire fence at the bottom. We weren't keen on being cut up or shot at, so after some interesting pictures were taken we turned to follow the others. We walked as far as we could before having to turn around to catch our mini-bus back to our hotel.

Our second day on the wall was spent at the Mutianyu section. The day started with a strenuous walk up a long flight of stairs. Judith, David & me, wanting to see as much as possible, took a path up to tower 7; the others went for tower 10. Tower 23 was listed as the last one tourists could visit. However, when we got to tower 20, there was a sign saying no tourists past this point, but there was nothing to stop you continuing on. After all, the map showed you could go to tower 23, so on the 3 of us went! The giveaway was the tacky souvenir stalls beyond tower 20. Judith bought a small Canadian Flag from one of them. One seller did say it was quite dangerous to go on, but on we went as the path did look OK. This section was really run down, with quite thick bush and crumbling walls. And we did come to snow on the ground here, but the weather was again fine, so we took care and got to around tower 27 or 28. It was

fun to throw a few snowballs at each other too. But we eventually had to turn around so we didn't keep the others waiting back at the mini-bus.

It was our final night together, so we chose a very popular restaurant near our hotel for a BBQ meal cooked at our outside table. It was a long wait for a table, but well worth it. You can always tell a good restaurant when the locals pack the place out. We all had a go at the cooking. All in all, a great way to finish off our Chinese adventure.

The following day most of us left the country. The weather was the worst it had been, steady rain all day. I spent the morning with Amanda shopping for last minute souvenirs. As it turned out, I was booked on the same flight from Hong Kong as Margaret and Jane, although their Beijing to Hong Kong flight left earlier than mine. Our flight landed back in Adelaide at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, so that will be something to remember!

My heartfelt thanks go to Lin for her hard work in organizing the trip. Should there be an Adelaide to China 2; Mr. Victor will hopefully be the leader again. And to my travelling companions it was great to share the trip with you all; maybe we will travel to some far flung corner of the Globe together again one day!



Walking towards one of the towers on the Great Wall



Accommodation in Myponga along the Heysen Trail

2 self contained cabins with queen bed and single sofa ~ Reverse cycle air-conditioning
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www.heysensrest.com.au



Walks

		April	May	June	July
1st Week of month	End-to-End		Sat May 4 - Sun End-to-End 5 Webb Gap to Burra Rd to Worlds End	Sat Jun 1 - Sun Jun 2 End-to-End 5 Worlds End to Burra to Wandallah	Sat Jul 6 - Sun Jul 7 End-to-End 5 Wandallah to Newikie Creek to Dares Hill Summit Road
	Trail Starter		Sun May 5 End-to-End 7 Myponga to Mt Compass	Sun Jun 2 Trail Starter Mt Lofty Arrienne Wynen	Sun Jul 7 Trail Starter Aldgate Peter Solomon
	Trail Walker		Sun May 5 Trail Starter Morialta David Carter	Sun Jun 2 Trail Walker Glen Osmond Mary Cartland	Sun Jul 7 Trail Walker Gandys Gully Neil Rivett
2nd Week of month	End-to-End	Sun Apr 14 Opening of the Walk Season	Sat May 11- Sun May 12 End-to-End 4	Sat Jun 8 - Mon Jun 10 End-to-End 4	Sat Jul 13 - Sun Jul 14 End-to-End 4
	End-to-End		Sun May 12 End-to-End 8 Cape Jervis to Cobbler Hill	Sun Jun 9 End-to-End 8 Cobbler Hill to Tapanappa	Sun Jul 14 End-to-End 8 Tapanappa to Balquhider
	Trail Starter		Sun May 12 Trail Starter Coro Valley Chris Porter	Sun Jun 9 Trail Starter TBA Lyn Wood	Sun Jul 14 Trail Starter TBA Graham Bald
	Trail Walker		Sun May 12 Trail Walker Scott Creek Robyn Quinn	Sun Jun 9 TW Pioneer Women's Trail Richard Milosh	Sun Jul 14 Trail Walker Scotts Creek Richard Milosh
3rd Week of month	End-to-End	Sun Apr 21 Trail Starter Mary's Gully Arrienne Wynen	Sun May 19 End-to-End 6 Cudlee Creek to Mewett Road	Sun Jun 16 End-to-End 6 Mewett Road to Mt Crawford	Sun Jul 21 End-to-End 6 Mt Crawford to Pewsey Vale
	Trail Starter		Sun May 19 Trail Starter Mt George Graham Bald	Sun Jun 16 Trail Starter TBA Chris Porter	Sun Jul 21 Trail Starter Para Wirra Jo Purcell
	Trail Walker	Sun Apr 21 Trail Walker Larapinta Training - Cleland Peter Solomon	Sun May 19 Trail Walker Mylor to Mt Lofty Richard Milosh	Sun Jun 16 Trail Walker Warren Con Pk Robyn Quinn	Sun Jul 21 Trail Walker Myponga Simon Cameron
4th Week of month	End-to-End	Sun Apr 28 Trail Starter Sturt Gorge Greg Walker	Sun May 26 End-to-End 7 Mt Compass to Kyeema	Sun Jun 23 End-to-End 7 Kyeema to Dashwood Gully	Sun Jul 28 End-to-End 7 Dashwood Gully to Mylor
	Trail Starter		Sat May 25 - Sun Jun 2 End-to-End -1 Buckaringa Gorge to Horrocks Pass	Sat Jun 22 - Sun Jun 23 End-to-End -1 Horrocks Pass to Alligator Gorge to Melrose	Sat Jul 27 - Sun Jul 28 End-to-End -1 Melrose to Murraytown to Block Nine Rd
	Trail Walker	Sun Apr 28 Trail Walker Ashbourne Dean Mortimer	Sun May 26 Trail Starter Para Wirra Kevin Liddiard	Sun Jun 23 Trail Starter Brownhill/Waite CP Graham Bald	Sun Jul 28 Trail Starter TBA Sandy Wood
5th Week of month	Trail Starter	Key to Walk Programme			Sun Jun 30 Trail Starter Belair Russell O'Brien
	Trail Walker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail Starter walk Trail Walker walk End-to-End walk Other walk event <p>An explanation of walk grades and details for each walk event are published on the website</p>			Sun Jun 30 Trail Walker Para Wirra David Carter

