

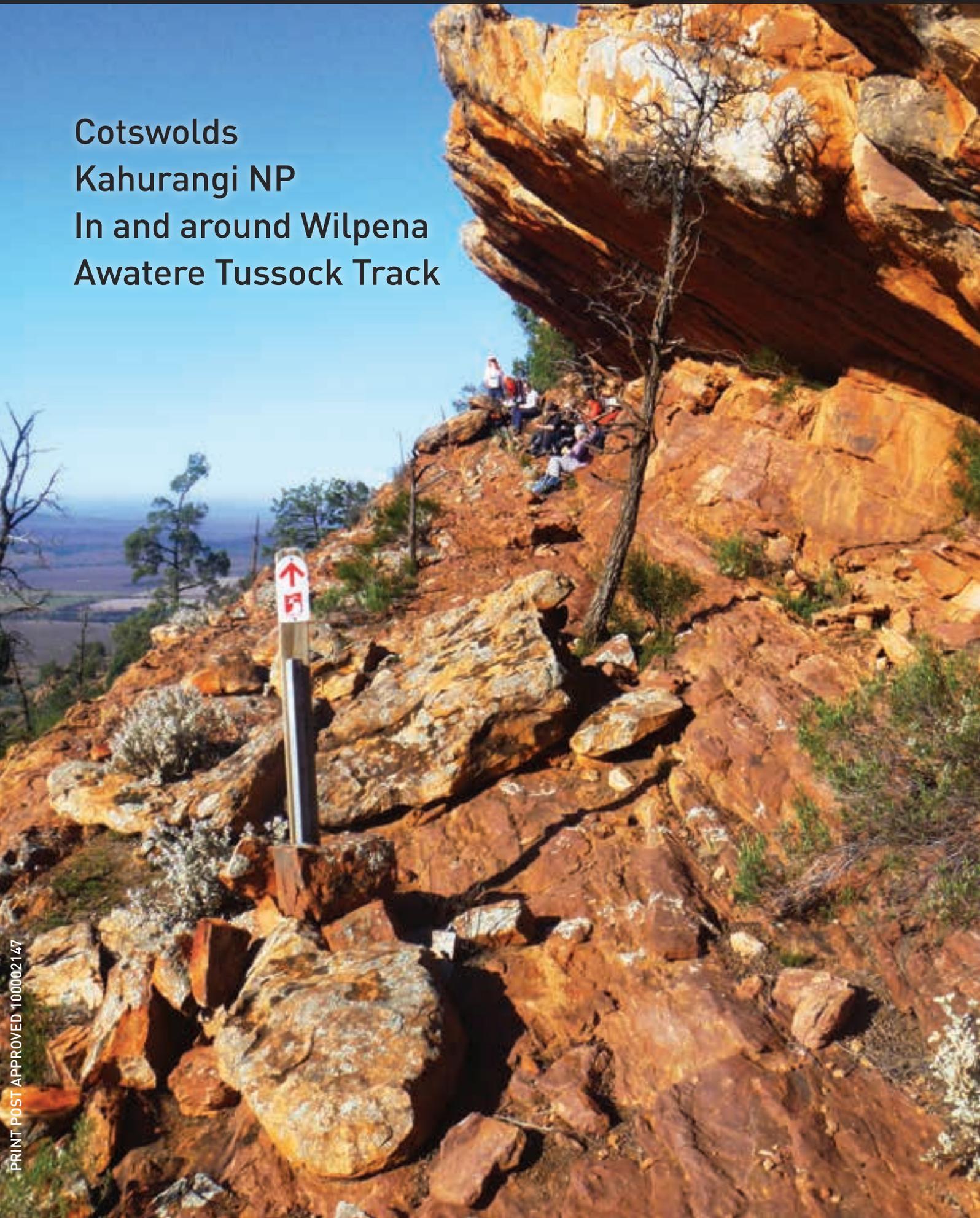


Trailwalker

Winter 2013 Issue 128

Free

Cotswolds
Kahurangi NP
In and around Wilpena
Awatere Tussock Track





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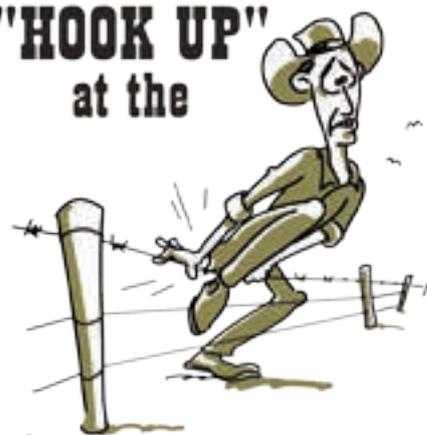
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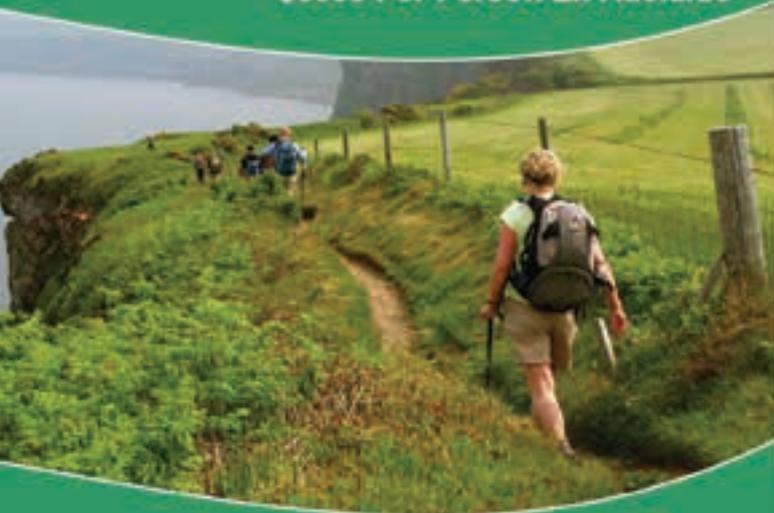
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Published by the
Friends of the Heysen
Trail & Other Walking
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Membership Information

Joining Fee \$10
Single \$25 per year
Family \$40 per year
Schools & Organisations \$60 per year

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 1050, 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 128 Winter 2013



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The Friends of
the Heysen Trail
& Other Walking
Trails

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Volunteers

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Neil Nosworthy
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
Sandy Melbourne
Jamie Shephard

Relief Staff

Myra Betschild
Graham Loveday

About the Friends

Council Members 2013/14

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Richard Trembath	Vice President
Julian Monfries	Secretary
John Wilson	Treasurer
Simon Blight	
Simon Cameron	
Gavin Campbell	
Rhonda Dempster	
Graham Loveday	
David Rattray	

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Russell O'Brien	Walking
David Rattray	Office
Richard Trembath	Marketing & Membership
Julian Monfries	Honorary Membership

Burra Branch Chairs

Rodney Rees	President
Kate Greenhill	Vice President
Sally Fieldhouse	Secretary
Benita Rees	Publicity Officer
Hugh Greenhill	Section Leader

Council Meeting Dates

Wednesday 15 May 2013
Wednesday 19 June 2013
Wednesday 17 July 2013
Wednesday 21 August 2013

Winter Trailwalker Deadline

Friday 2 August 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.

Founding Patron 1986-2012

C. Warren Bonython AO*

Honorary Members

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Jim Crinion
Neville Southgate
Doug Leane*
Fred Brooks*
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Thelma Anderson
Kath Palyga
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Jeanette Clarke
Wen Zhang (Nina)
Bo Zhao (Sarah)
Diya Ye (Yida)



Cover

Yourambulla Range
Photographer: Mary Cartland

President

A Word from the President - Robert Alcock



What a great time of the year! We are back into walking regularly and have set our walk programme for the year. The current dry weather is providing good walking, although there was one recent wet Sunday which proved that many "rainproof" coats were not up to prolonged precipitation. Many wet walkers

there were at the walk's end. I joined the End 2 End 7 group on Sunday 5 May and a lovely day it turned out to be. The support vehicle, manned (womenned?) by willing supporters, was needed for this walk, with illness and sore feet catching out regular walkers. It is pleasing to hear that all the End 2 End walks have in place a support vehicle to back up our willing hikers and dedicated leaders. I heard many comments on how well the Friends plan and run the walks. It is pleasing that our dedicated volunteers' efforts are recognised, and you are all to be complimented, from the organisers, leaders and support teams.

Our AGM was uneventful with most positions remaining in the same capable hands. There is a vacancy on Council, so if you are interested in seeing the inner workings and would like to contribute, then let us know. The highlight was a fascinating talk from Terry Krieg titled "Walking on Eyre". He covered his long and arduous walk with Warren Bonython around Lake Eyre, and also covered many incidents of other walks with Warren. It gave me more of an insight to the strength and character of Warren, and

also to the fun loving chap, who really loved challenging himself and engaging with nature.

