



The Trailwalker

Magazine of the Friends of the Heysen Trail

Issue 114 **Summer 2010**

**An Introduction to
Maintenance for
Volunteers**

**Path to Vision
A Special Event**

**Diamonds of the Heysen
Trail**

**War of the Keas on
Cascade Hill**



Heysen Trail Art Exhibition February 2010

More than 30 artists have taken to the Heysen Trail for a huge art exhibition scheduled for February 2010.

The brainchild of Russell Starke OAM, Director of Greenhill Galleries Adelaide, this exhibition will feature simultaneously in 6 locations along the Trail. Artist John Whitney gave Russell the original idea after seeing a single show in the UK based on an ancient Roman Road.

Like the spine of the state the Heysen Trail runs from the coccyx at Cape Jervis to the crown at Parachilna so the invited artists have a plethora of choices in subject matter.

In South Australia Peter Coad has seized on the wildly dramatic landscapes of the Northern Flinders as does Waterhouse Prize winner Coralie Armstrong; Tom O'Callaghan, the surging coast line of Waitpinga for which he is so noted, Dieter Engler shows desolate forgotten settlements beyond the Goyder Line; Mary Wagstaff recreates luscious landscapes and juicy vineyards; Janet Bridgland's delicate watercolours reveal the fascinating weekly walks to the Adelaide markets by the German girls of Hahndorf; Nikolas De Masi stitches multi layered fabric for the rich fields around Balaklava; Trevor McNamara's glowing abstracts catch the fierce light from rock faces and salt lakes whilst Pamela Kouenhoven's wondrously decaying panels bring reminders of early settlement. Many other award winning and highly regarded South Australian artists have accepted the challenge to interpret the Heysen Trail and the amazing landscapes it threads through.

This landmark exhibition showcases the internationally important Heysen Trail and the

creative talents flourishing around it. Long term plans envisage a biennial series of exhibitions, not necessarily at Festival of Arts time, incorporating major artists in workshops along the trail whilst encouraging participating interstate/overseas visitors.

Timed to begin prior to the 2010 Adelaide Festival of Arts and extending beyond it, the opening schedule is as follows:-

- **Thursday February 18th** - Hilton Hotel, entire First Floor - 6pm - Minister for Tourism, Jane Lomax Smith
- **Friday February 19th** - Prairie Hotel Parachilna - 6pm - Russell Starke OAM
- **Saturday February 20th** -
 - Port Pirie Regional Gallery - 2pm - Mayor of Port Pirie, Brenton Vanstone, and
 - Penny's Hill Winery McLaren Vale - 2pm President, Friends of The Heysen Trail, Simon Cameron
- **Sunday February 21st** -
 - Greenhill Galleries Adelaide - 11am - Peter Heysen, Grandson of Sir Hans Heysen, and
 - Goolwa Regional Gallery - 3pm - Minister Assisting the Premier, John Hill

For more detailed information contact -
Rebecca Staker at Greenhill Galleries Adelaide,
140 Barton Terrace West, North Adelaide 5006
Phone: 8267 2933 Fax: 8239 0148
Email: greenhill@internode.on.net

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Burra Branch

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Email hugreenh@activ8.net.au

Membership Information

Joining Fee \$10

Single \$20 per year

Family \$30 per year

Organisations \$50 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 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 horizontal \$60 per issue

1/4 page vertical \$60 per issue

1/3 page vertical \$70 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, ie 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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Vice President
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Finance & Audit
Maintenance
Walking
Office
Marketing & Membership
Honorary Membership

Burra Branch Chairmen

President
Vice President
Secretary
Maintenance
Goyder Tourism Working Party Rep

Council Meeting Dates

Wed 16th December 2009
Wed 20th January 2010
Wed 17th February 2010
Wed 17th March 2010

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Peter Wynen
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John Wilson
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Neville Southgate
Doug Leane*
Fred Brooks*
Sadie Leupold
Thelma Anderson
Kath Palyga
Richard Schmitz
Arthur Smith
Colin Edwards
Hugh Greenhill
Jamie Shephard
Glen Dow
Barry Finn
Dean Killmier
John Wilson
David Beaton
Jack Marcelis
Julian Monfries
Terry & Frances Gasson

* (deceased)

Trailwalker Editor

Hilary Gillette

Membership Secretary

David Rattray

Office Coordinator

Jack Marcelis

Maintenance Coordinator

Gavin Campbell

Bookkeepers

Jeanette Clarke
Xun Wang (Michael)
Hao Zheng

Shop/Office Hours & Volunteers

Phone 8212 6299

Monday 10.30 - 2.30
Mike Parsons, Beverley Blanch,
Robyn Quinn, Elizabeth Rogers,
Bob Gentle

Wednesday 10.30 - 2.30
Jack Marcelis, Wendy Fox,
Gilbert Downs, Allan Wadham,
Myra Betschild

Friday 10.30 - 4.30
Sandy Melbourne, Colin Edwards,
Jamie Shephard

Tuesday 10.30 - 2.30
David Rattray, Dawn Bon,
Chris Porter

Thursday 10.30 - 2.30
Chris Caspar, Chris Hanna,
Jim Alvey

Saturday & Sunday Closed

Relief Staff
Jim Alvey, David Beaton, Jack
Marcelis

OFFICE CLOSURE

The Friends office will be closed for our Christmas break from Wednesday 16th December and re-open on Tuesday 19th January 2010

President's Report

Simon Cameron

The Heysen trail has looked wonderful this year, with a good winter season filling the creeks and raising lush fields and paddocks. It has made for some wet walking and challenging access but the bright smiles and optimistic outlooks in the mid northern towns made up for it.

The re-routes done last year in Deep Creek have proved their worth with all weather walking and the trail marking has been of a high standard throughout. With the End to End program we have walked past huts at Mt Bryan East, Hallet and Hiskey's hut near Georgetown which have all had maintenance work this year. Maintenance groups have also been responding to reports from walkers, logged through the office. This work goes on continuously.

The walking goes on continuously also, taking our members out along the trail. The End to End 3 group finished their season near Georgetown, spending their last weekend in the fascinating town of Gladstone. Once a railway repair centre, with an industrial history Gladstone is trying to develop its main tourist asset — the old Gaol. It is a heritage destination and we have used it regularly on our peregrinations north. As such we have established links with the community and it has been interesting to observe the progress over the years. Fond regard for these country towns is part of falling in love with the Heysen, and drinking soft drinks made to the traditional FC Grubb recipes from Gladstone is one of the treats of the trail.

The country general stores are always pleased to see us, and in Georgetown, the 100 year old store, with its pressed tin ceilings, was open at 7.30am on a Sunday to serve 30 espresso coffees.

End to End 4 has finished a wet season at Myponga, and the walk leaders have managed a consistent three bus loads with the ease that comes from good organisation and plenty of helpers.

The Cape Jervis trail end is steadily being established by the Department for Environment and Heritage. The new Trail head starts 50 metres north of the Sealink terminal. Stone walls and steps have been completed and at the moment an information board opens the trail, but there are plans for more substantial cut metal panels.

The Office has been buzzing as usual. New data bases, booking systems and more walkers with more questions have all been mastered.

And now the planning season begins again — we have the funds to establish many facilities on the trail and have nearly finalised the management agreements to start. Before we do, however, we plan to celebrate. The thankyou BBQs for the volunteers and the Christmas dance are always fun and a chance to reflect on a grand year.

See you on the trail in 2010.

Front Cover

View from Top of Mt Bryan



On a recent weekend walkers from the End to End 3 group walked over the top of Mt Bryan which is 10 minutes from Burra. Mt Bryan is 932 metres high being the highest point in the Mt Lofty Ranges and was named after Henry Bryan.

Walking Committee

By Arrienne Wynen
Walking Committee Chairperson

How quickly the walking season seems to have gone. It doesn't seem very long ago that we were planning the 2009 walking year and now it has finished. Planning is well under way for the 2010 season and as E2E4 has been so popular we have decided to start E2E5. So next season will have the E2E3 group continuing their weekends away, E2E4 going into their 2nd season and E2E5 commencing their journey from Cape Jervis. As well as these walks we plan to have Trailstarters and Trailwalkers each Sunday, a Long Weekend in the Grampians in April, 10 days in Tasmania in May and a weekend on Kangaroo Island towards the end of the year.

The program is very full and can only happen thanks to all our volunteer walk leaders. We are always happy to welcome new leaders to our ranks and in March we have a

training day for established and new leaders. If you are interested let the office know and I will happily send out an invite to this day. Even if you are unsure but want to know more this is a good day to find out what is involved.

As our E2E walks are very popular we need to divide the walkers into groups. Usually this means 3 groups and is popularly thought to be fast, medium and slow. Our aim as walk leaders is to get groups of a reasonable size that can keep reasonably well together. Most people consider themselves to be medium paced walkers and therefore head to the middle group. The reality is that many walkers may be fast on the flat but slow on the hills, they might be avid photographers or budding botanists and this results in the group being

strung out and having to regroup often. This all makes the job of the walk leaders harder than it needs to be and remember they are there for a good day also.

Walk leaders are better able to assess your walking pace than you are and if they ask you to walk in the last group please do so. It makes a better day to walk with a group that is your pace or just under, than to walk in a group where you are constantly having to catch up or do not have enough time to look around or photograph what you want to.

Remember the Twilight walks over the summer break and have a safe and happy summer.

See you next season.



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Brief News

Preliminary notice of the AGM for Friday 26th March 2010 at the Woodville Lawn Bowling Club.