Walk Grades

There are five different grades of walk on the Friends of the Heysen Trail walk programme. Four of these operate during the walk season, generally from April to November when it is not Fire Ban Season:

- Trail Starter
- Trail Walker
- Trail Rambler
- End-to-End

When it is not walk season, generally during the summer Fire Ban Season, a fifth walk grade, Summer Twilight Walks, operates.

Details of each walk grade are provided on the website:
www.heysentrail.asn.au/walks

Walk Registration

You must register for a walk, either online or over the phone. Register online at www.heysentrail.asn.au, or by phoning the

August	September	October	November
Sat Aug 3 - Sun Aug 4 End-to-End 5 Dares Hill Summit Road to Hallett to EE George Quarry Sun Aug 4 Trail Starter Mt Osmond Reserve Rhonda Dempster Sun Aug 4 Trail Walker Anstey Hill Mary Cartland	Father's Day	Sun Sep 1 Trail Starter Ambers Gully Kevin Liddiard	Sat Nov 2 - Sun Nov 3 End-to-End 5 Locks Ruin to Bowman Park to Mt Zion
Sat Aug 10 - Sun Aug 11 End-to-End 4		Sun Sep 1 Trail Walker Sturt Gorge - off track Simon Cameron	Sat Oct 5 - Mon Oct 7 End-to-End 5 Chlorinator to Curnows Hut to Raeville to Locks Ruin
Sun Aug 11 End-to-End 8 Balquhiddier to Waitpinga	Sat/Sun Sep 7-8 End-to-End 5 EE George to Spalding Rd to Chlorinator	Sun Oct 6 A Day on the Heysen Trail: the Warren Bonython Memorial Walk	Sun Oct 12 - Sun Oct 13 End-to-End 4
Sun Aug 11 Trail Starter Mt Oliphant Park Greg Walker	Sat Sep 7 - Sun Sep 8 End-to-End 4	Sun Oct 13 End-to-End 8 Tugwell Road to Inman Valley	Sun Oct 13 End-to-End 8 Inman Valley to James Track
Sun Aug 11 Trail Walker Onkaparinga Richard Milosh	Sun Sep 8 End-to-End 8 Waitpinga to Tugwell Road	Sun Oct 13 Trail Starter Sturt Gorge Robyn Quinn	
Sun Aug 11 Trail Walker Onkaparinga Richard Milosh	Sun Sep 8 Trail Starter Onkaparinga Ben Wait	Sun Oct 13 Trail Walker Newland Head Peter Clark	
Sun Aug 18 End-to-End 6 Pewsey Vale to Tanunda	Sun Sep 15 End-to-End 6 Tanunda to Kapunda	Sat Oct 19 - Sun Oct 20 End-to-End 6 Kapunda to Hamilton to Peters Hill	
Sun Aug 18 Trail Starter Mylor Nature Trail Graham Bald	Sun Sep 15 Trail Starter Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens Graham Bald	Sun Oct 20 Trail Starter Scott Creek David Carter	
Fri Aug 16 - Sun Aug 18 Extended Trip Alpana Simon Cameron	Sun Sep 15 Trail Walker Para Wirra John Potter	Sun Oct 20 Trail Walker Deep Creek John Potter	
Sun Aug 25 End-to-End 7 Mylor to Cleland	Sun Sep 22 End-to-End 7 Cleland to Montacute Heights	Sun Oct 27 End-to-End 7 Montacute Heights to Cudlee Ck	
Sat Aug 24 - Sun Aug 25 End-to-End -1 Block Nine Rd to Wirrabara to Mt Zion	Sat Sep 21 - Sun Sep 22 End-to-End -1 Mt Zion to Bowman Park to Locks Ruin	Sat Oct 26 - Sun Oct 27 End-to-End -1 Locks Ruin to EE Smith Rd to Curnows Hut	
Sun Aug 25 Trail Starter TBA Lyn Wood	Sun Sep 22 Trail Starter Belair Wildflower David Carter	Sun Oct 27 Trail Starter TBA Chris Porter	
Sun Aug 25 Trail Walker Kaiserstuhl John Potter	Sun Sep 22 Trail Walker, Ben Wait Sea-to-Summit, Mt Lofty ½	Sun Oct 27 Trail Walker Crafers Peter Clark	
	Sun Sep 29 Trail Starter Mt George Carol Homewood	 <p>The Friends of the Heysen Trail 10 Pitt Street Adelaide 5000 Phone 08 8212 6299 www.heysentrail.asn.au</p>	
	Sun Sep 29 Trail Walker Real Chambers Gully Richard Milosh		