The Opening of the Walk Season was held at Elder Park - a very central location. It was a popular location with many stalls, especially the Friends "recycled" equipment tent, being very busy through the day. The Day on the Heysen Trail, the Warren Bonython memorial walk, with its "art installation" of 60 yellow shorts on the bank of the Torrens River, was well promoted and drew a lot of attention. Don't forget to select your section of the Trail and book in for the 6th October walk.

C Warren Bonython Estate has provided the Friends with \$10,000. Warren continues to support us. These funds are being held with a view to seeding the proposed Warren Bonython Heysen Trail Foundation, which we are in the process of setting up. The application for a charitable trust is not a quick process, and we are preparing well to ensuring our application will have the best chance of success.

The Friends now has a policy on the shared use of walking trails. This was developed in response to enquiries and some planning groups now considering opening up more "walking trails" for other users, mainly for cycles and horses. We are now better equipped to discuss and to easily submit our policy where required. The policy is published on our website.

Walkers with the Friends will be learning to book-on with a new login system currently being introduced. Details of the new process are included on page 12 in this Trailwalker.

Once we have it fully implemented it will be a much easier system for all to use, and for the Friends to administer. It will also provide much needed statistics for our planning. A lot, and I mean a lot, of work has gone into planning a smooth transition. Please be patient if you experience difficulties with the change.

The Friends have many initiatives and proposals either taking place or being planned this year, so there are many members working for the long term benefit of the Heysen Trail, and more generally, for walking/hiking in this state of South Australia. The Heysen Trail, together with the Friends, have a bright and energetic future.

Win a Free Calendar

Submit some of your photos for the 2014 Friends of Heysen Trail calendar for a chance to win a free copy of the calendar.

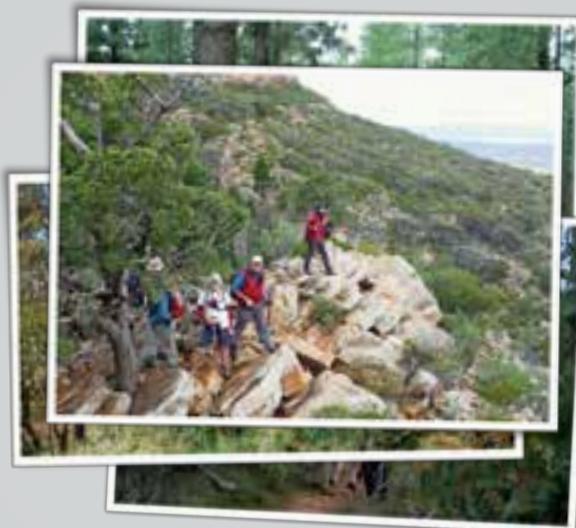
If we use one of them - you win a calendar.

Maximum of four photos per person.

Photos need to be landscape shaped and meet minimum technical specifications, generally a 7 mega pixel camera will suffice if on the highest image quality setting.

Email your photos to heysentrail@gmail.com by October 1.

Email size can be up to 25MB (your email provider may not allow emails of that size).



News

Report on the 26th AGM of the Friends of the Heysen Trail

Julian Monfries, Secretary

The 26th AGM of the Friends was held on 15 March 2013 at the Woodville Bowling Club and was attended by 63 members and guests.

President Robert Alcock detailed the achievements of 2012, including the installation of the ten tanks along the Trail, and outlined the objectives of 2013 which included the setting up of the Warren Bonython Heysen Trail Foundation and the "Day on the Heysen-a Walk for Warren" which aims to have 1200 walkers complete the 1200km of the trail in one day.

Robert was re-elected president unopposed and new council member Graham Loveday was welcomed. Retiring council members Chris Porter, Jerry Foster and Nick Langsford were thanked for their time and effort on the council.

Robert introduced Terry Krieg who gave a well received and interesting talk on "Walking with Warren" about his foot travels with C Warren Bonython AO.

A full report on the AGM can be requested from the secretary.

Many thanks to the following people who contributed photos to the 2013 calendar. They have all received a free copy for their efforts:-

Brian Eglinton, Lari McDonald, Heather Drew, Tricia Bell, Neil Nosworthy, Philip Bell, Ian Small, Melanie Sjoberg, Karen Cody, Glen Thompson, Dale Searcy, Andrew Cowley, Robert Browne, Janis Richardson, Roger Curnow, Andrew Shipway, Robert Alcock.

Details of how YOU can win a copy of the 2014 calendar appears on page 5.

End of Year Bash, BBQ + Band

Come and see your President boogie to the tune of the foot-tapping Bogaduck Band at the beautiful Paxton Winery in McLaren Vale.

Sunday 17 November, 12-5pm
\$20 per person

Book early! No refunds!
Book at www.heysentrail.asn.au/invite
or via the office.

Before, bbq and artisan bread provided.
Wine for purchase by the bottle or glass,
cash only, no BYO. Bring beer or soft drink,
bring Salad or Dessert to share,
chair or rug, plates & cutlery.

Paxton Winery
Lot 100 Wheaton Road, McLaren Vale



Financial Report to AGM - March 2013

John Wilson, Treasurer

During the 2012 financial year, the Friends made a profit of \$12,467 .

Net income from walking again was the major contributor to our earnings, mainly as a result of strong support for the various End to End walks. Apart from the direct income from individual walks, this support to walking is reflected in higher receipts from the sale of Golden Boots cards and Multi-Walk tickets. The two longer events (to Patawerta and the Larapinta Trail) were also successful.

Income from membership subscriptions increased substantially over the previous year, partly because the subscriptions were increased at the 2012 AGM, and also from improved member numbers.

Income from sales of books and maps from our office was similar to that from previous years, and income from advertising showed a small increase, while bank interest was steady.

Administrative expenditure for 2012 was about the same as that of the previous year, with increases in general admin costs balanced by lower expenditure on office equipment.

During the year we signed a lease agreement with Uniting Communities for rent of our office space, which will cost around \$8,000 per year. The cost for the part year from June 2012 was \$4,221.

The Friends spent \$7,893 on routine maintenance costs including the erection of water tanks and shelters along the Trail, and a further \$5,329 on basic materials and expenses which was reimbursed by the Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources. It should be noted that overall annual expenditure on the Heysen Trail by DEWNR is about \$400,000

A Greening Committee was established in 2012, and \$1,302 was spent on its operations, with a further \$1,297 on Trail Awareness (signs).

Members attending the recent AGM may have been disappointed to hear that guest speaker Terry Krieg's book "Walking on Eyre" was out of print. However, the Royal Geographical Society of SA has a small number for sale at \$25. Contact them on 8207 7265.

2012 Accounts

The Auditors Report and 2012 Accounts for the Friends were distributed at the AGM. Spare copies are available from the Friends office. Detailed accounts, prepared monthly, are also held at the office and may be inspected by members. The following is a brief summary of the 2012 Accounts.

Net Income

Membership Subscriptions	\$19,044
Income from Sale of Goods	\$5,947
Interest	\$4,811
Advertising revenue	\$4,384
Walking	\$22,962
Sundry Income	\$1,842
Total Income	\$58,990

Expenditure

Administrative expenses	\$1,846
Rent	\$4,221
Bank fees	\$3,764
Insurance/Affiliation	\$5,525
Office expenses	\$9,870
Promotional expenses	\$3,232
Trailwalker costs	\$7,573
Trail Maintenance	\$7,893
Greening	\$1,302
Trail Awareness	\$1,297
Total Expenditure	\$46,523

Net Profit

\$12,467

Current Assets

Bank Accounts	\$62,428
CPS, and Term Deposit	\$65,714
Minor Accounts/Floats	\$745
Stock on Hand	\$5,408
Trade debtors	\$4,300
Plant and Equipment	\$0

Total Assets

\$138,595

Current Liabilities

\$17,466

Net Assets

\$121,129



News

Greening the Heysen Trail

Neil Nosworthy, Coordinator

The Greening Committee's activities for 2013 are described in the table below.

Project	June 2013	July 2013	August 2013
Worlds End to Burra Plant 600 trees along trail between Dutton's Trough Road and Ernedale Road near Worlds End with help from End to End 5.	Saturday 1st Sunday 2nd Monday 3rd		
Bundaleer Channel Plant 760 trees at the junction of the Heysen Trail and Railway Dam Road near Spalding and possibly where the trail turns towards Spalding.	Thursday 13th Friday 14th Saturday 15th Sunday 16th (if required)		
Mt Crawford Planting with Forestry SA subject to further discussion with Andrew Moylan (Forestry SA).		Wednesday 4th or Thursday 5th or Saturday 6th (To be confirmed)	
Cape Jervis Planting arranged by Cape Jervis Coastal Community Group led by Carolyn Schultz.	Sunday 2nd		Sunday 4th

We will circulate news items on the Friends' website providing more details on these activities and seeking the involvement of volunteers.