2010 Heysen Trail Calendar

Thank you to everyone who submitted photos for the 2010 calendar. We spent quite some time selecting photos, and have come up with a broad selection across the Trail.

For those who have pre-ordered calendars, they are available for pick-up from the office or the End of Year Bash. Copies can also be purchased for \$18, although stocks are limited.

We will be doing something similar for 2011, so be sure to set aside any potential photos. Remember photos need to meet minimum technical specifications, generally a 7 Mega Pixel camera will suffice on the highest image quality settings.

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0423 577 150

New Members

The President and the Council would like to extend a warm welcome to the following 32 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.

Elizabeth BLEBY
David BLEBY
David BOND
Carol BOND
George BROWN
Lois BRUCE
Jo CHESHER
Robert CURNOW
Tony EDWARDS
Ron FREDERICKS
Lia GIESECKE
Meredith HOUGH
Andrew JOLLY
Imelda JOLLY
Joanne LINDLEY
Eleanor MARTIN
Andrew MCDONALD
Pam MCEVOY
Paula MCLEAN
Rob MCLEAN
Philip NICHOLAS
Elizabeth O'DRISCOLL
Julia PEARSE
Rhonda PERRIAM
David POTTS
Beverley REEDER
Johan REEDER
Paul SIMMONS
Anne SIMMONS
Ruth SIMPSON
Ian SMALL
Julienne WEBB

To assist new members joining up, Paddy Pallin Adelaide has introduced a bonus discount voucher of \$20.00 when purchasing Scarpa Walking Boots and Shoes.

This is in addition to the 10% discount you normally receive as a member of The Friends of the Heysen Trail. Numbered vouchers will be supplied when membership card is issued.

This is how some of the Heysen trail walk leaders "WALK" the trail ... Gavin you're busted!



Next Issue Deadline

Submissions for the Spring edition of the Trailwalker will close on 5th February 2010.

Preliminary Notice
Trip to Kangaroo Island
Friday 12th to Monday 15th
November 2010.
Mark your calendars now.

Office Report

By Jack Marcelis
Office Coordinator

Hello All,

The normal 6 monthly walking season is already over again. Time flies when you are having fun being out there with your friends walking uphill and down dale, hail, rain or shine.

"Thank goodness, we somehow managed another year without too many hiccups", are some of the sentiments from our dedicated office volunteers.

Directing walkers to the Barossa Valley instead of Second Valley is not really counted as a hiccup, just a miss direction and of course the 'fault' of the walkleader by giving us the wrong UBD page number.

Our decision to install the high security PayPal booking and payment system has proven to be well received by most of the walkers and the office volunteers, despite both parties having to cope with a fairly steep learning curve. We do know that not all of you have

nor want to have computers (or indeed anything to do with computers), rest assured we still love to receive your phone calls or see you in person.

Thank you for your understanding after we recently changed over to a new database. As predicted, we had made some 'technical boo boos' which you corrected by phone or whilst renewing your membership.

On membership, this years AGM defined that "Life Membership" is obtained by paying 10 years of the current membership fee. At the current rate this will equal \$200.00 for singles or for family membership \$300.00.

For 2010 we have made some changes to our trips away booking system.

These are:
Registration of interest before bookings

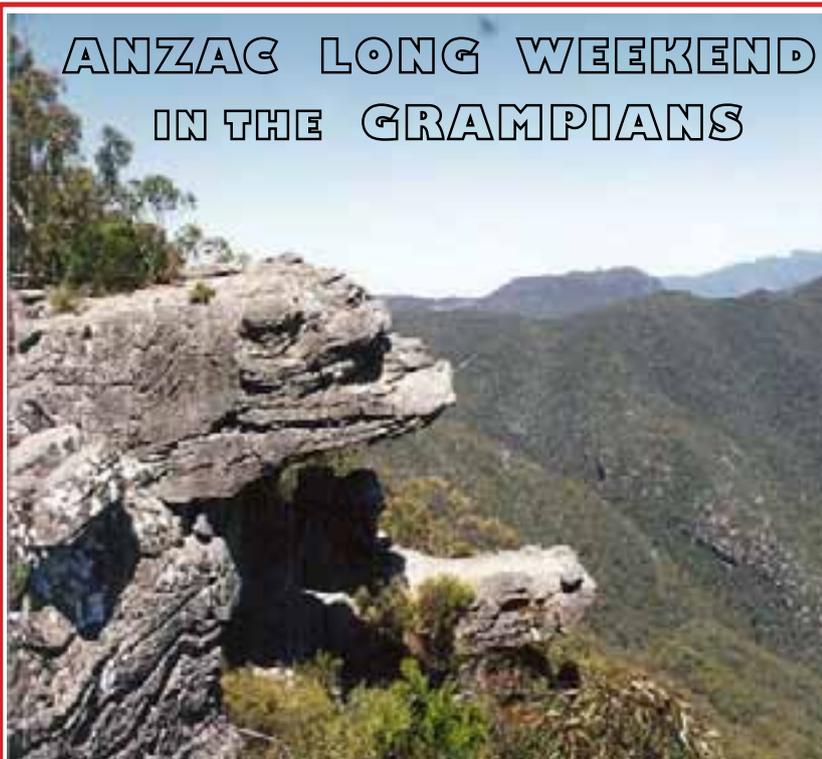
open. **THIS IS NOT A BOOKING.** Advise members (on registration of interest list) that bookings are open. Provide walk brochure and registration forms to members if online access not available to you. Accept the registration form and deposit **AFTER BOOKINGS OPEN. FIRST IN BEST DRESSED.** This constitutes the **BOOKING.**

Waiting list:
DEPOSIT MUST BE PAID and registration forms received to go on waiting list. Payment in full not required until participation confirmed. Normal refund and cancellation policy applies.

And lastly, although I'll still be an office staff member, I have resigned my position as the Friends' office manager and therefore this will be my last Office Report for the Trailwalker.

Have a joyous and safe Christmas.

ANZAC LONG WEEKEND IN THE GRAMPIANS



Members \$220.00

Non Members \$250.00

Walk Leaders Simon Cameron
and Arrienne Wynn

3 nights bunk style
accommodation from Fri
23rd leaving Mon 26th

All meals provided

Option of Trailstarter or
Trailwalker graded walks

The Bookkeeping Experiment

John Wilson
Treasurer



John, Carol and Wen at Carol's Graduation

Some members have remarked on the unusual names of our bookkeepers as listed in recent Trailwalkers. The reason for this makes an interesting story.

In late 2006, Kath Palyga, our experienced bookkeeper, announced she was intending to retire after some twelve years of service. We thought it would be relatively simple to replace her with one of our members with similar abilities, but could not find a volunteer. So we advertised on the Volunteering SA website, and received a number of enquiries from overseas students of Commerce or Accounting, wishing to gain some work experience.

At first we thought this was unlikely to be satisfactory, but as there were no other offers, I decided to contact them and compiled a short list of

three, who each spent some time with Kath learning our procedures.

They were all extremely keen to join us, so taking into account likely absences for study commitments, we agreed to share the work between the three. At first they were a little shy, but soon gained confidence and with their youth and enthusiasm, coupled with their excellent computing skills, quickly became competent members of our accounting team. In addition to their work experience, they had a strong interest in learning about Australian culture and language (at all levels) and comparing these with their own - an interesting experience for them and our regular staff.

Inevitably, each one graduated and found paid employment, and I was concerned that our support would dry up. However, with the benefit

of the student network, and their awareness of the value of the experience we provided, they found their own replacements, and also did most of the training of the new recruits. All were convinced that the knowledge gained from working with the Friends was an important factor in securing a job, a view I thought was more based on politeness than fact. However, after speaking to some of the employers, I now realise that work experience from a real organisation is a big advantage.

About eighteen months ago, Jeanette Clarke, a long time member and retired bookkeeper, joined our team, giving it a better balance. Following the recent departure of two of our students to the workforce (see photo), we reviewed our "experiment" and have decided to continue our interaction with them, as we regard it as a win/win situation.

The Walking Federation of South Australia, Inc.

Walking SA

By *Thelma Anderson*
Walking Access Committee

Fred Brooks -

John Wilson's tribute to Fred Brooks is warmly applauded by all members of this organisation who knew and worked with him as a volunteer, not only on the Heysen Trail, but on many of South Australia's Mount Lofty Walking Trails. One area of particular interest and attention to Fred were the trails in the Warren and Hale Conservation Parks where his dedicated efforts and those of one of his teams of supporters created the Giant Stairway, connecting the two conservation parks on either side of the South Para River. A wooden bridge was subsequently installed to join the two parks, but the challenge of the Giant Stairway remains, albeit its value now negated by the absence of a pedestrian crossing of the river.

Fred was always one of the first to step forward to assist with the Heysen Trail in every way, volunteering to take responsibility for the maintenance of a significant section of the Trail between Cudlee Creek and Bethany. He also accepted a role on the management council and on the Interim Committee as Co-ordinator of the Building and Maintenance Committee. He was finally forced to relinquish management and leadership of his section of the Heysen Trail as a result of ill-health.

The late Mrs. Brooks remains on record for requesting Heysen Trail markers be placed throughout her garden at home in order to entice Fred to devote some time and attention to that location! Sincere condolences, and thanks, are expressed to all surviving members of Fred's family on behalf of past, present and future generations of the South Australian bushwalking community

for his outstanding contribution to the walking trails of this State, in particular the Heysen Trail and the Mount Lofty Walking Trails.