This version released 23 Jan 2013

office on 8212 6299 (during the hours listed on page 3.) Walks close between Tuesday and Friday prior to the walk, closing dates and times are listed on each walk event page on the website.

Walk Cancellations

Walks are cancelled if the forecast is over 32°C. **This doesn't apply to Summer Twilight Walks.**

If unforeseen circumstances arise and you are no longer able

to participate in the walk, please notify the office as soon as possible, or leave a message on the answering machine after this time.

Further Information

Further information about each walk, what to wear and what to bring, walk grades, frequently asked questions or to print off a colour copy of the programme, visit www.heysentrail.asn.au/walks



End to End Group R

End to End 5 – Russell O'Brien

The transition to walking both Saturday and Sunday has been taken on by the End-to-End-5ers with barely a blink. With two weekends now behind us and Webb Gap to Mt. Zion in store for the forthcoming walking season, the general tenor from within the group is let's get on with it! Admittedly, the last walk was a little warm with temperatures nudging the mid 30s but our back-up vehicle driver kept an eye out for us and provided water throughout the day. (Thanks Michelle). An early start and an early finish helped avoid much of the day's heat.

Of course, weekend walking offers a group so much more in terms of socialising, getting to know fellow walkers and potential for fun. All these things and more are available both on and off the job of walking the Heysen Trail. The Saturday evening dinners are a hoot (as they say) and the after-shower gathering for a light-hearted talk while rehydrating is a session never to be missed.

Therefore, it is with unbounded enthusiasm that End-to-End-5ers await the first weekend's walking this year and the beautiful environs offered by South Australia's mid north.

Well done End-to-End-5ers.

End to End 6 - Lyn Wood

During 2012 the End to End 6 group walked the beautiful Adelaide Hills, through forests and conservation parks and all within an easy reach of the city. 2013 will be the third year for the group in its journey towards Parachilna Gorge. We will commence at Cudlee Creek and will wind our way north through the beautiful Barossa Valley. The group has had much fun with the themed walks and drinks and nibbles after the walks. The walkers have formed a great rapport with each other and always look forward to the next month's walk to catch up again.



Halloween theme for End to End 6



We Offer:

- Accommodation
- Country Style Meals and a Great Selection of Beverages
- Pick Up and Drop Off service along the trail by arrangement
- Group Accommodation
- Specialty Catering - including
- Camp Oven Roasts

Phone Geoff or Josie on 88452006 for bookings or a chat about your walking plans.



One of Australia's largest collections of **Antique Barbed Wire** now on display

Reports

End to End 7

A New Members Perspective of her 1st Year on the Trail by Jill Gregory

There is a real sense of achievement in completing Year 1 of the Heysen Trail walk. From Cape Jervis to Myponga, I have enjoyed every step (and slip!) of the journey. Seeing South Australia in a different way has been breathtaking and surprising - clamouring up and down rocks, walking through cow paddocks, across streams, along beaches and up hills, we did it all.

My friends, father and I decided to undertake the Heysen Trail journey together, and although novices in the walking field, we immediately felt welcomed by not only the walk leaders (who are wonderful), but also the other group members. We have learned a lot about walking poles, boots and equipment (and the importance of quality socks).

My top 3 highlights have been:

1. The people

From day 1 our group has been welcoming, friendly and relaxed. This has proved such a bonus for each walk. The journey was so much more enjoyable because of the great people I've

met along the way.

2. Scenery

Having lived in South Australia my whole life, I wasn't expecting to be so amazed by the beautiful scenery - from thick bush, muddy paddocks, cliff tops to pristine beaches. Walking the journey has given me a different perspective - not only does it give you access to places where you can't drive, but walking gives you more time to take in all the beautiful little things (on one occasion we even sighted a rare bird). We have some talented photographers in our group, who have captured some of these moments beautifully.