2012 Plantings

Recently we visited our 2012 plantings. The dry spring and summer have made for a tough growing season but about 50% of the trees have survived at Hiskey's Hut. More than 70% of the plantings at the Centennial Drive Picnic area near Mt Crawford have survived. Hopefully we will get some good rain to give them a kick along.

Projects for 2014 and future years

We need to commence planning for our 2014 program so that we can place orders with Trees for Life in August. If you have an idea for a greening project, please contact me by email at neil@noztours.com.au or by phone on 0447 922 617 or 8278 6577.

FRIENDS OF THE HEYSEN TRAIL - POLICY ON SHARED USE OF WALKING TRAILS

Over recent months, some Council members have represented the Friends at discussions and meetings where it has been suggested that the Heysen Trail or other walking trails be shared with other users, such as cyclists or horse riders. One example is our response to the call for public consultation for the Adelaide Hills 20 Year Trail Strategy. Clearly, the proponents of these suggestions are aiming to save money through shared use.

It was realised that the Friends had no clear policy on this issue, and so a policy was developed over the last two months, and ratified at the Council meeting on 20th March this year.

The Friends do not own or have management responsibility for the Heysen Trail, so cannot enforce the policy. However, it is important that we have an agreed statement of our position regarding the shared use of walking trails.

Robert Alcock - President

Office Report

David Rattray, Office Coordinator

The walking season is upon us and End to End 8 (E2E8) has had its first walk. E2E8 booked out in record time – 19 minutes. Well done to everyone who stayed up past midnight to book on-line.

Staffing

We say farewell to Mike Parsons who retired as an office volunteer in May to pursue his other interest, four wheel driving. Mike will be assisting End to End 4 by being a support vehicle driver. Thank you Mike for being an office volunteer for the past 12 years and best wishes for your new ventures with the Friends.

Thank you

Thank you for your patience during the learning curve as the new walk registration system is implemented. The system 'remembers' your details and the payment gateway is much simpler to use.

New Members

The President and the Council would like to extend a warm welcome to the following 46 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.

Jennifer Abbott	Stephen Leahy
Karin Agostino	Mark Linford
Michael Agostino	Sharron Linford
Elaine Barnes	Gavin Lowe
Lyn Barnett	Gary McCarty
Jane Chadwick	Pam McEvoy
Yvette Clift	Tina Meakin
Mark Curtis	Steve Newlands
Elizabeth Davis	Joanne Reed
Lauren Davis	Peter Reed
Don Davoli	Chris Richardson
Rodney Dyke	Peter Richardson
Carmel Ellul	Linda Ross
Christine Evans	Stan Sarantos
Ali Feo	Diane Shipard
Uwe Gehrke	Leon Shipard
Kevin Gilbert	Meme Thorne
Christopher Gower	Julie Tonkin
Erika Guess	David Tye
Lesley Hastwell	Connie Vosnakis
Janice Jones	Janice Watt
Lynette Jones	Pam Woodburn
Elise Kamleh	Anita Xian

Maintenance Report

Colin Edwards, Maintenance Committee Chairperson

ABOUT MAINTENANCE

Once again the dedicated few have your Trail open and ready for business – out of a membership in excess of 800 members there are less than 40 active maintainers!

There is as usual plenty to do on the Trail – a bit like looking after the Sydney Harbour Bridge – it is never ending but we are fortunate to have a dedicated group doing as much as possible. I hope I am making you feel guilty enough to encourage more members to plead to be allowed to help. Many members in the past have expressed a willingness to assist and we are currently researching a list of names for us to contact in the hope that we can enlarge our group of helpers.

Apart from the usual re-marking, repairing, clearing etc. we have larger projects such as establishing a temporary re-route around the fire damaged area at Bundaleer, installation of platforms at the new tank sites, fix location signage to the tanks and plenty more.

SECTION LEADERS WANTED

Assist us with maintaining the trail.

For various reasons we currently have four sections needing a new Section Leader.

If you are interested and have a small amount of time available this could be the opportunity you have been waiting for.

But don't delay.

This is a once in a lifetime chance to lift yourself out of the doldrums.

An extensive Resume will not be needed – just a name will do

CONTACT: email Colin Edwards at
the Friends office
heysentrail@heysentrail.asn.au



Awatere Tussock Track

By Steve Clift

What a magnificent view from Billygoat Saddle. To the south west - snow capped mountains, to the south east - craggy Mt Malvern (1426m), and ranging above and to the north - ridges and gullies sharply cascading down towards the beautiful Awatere Valley.

The 3 days on the Awatere Tussock Track were the highlight of our 3 weeks in New Zealand, which included Mount Fyffe and Queen Charlotte Sound. It was further enhanced by the personal touch provided by our hosts, Lynda and Simon Harvey, throughout our stay.

The Harvey family have developed the Awatere Tussock Track on their high country property Glen Orkney, an easy 60 minute drive from Blenheim, on the South Island of New Zealand.

Mary Cartland first broached the Awatere Tussock Track as part of our holiday, having become aware of it from her family, following a promotion to tramping clubs in New Zealand.

Having walked Mount Fyffe and Sawcut Gorge, we travelled from Kaikoura to the Awatere Valley, arriving at Glen Orkney late in the afternoon. The party included Mary Cartland, John Potter, Phillip Zeunert, Margaret and Steve Clift, and we were joined by Jane Robinson from New Zealand.

The first night we stayed at the "Cottage" (400m). This was the original homestead on the property - built in 1910. It was very comfortably appointed - sleeping up to 10 people. Adjacent was the shearing shed, where fine wool sheep are shorn, with wool contracted to



Steve Clift, Mary Cartland, Margaret Clift, Jane Robinson, Phillip Zeunert & John Potter at Cregan Hut

"Icebreaker" for the next several seasons. The property income is also supplemented by a herd of Angus cattle.

We were greeted on the next morning by 7 friendly working dogs - Mary ensuring that the silence was broken by visiting the enthusiastic bunch.

After packing a small bag with our requirements for the next 2 nights, food and NZ wine, which were to be delivered by our hosts to our accommodation, we headed off with a day pack into the mountains, with the temperature exceeding 30c. The tramp was steadily upward, walking on sloping tussock hills, sheep tracks and some farm roads. There was evidence of a 3km hand dug trench, originally dug to channel water from the creek to the homestead. Also, there were 5 fenced reserves protecting the regeneration of native plants.

The tramp was well marked throughout, with the next 2 or 3 posts visible at all times.

Some valleys were out of the breeze and therefore became quite oppressive; however, the streams were running with cold fresh water, greatly appreciated for dampening the hat and filling the water bottle. When the ridges were reached, the change caused by the breeze was refreshing.

About lunch time we reached a shelter in a saddle with a lookout only minutes away, at 884m. The Awatere

Valley was prominent to the north, with a deep valley to the south in the direction we had to follow, down a steep farm track towards the mountains, down to Brown Creek and eventually to our destination for the day, Cregan Hut (650m).

We arrived mid afternoon, thankful to be out of the heat, to find a very cosy timber lined cabin in the mountains, very comfortable facilities, a library full of everything you would want to know about tramping, flora and fauna in NZ, and the history of the property. A cup of tea, a book off the shelf and homemade biscuits provided by our hosts, topped off a great first day.



Looking towards the Awatere Valley



SC - Cregan Hut nestled in mountains before Mt Malvern & Twin Peaks

Another highlight was the frequent showing of the New Zealand Falcon, combing the rock faces and gullies nearby, with an occasional dart toward the ground to secure prey.

A crisp mountain morning with clouds settled in the Awatere Valley greeted us the next day, probably providing us with the most memorable panorama of NZ.

Day 2 saw us commence what effectively was a rim walk from Cregan Hut, up towards the highest points on the property. We headed directly south and upwards, over the first saddle. Gradually we gained altitude by "zig zagging" our way up the mountains, with tussock grass gradually diminishing, until at the Twin Peaks vegetation was extremely sparse, reflecting the influence of snow in the winter.

Moving around the base of Twin Peaks (1203m) we reached Billygoat Saddle, which was covered in a shale rock with an imposing view to Mt Malvern and snow capped peaks in the middle of January, to the south west.

In the steeper parts of the mountains secure ropes were provided to assist walking, ensuring that everyone felt safe at all times.

After absorbing the panoramic view, we started the return journey across a significant scree slope to the east and eventually reached Top Hut for lunch. The hut had facilities for coffee and tea, fresh mountain stream water, and a tin full of lollies. How did our hosts know that lollies were an integral part of our lunch tradition?

We then descended into the valley, across steep tussock slopes once again, around Double Fleece Bluffs, until we picked up a rocky stream - passing remnant Totara and Broadleaf tree - following it north towards the southern side of Cregan Bluff, and picking up Brown Stream and the farm track leading back to Cregan Hut.