Morialta Conservation Park -

A recently published district newspaper advises that this Park has been enlarged by 18ha following a recent State Government land purchase. The local Parliamentary representative for the area advised that the parcel of bushland was purchased from a private landowner at Rostrevor, is located north of the entrance to the Park and has increased its size to 550ha. The increase in size of the Park will enable extension of the walking trails and provide safer pedestrian access. The public-spirited transaction is sincerely acknowledged and will benefit all South Australians.

Amy Gillett Bikeway Construction -

A notice in the local Mount Barker newspaper, "The Courier" refers to action by the Department for Transport Energy and Infrastructure in commencing construction of the Amy Gillett Bikeway Stage I, being a five-kilometre section between Oakbank and Woodside. It will include linking Onkaparinga Valley Road to the Bikeway at Oakbank and Woodside. Four new footbridges will be built over water courses along the path. This is the first stage of a proposed 32-kilometre shared use path along the disused railway corridor through the Adelaide Hills from Oakbank to Mount Pleasant. Horse-riders have been assured that the Trail will cater for their interests as well as those of the cyclists.

Mark Oliphant Conservation Park -

With the proposed imminent

introduction of shared use recreational trails in some of South Australia's precious conservation locations, it is disappointing to read in the Mount Barker "Courier" newspaper of the illegal clearance and destruction of "parts of key habitats for several threatened species". The late Sir Mark Oliphant, a former Governor of South Australia who lived his boyhood in the Adelaide Hills, in speaking at a seminar at the University of Adelaide, deplored the rapid rate of loss of many of our plant and wildlife species. It is incumbent upon all recreational users to support the valuable efforts of Park Rangers and volunteers in preserving our natural environment throughout the State, particularly within our Conservation Parks. These parks have been specially set aside for this purpose and must be respected accordingly by all members of the outdoor community.

Onkaparinga Council -

Periodic meetings continue to be held between members of the Walking Access Committee and staff of Onkaparinga Council. Topics of discussion relate to access to Woodcutters Road - Council is currently awaiting advice from the Surveyor General. Secondly access is now available to walkers on Lafferty Road to provide a connection to Clarendon, but **do** walk on the eastern side of the fence, not **inside** the private property. No resolution is available to provide access on Scenic Road to cross the river in Mount Bold Reserve, and finally a walking trail can be accommodated from the southern suburbs to Piggott Range Road via Lovick Road to the township of Clarendon. We look forward to further progress being made with remaining unresolved

issues at our next meeting with Council in February, 2010.

Saunders Gorge -

An on-site inspection will be made by members of the Walking Access Committee to determine the viability of combining the recently negotiated walking trail within the Saunders Gorge property and adjacent road reserves to provide a spectacularly scenic circuit walk. The route may also involve a section of the Lavender Federation Trail.

Bushwalking Australia -

The most recent Annual General Meeting of this organisation was held in Adelaide from 9 to 11 October, 2009 at Warrawong Sanctuary in the Adelaide Hills. Representatives from all states attended with David Reid being elected President to succeed Ian McDonald of Perth. David attended

Walking SA's quarterly meeting as Guest Speaker, which was held at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, 19 November, 2009 at Greening Australia Building, 5 Fitzgerald Road, Pasadena (located nearby to the Pasadena Shopping Centre. Ample car-parking is available.

Lavender Federation Trail -

Progress, although slow, due to funding limitations, continues to move forward. The organisation's official journal "Footsteps Newsletter" is available to all interested persons **FREE**. Simply email your name, email address and any comments, if you wish to make any, to

asta@lm.net.au

and a copy will be emailed to you. The most recent edition has just been released and is now available for distribution. □

Talyala Hills

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A self catering event ex Hobart

Maximum 10 walkers plus leaders

We provide all accommodation and transport. Meals and airfare to and from Hobart not included

Walks will be arranged to suit both participants and weather on a daily basis

There will be time to purchase food on arrival and meals are available at Bronte Park and Cradle Mountain

Registrations of interest open 15 February 2010.

Bookings open Feb 20th 2010 confirmed with \$200.00 deposit.



Full price \$760.00

Walkleaders; Colin Edwards & Jack Marcelis

Nominations For Honorary Membership

Nominations of members (including self-nominations) are invited to be submitted to the Honorary Membership sub-committee of the Council, including name, address, contact numbers, and qualifications.

Recommendations from the sub-committee will then be considered by the Council, before being presented to the full membership at the next AGM. In order to be considered for the 2010 AGM, nominations should be received by the end of January, 2010.

Guidelines for Honorary Membership (Distinguished Service)

- (i) normally at least 10 years of paid membership as an Ordinary, Family or Life Member;
AND
- (ii) at least 6 years of substantial voluntary contributions to the Association, including especially one or more of
 - Membership of Council
 - Chair of Walking Committee
 - Regular Walk Leadership Roles
 - Chair of Maintenance Committee
 - Maintenance Section Leader or Volunteer
 - Office Volunteer

Guidelines for Honorary Membership (Exceptional)

Substantial and sustained contributions to promotion, development and/or maintenance of the Heysen Trail, or the Association other than as a paid member or volunteer through, for example, public service support, media support etc.

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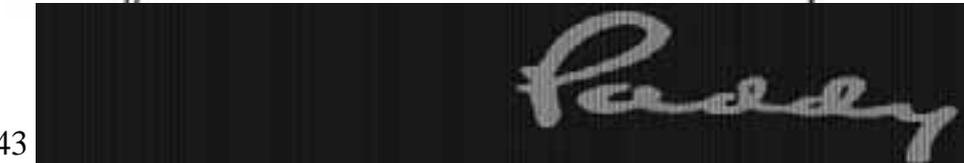
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Burra Branch Report



Grass trees, Braemar



Activities have continued on schedule within the Burra branch. Late August a good-sized group travelled the dusty roads north and east of Burra for an action packed weekend on Braemar station, hosted by station manager Vic Breeding and his trusty counterpart Roundy.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JENNY REID, PUBLICITY OFFICER

With warming fires roaring in the shearers' quarters, a great selection of food was shared, washed down with a couple of fine local drops and getting the weekend away to a good start.

The sunrise that greeted us on Saturday morning after a small drop of overnight rain was worth the early tumble out of bed. As usual, Arthur supervised the egg and bacon breakfasts and once fortified, Vic led us on a walk in the

Mulga Hills area region of the station, which had us driving over fences, avoiding hidden dragons, climbing hillsides to look at indigenous artefacts and scrambling up rock faces to sight splendid grass trees. We weren't sure what had happened to Roundy but rounding a corner we were greeted with a mouth-watering assortment of local lamb chops and sausages sizzling on the BBQ and damper rising in the camp oven. Vic was going to share his damper recipe at his point but there's

some debate as to cooking times!!!

A tour of the shearing shed on Sunday morning left us in no doubt of both the history and the importance of the building to the station over the years. Then a walk over nearby station country which included optional side trip to the station dump, where there were photo opportunities aplenty, concluded the activities of the weekend. Of course that's after we finished up the leftovers for lunch. Vic and Roundy



Sunrise over Braemar

are fine hosts and we look forward to further invitations to explore.

Our next walk was Ken's annual climb of Mt Bryan, which is a feat in itself especially as Ken is over four score years but I don't think ten. A small but enthusiastic mob set out to conquer the imposing eastern climb of this peak in fine pleasant conditions. Early stages of this day were extremely enjoyable, and discovering wild citrus fruits, some inquisitive birdlife and old artefacts added interest to the initial stages of this walk. This changed quite quickly with wild weather approaching from the south and west. Getting to the top became a challenge in what seemed like gale force winds, like one step forward and two back. However we all made it and settled into walking down the gentler slopes back to Hallet, as Hugh did some trail maintenance as we went along, replacing signs on the markers. But Mother Nature wasn't finished with us yet as persistent, steady rain settled in. A Spanish exchange student who was walking with us came up with the quote of the day when she said 'my shoes feel like I'm walking in a swimming

pool'. A tired but happy lot made it back to the Hallet railway station as the sun poked its face from among the clouds, and we were greeted by welcome hot cuppas and afternoon tea goodies provided by Ken's lovely wife Eileen.

Celia from our group led nine walkers on an enjoyable and pleasant linear walk on the western side of the Tothill Ranges on Sunday 11th October. There was quite a strong breeze for most of

the day but thankfully the temperature didn't achieve the forecast 27c so it was good walking weather and the countryside was looking spectacular with good crops and green spring paddocks. After a picnic lunch the group all opted to complete the optional extra climb to the top of the ranges which was, as always, well worth the effort with glorious views and a complete change in vegetation from the lower slopes. A number of new walkers to our group turned out for this walk and everyone agreed on the potential for more walks in that area.



White Browed Wood Swallow, Mt Bryan

Our end of October walk was moved to the Spring Gully Conservation Park and ably led by Heather, who has intimate knowledge of the park as a member of the friend's group. A small group enjoyed the outing despite temperatures reaching into the thirties. As well as benefiting from Heather's knowledge of the area and hidden away gems this park has to offer like the native orchids on display, it was reassuring to see the park showing the benefits of the good winter and spring rains with an abundance of greenery and colour.

As the festive season approaches the Burra branch looks forward to its last walk and break up in mid-November to finish a successful year of activities. Several new members have joined our numbers this year and we hope with a little more publicity and some good old-fashioned egging-on more will join us in discovering the many treasures our area holds, during the walking season in 2010.