3. The challenge

I have really enjoyed the challenge that is walking the Heysen Trail. The walks aren't easy, but there is a real sense of satisfaction when they are completed, and that you are one step further to completion of what is a real achievement.

I'm looking forward to what Year 2 brings, meeting everyone again, wearing my new (high performance) socks and continuing the adventure.

ALPANA STATION – *Escape the crowds*

Bushwalkers Transport Service

David and Sally Henery of Alpana Station Blinman offer a friendly, flexible and accredited transport service for the **Wilpena, Blinman, Parachilna Gorge Heysen Trailhead** section of the Heysen trail for walkers (individuals or groups).

Based 5 km from Blinman in the Flinders Ranges, Alpana Station also offers:

- **Self-contained accommodation:** quality shearers quarters for up to 14 people and Nungawurtina Hut bush retreat for up to 6 people.
- **Powered sites** with ensuite bathroom facilities for caravans/campers.
- **Bush camping** areas.

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Phone or fax 08 8648 4626
Email alpana2@bigpond.com.au

Bookings Essential



Notice of Annual General Meeting

The 26th Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Heysen Trail and Other Walking Trails Inc will be held at 7.30pm on Friday, 15th March 2013 at Woodville Lawn Bowling Club, Oval Avenue, Woodville South. Free car parking will be available in the car park; enter from Koolunda Avenue.

The agenda for this meeting is printed to the right

Nominations are sought from you, our members, for election to the Friends Council at the Annual General Meeting, for all positions including the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and half of the remaining members (our Constitution calls for not less than four and not more than ten non office bearing members).

Council meetings are currently held on the third Wednesday of each month at 5.30pm, in a room provided by Uniting Communities (above the Friends offices). Meetings usually conclude by 7.30pm.

In addition to Council, there is an opportunity for members to contribute to one of the various Committees: Walking, Trails Maintenance, Marketing and Membership (inc. Trailwalker), Office and Greening etc.

To nominate, please complete and copy or detach the form below and send it to:

The Secretary

Friends of the Heysen Trail

10 Pitt Street Adelaide, 5000

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Acceptance of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 23rd March 2012
3. President's Report
4. Financial Report
5. Maintenance Report
6. Election of Officers
 - 6.1 President
 - 6.2 Vice President
 - 6.3 Treasurer
 - 6.4 Secretary
 - 6.5 Council Members
7. Appointment of Auditor
8. Election of Honorary Members
9. Other Business
 - 9.1 Setting of annual subscriptions
 - 9.2 Any other business
10. Close of Meeting.

At the conclusion of the business of the evening, we have invited Terry Krieg to address the meeting.

Tea and coffee will be served at the conclusion of the evening. Please bring a plate of light supper.

Note: Any member wishing to move a motion at the AGM should be aware of the Constitutional requirements as follows: "Notice of any motion proposed to be moved at a General Meeting by any member not being a member of the Council shall be signed by the proposer and seconder and shall be delivered to the Secretary at least seven days before the meeting. No motion moved by any member other than a member of the Council shall be entertained by the meeting unless notice thereof has been given as aforesaid."

Nomination Form

I.....wish to nominate for the position of

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Council Member.

.....
(Signature of Nominee) (Proposer)

.....
(Please Print Name) (Seconder)

Nominations close at 2.00pm On Friday 8th March 2013 at the Friends office

Note: We welcome nominations for Council, particularly from new members. The section of the Friends Constitution relevant to nomination and election to the Council is reproduced on the opposite page

Election of Council Members at AGM

The Section of the Friends Constitution relating to Management of the Association, and to the procedure for nomination and election of members of the Council is reproduced below.

8 MANAGEMENT

- (1) The affairs of the Association shall be managed and controlled by a Council which may exercise on behalf of the Association all the powers conferred on the Association by this Constitution, and may do all such things as are within the objects of the Association except such things as are required to be done by the Association in General Meeting.
- (2) The Council shall consist of the President of the Association, together with a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and not less than four, nor more than ten other members, all of whom shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- (3) The President shall hold office for a period of two years and shall be eligible for reelection after that period, provided that after three terms in office he or she shall stand down for at least one year.
- (4) The Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and half of the other members shall retire annually. The members to retire each year shall be determined by the Council which shall ensure,

as far as possible, that they shall retire in rotation. A retiring Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer or member shall be eligible for re-election without nomination.

- (5) Nominations for election as President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer, or as a member of the Council shall be invited by notice in the Association's Newsletter or other appropriate publication not less than 21 days before the Annual General Meeting. All persons nominated for election must be members of the Association.

- (6) Nominations must be in writing and must be signed by two members of the Association and by the nominee to signify his willingness to stand for election.

They must include brief biographical details of the nominee for distribution to members at or before the Annual General Meeting and must reach the Secretary of the Association not less than seven days before the Annual General Meeting; provided that if an insufficient number of nominations has been received to fill the vacancies, additional nominations may be accepted at the Annual General Meeting.