The final day saw an early pack up and walk down the farm track to the small shearing shed used for crutching, and the Musterers Hut, which contained further history on Glen Orkney, built adjacent to Brown Stream.

We then headed up stream through a heritage listed



SC - Mary & Jane crossing scree slope on Mt Malvern

sight, which is now preserved in perpetuity, protecting native NZ flora from grazing forever. It was a beautiful part of the property, containing Lancewood, Broadleaf, Manuka and Kanuka trees.

At the end of the reserve, we headed upward onto the last tussock ridge for the tramp, gradually heading towards the homestead in the picturesque Awatere Valley, but still giving us our final glimpse of Cregan Hut, nestled in the palm of the mountains traversed the previous day.

Mid afternoon we walked into the homestead area to be greeted by the working dogs and our hosts.

Everyone in our party thought that the 3 days had been spectacular, exceeding expectations and probably upon reflection, providing us with the most enduring memories of our holiday to New Zealand.

Facilities were very "homely" and the passion displayed towards the property by our hosts, Lynda and Simon Harvey, ensured that the time spent on the Awatere Tussock Track, was an experience never to be forgotten.

**For enquiries on this adventure -
The Awatere Tussock Track
Simon and Lynda Harvey
Glen Orkney NZ
+64 3 575 7361
www.tussocktrack.co.nz
info@tussocktrack.co.nz**



Snow capped mountains from lunchtime lookout .



New Walk Registration System

We're phasing in a new online walk registration system. When registering for walks online, you will need to log in using your membership account details. The phase-in period, from April 2013, will see each walk grade brought over to the new system.

Streamlining Registrations

The new system will streamline processes for walkers, walk leaders and the office.

When registering for walks using the new system:

- Your details are already entered in the walk registration form
- If you're not a financial member, you can create a Guest Membership during the registration process. After the second walk, you will be prompted to upgrade to a financial membership.
- You can register all people within your membership account, and do so via any of the logins
- Payment for your walk will be via a single page payment gateway - easier to use than the existing PayPal payment gateway. Financial transactions will be processed by NAB.
- View your current and past walk registrations (past walks available from July 2013)
- For security reasons, we do not store credit card details

Schedule

Each walk grade will be progressed to the new registration system.

Walk Grade	Walk Date	Register from
Warren Bonython Memorial Walk	6/10/13	14/4/13
End-to-End 4	8/6/13	12/5/13
End-to-End 6	16/6/13	20/5/13
End-to-End Minus 1	22/6/13	20/5/13
End-to-End 7	23/6/13	28/5/13
Trailstarter	30/6/13	3/6/13
Trailwalker	30/6/13	3/6/13
End-to-End 5	6/7/13	9/6/13
End-to-End 8	14/7/13	17/6/13



Remember, you can always register for walks by contacting the office directly.

When is the switch?

Details of dates for each walk grade are shown to the below left.

You will know when your walk grade has been transferred to the new system, as the registration page will ask you to log in. If you are already logged in, you'll see that your details are already entered in the walk registration form.

How do I find out my login details?

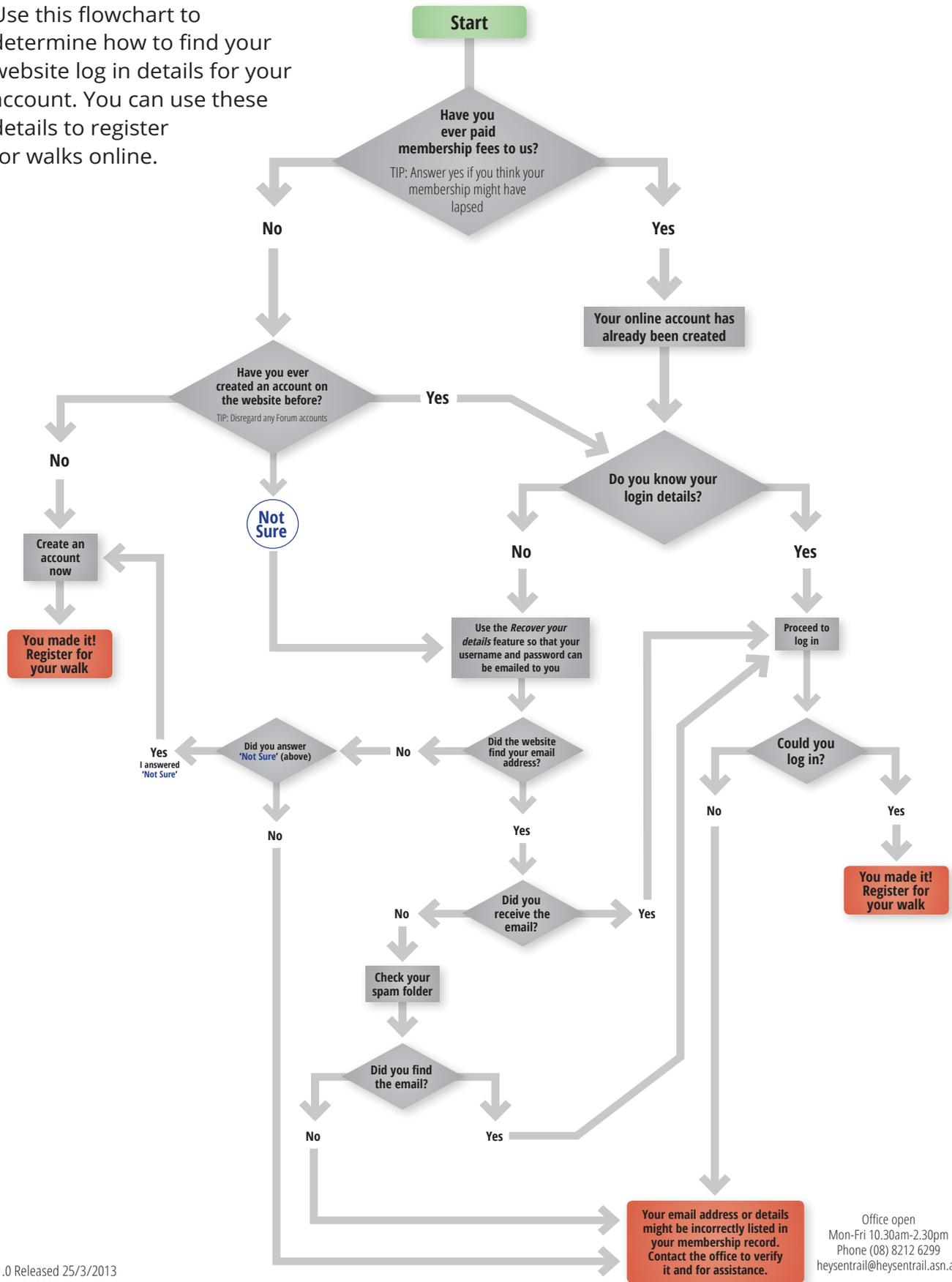
A letter was mailed out in early April to active members who have not previously accessed their online membership account.

If you are unsure as to what your login details are, or have lost your password, you can recover your details by visiting www.heysentrail.asn.au/login.php. If this process doesn't immediately work, the flow chart on the right can help you find the pathway to recover your login details. **Please contact the office for further assistance.**

When logging in to the website, you can change your username and password to something meaningful. You can also review your email address, Trailwalker and email subscription options, and renew your account.

How to find your membership login details

Use this flowchart to determine how to find your website log in details for your account. You can use these details to register for walks online.



v1.0 Released 25/3/2013

Office open
Mon-Fri 10.30am-2.30pm
Phone (08) 8212 6299
heysentrail@heysentrail.asn.au



News

A Day on the Heysen Trail, the Warren Bonython Memorial Walk October Long Weekend, Sunday 6th October 2013

In tribute to Warren Bonython, you can join us in walking the 1,200 kilometre long Heysen Trail in a single day. The trail has been divided into 60 sections, between 16 and 30km long, with organisers from South Australia's bushwalking community leading people in each section.

Event Launch at the Opening of the Walk Season

The Day on the Heysen Trail event was launched at the Take a Walk event (the opening of the walk season) at Elder Park on Sunday 14 April.

An art installation of 60 yellow shorts was scattered around the park promoting the event, and many conversations about the October event.

The Friends at the Opening of the Walk Season

The Friends had an additional stall, selling pre-loved hiking gear, and promoting the Heysen Trail and our walk programme.



Photo by Randy Larcombe

Warren Bonython AO

Famous for his bright shorts



A busy stall promoting the walk



The art installation of yellow shorts



The FoHT stall



Stall helpers



Entertainment by Sing Australia



The FoHT's sale of pre-loved gear

A Day on the Heysen Trail

The Warren Bonython Memorial Walk
October Long Weekend, Sunday 6th October 2013

Parachilna Gorge

www.heysentrail.asn.au/wb-walk

Warren Bonython AO

Warren Bonython died in April 2012. He was a great believer in challenging himself in the outdoors: walking the Simpson Desert, walking Lake Eyre, walking the length of the Flinders Ranges and proposing the iconic Heysen Trail. His exploits inspired generations of bushwalkers and the walking community.