Several members also joined the Adelaide group's dinner at the Burra Bowling Club during their Saturday night break in "End to End" walking recently. The Christmas in July theme was well supported and we local yokels watched in amusement as 'Kris Kringles' were shared (great idea those purple bloomers) and then judged the vocal versions of "The 12 Days of Christmas" presented by the three teams of walkers.

Congratulations to the "Smell the Roses" team. We thought your winning entry was worth publishing.

Seasons Greetings to all. □



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2009/2010 Summer Twilight Walk Programme					2010 W						
December		January		February		March		April		May	
1st Week of month	Wed Dec 2 Twilight Walk TBA Michael Middleton	Wed Jan 6 Twilight Walk North Glenelg Bob Gentle	Wed Feb 3 Twilight Walk Western Linear Park Lyn Wood	Wed Mar 3 Twilight Walk Dog Park Chris Porter	1st Week of month	End-to-End				May 2 End to End 4	
						Trail Starter				Sun May 2 Trailstarter Michelle Foster	
						Trail Walker				Sun May 2 Trailwalker Brownhill Creek-Mt Lofty Richard Milosh	
2nd Week of month	Wed Dec 9 Twilight Walk Tea Tree Gully Robert Alcock	Wed Jan 13 Twilight Walk Adelaide Michael Middleton	Wed Feb 10 Twilight Walk Seacliff Gavin Campbell	Wed Mar 10 Twilight Walk Chambers Gully Ben Wait	2nd Week of month	End-to-End	Sun April 11 Opening of Walk Season Mylor			Sat/Sun May 8/9 End-to-End 3 Locks Ruin to Mt Zion	
						Trail Starter	Sun April 11 Trailstarter David Beaton			Sun May 9 Trailstarter Rocky Creek David Beaton	
						Trail Walker	Sun April 11 Trailwalker			Sun May 9 Trailwalker	
3rd Week of month	Wed Dec 16 Twilight Walk Hallett Cove Robyn Quinn	Wed Jan 20 Twilight Walk Semaphore Arrienne Wynen	Wed Feb 17 Twilight Walk West Lakes Julian Monfries		3rd Week of month	End-to-End				Sun May 16 End-To-End 5 Begin Cape Jervis to Cobblers Hill	
						Trail Starter	Sun April 18 Trailstarter Sleep's Gully Chris Porter			Sun May 16 Trailstarter Belair Rhonda Dempster	
						Trail Walker	Sun April 18 Trailwalker Montacute Richard Milosh			Sun May 16 Trailwalker Aldgate Autumn Gavin Campbell	
4th Week of month		Wed Jan 27 Twilight Walk TBA David Beaton	Wed Feb 24 Twilight Walk Ansteys Hill Colin Edwards		4th Week of month	End-to-End	Fri/Sun April 23-25 Grampians			Sun May 23 End-To-End 4	
						Trail Starter	Sun April 25 Trailstarter TBA Neil Rivett			Sun May 23 Trailstarter Surprise Walk Arrienne Wynen	
						Trail Walker	Sun April 25 Trailwalker Onkaparinga/Chapel Hill Richard Milosh			Sun May 23 Trailwalker Hahndorf B/Water Loop Richard Milosh	
5th Week of month	<p>More Details</p> <p>An explanation of walk grades and details for each walk event are published on the website</p>		 <p>The Friends of the Heysen Trail 10 Pitt Street Adelaide 5000 Phone 08 8212 6299 www.heysentrail.asn.au</p> <p>This version released 1st December 2009</p>		5th Week of month	End-to-End					
						Trail Starter				Sun May 30 Trailstarter Belair CP Bob Gentle	
						Trail Walker				Sun May 30 Trailwalker Scott Creek Russell O'Brien	

For further information about each walk, walk grades, frequently asked questions or to print of (www.heysentrail.asn.au/walks)

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, operate. Details of each walk grade are provided on the website.

Registering for Walks

You must register for a walk, either online or over the phone. Register online (by Wed prior please) at www.heysentrail.asn.au, or by phone the office on 8212 6299 (during the hours listed on page 3).

Walk Season Programme for the Friends of the Heysen Trail

	June	July	August	September	October	November
		July 3-4 End-To-End 3 Alligator Gorge Road to Melrose		Sat/Sun September 4-5 End-To-End 3 Broadview to Dutchman's Stern	Sun October 2-4 End to End 3 Dutchman's Stern to Buckaringa North	
	Sun June 6 Trailstarter Kyeema Robyn Quinn	Sun July 4 Trailstarter Scott Creek Lynn Wood	Sun August 1 Trailstarter Sturt Gorge Ben Wait	Sun September 5 Trailstarter Christie Creek Lyn Wood	Sun October 3 Trailstarter	Sun November 7 Trailstarter Walk Rally Ben Wait
	Sun June 6 Trailwalker Anstey's Hill Robert Alcock	Sun July 4 Trailwalker	Sun August 1 Trailwalker Black Hill Mary Cartland	Sun September 5 Trailwalker	Sun October 3 Trailwalker	Sun November 7 Trailwalker Ashbourne Dean Mortimer
June Long Weekend	Sat-Mon June 12-14 End-To-End 3 Mt Zion to Murraytown		Sat/Sun August 7-8 End-To-End 3 Alligator Gorge Road to Broadview Station			November 12-15 Kangaroo Island
	Sun June 13 Trailstarter Nairne Jamie Shephard	Sun July 11 Trailstarter Onkaparinga Michael Middleton	Sun August 8 Trailstarter	Sun September 12 Trailstarter Chambers Gully Cleland Ben Wait	Sun October 10 Trailstarter Morialta Robyn Quinn	Kangaroo Island
	Sun June 13 Trailwalker	Sun July 11 Trailwalker Kaiser Stuhl Ray Blight	Sun August 8 Trailwalker	Sun September 12 Trailwalker Cleland Mary Cartland	Sun October 10 Trailwalker Parra Wirra John Potter	Kangaroo Island
	Sun June 20 End-To-End 5 Cobblers Hill to Tapanappa	Sun July 18 End-To-End 5 Tapanappa to Balquidder	Sun August 15 End to End 5 Balquidder to Waitpinga	Sun September 19 End-To-End 5 Waitpinga to Tugwell Road	Sun October 17 End to End 5 Tugwell Road to Inman Valley	
	Sun June 20 Trailstarter Hills Hilary Gillette	Sun July 18 Trailstarter Waite Ralene Shaw	Sun August 15 Trailstarter Horsnell Gully Robyn Quinn	Sun September 19 Trailstarter	Sun October 17 Trailstarter	
	Sun June 20 Trailwalker Vixen/Devils Gully Richard Milosh	Sun July 18 Trailwalker Mt Crawford John Potter	Sun August 15 Trailwalker Kersbrook Mary Cartland	Sun September 19 Trailwalker Steve Wilkinson	Sun October 17 Trailwalker	
	Sun June 27 End-To-End 4	Sun July 25 End-To-End 4	Sun August 22 End to End 4	Sun September 26 End-To-End 4	Sun October 24 End to End 4	
	Sun June 27 Trailstarter Wistow Sandy Melbourne	Sun July 25 Trailstarter TBA Arrienne Wynen	Sun August 22 Trailstarter Horsnell Gully Robyn Quinn	Sun September 26 Trailstarter	Sun October 24 Trailstarter	
	Sun June 27 Trailwalker Hale Warren CP Colin Edwards	Sun July 25 Trailwalker TBA Steve Wilkinson	Sun August 22 Trailwalker	Sun September 26 Trailwalker	Sun October 24 Trailwalker	
	Key to Walk Programme					
	Trail Starter walk					
	Trail Walker walk					
	End-to-End walk					
	Other walk event					
	An explanation of walk grades and details for each walk event are published on the website		Sun August 29 Trailstarter Kuitpo Forest Russell O'Brien			
			Sun August 29 Trailwalker Kaiser Stuhl John Potter		Sun October 31 Trailwalker Pioneer Women's Walk	



The Friends of the Heysen Trail

10 Pitt Street Adelaide 5000

Phone 08 8212 6299

www.heysentrail.asn.au

This version released
1st December 2009

For a colour copy of the programme, visit

Walk Cancellations

Walks are cancelled if the broadcasted forecast is for temperatures over 32°C. For simplicity, this can be determined the night prior to the walk on the 7pm ABC evening news weather forecast, based upon the Bureau of Meteorology's routine 4pm forecast. Even if the forecast is later revised, the walk remains cancelled. End-to-End walks will be rescheduled to the following month. 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, preferably by 4pm Friday, or leave a message on the answering machine after this time.

AN INTRODUCTION TO MAINTENANCE FOR VOLUNTEERS

BY JOHN WILSON, CHAIRMAN, MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to give new and prospective volunteers for maintenance of the Heysen Trail an overview of what is involved and how the work is managed. It will also serve as a checklist for experienced volunteers and Section Leaders. It should be read in conjunction with the Maintenance Manual and other documents which are issued at various times.

The Trail

The Heysen Trail is a bushwalking trail which runs about 1200km from Cape Jervis to Parachilna Gorge in the Flinders Ranges. It is managed by the SA Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH), and much of the routine maintenance is performed by volunteers from the Friends of the Heysen Trail (FOHT). FOHT was established in 1986 to assist with the development of the Trail, and continues to perform this task, as well as offering a comprehensive walking program to its members, and engages in other activities promoting the Association and the Trail. Contact details are contained in the Maintenance Manual.

The Trail passes through private property, State Forests, Conservation and National Parks, and along some public roads. Much can be accessed by 2WD vehicles, more with 4WD, but some can only be reached on foot. The Trail is mapped in two Guide books (Southern and Northern), published by DEH, and the appropriate one is issued to all Section Leaders.