- (7) If the number of nominations received is more than the number of vacancies to be filled, an election to fill the vacancies shall be held by secret ballot.

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Not the Tongariro Crossing Three Trips in New Zealand

Story by Neil Nosworthy



Neville, Ann and Jane at Taranaki Falls

In November, Ann and I went to New Zealand for two weeks with Jane and Neville Haar to walk some of the excellent trails there. Our plan was to walk the Tongariro Crossing, the Queen Charlotte Track and the Routeburn Track.

However a few days before we arrived, an eruption on Mt Tongariro closed the Tongariro Crossing (parts of the track remain closed). So we had to choose another walk. The recommended option was the Tama Lakes walk which is a 17 kilometre return walk including the Taranaki Falls walk and a section of the Tongariro Northern Circuit.

The walk started behind the Chateau Tongariro in Whakapapa Village at the base of Mt Ruapehu and followed a stream up through some forest to the 20 metre Taranaki Falls. It was a typical New Zealand trail - well made and well maintained although there were enough roots and rocks to slow us down. The falls were flowing freely and were a popular stop for trampers - there were several large groups presumably boosted by the closure of the Tongariro Crossing. It was a pleasant warm day, ideal for walking and just hot enough for the odd lunatic to take a dip in the pool at the base of the falls.

After the falls, the trail crossed undulating, open, tussock grass country which was a little colourless but we were more than compensated with superb views of the snow-capped mass of Mt Ruapehu on one side and the snow-streaked, perfect cone of Mt Ngauruhoe on the other. The walking was easy until the last section up the steep ridge to the Upper Tama Lake which was a half hour slog to the top and a slow, slippery return. Taking

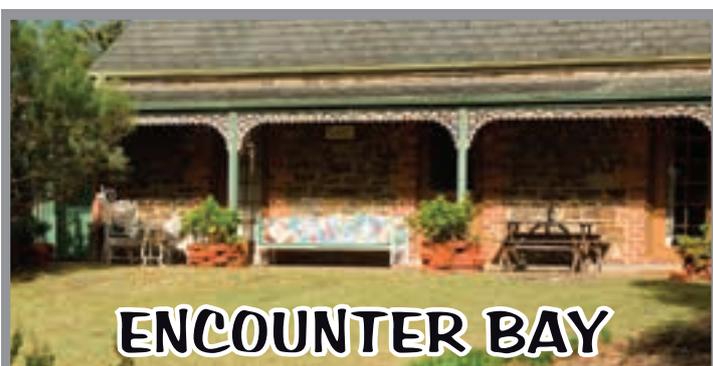


A perfect lunch spot at Upper Tama Lake

advantage of the perfect weather, we had lunch at the top enjoying the stunning views over the lakes and the nearby volcanoes.

After the walk we were able to indulge in one of the pleasures of New Zealand - a soak in the hot pools at Tokaanu. This is just the thing for a weary walker after a day on the trail. (Perhaps we can get some on the Heysen Trail.)

Sadly we did not do the Tongariro Crossing but Tama Lakes was an excellent walk with extraordinary views and we had a relaxing finish to the day.



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An open fireplace in the living area.

Sunny north facing verandah, a relaxing place to sit at the end of a long active day!!!

\$125 per night, up to 4 people, and \$25 pp extra to a max. of 6 people

Enquiries and booking to Prue Harris 0413408136



Sparkling Queen Charlotte Three Trips in New Zealand

Story by Neil Nosworthy

The second leg of our walking tour in New Zealand with Neville and Jane Haar was the Queen Charlotte Track, a 71 kilometre, four day walk along Queen Charlotte Sound near Picton. We organised an accommodated walk staying overnight in resorts with our luggage picked up each morning and transferred by water taxi to the next hotel. We only had to carry day packs.

The first day from Ship Cove to Furneaux Lodge was a leisurely 14 kilometres on a lovely warm, sunny day. After a long water taxi ride along Queen Charlotte Sound, we eventually hit the trail about 11.30 am and were surprised that there were only three or four others heading our way on the track. The first section was a steady up hill through pleasant forest on a good trail. We stopped for lunch at the first look-out and were wowed by the superb view over the brilliant blue sounds shining in the sun. After lunch, the walk was a series of



Jane at Eatwells Lookout

long ups and downs through forests of beech and large tree ferns with more fabulous views out over the sounds. We arrived at Furneaux Lodge on Endeavour Inlet at 4.20pm after a beautiful and leisurely walk.

The second day was another perfect day for a gentle 12 kilometre stroll around Endeavour Inlet to Punga Cove. Once again the sounds sparkled in the sun. We barely raised a sweat and hardly needed the hot tub at the resort but we enjoyed that pleasure anyway.



Sparkling Queen Charlotte Sound





Ann and Neil head off from Punga Cove

Day 3 from Punga Cove to Portage was the longest day (24.5 kilometres) and the profile suggested a hard day with numerous steep ups and downs. But generally the walking was easy with the well designed trail mostly avoiding the steepest parts.