How to choose a section to walk

Register via the office or online via our website, www.heysentrail.asn.au/wb-walk.

Use the online Walk Selector tool to peruse available sections. People can choose from the 37 available sections. The other 23 sections have been exclusively booked by other walking clubs and schools.

There will be an event registration fee of \$20 per hiker to cover logistical and insurance costs.

Registrations will close in late August.

Questions about the event

Questions about the event are answered at www.heysentrail.asn.au/wb-walk. You can also contact the office to find out about these questions.

- How will logistics on the day work?
- How long are the hikes?
- How many people will be hiking each section?
- Is this a fundraising event?
- Will there be rules for walking? What if I'm slower or faster than the rest of the group?
- Will there be a bus available? Will car pooling be available?
- Will we be walking south to north?
- Will the event be cancelled due to hot weather or bushfire risk?
- Are there maps available for each section?
- Do I have to register?
- Can I be an organiser and lead hikers on a section?



1,200 walkers
to hike 1,200km
on one day.



2013 Walk Season Programme for the Friends of the

		May	June	July	August	Sept
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	Sat Aug 3 - Sun Aug 4 End-to-End 5 Dares Hill Summit Road to Hallett to EE George Quarry	Father's Day
	Trail Starter	Sun May 5 End-to-End 7 Myponga to Mt Compass	Sun Jun 2 Trail Starter Cleland CP Lyn Wood	Sun Jul 7 Trail Starter Aldgate Peter Solomon	Sun Aug 4 Trail Starter Mt Osmond Reserve Rhonda Dempster	
	Trail Walker	Sun May 5 Trail Starter Morialta David Carter	Sun Jun 2 Trail Walker Onkaparinga Gorge Neil Rivett	Sun Jul 7 Trail Walker Glen Osmond Mary Cartland	Sun Aug 4 Trail Walker Anstey Hill Mary Cartland	
	Trail Walker	Sun May 5 Trail Walker Onkaparinga Gorge Michael Middleton				
2nd Week of month	End-to-End	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	Sat Aug 10 - Sun Aug 11 End-to-End 4	Sat/Sun Sep
	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 Balquhidder	Sun Aug 11 End-to-End 8 Balquhidder to Waitpinga	Sat Sep
	Trail Starter	Sun May 12 Trail Starter Coro Valley Chris Porter	Sun Jun 9 Trail Starter TBA Arrienne Wynen	Sun Jul 14 Trail Starter TBA Graham Bald	Sun Aug 11 Trail Starter Mt Oliphant Park Greg Walker	Sun Sep
	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	Sun Aug 11 Trail Walker Onkaparinga Richard Milosh	Sun Sep
3rd Week of month	End-to-End	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	Sun Aug 18 End-to-End 6 Pewsey Vale to Tanunda	Sun
	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	Sun Aug 18 Trail Starter Mylor Nature Trail Graham Bald	Sun
	Trail Walker	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	Fri Aug 16 - Sun Aug 18 Extended Trip Alpana Simon Cameron	Sun
	Trail Walker					Sun
4th Week of month	End-to-End	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	Sun Aug 25 End-to-End 7 Mylor to Cleland	Sun
	End-to-End	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	Sat Aug 24 - Sun Aug 25 End-to-End -1 Block Nine Rd to Wirrabara to Mt Zion	Sat Sep 2
	Trail Starter	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	Sun Aug 25 Trail Starter TBA Lyn Wood	Sun
	Trail Walker	Sun May 26 Trail Walker Cudlee Creek Carol Homewood	Sun Jun 23 Trail Walker Montacute Dana Florea & Peter Clark	Sun Jul 28 Trail Walker TBA Colin Edwards	Sun Aug 25 Trail Walker Kaiserstuhl John Potter	Sun
5th Week of month	Trail Starter		Sun Jun 30 Trail Starter Belair Russell O'Brien	<h2>Key to Walk Programme</h2> <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
	Trail Walker		Sun Jun 30 Trail Walker Para Wirra David Carter			Sun

The Heysen Trail

September	October	November
Sun Sep 1 Trail Starter Chambers Gully Kevin Liddiard	October Long Weekend	Sat Oct 5 - Mon Oct 7 End-to-End 5 Chlorinator to Curnows Hut to Raeville to Locks Ruin
Sun Sep 1 Trail Walker Gorge - off track Simon Cameron		Sun Oct 6 A Day on the Heysen Trail: the Warren Bonython Memorial Walk
Sun Sep 7-8 End-to-End 5 Walding Rd to Chlorinator	Sat Oct 12 - Sun Oct 13 End-to-End 4	Sat Nov 2 - Sun Nov 3 End-to-End 5 Locks Ruin to Bowman Park to Mt Zion
Sun Sep 7 - Sun Sep 8 End-to-End 4	Sun Oct 13 End-to-End 8 Tugwell Road to Inman Valley	Sun Nov 3 Trail Walker Second Creek to source Simon Cameron
Sun Sep 8 End-to-End 8 to Tugwell Road	Sun Oct 13 Trail Starter Sturt Gorge Robyn Quinn	Sun Nov 10 End-to-End 8 Inman Valley to James Track
Sun Sep 8 Trail Starter Winga Ben Wait	Sun Oct 13 Trail Walker Newland Head Peter Clark	Walk Registration
Sun Sep 15 End-to-End 6 Kapunda	Sat Oct 19 - Sun Oct 20 End-to-End 6 Kapunda to Hamilton to Peters Hill	You must register for a walk, either online or over the phone. Register online at www.heysentrail.asn.au , or by phoning the office (during the hours listed on page 3.) Closing dates and times are listed on each walk event page on the website.
Sun Sep 15 Trail Starter Botanic Gardens Sham Bald	Sun Oct 20 Trail Starter Scott Creek David Carter	Walk Cancellations
Sun Sep 15 Trail Walker Warrirra John Potter	Sun Oct 20 Trail Walker Deep Creek John Potter	Walks are cancelled if the forecast is over 32°C. This doesn't apply to Summer Twilight Walks.
Sun Sep 22 End-to-End 7 Montacute Heights	Sun Oct 27 End-to-End 7 Montacute Heights to Cudlee Ck	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.
Sun Sep 22 End-to-End -1 Inman Park to Locks Ruin	Sat Oct 26 - Sun Oct 27 End-to-End -1 Locks Ruin to EE Smith Rd to Curnows Hut	
Sun Sep 22 Belair Wildflower David Carter	Sun Oct 27 Trail Starter TBA Chris Porter	
Sun Sep 22 Walker, Ben Wait Commit, Mt Lofty 1/2	Sun Oct 27 Trail Walker Crafers Peter Clark	
Sun Sep 29 Trail Starter George Homewood		
Sun Sep 29 Trail Walker Chambers Gully David Milosh		



**The Friends of
the Heysen Trail**
10 Pitt Street Adelaide 5000
Phone 08 8212 6299
www.heysentrail.asn.au

This version released 8 May 2013

Burra Branch Walking Programme

Our Burra Branch also conducts a walk programme. Please contact the leader in the week before the walk for details and to book.

Date	Location	Contact	Telephone
Sat 18 May	Bundaleer closed (to be decided)	Sally Fieldhouse	(08) 8843 8028
Mon 10 June (public holiday)	Kapunda area	Rodney Rees	(08) 8843 0157
Sat 22 June	Beetaloo	Erica Rees	(08) 8668 4362
Sun 7 July	Inchiquin Lake Wetlands, Riesling trail	Hugh Greenhill	(08) 8843 8115
Tues 30 July	Spring Gully, Clare	Peter van Beusichem	(08) 8847 4016
Sat/Sun 24/25 August	Camp: Horseshoe, via Carrieton	Helen Smith	(08) 8849 2018
Sat 21 Sept	Cattle Station Rd Hallett thru' Gebdart's farm	Ken Farmer	(08) 8894 2125
Sun 6 October	Warren Bonython Walk (end to end)	FoHT Office	(08) 8212 6299
Sat 19 October	Full moon walk (to be decided)	Garry Fieldhouse	(08) 8843 8028

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A stroll in the Cotswolds

by Kevin Liddiard

During October last year I completed a Sherpa 6 day self-guided walking tour in the English Cotswolds. My wife Lee accompanied me as a non-walker, following each day by car to the quaint English B&B's along the route. This arrangement worked quite well, all lodgings allowing Lee to park and use facilities until our room became available. My luggage was moved daily to the next destination.