The Work

Trail maintenance involves the following routine activities:

- installation of Trail marker posts and marking plates

- erection of stiles at fences
- removal of vegetation encroaching on the Trail, including debris and tree branches
- minor maintenance of trail surface to assist runoff and prevent water erosion (benching).
- maintenance in and around huts and camping areas along the Trail.

Volunteers are not permitted to construct larger structures such as boardwalks, bridges, huts, toilets or shelters unless they are qualified tradespeople and have approval from DEH. Proposed structures need to be approved by a qualified engineer. Similarly, they are not permitted to use herbicides or other hazardous materials, or to use power tools such as chainsaws unless they have proper training and safety equipment.

Volunteers

Our volunteers usually have a background and interest in bushwalking, enjoy working as part of a small team outdoors, and wish to make a contribution to the community. Normal handyman skills are an advantage, but there are no special requirements

Tools

Tools used for maintenance include: for stiles and marker posts, post hole digger, crowbar, spade, spirit level inserting star droppers, sledge hammer or driver for marker plates, hammer, nails, screwdriver, hand or power drill for trail clearance, grubbers (mattocks), shovel. loppers, secateurs, hand saws

FOHT keep a supply of these tools, although most volunteers have their own. We also have a trailer with a lockable top for use in regional areas, a 240 volt generator (DEH) and a two stroke brush cutter with safety

mask, all of which can be borrowed by volunteers.

Safety

We encourage safe work practices and have a safety manual for volunteers. Volunteers are encouraged to wear Personal Protective Equipment when working. Some commonsense guidelines are:

- wear suitable clothing, sturdy boots, long sleeves, gloves, safety glasses/hard hats where needed
- sun protection, - slip/slop/slap, sun cream, wide brimmed hat, sun glasses
- working near roads - high visibility safety vests (provide by DEH through FOHT coordinator)
- basic first aid kits
- avoid working in extreme weather conditions - hot, cold, thunderstorms, strong winds, fire ban days
- do not work alone, and ensure someone knows where you intend to be

advise co-workers of any medical conditions and an emergency contact person

Administration

FOHT Council has set up a Maintenance Committee, responsible for organising the maintenance operation, for the development of policies, and liaison with DEH including the Trails Officer. To ensure that volunteers are covered by the SAICORP insurance policies, all work must be covered by Volunteer Project Commencement Advice forms (known as 'pink forms'), approved by the DEH authorities. These are raised by the Maintenance Committee for each Section (see below), giving names and contact numbers for Section leaders, and are renewed each year. They cover all of our routine maintenance work.

Alan McNicol & Roger Dunn repairing stile at Balquidder

FOHT and DEH have agreed on a policy for reimbursement of volunteers for out of pocket expenses incurred, and with prior approval, for reasonable accommodation expenses for extended working trips. Claim forms are available from the FOHT office and should be submitted to the office. All claims must be supported by receipts for costs incurred.

Management

For maintenance purposes, the Heysen Trail is divided into 20 Sections, each with a Section Leader appointed by the FOHT Maintenance Committee. The Leader plans and manages all work done within the Section, and volunteers should not perform any work on the Trail without the agreement of the relevant Leader. FOHT have also appointed a Maintenance Coordinator to oversee the work along the whole Trail, and to organise assistance to Leaders where needed. The names and contact numbers of Committee office bearers and all Section Leaders are listed on the FOHT website (www.heysentrail.asn.au) and are printed in the Trailwalker newsletter from time to time.

The Maintenance Committee has set up a procedure to record reports of Trail conditions or problems, from walkers or members of the public. A register is kept in the FOHT office, and the reports passed on to the relevant

Section Leader and Maintenance Coordinator. Problems can also be emailed or reported on line through the FOHT website

Materials

All materials used in Trail maintenance are supplied by DEH. Stocks are kept in the Cobbler Creek shed and are issued to volunteers as required. Additional materials purchased by volunteers are also reimbursed by DEH through FOHT.

Section Leaders

The following guidelines are intended

as a checklist for Section Leaders:

Each Section should be monitored twice a year. Leaders are responsible for planning the routine maintenance performed in their Section, and to respond to any problems reported through the FOHT office.

Section leaders should keep a diary, recording all working trips including names of volunteers, the work performed and number of hours worked.

Section Leaders are encouraged to become members of FOHT. Provided names are recorded in the diary, volunteers need not be members to be covered by DEH insurance. The pink forms cover routine maintenance only. Any major work or Trail reroute must be approved by the Trails Officer and Maintenance Coordinator beforehand.

Leaders are encouraged to get in touch with all land owners and authorities in their Section, to agree on the level of contact they would like, before entering the properties. This applies particularly to Rangers of Parks and Forests.

Leaders are requested to report on their year's work at the end of the walking season, listing all volunteers' names, and total hours worked, so that our efforts are recognised by DEH. □

Two walkers testing stile with 25 kg packs

Heysen Trail Maintenance:

An Obsession and Never Ending Story



Kevin Liddiard, new stile Bundaleer Forest



I joined the Friends of the Heysen 20 years ago, and from the start was interested in trail maintenance. I could not at that time take on a maintenance section due to business commitments, so volunteered to work on an ad hoc basis, notably when there was a full time FoHT Manager, who would telephone for volunteers.

STORY BY KEVIN LIDDIARD, VOLUNTEER MAINTENANCE WORKER SPALDING TO GEORGETOWN

My wife Lee and I planted many trees during the Kapunda greening project, and I had a great desire to take on the long neglected Flinders Ranges sections, only recently filled by our present Maintenance Coordinator, Gavin Campbell.

In my endeavour to walk the entire Heysen trail I joined the Millennium Walkers in 2000 (later renamed End to End 1); but having already completed much of the trail through to the mid

north, I walked ahead solo, arriving at Section 14 (Spalding to Georgetown) in 2002. This section had not been maintained since first marking, and looked easy, so I volunteered. Bad move!

I soon found that there were few posts and serviceable stiles, and virtually no readable marker plates throughout the entire 70km section. In some places there were no markers for long distances due to re-fencing and deterioration, and what markers were there were now non-standard.

There were stiles without fences and fences without stiles.

Subsequently, I and my helpers have installed some 50 posts, up to 500 marker plates, even more trail decals, and the job is never ending.

Section 14 covers four distinct regions: the Bundaleer Channel, Never-Never Creek, Bundaleer Forest, and a creek and ridge top walk to Georgetown. Maintenance along the Bundaleer Channel and in Bundaleer Forest is

relatively easy; but the other areas are more remote, difficult to access, and are subject to cattle and sheep destruction of posts and markers. Posts sometimes disappear, perhaps as souvenirs, but presumably not firewood since they are treated for attack by fungi and termites.

My poor 4WD ability was evident when I used the family Toyota Hilux to install a number of new posts in remote areas of the section. I very nearly slid off Campbell Hill into the Bundaleer pine forest, so gave up that approach and returned to backpacking posts and plates. I thought I had the section under control, only to find that sheep and cattle take a regular toll of posts and markers, and farmers, quite rightly, re-fence and do other necessary activities on their properties that affect trail marking. Good relations with owners are essential, so one just gets on with the job.

This year I found that a wind farm was in the planning, and if this goes ahead there will be a major remark of the trail. During October I walked through the section with End to End 3 and found that since an inspection last year several stiles now needed repair, cattle had destroyed a creek crossing, tall grass obscured markers, and one post was hidden in a feral olive tree. Two posts were missing and one post had been run over (literally) in Bundaleer Forest. Numerous deteriorated plates were repaired, but there is obviously a large work list for 2010.

Why does one persevere? Well, it's certainly obsessive, and it's true that one develops a strong sense of ownership. I am, of course, aware that much of the section is privately owned and the rest government owned; however let's not forget that we, individual South Australians, are the true owners of the latter. That's why it's called public property!

Credits are due to my wife Lee, who has tolerated my obsession with the Heysen Trail, and has been driver and self-proclaimed Camp Follower for End to End walks and trail maintenance; my son Chris who can actually drive a 4WD in hostile places; and Gavin Bowden, my co-maintainer, who has been away this year on holiday but has a lot of work to do in 2010. □

Great Ocean Walk

By Liz Alvey

For years ahead we'll look back and talk,
Of our experience on the Great Ocean Walk.

We walked on heath, sand and rocks,
We got flies in our eyes, sand in our socks (jocks).

We enjoyed great vistas, shade from trees,
We sweated like mad, got sore knees.

And just as the energy began to sag,
Up popped the ubiquitous lolly bag.

But to do something silly, you couldn't afford,
Without being nominated for the Anchor Award.

We gambled with chocolate, as on a ship's deck,
But didn't have to dress up, to look like a wreck.

So much walking, serious talking, these memories we will keep,
But first, drink, shower, a mighty good night's sleep.

Thanks to Simon, Julian, Nic and Ben, this November,
We have tired bodies, experiences to remember.

It was a very hot week... as hot as hell,
And we know that "You've all done very well"!!



PATH TO VISION TREK

INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED ADVENTURER TO LEAD CHARITY TREK OF A LIFETIME

Internationally-renowned South Australian adventurer, Duncan Chessell, is putting his heart where his hiking boots are.

The multiple conqueror of Mt Everest – the world’s highest mountain - and elite Adelaide-based adventurer has volunteered his time to lead a 60km fundraising trek along a picturesque section of the State’s famous Heysen Trail for visionary local business leaders.