After a steep climb at the start, we rejoined the main track on the ridge which we followed for most of the rest of the day. From the ridge we had excellent views – on our right, the Kenepuru Valley leading down to Kenepuru Sound and on the left, Endeavour Inlet, Bay of Many Coves and Queen Charlotte Sound. The trail went mainly through forest crossed with small creeks. There were

sections of open country where we enjoyed unimpeded sights of the sounds with water taxis zipping back and forth and the Interislander ferry heading into Picton. In Kenepuru Sound, we could see the lines of floats marking the green lipped mussel farms – the largest export income earner for the Marlborough region (more than wine apparently).

We finished this section of the track at the Torea Saddle at 3.30pm and then had another 10 minute walk down the hill to the Portage Resort Hotel. It had been a long day but not too hard and we felt that we deserved the soak in the hotel hot tub even if it did not work properly.

The last day to Anakiwa was 20 kilometres and felt like the hardest day starting with a plod up the bitumen from the hotel followed by an hour's slog uphill to the high point on the track (407 metres). The weather had changed to a cool, cloudy day which was not so nice for walking. We also had to share the track with a lot of other walkers, including a group of Germans and several cyclists who walked up the initial climb. Once again much of the walk passed through pleasant forest country along the ridge line high above the water. We continued to have great views on both sides of the peninsula although the clouds made the water a deep green rather than sparkling blue.

The water taxi was waiting to pick us up at Anakiwa and we were back in our hotel in Picton by 4.30pm with plenty of time to enjoy yet another hot tub – a rewarding finish for a rewarding walk.

The Queen Charlotte was a gorgeous walk and fairly easy particularly in such fine weather. There were so many fabulous views over the sounds from great lookout points making the walk well worthwhile.

It's raining, it's the Routeburn Three Trips in New Zealand

Story by Neil Nosworthy

The third leg of our walking tour in New Zealand with Neville and Jane Haar was the Routeburn Track. We booked a guided walk staying in the comfortable lodges and carrying only a day pack. The weather for our previous walks had been brilliant but the rain caught up with us on the Routeburn.

Day 1 started with a two hour bus ride from Queenstown to Te Anau where we met the rest of our walking group – there were eleven of us in total including two guides; the other walkers were English who had just completed the



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Jane and Ann ready for the Routeburn and the rain

Milford Track. The rain started in Te Anau and continued as we drove on to the Divide where the Routeburn Track meets the Milford-Te Anau Highway.

Donning our wet weather gear, we headed off in steady rain up through the dripping beech forest on a well made track. In the rain and fog and at the back of the pack, Ann and I decided against climbing Key Summit to view the whiteout.

The rain continued after lunch forcing us to skirt numerous small creeks and waterfalls. We splashed through the stream at the base of Earland Falls, an 80 metre torrent generating heavy spray and gale force winds strong enough to blow Ann's backpack cover off - fortunately it was well attached.

After the falls, we had a long slow downhill section picking our way over many rocks and roots. Fortunately, the footing was good and the rocks were not slippery but everything was wet in the persistent rain and there was little to see in the fog.

We arrived in gloom at Lake Mackenzie Lodge around 4.00pm just before it poured with rain. We were wet after a 12 kilometre slog but a cup of hot milo and a piece of fudge as we arrived made us feel a lot better. The drying room sorted our wet clothes although there was no place to dry our boots.

The rain stopped before dinner and we were able go out and appreciate the beautiful setting of the lodge in the valley next to Lake Mackenzie with high mountains all around dusted with fresh snow falls.

It was not raining in the morning on Day 2 when we hit the trail up through the moss-covered forest on the zigzags leading to Ocean Peak corner. We climbed steadily on a well graded track out of the trees into tussock grass with occasional wildflowers

and pockets of snow. The open country afforded us splendid views out over Lake Mackenzie and the surrounding mountains.

The rain returned as we reached the top of the ridge. The view down to the Hollyford Valley and the adjacent Darran Mountains was slightly obscured with rain and fog but from our vantage point on the top of the ridge, it was simply awesome. Plodding on through the rain, we came across several clumps of the impressive Mt

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Harris Lake from the saddle

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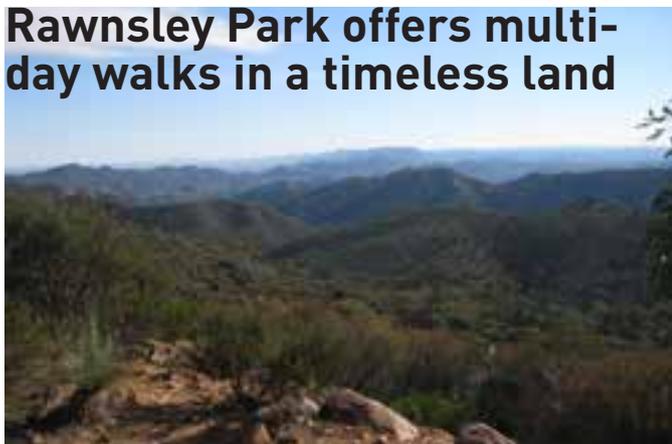
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Rawnsley Park offers multi-day walks in a timeless land



A champagne celebration atop the stunning Chace Range and an early morning climb to the top of rugged Rawnsley Bluff to watch the sun rise over the Flinders Ranges are highlights of Flinders by Foot bushwalking tours.