This was not a walk on the Cotswolds Way; most were on local marked Ways, unnamed Public Footpaths and Bridle Ways, passing through small villages and picturesque towns such as Chipping Camden. I walked on the Shakespeare-Avon, Centenary, Monarch's, Heart of England, Gloucestershire, Wardens, Windrush, Gustav Holst, Winchcombe, and Cotswolds Ways.

I was provided with map sheets and walk notes. Lunch stops were nicely timed to be near small local pubs, where a pint of local ale and light meal were much welcomed.

This all sounds fine, but in fact was quite challenging, a solo walker needing good map reading and navigation skills to avoid becoming lost in endless fields and hedgerows.



Kevin about to set off

Features along the paths are constantly changing with new construction, markers and vegetation growth. Last year was very wet, so growth was excessive and autumn colour and leaf drop were delayed. Another feature was the different and ingeniously designed kissing gates.

On one occasion at a path closure I bush-bashed over newly ploughed fields using only compass bearings,

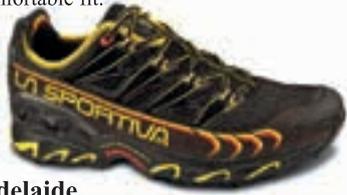


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absolutely exhausting. I lost my reading glasses in one of these fields, which will probably turn up in a dig in 3012. On another occasion I waded through high, wet grass and stinging nettles to find an almost totally obscured stile; and yes, I was as usual wearing shorts.

The walk started at Stratford-upon-Avon and ended at Winchcombe, with overnight stops at Mickleton, Broadway, Blockley, Bourton-on-the-Water and Guiting Power, each town having its own character and history; most notably the elegant Three Way Hotel at Mickleton, home of the Pudding Club, where we were treated royally, and the puddings were great. The walk also passed near many places of interest, such as the Cotswolds Falconry and Halle Abbey.

Each night we would suss out the next day car route for Lee. For those not familiar with driving in country England, the roads are narrow and highly congested; there is little time to view signs or places to stop, so a recce is highly desirable. For us, this was back to old times when we lived in nearby Worcestershire.

The weather was generally fine, overcast with some fine sunny days, but heavy rain during two nights with the resulting bane of walking in England: mud, glorious mud. That said it was a great week of walking in the beautiful Heart of England.



A Cotswold village

We ended our stay at nearby Malvern, where I was on posting many years ago at the prestigious Royal Signals and Radar Establishment. We lived in a wing of a Georgian manor estate at Upton upon Severn, and walked often in the Malvern Hills. Much has changed in urban England since I first visited, but going back to country England was a time warp. Very little had changed, and each day I kept thinking that I needed to be up early to travel to work.

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Bookings Essential



Wet 'n' Wild

Walking in New Zealand's Kahurangi National Park

Story by Alan Davis



For most Kiwis, their knowledge of the Kahurangi extends to little beyond the fact it is one of the country's 14 National Parks and home to the Heaphy Track. After that, it is about as familiar as the dark side of the moon and seemingly, almost as remote.

Even more experienced trampers seem to shy away from the place, it has a reputation for being difficult and only for the hardcore. This is despite the fact that like most conservation land in New Zealand, there are 100's of kms of tracks and a liberal sprinkling of backcountry huts. It is true though, that once away from marked routes, the Kahurangi can be especially challenging. At the core of the park is a vast area of wilderness with real emphasis on the word "WILD". The ranges are steep and rugged, the valleys deep, dark and heavily forested, hiding rivers which after rain quickly become impassable. The weather coming in over the west coast dumps more than 5 metres of precipitation annually on the park; the Kahurangi is a "WET" place even by South Island standards. But if you are up to it, the park offers magnificent tramping opportunities far from the madding crowds that you get elsewhere.

The push to have the region gain National Park status went on for decades. Here the impetus was not so much to preserve the land as a recreational playground but to protect the amazingly diverse biology and geography contained within from forestry, mining and other developments. The unique landscape of the Kahurangi has no better illustration than in the alpine region centred on Mt Owen and consequently this is one of the more popular excursions into the park. Many of the peaks here consist of marbleized limestone, "karst" which has been shaped by glaciation and the weather over time. Vast cave systems lie beneath the mountains and the surrounding countryside is dotted with tarns, sinkholes and strange rock outcrops. Further to the west is another spectacular area, home to the Matiri Plateaux, amongst the oldest landforms in New Zealand. About 500 million years ago they were at the bottom of the ocean but time has raised them more than 1000 metres above sea level, creating vast grassy alpine plains. Both Mt Owen and the Matiri Plateaux are reasonably accessible from the SH6 (State Highway) but each on their own represent little more than 3-4 day trips, not the stuff epics are built on. So I set about to see if they could somehow be linked up creating a much longer multi day walk. Studying the maps revealed little, just impenetrable terrain separating the two areas. But there IS a route and it's a fabulous one.

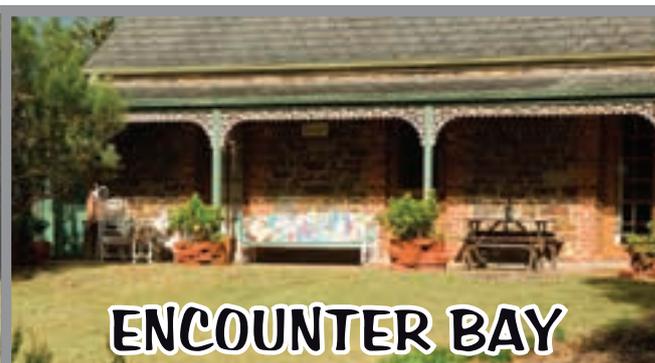
Tackling Mt Owen seemed the obvious place to start my trip with the recommended approach being from the north, but as this would mean back tracking on the way out, I decided to take one of the infrequently used routes

from the south. There are two and both begin within cooee of each other from the Owen River. One is a direct 1100 metre climb up onto a ridgeline off Sunrise Peak which didn't sound like a lot of fun lugging a pack laden with 2 weeks food so I chose a much longer, more circuitous route up the Fyfe Valley..... The track begins 12 km up a quiet backcountry road but after walking along here for about an hour, either by good luck (or good looks?), I managed to get a ride with a young girl from Nelson, a caver heading into the Bulmer Creek area for the weekend and this leg up meant I had a real chance of making Branch Creek Hut by nightfall.



The exquisite Fyfe Valley

A simple sign marks the beginning of the track which initially heads up Frying Pan Creek before climbing over a forested saddle then dropping down into the Fyfe. This is an exquisite little valley, the forest almost enclosing the river at times. The route is well marked, sticking close to the stream in the main but crossing and recrossing it often. Only as the valley narrows and climbs and the river cascades down through large boulders are there several trickier sidles on narrow ledges much higher up into the forest. Finally at 8.30pm, coming into a little



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clearing was the welcome sight of Branch Creek Hut, a 6 bunker dating back to the old NZ Forest Service days. Now, backcountry etiquette in New Zealand is, if you get to a hut early, grab the axe and restock the wood shed, the understanding being the next person along might arrive late and wet (in this case me.. it had been raining). I discovered a nice pile of logs and kindling inside and soon had the open fireplace roaring which helped cap off a pleasant first day.

Reading the hut book reveals how little this route up the Fyfe is used. The reason I suspect is, after leaving the hut and climbing a steep foot trail through the forest to the treeline, all tracks end and you have to make your own way across the alpine zone. Navigation however is fairly straight forward. The ridge running off Pt 1500 which is directly above the forest angles south east towards Mt Owen but you eventually get bluffed out so I dropped down into a little valley. Sinkholes were just everywhere, some little more than a metre wide and a few metres deep with wild flowers gamely clinging to the rim. Most daunting were those hidden by the tall tussock grasses and working your way through here was like tip toeing across a minefield. (Thank goodness for trekking poles.) In the end I was very glad to climb back on to terra firma, a low grassy ridgeline which heads south to a little tarn basin near Sentinel Hill and the marked route onto Mt Owen. It was always my intention to camp the night here, using it as a base to tackle Mt Owen the following day. But of course the Kahurangi was going to have a say in all this and no sooner was my tent up, down came the rain, 16 hours of it. By morning my campsite was sodden so about 8am with a slight lull in the weather, I quickly packed up and beat a hasty retreat down valley to Granity Pass Hut. This is a spectacular setting, the hut a mere speck dwarfed by the two walls of the pass. It is only a few years old, spacious with covered porches on two sides, perfect for drying wet hiking gear. But mid afternoon a second front arrived, this one colder, so much so that looking out the hut window in the morning I could see light snow falling. I still harboured the hope of climbing Mt Owen but walking back up valley revealed snow right across the plateau and all the peaks blanketed in heavy cloud. Mt Owen is famous for its amazing formations,



Snowy approach to Mt Owen

deep crevasses, spires of weathered rock and its habit of bumping off trampers in foul conditions. The DOC advice on this is very clear, stay off the massif in bad weather, so with more rain sweeping in there was nothing for it but to retreat back to the hut. What to do, stick around and hope conditions will improve or cut my losses and continue on with the trip as planned? Having lost a day already there was nothing for it but to head off. With the weather that followed over the next 3 days there's no doubt I made the right decision.