The five-star trek is the brainchild of young businesswomen Samantha Badcock and Samone Wear, who are raising funds for South Australia’s Royal Society for the Blind (RSB), as part of the in-business Young Business Leaders (YBL) Program.

The pair hopes to raise about \$20,000 for the RSB from the three-day, two night expedition taking place from 27 - 29th November 2009.

But this is no ordinary trek - Each night, trekkers will unwind with “themed” gourmet-food nights; premium Barossa

Valley wines, professional massages, as well as camp-site stories about Duncan’s global adventures!

A highlight of one of the evenings will be “Opera Under the Night Sky” a night of entertainment from local Soprano extraordinaire, and former semi-finalist in popular television series, Australia’s Got Talent, Grace Bawden, who has been described as one of Australia’s greatest operatic discoveries.

The YBL program provides professional and personal leadership development through intensive training and practical application.

The ten-month awards program is open to motivated individuals who are keen to challenge themselves, and gain invaluable experience, knowledge and skills.

Friends of the Heysen and

many local businesses have joined us with a philanthropic spirit which has enabled this trek to be a ‘five star’ camping adventure that will make its mark on people’s ‘must do’ events calendar for years to come



*Booting it for Charity
From left to right: Samone Wear, Grace Bawden and
Samanatha Badcock*

www.pathtovision.org



STOP PRESS



- the reality!

by Robert Alcock, Marketing and Membeship

Windy, windy and wet, Just 2 weeks after a record heatwave, we survived a weekend of howling wind and rain squalls, trekking the Heysen Trail between Cape Jervis to Victor Harbor.

Duncan Chessell led in true Himalayan style and said he had never witnessed such wild conditions, then added "in SA". Along the coast, thru the bush and above the cliffs, most of the group did summit the Bluff on their walk to our final get-together at the Beach House Cafe, Victor Harbor. They covered around 50Km over 3 days in very trying conditions. A few others completed shortened walks on Sat and Sun.

Samantha Badcock, co-organiser with Samone Wear, said the group overcame the challenging conditions to conclude a successful fundraising event to benefit

the Royal Society for the Blind. The group have raised nearly \$20,000 and provided a memorable experience for the participants. Friday's trek was Fishery Beach to Trig Camp. Starting in "tropical" warmth, then came drizzle, then rain. It was too warm to put on the raincoats, then we were too wet to bother, so we arrived at the campsite soggy wet. A hot or cold drink, then to scout a spot to pitch our tent. Strong winds buffeted our light marquee, and storms overnight turned the campsite to a wet playground.

Saturday challenges included: the bus (no passengers thankfully) with trailer, sliding backwards down the steep clay road; attempting to erect the marquee in strong blustery winds; walking the challenging Deep Creek gully section in wind and rain; streams of water cascaded over our boots as we climbed up out from Boat Harbour.

There were also the rewards. We thank Scott and the girls from FLEX Rehabilitation Clinic who came down each evening to massage sore legs. Charlie Scalzi with his God's Hill wines, who enjoyed the company so much he came back on Saturday too. Then Grace Bawden, accompanied only by the wind, sang 2 sets for us, Her beautiful voice moving us well beyond the wild weather that surrounded our cosy shelter. To the cooks and caterers, thanks, we didn't go hungry!

Although we had gale force winds on the cliffs, Sunday was much kinder, with some sun on the cliffs bringing out beautiful colours. There would have been many tired and very sore legs in the following days, as I was impressed at how well so many were able to push to complete the challenging walks set by Duncan. Truly a weekend to remember. Thank you, to Sam and Samone, whose event it was.

ALPANA STATION

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

- A **passenger transport service** to **Wilpena, Blinman, Heysen Trail head** for walkers (individuals or groups)
- Quality **self-contained accommodation** for up to 14 people suitable for walkers, artists, nature groups etc
- **Ensuite bathroom** facilities for caravans/campers
- **Bush camping** areas

Nungawurtina Hut & Trail

An **easy 2 day walk** alternative for not-so-active walkers...

Stay a night or two in a new replica pine & pug shepherd's hut en-route from Alpana to the Blinman Pools and Angorichina Tourist Village to be picked up and returned to Alpana.

OR

4WDrive:- Drive yourself or be transported to Nungawurtina Hut and experience a true Flinders retreat in a scenic and serene setting. Suitable for up to 6 people.

Contact Details

David and Sally Henery
Postal address: PO Box 11, Blinman SA 5730
Phone or fax: 08 8648 4626
Email: alpana2@bigpond.com.au
Website: www.alpana-station.netfirms.com

Bookings Essential

Diamonds of the Heysen Trail



Sallie & Sue near Echunga

My friend, Sallie and I, regular long distance trail walkers, set out at the beginning of July to make an assault on the first 250 km of the Heysen Trail. The intent was to do the first 5 days and the last day on full packs with the rest done on day packs staying at local facilities and having our big packs moved in between.

STORY & PHOTOS BY LARI MCDONALD FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA

We learned about walking this way after completing a long distance walk with Auswalk in January of this year, which lets us walk for a longer than usual distance without the weight of the full pack.

We made contact with Simon from Victor Harbor Taxis at Victor Harbor. What a diamond we found in him and I wanted to share with others the help Simon gave us and for others who were interested (especially interstate and international walkers) to make the Heysen Trail walk easier on the back

Simon has done a considerable amount of the Heysen Trail and was helpful in our planning. He understands walkers and their needs. He has great local knowledge as well as the requirements of walkers. What better ally could a walker want!

Our original plan was somewhat changed when on the reaching 'the end of Tunkalilla Beach' we spent 1½ hours looking for the marker to exit the beach! So exhausted after this adventure, then climbing that very big hill and looking forward to camp at Balquhidder West, and then

discovering it was nothing more than a driveway into a property without any flat ground to pitch a tent, we decided that exiting a couple of days earlier on full packs might be the answer. We climbed the hill to get a phone signal and Simon, our knight in shining armour collected us from the campsite, dropped us at the Colonial Inn in Victor Harbor 2 days earlier than the original plan and we lapped up the luxury of a shower, a bed and a non camp meal that evening.

Simon picked us up the next morning, delivering us back to the point of pick

up last night and we walked back to Waitpinga. Simon continued this great shuttle service for the next two days while we made our way to Victor Harbor.

Leaving Victor Harbor, Simon dropped us back on the track and continued on delivering our main packs to Rattley's at Pear Tree Hollow in Inman Valley, where we discovered another diamond of the Heysen Trail. Bruce from Rattley's picked us up in the driving rain and hail where the track meets the road about 5 km from his bed and breakfast facility.

Rattley's is a beautiful bed and breakfast cottage at Inman Valley and the hosts Bruce and Fay were sensational catering to our every need. Being unable to secure accommodation for one night only at Myponga, we spent 2 nights with Bruce and Fay, with Bruce picking us up from Myponga and giving us a guided tour of the area before arriving back at the cottage. What amazing service!

Bruce dropped us back at Myponga the next day and at no cost moved our main packs to Mt. Compass. Our great knight in shining armour, Simon, met with us again moving our main packs from Mt. Compass to Villa Grenache at McLaren Flat. The terrible weather ensured there

would be no outdoor camping for us; if it wasn't flooded it was soggy and with no shelter anywhere to be dry or even cook a small meal, we opted for luxury instead of the original plan! We were so glad to see SA get some much needed rain, and at times it made our adventure much more than a simple walking adventure! We did wonder at this point what the Deep Creek crossing was like. We had crossed it a week earlier, knee deep and running fast and after the days of deluge how the crossing would be for any walkers out there at that point!

Colin from Villa Grenache met us at the Kuitpo HQ and we spent the afternoon enjoying McLaren Vale and some more great hospitality from SA. Colin took us back to Kuitpo the next day and did not charge us for the extra running around; another diamond of the Heysen. Our experience of tourism operators in the Fleurieu area has been nothing short of sensational.

Simon, our amazing knight from Victor Harbor arranged for our taxi service for moving our gear to change to Mt. Barker taxis as they were much closer than Victor Harbor from here on. We felt some sadness at this change, as Simon had been such an inspiration and Mr. Amazing to us and we knew we would miss his smiley face, trail knowledge and inspiration. But Mt.

Barker taxis continued to do the great job that Simon had started, providing great pickups for us and our gear.

Our next section was to Mylor and what looked straight forward was anything but as the rain and hail continued to come down. The bridge over troubled water turned out to be the bridge under troubled water! Then what appeared as simple creek crossings over the roads, turned out to be 5 metre wide, raging waters and unknown depth crossings, requiring some alternative routes to be found. After much searching we found a sizeable secure log to crawl over on all fours and after negotiating our way back to the track discovered we had to cross the same creek again 100 metres further on.

After some serious bush bashing through blackberry bushes we eventually found a narrow enough crossing (still depth unknown, but deeper than trek poles) and built our own bridge and then found the kangaroo crossing under the fence to get back on to the track. But alas, the day's adventure was not over yet. Now, there was some serious gun fire very close to the track and despite our yelling out, it continued. We were glad to finally have the track turn away from the firing and then discovered a few kilometres later that this was a police firing range area. It would have been great to know that

earlier! Hint: put in a sign at the other end of the firing range that it exists. We finally arrived in Mylor looking like very bedraggled drowned rats and our wet weather gear looking like it would never look dry again.

Our accommodation that night was at Binnowie B & B, where we again experienced great SA hospitality. Our packs were there waiting for us, kindly dropped there during the day by Mt. Barker Taxis. Binnowie has an upmarket side and for those on a budget, there is a converted shed, which was simply sensational and we highly recommend it. Very comfortable, our



wet gear dried and the breakfast was fantastic.