Sheep station owner turned tourism entrepreneur, Tony Smith, has put his best foot forward in his new bushwalking venture to entice people to see the secret Flinders Ranges.

From his award-winning Rawnsley Park Station at the foot of the southern Wilpena Pound ramparts, Tony and his wife, Julie, are offering three and five-day Flinders by Foot guided walks to showcase what the Flinders is famous for – ancient rugged ranges formed more than 500m years ago, red-gum lined creeks and beautiful valleys clothed in native pine.

Rawnsley Park is offering members of the Friends of the Heysen Trail a 10 per cent discount on the walks.

“The Flinders features the iconic Heysen Trail and it has magnificent scenery and fabulous wildlife which makes it a great place for walking,” said Tony.

Through Flinders by Foot, Rawnsley Park offers a mixture of walks which take in some of the most scenic areas of the Flinders. It’s a truly magical place that really opens up its secrets when you get off the beaten track.

Walking offers the perfect way to get up close and personal with the wildlife which includes red kangaroos, emus, euros, wedge-tailed eagles, red-capped robins, multi-colored rainbow bee eaters and the striking mallee ringneck parrots.

Some walks offer a challenge, but a reasonable level of walking fitness will ensure walkers get to see all the highlights.

The climb to the top of St Mary Peak (1171m) is a standout, with panoramic views across the Flinders including Wilpena Pound, ABC and Heysen ranges. From atop the peak eagles are often seen soaring in the valley below.

Another highlight is an exhilarating early morning climb – read 4am to 4.30am start - to the top of Rawnsley Bluff (943m). Wrapped up against the biting cold and

a cup of hot coffee in hand, walkers watch the sun rise over the Flinders. It’s a stunning sight to long remember as the sun peeps over the horizon to signal a new day.



The bluff climb is on the last day of the three and five-day walks and is followed by a short walk along the Highlife Trail where walkers experience a great diversity of vegetation including the sweet smelling curry bush. The smell is like lifting the lid on a tin of Keen’s curry powder.

After the Highlife Trail walkers are served a cooked breakfast in the bush. There’s bacon, eggs, sausages and tomatoes and plenty of time to celebrate the end of their walk.

A bonus is a trek on neighbouring Arkapena Station bought three years ago by the Smiths who have long been key players in the tourism industry in the Flinders.

Very few people have had the opportunity to walk on the sheep station which features the Chace Range, named after bullocky William Chace who discovered Arkaba, Wilpena and Aroona creeks in 1850. His discovery resulted in the opening up of the area for sheep stations.

The climb to the top of the range is rewarded with a champagne afternoon tea and magnificent views across the sweeping, windswept plains to Wilpena Pound. The return to Rawnsley Park is by four-wheel-drive.

Both the three-day and five-day walks feature a 12km return walk to stunning Blinman Pools, regarded by many walkers as one of the best hikes in the Flinders. On a warm day there’s plenty of opportunity to jump into deep cascade pools to cool off.



Tony said walkers who did not want to tackle some of the harder walks could talk to the guides who would tailor different trails.



The station is the base for all walks, with walkers returning each night to 4-star eco villa accommodation or 3.5 star cabins. At night, they dine at the Woolshed Restaurant where east coast award-winning chef Peter Frey with his wife, Cynthia, front-of-house provide great food and service

“Our aim is to give people a great adventure during the day and at night they can relax with fine dining and reflect on the day’s adventures,” Tony said.

Tony said Rawnsley Park’s experienced guides picked the “absolute gems” to show people the best of the Flinders.

The two key guides are bushwalking author Kym Tilbrook and former National Parks ranger and Kokoda Track operations manager Volker Scholz.

Costs for the walks are \$2350 per person for the five-day trek (1 BR eco-villa accommodation) or \$1875 in a 3.5 star cabin. Three-day treks are priced at \$1435 in an eco-villa or \$1150 in a cabin. All costs are based on a twin-share – single supplements apply.

The 2013 Flinders by Foot walking program starts in May and runs until October.

Mr Smith said programmed dates for walks in 2013 were:

Five day walks: May 6, June 3, July 22, August 19, September 23 and October 14.

Three-day walks: May 11, June 5, July 24, August 21, September 25 and October 16.

For further information and bookings contact Rawnsley Park Station on (08) 86480030 or email info@rawnsleypark.com.au www.rawnsleypark.com.au



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Cook Lily – the largest buttercup in the world. Much of the ground coming up to Harris Saddle was covered in snow – the track up Conical Hill was closed because of the snow and so we missed the two major high points on the Routeburn. However the view from the saddle was a splendid panorama of Lake Harris and the Route Burn valley flanked by snow capped mountains.