From the hut, a track heads down (the usually dry) Blue Creek then climbs steeply up through the forest before descending sharply to Courthouse Flat, about 5 hours in all to the beginning of an unsealed road out to the SH6. About 4kms along here is a little grassy clearing marked on the map as Rolling River, the official start of the Wangapeka Track and a pleasant spot to camp for the night.

Thus to the Wangapeka, part of my route to link up the Mt Owen area with the Matiri Valley. For those who might be interested, this track crosses the Kahurangi east/west taking 4 to 5 days to complete the 56kms. It follows several river systems climbing over two low saddles on the way with the usual backcountry huts at comfortable



The spectacular setting of Granity Pass Hut



Wangapeka Valley



walking distances apart. Perhaps the real attraction of the track is the number of side trips on offer. Several climb up to mountain huts with peaks and alpine lakes in the offing or cross open tops giving wonderful opportunities to escape from the forest. The longest and potentially most interesting of these side trips is the Leslie Karamea Track. Beginning to the north in the Mt Arthur Tablelands, it eventually meets up with the Wangapeka after 6 to 7 days with the choice then to head east to Rolling River or out to the west coast. Those I met who had come this way said it was a particularly lovely route. I had hoped to spend no more than a day on the Wangapeka but this was to stretch out to three and the rain was already falling when I set off in the morning. It's about 4 hours to Kings Creek Hut, the track well marked and benched except for a slight hiccup about half way along. In October 2012 a massive slip occurred forming a 10 metre high dam across the river. Behind this a km long lake has grown destroying a large stretch of track so DOC have cut a much more difficult reroute around this but the real problem is the slip itself. First footstep in and I was up to my knees in mud. (I heard of an American who went in up to his waist.) Picking a way through here was no fun, trying to find stable footing on boulders hidden below the mud. So the hut was a welcome sight and there was little point pushing on in the deteriorating weather. A Kiwi couple from Auckland who followed me in from Rolling River several hours later bought an updated forecast, the worst was yet to come. How true it

was. Heavy rain all through the night, easing slightly in the early morning giving me enough time to splash, in places knee deep in water a further 2.5 hours up valley to the smaller but much nicer Stone Hut. Arriving here at 11.30am I set about firing up the combustion stove and then waited to see what the weather would blow in. And about 2.30pm the Wanganui Tramping Club arrived in number.

Well, five members anyway. This group was led by a real character, Brian Sixtus. To picture Brian, imagine someone with the energy, enthusiasm and organisational ability of our Simon Cameron but built like a bear wrestler. Whilst the rest of his party were soon changing into dry clothes and boiling the billy, Brian set about attacking the wood pile, before sweeping down the porch and stringing out a 40 metre long aerial high from tree to tree, all in the pouring rain. Now, I soon worked out Brian was the type of person it would be better to remain onside with especially as he had in his possession one of the most useful of all backcountry devices, a mountain radio. With this little magic box, each evening as long as the aerial is hung correctly you can tune in and get the latest forecast. So about 7.30pm you could hear a pin drop in the hut as we all gathered around the radio to get the good oil on the weather.... "YES" I pumped the air. Great news at long last. The rain would ease during the morning, clearing to showers then fining up in the afternoon with good weather to follow for the next few days. "That would be bloody right", said the Wanganui



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Tramping Club who'd spent 8 or 9 days coming down the Leslie Karamea mostly in foul conditions only to find the fine weather would accompany them out on their final day.

Next morning I farewelled my friends as they trundled off eastwards in the rain whilst I lolled about the hut until mid afternoon before climbing up to Wangapeka Saddle and pitching camp in the forest. It would have been a quiet evening except a weka nicked one of my socks and I only discovered what was going on when he came back for its mate. (I left a message in Hurricane Hut if anyone saw a bird running around in a blue Bridgedale sock to grab it for me.)

So finally to the Matiri Range. It was a little footnote in a DOC publication on the area that put me onto this trip..... Quote "This ridge top route should only be attempted by experienced parties with map and compass skills. Fine weather is also an essential ingredient as the ridge twists and turns and is difficult to follow in fog. A marked route climbs to point 1442 above Hurricane Hut. Beyond this point there are no markers. "..... This is just a BRILLIANT traverse right along the very spine of the range. A foot trail leads from Wangapeka Saddle up through the forest to the treeline and after that you're on your own. Once on the ridge there's no way off. For hour after exhilarating hour you cling to the ridgeline as it winds its way south

climbing over a succession of peaks. The first of these, Nugget Knob, is soon upon you and I can well imagine over the years more than a trumper or two has looked at the approach to the Knob and said, "I'm out of here." This is along the top of a narrow, knife edge wall of jagged rock which you almost have to straddle in places. Having got to the summit I exclaimed optimistically, "well, that's the worst of it done" (of course it wasn't). Either way after spending 3 days languishing in the Wangapeka there was no turning back, no matter what. The views, as can be imagined, are enormous, to the east over Mts Owen and Patriarch, to the south the far distant snowy peaks of Arthurs Pass and in all directions the rugged grandeur of the vast Kahurangi National Park. After about 8 hours the ridge drops down to a low saddle then divides, enclosing a little tarn. This is the only water source on the whole route and thus, an obvious place to camp. It is a gorgeous setting, even more so in the now brilliant weather. I pitched my tent and had the best part of 5 hours of late afternoon sunshine to go swimming, do washing and even get my boots dry for the first time in more than a week.

There are only 2 peaks left on the range after here, one directly above the tarn and the other, Pt 1442 about 3 hours further south, from where a poled route leads from the summit to the treeline and a track down through the forest to Hurricane Hut. This is another



Matiri Range snaking southwards.. viewed from summit of Nugget Knob





Camping above the tarn on the Matiri Range(left)

terrific location, the hut a mere 3 metres square, with 4 bunks, open fireplace and water supply from the Matiri River which is a stone's throw away. Heading south next morning, the track passes through more beautiful country. It follows the river, bypassing Lake Jeanette, then swings westwards up a dry creek bed before climbing into some lovely open forest. Only when you drop into a valley overgrown with tutu does the route become difficult and trying to find track markers was a bit like spotting "where's Wally?" It eventually returns to the river arriving at McConchies Hut after 7 hours. I just dropped my pack inside and hightailed it straight down to the river for a swim. (It had been a warm, sunny day). The track continues on from the hut following close to the river with the occasional high sidle to bypass gorgy bits taking about 5 hours to reach Lake Matiri. It ends adjacent to another track which begins the 750metre climb up to the 1000 Acre Plateau. Coming to this vast alpine savannah so high up in the mountains is almost surreal. A poled route leads across the grasslands to a little hut right on the edge of a patch of forest, Poor Pete's Bivvy. I'd seen photos of it on the net and it looked little more than a rundown pile of junk. Not so anymore. DOC recently dismantled the old hut and choppered in a 2 man bivvy that was superfluous to requirements elsewhere. It has been spruced up and a raised timber decking constructed on two sides. But most amazing of all they've built a perspex sunroom adjacent to the bivvy



The Spivvy Bivvy...Poor Pete's Hut

entrance. All recent entries in the visitors' book were offering up new names for the hut, Upwardly Mobile Pete's was a popular choice. My suggestion was the Spivvy Bivvy. All in all a great spot now to spend a night.

From the bivvy, the track continues up valley for about 3 hours to Larrikins Creek Hut from where you access the 100 Acre Plateau, the main focus of trips into this area. There are peaks to climb, ridge top traverses, the Plateau itself is supposedly an alpine meadow full of wild flowers, dotted with tarns and surrounded by mountains. Photos I'd seen of the Plateau were the original motivation for this whole walk. But waking in the morning the weather had turned to, I think the technical term is CRAP. Rain was sweeping in again and Poor Pete's was completely fogged in. This left me with a real dilemma. If this was the harbinger of another approaching front there was a real chance of becoming trapped. Below Lake Matiri, about an hour from the track end is a side stream which DOC advise quickly becomes impassable after rain in the headwaters. It was already day 12 and I only had food left for a couple more days at best. If the river did rise it could be a hungry wait. So I had to make the awful decision to retreat, dropping back down through the forest to Lake Matiri to spend a final night in the little hut about half way along the western shoreline. I consoled myself with the knowledge there is the real possibility of a great trip using the Plateaux as a starting point. By heading down



Lake Jeanette



Hanging out the washing

Larrikins Creek to the South Mokihinui, the main branch of this river could be followed out to Seddonville on the west coast, travelling through mostly wild, untracked country.