The next day saw glimpses of sunshine as we made our way to Mt. Lofty and a luxurious night at Mt. Lofty House. Despite the bad reports we had about this facility, our experience was sensational; food and service were both great. Our packs had again been delivered by Mt. Barker Taxis and we left them there for pick up the next day on the way to picking us up from Moores Road. The original plan was to meet the taxi and swap packs, but the weather had been so unkind, and there being no shelter at the campsites, we made a plan B.

We again experienced a different than planned adventure for the day, as we discovered the track was closed and

not a sign anywhere to offer a different route for the long distance walkers. Relying on the maps we found our way to Moores Road, however, were in a different spot than the prearranged place the taxi was to meet us. As with all things pre-arranged there is, of course, always concern of what happens if it doesn't work to the plan. We were able to get a phone signal out to tell them we had arrived, but were closer than the pre-arranged place. The taxi arrived and said he couldn't see us. Alas, there is a gate on the road, not marked on the map and we had to walk a little way to meet him. Just another adventure! Hint: get the gate marked on the map.

Our driver then took us to Cudlee Creek Caravan Park where we would spend the last two nights of our trip.

Mt. Barker Taxis duly arrived on time the next morning, to drop us back at Moores Road and we continued to walk our way back to Cudlee Creek.

What an awesome adventure we had. But, the adventure would not have been the same without the amazing diamonds we discovered. Simon, from Victor Harbor/Peninsula Taxis, experienced Heysen walker and taxi service provider extraordinaire; Bruce, host numero uno of the Fleurieu; Colin, host outstanding in McLaren Flat and the Mt. Barker taxi service. We were welcomed everywhere we went, and questioned about our sanity walking in such conditions, but we would repeat it in a heartbeat and will hopefully be back next year for the next 250 kms and see what adventures that will bring. □

Will you grow to save South Australia?

Trees For Life needs more than 1000 volunteers to grow native seedlings in their backyards this summer.



Through the award-winning Tree Scheme, volunteers are asked to grow and care for the seedlings for landholders and revegetation projects in South Australia.

The Tree Scheme operates by annual seedling orders being taken for landholders, councils, government projects and private enterprise, with Trees For Life then linking up orders with volunteer growers.

Trees For Life provides all the propagation materials, seed varieties, tubes, boxes, soil and mulch – free to volunteers, along with easy-to-follow instructions. Once sown and raised, volunteers then hand over their seedlings for planting in the winter months.

“The seedlings they grow provide food and habitat for our native wildlife, and help counteract some of South Australia’s Greenhouse gas emissions – which is especially important with

climate change being such a concern,” Trees For Life spokesperson Tania Kearney said.

“Landholder orders for our native seedlings have come in strongly, and we are again hoping our volunteers will raise around one million seedlings in a bid to help continue to revegetate SA.”

All seedling varieties grown by Trees For Life volunteers are local natives. This means they are water efficient, adapted to local conditions, occur naturally and therefore have a higher survival rate, pose no risk of becoming weed species, provide homes for local fauna and restore local ecosystems.

“Volunteering to raise seedlings for our environment is such a rewarding experience. You don’t need to have a green thumb – all we ask is that growers have a sunny backyard and a commitment to looking after their seedlings during the summer months.

“Trees For Life provides everything from all the equipment, to step-by-step instructions and personal advice if required. We also now run propagation workshops to help people. It’s a perfect way for us all to do something positive to help our environment, it’s free and such a feel-good experience!”

If you’re interested in becoming a volunteer grower, phone the office on 8406 0500 or log onto the Trees For Life website: www.treesforlife.org.au

For more information, phone Trees For Life Media and Communications Officer Tania Kearney on 8406 0500 or 0439 404 612.

Geelong and Gold Coast Bushwalkers visit the Adelaide Hills



Morning tea in the cave at Morialta

19 bushwalkers from the Geelong and Gold Coast Bushwalking Clubs (13 Geelong, 6 Gold Coast) arrived in Adelaide on 4 September for ten days marvelous hiking in the Adelaide Hills.

Daphne Sands, a member of the Friends, but now living in Geelong, had organised the trip and chosen a selection of walks that she had enjoyed in the past.

We stayed at Seonee Hills, a property belonging to the Scouts, near to the Woodhouse Scout Camp and within the Mount George Conservation Park, just 500 metres from the Heysen Trail. The bunk-style accommodation allows for 40 visitors so we were very comfortable with one person with two bunks and two people per cubicle. We were able to hire our linen, blankets and towels which reduced weight on our flights into Adelaide. The most luxurious aspect of our trip was the excellent caterer Helen McNicol of Helen McNicol Catering, Belair, who supplied gourmet breakfasts, lunches which we made up ourselves, home baked morning and afternoon teas, and delicious two-course dinners at

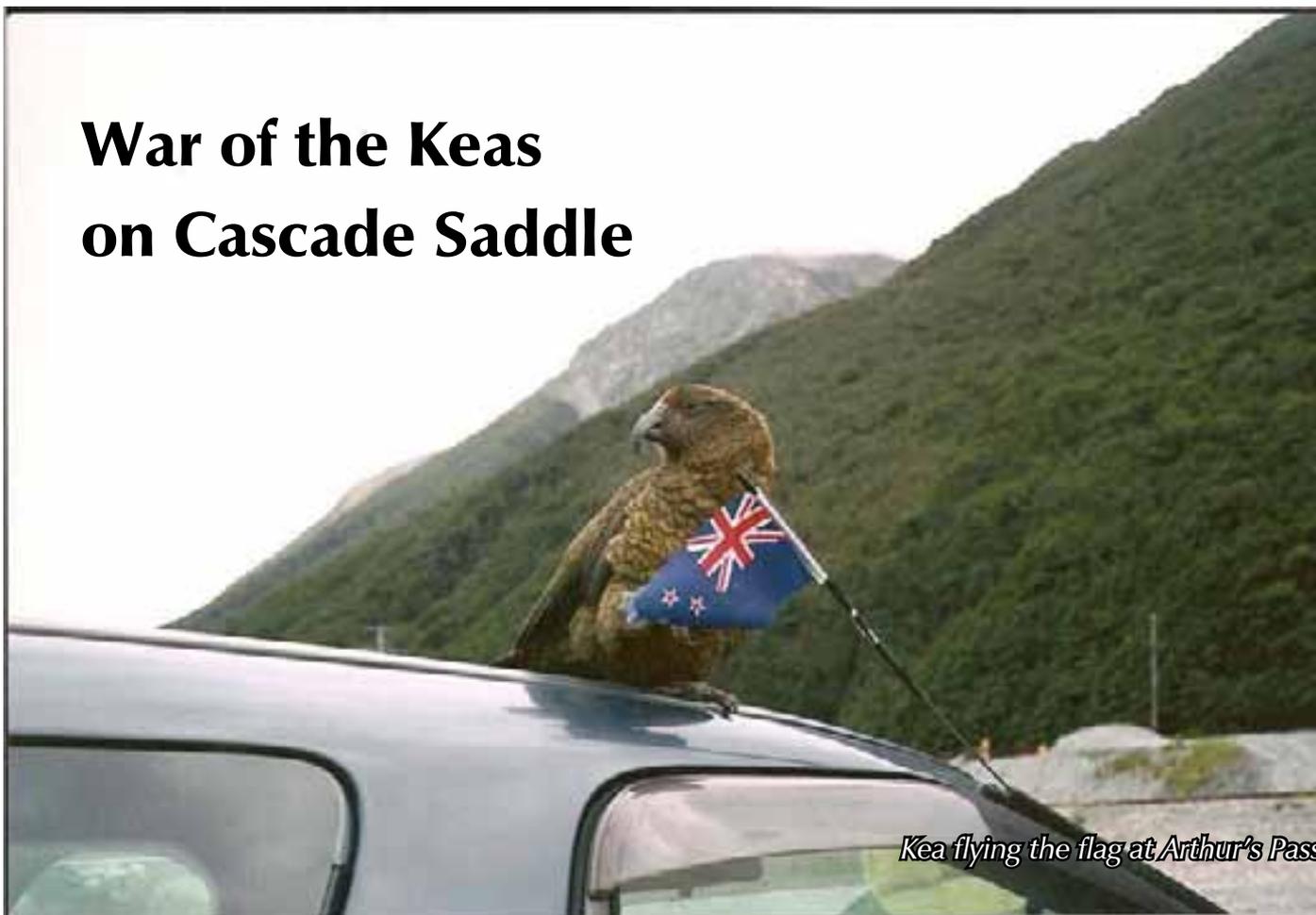
night. Homemade soups, muffins and scones greeted our return from each walk, all for just \$25 per person per day!

The walks were day walks and were of varying distances. They included Waterfall Gully to Mt Lofty and return past Chinaman's Hut; Morialta Conservation Park; Jupiter Creek Mine to Mt George Conservation Park (on the Heysen Trail); Horsnell Gully Conservation Park to Mt George Conservation Park (on the Heysen Trail); Para Wirra Recreation Park along Mack Creek and with views of the South Para Reservoir; Belair National Park. On Sunday, 6 September we joined the FoHT for a Trailstarter walk around Mt Pleasant from the Cromer Picnic Park with Graham Parham, and on Sunday, 13 September we again joined with the FoHT for a rainy circuit walk in the Deep Creek Conservation Park with Ray Blight and Robyn Morris.