The track became a small stream in the rain so we plugged on towards the Routeburn Falls Lodge. The last section was a slow clamber down a steep rocky slope past the vigorous Routeburn Falls. We arrived at the lodge about 3.00pm after walking 11 kilometres – a slow but rewarding walk even in the rain.

It was still raining on the last morning. However, the rain stopped just as we headed off although the forest continued to drip as we picked our way slowly down another rocky slope from the lodge to Routeburn Flats.

On the valley floor, we criss-crossed the river getting our rhythm on the swinging and swaying suspension bridges. Now the rain had stopped, we could enjoy the different types and colours of the mosses and lichens in the trees and on the rocks. We even spotted a fantail which ventured out after the rain.



Emily Gap from the Routeburn Track

The last day was only 9 kilometres and mostly flat. So we arrived at the shelter at the end of the track about 12.30pm giving us plenty of time for a celebratory drink at the pub at Glenorchy and get back in Queenstown for a relaxing hot tub at our hotel.

Despite the rain, the Routeburn was an exciting spectacular walk through a fascinating alpine environment with stunning views. Another most enjoyable walk.



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The Heysen Trail is graciously maintained by volunteers. If you discover a problem on the Heysen Trail, please contact the Friends of the Heysen Trail office, or the Maintenance Co-ordinator or relevant Maintenance Section Leader listed. We welcome feedback on the condition of the Heysen Trail, constructive suggestions on improvements that could be made, and general comments or enquiries about the Trail.

Maintenance Coordinator and Maintenance Committee Chairman

Colin Edwards 8264 1492 (H)

Section	Map	Section Leader	Contact
1. Cape Jervis to Tapanappa	Southern Guidebook, Maps 1.1-1.3	Bob Gentle Albert Schmidke	8294 7287 (H) 8381 8861 (H)
2A. Tapanappa to Waitpinga Campground	Southern Guidebook, Maps 1.3-1.5	Roger Dunn & friends	8260 2146 (H)
2B. Waitpinga Campground to Back Valley Rd	Southern Guidebook, Maps 1.5-2.2		
3. Back Valley Road to Moon Hill	Southern Guidebook, Maps 3 2.2-2.3		
4. Moon Hill to Hindmarsh Tiers Road	Southern Guidebook, Maps 2.3-2.5	Hermann Schmidt (Wandergruppe Bushwalkers, German Association)	8344 4072 (H)
5. Hindmarsh Tiers Road to Blackfellows Creek Road	Southern Guidebook, Maps 2.5-2.7	Eleanor Martin Myra Betschild (Women in the Bush)	8431 8187 (H) 8331 2992
6. Blackfellows Creek Road to Glen Bold	Southern Guidebook, Maps 2.7-3.2	Richard Webb	8381 5308 (H)
7. Glen Bold to Piccadilly	Southern Guidebook, Maps 3.2-3.4	Thelma Anderson Trevor Lee	8278 4420 (H) 8398 0516 (H)
8. Piccadilly to Norton Summit	Southern Guidebook, Maps 3.4-3.4	Liz O'Shea (WEA Ramblers)	8352 1636 (H)
9. Norton Summit to Cudlee Creek	Southern Guidebook, Maps 3.5-3.7	Colin Edwards	8264 1492 (H)
10. Cudlee Creek to Bethany	Southern Guidebook, Maps 3.7-4.4	John Potter	0418 835 321
11. Bethany to Hamilton	Southern Guidebook, Maps 4.4-5.3	John Potter Joyce Heinjus	8337 9515 (H) 8525 2054 (H)
12. Hamilton to Hupputz Hut	Southern Guidebook, Maps 5.3-5.9	Norrie Hamilton	8332 1982 (H)
13. Hupputz Hut to Spalding	Southern Guidebook, Maps 5.9-6.12	Hugh Greenhill (Burra Branch)	8843 8115 (H)
14. Spalding to Georgetown	Northern Guidebook, Maps 1.1-1.6	Kevin Liddiard	8289 4236 (H)
15. Georgetown to Mt Remarkable	Northern Guidebook, Maps 1.6-2.11	Milton Turner Ron Capel	8263 2393 (H) 8251 7717
16. Mt Remarkable to Horrocks Pass Rd	Northern Guidebook, Maps 2.11-3.4		
17A. Horrocks Pass Rd to Dutchmans Stern	Northern Guidebook, Maps 3.4-4.1	Michael Kerin	8642 4728 (H)
17B. Dutchmans Stern to Wilpena	Northern Guidebook, Maps 4.2-5.7	Gavin & Marie Campbell	8296 8613 (H)
18. Wilpena to Parachilna	Northern Guidebook, Maps 5.8-6.8	David Henery (Alpana Station) Operation Flinders	8648 4626 (H) 8242 3233



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