I WILL return.... Interested??..... Apply in person.

So to the final morning and a 2 hour walk in drizzly rain down to the track end and the beginning of a 16 km backcountry road out to the SH6. But the weather Gods must have decided I'd suffered enough. After about an hour a local farmer heading into town offered me a ride. By 10.30am I was in Murchison celebrating the end of the trip by feasting on a massive breakfast of bacon and eggs in Beechwood's Cafe.



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In and around Wilpena Pound - part 1

My training for End to End 7 - by Dale Searcy

I have fond memories of the Flinders Ranges ever since my Dad used to take me camping there during the school holidays. Since I gave up running, my preferred form of exercise now is walking, so what a perfect



Kanyaka Ruins

combination and opportunity to revisit all those places I remember and see some of the outstanding beauty that this area has to offer. My last visit up north was in 2004 with my family.

Unfortunately they aren't interested in walking, especially the type I call fun. My intention was to visit all the places that were memorable and sounded interesting - whether driving, walking or a mixture of both. My escape was for 10 nights with my base in the Wilpena Pound Resort Camping Ground. A large 3 roomed tent was my home and my 4WD, backpack and assortment of electronic gadgets my piece of mind. I didn't plan to do any overnight hikes since I was by myself but still wanted to do some longer and challenging walks.

Three of the items I took with me were a little bit out of the ordinary.

A Garmin geocaching GPS is something we have been taking on holidays recently. What is geocaching? It's an outdoor activity which has been around for nearly 13 years where you use a GPS receiver to hide or seek containers, called "geocaches". Worldwide there are now 2 million to be found. The usual type of cache is a small waterproof container containing a logbook where you enter the date you find it and then sign it. I have been caching for 3 years with my younger son and we have both found and hidden caches.

Since I was walking alone the next two items were very important. A velcro attached Vital ID bracelet that I usually wear when cycling. It contains relevant medical information, an emergency contact number and wraps around your wrist or ankle.

Last was a Personal Locator Beacon with inbuilt GPS. The device, about the size of a UHF radio will once activated in an emergency situation only, give off a distress signal to nearby circulating satellites and alert the nearest Rescue Coordination Centre run by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and they will arrange a rescue. It is accurate to within 45 metres. I was hoping I wouldn't need it despite the remoteness of some of the hikes.

An early start each day was the plan and the adventure started on April 2.

Day 1

I left home at 6am and my first stop was Snowtown. Well known for all the wrong reasons, I stopped outside the bank and walked down to "The Big Blade" which is from one of the nearby wind generator towers. I turned off at Stirling North and the road changed from flat and boring cruise control Highway 1 to a gently undulating somewhat greener landscape. The amount of road kill was now increasing with many kangaroos and foxes decorating the road side.

I stopped at the Kanyaka Historic Site which was an aboriginal camp site known as "piece of rock". This included the eerie looking Death Rock which overlooks a permanent waterhole and a little further on was the Kanyaka Ruins which were part of a sheep station in the 1850's that housed up to 70 workers. Next stop was the Yourambulla Caves which is just before Hawker. There are 3 to choose from but the first one is said to be the best so I took the 20 min walk up the hill. It is an impressive example of aboriginal art work that has been protected behind a fenced area which you need to climb up 2 flights of steep stairs to appreciate. There was a spectacular view back down towards the car park once you turned around.

I arrived at the Wilpena campground in the early afternoon and set up camp.



Yourambulla Caves

Day 2

Despite a noisy night due to a nearby crying baby, I was eventually awoken by the call of the birds - kookaburras and crows at first light around 7am. I headed off at 8am for the nearby attractions that were within walking distance of the campground.

First was the Wilpena Spring which is a permanent waterhole that joins with the nearby Wilpena creek. An unusual rock formation called Sliding Rock leads you toward the refurbished Hills Homestead which was originally built in 1888 when the Hills family was clearing land in the Pound. Above the homestead is a short but steep walk up to the lower and upper Wangara Lookouts. The view from the upper was worth the extra effort.

Back at the resort, the Wilpena Visitor Centre was opened in 1998 by the Premier. It houses an excellent Information Centre, gift shop and basic supermarket.

6km from Wilpena is the Cazneau Tree which was photographed by Harold Cazneau in 1937. 2km further



Cazneau Tree

north is the turn off to Sacred Canyon, followed by 13km of gravel road taking you to a short walk to see the canyon type rock walls and aboriginal engravings.

Further on, Hucks Lookout is a well elevated spot to



from Hucks Lookout

see the ABC Range. Stokes Hill Lookout is even higher and provides great views to the north and east towards Blinman. Here they have a bronzed model of Wilpena Pound and all surrounding landmarks in the Flinders Ranges National Park.

Last stop for the day was Appealinna Ruins which outlines the story of Joseph Wills who bought surrounding land in 1856 to begin farming.

Day 3

At 4am I was again woken by the baby who again beat the birds. I left camp for Rawnsley Park, 26km back towards Hawker at around 7.30am. It was very windy as I started the 12km return Rawnsley Bluff hike. An imposing looking mountain range stood before me. I encountered a combination of steep, rocky and flat sections leading up to the 1.2km return walk from the Bluff Ridge to the Wilpena Lookout. Here you get magnificent views down the centre of the Pound and to the west towards Rawnsley Station.

I continued onto the Bluff which is a further 3 km return walk from the Ridge. 2½ hrs from the start and I had finally reached the Bluff. It was still very windy so I had to make sure my hat was secure because I wouldn't

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Arkaroo Rock

be chasing it up here. A large stone cairn built in 1858 marks the highest point.

The trip back down was around 3km and the first half of this took me 1 hour and the second half only 1/2



from Rawnsley Bluff



Dale at St Mary Peak

hr. By the time I had finished the wind had dropped significantly but the flies had not. Looking back at the Bluff, the once imposing sight had been defeated with satisfaction.

It was a well signposted hike with distance markers every 200m that included count up and count down distances as well as painted symbols on the rocks to guide you. In places they were quite faded so I regularly paused if the next marker wasn't readily visible before I continued on.

I then drove 6km back towards Wilpena to Arkaroo Rock. A 3km return hike took me to another aboriginal site where ochre and charcoal images have been preserved within a rock shelter. These were good but I preferred the artwork at Yourambulla.

Day 4

Up before the birds and the baby was happy today. After signing the hike intention log at the Visitor Centre Trailhead, it was a 7am start for the St Mary Peak hike. The sun wasn't up yet but there was just enough light to not need a torch.



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This hike can be done via the direct outside route of 14km return or the inside loop route of 21km. I started with a longer 14km approach through the centre of the pound and looped back via the shorter track of 7km. I hadn't been through the centre before so was really looking forward to it. I headed for the Hills Homestead again and then took the flat track past the Wangara Lookout. The fire track path had distance markers every 200m and was relatively flat and at times very rocky with loose stones in sections.

2 hours later I had reached Coinda Camp which was a small cleared area with no amenities. Here the track came to a fork where you can go out to Edeowie Gorge or continue to St Mary. The track now started to steepen, narrow and become even rockier. When I reached the junction of the inside (longer and flatter) and outside (shorter but steeper) tracks there was 1.6km to go. To this point it had been quite easy. However, the remainder was just as I remembered from 2004 - steep, treacherous and lots of rock hopping.

Finally after 4 ½ hrs I had reached the Peak. Considering that in the first 2 ¾ hrs I had covered 10km and the last 4km had taken 1 ¾ hrs, it was hard going. It was slow and methodical. The Peak seemed so close at times but the route took you right around and over the rim of the Pound and then through Tanderra Saddle. I was passed by a lone hiker coming down just as I was



Wilpena Pound from St Mary Peak

arriving at the Peak, so we decided that he was the first visitor of the day and I was the second.

At the top there was not a breath of wind and the awareness of any sounds around me was heightened. After spending an hour having lunch, admiring the view and watching the sun lizards, I started to trek back. I took the 7.6km Scarp Trail back through the Saddle and then down the steep cliff face. The first 2.5km of the descent was equally treacherous and difficult to follow in some places as the blue markers were either missing, faded or not close enough together. During the last 4 km I was thankful for a relatively flat section that allowed some constant paced walking. Amazingly, my 2 ½ litres of water ran out with 2km to go. This was the first time I have ever run out.

After following the Heysen Trail for a mere 1km, I returned to the Trailhead after just on 8 hours. I signed the log sheet to say I had returned safely and then enjoyed a cold drink from the shop.

It was a long, challenging but rewarding hike that definitely demands some conditioning before attempting.

This article to conclude in the next edition of the Trailwalker



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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	Norrie Hamilton	8332 1982 (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		
13. Hupputz Hut to Spalding	Southern Guidebook, Maps 5.9-6.12	Hugh Greenhill (Burra Branch)	8843 8115 (H)
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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)
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