We much appreciated the welcome and help we received from the Friends of the Heysen Trail, both during the preparations and on the two walks we attended, especially with Julian Monfries joining us on the Mount Pleasant walk. Any Friends visiting the Geelong area would be welcome to join any of our activities (these include not only walking, but also canoeing, bicycling and, in the winter, cross country skiing!).

We had chosen just the right time of year to visit Adelaide, particularly with the cool weather and with wildflowers coming out, especially all the orchids, and an amazing small bush called an *Acrotriche fasciculiflora*, known as the Mount Lofty cranberry, and endemic to SA! We enjoyed all the walks and scenery and took home many happy memories. ■

War of the Keas on Cascade Saddle



Kea flying the flag at Arthur's Pass



Any visitor to New Zealand's South Island is going to run into the kea sooner or later. Stop at Arthurs Pass for morning tea or drive up to the Tasman glacier and you'll soon have these birds, the world's only true alpine parrot, coming up to say hello.

STORY & PHOTOS BY ALAN DAVIS

When I first went to New Zealand in the mid 1970's, keas were constant companions in the mountains and anyone who spent time tramping in the back country bought back tales of their meetings with these most intelligent and inquisitive of birds. I can well remember spending the night in a little high country hut to be awoken early morning by a kea alternatively running up then sliding down the roof. Getting sick of this after a while, I grabbed a broom and gave the corrugated iron a couple of whacks from below. A short silence followed before a clatter of claws down the roof. Next thing a large green parrot was

hanging upside down from the gutter peering through the window to see who was annoying its morning play time. But in recent times these birds have often seemed strangely absent from the mountains. The decline of bird numbers in New Zealand is well documented, the eggs and chicks too often falling prey to feral stoats and weasels. Have keas also become the victims of these silent, ruthless killers?

In the summer of 2006/07 I went to New Zealand with Brent Telford (we'd met on Hugh and Kate Greenhill's FOHT October long weekend trip to K.I.) Our first week was spent in the Mt.

Aspiring N.P. tramping the Rockburn and Beansburn Valleys and it was in this remote region, if anywhere, one would expect to find these mountain birds. (The story of this walk is in the spring 2008 Trailwalker entitled "The Five Passes"). But only once, late one freezing afternoon hiking along the Olivine Ledge did we hear the far off plaintive cry of what could only be a kea. After a couple of days R&R in Queenstown we headed back into the park to hike the Rees and Dart Track. This is a beautiful walk, following the Rees River upstream, climbing over the Rees Saddle before descending to the Dart. After all the amazing scenery

of the high country, we expected the final two days of the walk trekking down the Dart River would be something of an anti climax but the track to the very end remained fabulous. With a well marked trail and huts for those who must have them, this should be a "must do" for those daunted by the prospect of having to share the Routeburn and Milford with dozens of others.

Setting off from the Muddy Creek car park, the perfect weather was something of a deception. It had been the wettest December ever recorded in New Zealand and the river flats of the lower Rees resembled a vast swamp. But having continually wet feet is just part of the fun of tramping in New Zealand. Eventually the climb up through the forest began until about mid afternoon, we reached Shelter Rock Hut. Despite the temptation to spend the night here, with the weather still being nothing less than superb, we decided to leave the hut people behind and continue further up towards the head of the valley, eventually setting up camp within sight of the Rees Saddle. As we pitched the tent and settled in to cook dinner, above us soared a number of keas,

their scarlet underwing clearly visible from below and it was great knowing that at least here in this part of Mt. Aspiring, these birds still appeared abundant.

Rising at first light, we were joined by a Hodis, a young Maori lad who'd followed us up from Shelter Rock the previous afternoon. The climb onto the Rees Saddle was straight forward and in less than an hour we were on the summit. And it definitely was a case of the early bird catching the worm. This is a magnificent vantage point with mountains and valleys on view everywhere. The great thing about climbing over passes and saddles in New Zealand is that they aren't just your gateway from one valley to another but offer, in good weather, the scenic highlights of your tramp. Dropping off the pass, by mid morning we were crossing the long suspension bridge over Snowy Creek that leads to Dart Hut.

In such brilliant weather, our next decision was a unanimous, to hike up to Cascade Saddle and camp the night. Taken on its own terms, this would be one of the great day walks in New Zealand. A track of sorts marked by the occasional rock cairn follows

above the Dart River before the long slow climb begins up to the saddle. The views all the way are amazing but from the saddle itself, simply stunning, a 360 degree panorama of snowy peaks and valleys dominated by Mt Aspiring in the far distance. The rock strewn icefall and neve of the Dart Glacier are clearly visible and the fall away from the pass into the Matukituki Valley is an 1100 metre sheer drop (the climb and descent to and from the saddle into the Matukituki has claimed many lives.)

With the cool of late afternoon setting in, we dropped back onto the pass, set up our alpine campsite and with dinner finished, it was time for bed. Now Brent, who could sleep on a bed of nails, was soon out to it and Hodis disappeared into the confines of his bivvy bag. But I was kept awake by the cries of keas progressively getting closer and closer until just before 10pm there was a whoosh, a loud screech then a thud. Brent sat up in a start and Hodis' head appeared turtle like from his sack. "Where is it?" A few metres above our camp a large kea had landed and from this vantage point he was to direct operations against us for the next hour. For he wasn't alone. A couple of buddies were hiding



Campsite on the Dart

behind clumps of tussocks close by and we could spot their eyes with our head torches as their heads popped up and down.

After a short while, one bird having crept in closer began the attack, probing at Hodis' rucksack. A waving of hands sent it into retreat. This parry and thrust then continued on and off for about another half hour, often the two keas working in tandem, one distracting Hodis by pecking at his feet in the bivvy bag whilst the other tried to raid his pack. Getting sick of this after a while, our little Kiwi mate got out of his bag, grabbed a rock and pelted it into the big kea sitting above our camp. But he might as well have hit an elephant with a handful of straw. This was one tough cookie, err kea. Of course from the confines of our tent, this all seemed great entertainment but suddenly a clatter of metal came from under my vestibule. "What the? Jumping outside, I could see a kea beating up through the snow with one of my expensive titanium pots in its beak. A well aimed stone whizzed over its

head, the parrot just ducking in time but it had the effect of making him drop my pot. Suddenly things didn't seem so funny now.

Everything that couldn't be bolted, screwed or tied down was brought inside the tent though this really was a false security with keas having such an infamous reputation for ripping through nylon to pillage trampers gear. Now attention turned back to Hodis. The final assault then commenced, a three pronged attack involving all the birds. For the next couple of minutes it was a confused scene of pecking, squawking and cursing with a continual flailing of arms and flapping of wings until it just became a case of "enough is enough". Hodis, getting out of his bag, grabbed my trekking pole which has a large wooden knob on the end and gave the head kea one almighty crack, a blow that would have stopped a charging rhino in its tracks. The effect on the birds was to cause a begrudging, strategic retreat. Something of a truce followed and eventually we were all able to drift off into an uneasy sleep.

By early morning it was obvious the weather had changed as gusting, gale force winds racing up the valley began lashing the tent. In our highly exposed location this was no place to sit out a storm so at first light we jumped out of our sleeping bags and quickly packed up camp. With rain beginning to fall, we dropped off the saddle down into a small basin. It's then a short climb up to a mini pass before the long descent down to the Dart begins. Here two of our protagonists from the previous evening stood either side of this little rocky gateway like two sentinels. As we passed their gaze, I pondered their thoughts (though I certainly couldn't write here what ours were of them.)

About three hours later we were back in the safe and warming confines of Dart Hut. Telling the tale of our war with the keas to the hut warden, she told us such behaviour is quite common amongst the younger birds. So we'd been roughed up by a bunch of juvenile delinquents. Be aware then, keas are still alive and well in the alpine regions of Mt. Aspiring! ■

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What Makes a Good Will?



There are many common misconceptions in the marketplace about what it takes to make a Good Will. "It's easy", "Anyone can do it" and "You just need to fill in a generic form and you are covered" are comments that are frequently made. However if your aim is to adequately provide for those that you want to provide for, nothing could be further from the truth.

It is very important that there is significant preparation and comprehensive coverage of all issues in your Will. Trying to save money and time often results in a spectacular mess, especially, as is common, in the case of the *blended family* and/or *family business* either carried out in a partnership or under the umbrella of a company.

In the process of preparing a good Will there is a need to reflect on three main areas:

Financial Structures: It is important to review financial structures that have been established. Structures that may seem perfectly fine while all relevant parties are alive, have the potential to become a nightmare for those that are left behind when one party dies. Consequently, it is important that there be an overview of the whole financial structure when preparing. Unfortunately, this process is frequently an emo-

tionally draining one, and sometimes totally mysterious and confusing. So having an objective and independent third party in attendance during this process is advisable.

Tax Implications: Another important factor that needs to be considered is the possible tax implications of your Will. New tax laws and legislation are constantly being passed which may impact significantly on the beneficiaries of your Will. To keep up with the changes takes constant vigilance and study which most people these days don't have time for.



Superannuation: The fact that most people in the community now have superannuation benefits is just another way that the drafting of a Will has become a far bigger exercise than it ever has been before.

The aim of a good Will is to pass your assets on to those whom you wish to benefit, and to do it in the most effective way, without losing assets to unintended beneficiaries or to the tax office simply by not considering the effect of what you are doing.

For a free Will and Estate Planning booklet or to arrange a no-obligation consultation with our Senior Associate Katrina Freeman, please contact us on 8410 8133.



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