

THE TRAILWALKER

ISSUE 101 PRINT POST APPROVED PP565001 / 00079 SPRING 2006



**NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE HEYSEN
TRAIL AND OTHER WALKING TRAILS INC**

**FRIENDS OF THE HEYSEN TRAIL
AND OTHER WALKING TRAILS INC**

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COUNCIL MEMBERS 2006

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Julian Monfries | President |
| Simon Cameron | Vice President |
| David Beaton | Secretary |
| John Wilson | Treasurer |
| Robert Alcock | |
| Ray Blight | |
| Kevin Boyce | |
| Gavin Campbell | |
| Norrie Hamilton | |
| Dean Killmier | |
| Bob Randall | |
| Claire Randall | |
| Cliff Walsh | |

COUNCIL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| President's | Julian Monfries |
| Strategy | Cliff Walsh |
| Finance & Audit | Cliff Walsh |
| Maintenance | John Wilson |
| Walking | Simon Cameron |
| Office | David Beaton |
| Marketing & Membership | Robert Alcock |
| Honorary Membership | Bob Randall |

FRONT COVER

The End to End 3 walking group.
Kangaroo Island in the background
Photo: Robert Alcock.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Wed 20 Sep, 2006
Wed 18 Oct, 2006
Wed 15 Nov, 2006

OFFICE HOURS & VOLUNTEERS

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Monday | 10.30 - 2.30 |
| Tuesday | 10.30 - 2.30 |
| Wednesday | 10.30 - 2.30 |
| Thursday | 10.30 - 2.30 |
| Friday | 10.30 - 4.30 |
| Saturday - Sunday | Closed |

HONORARY MEMBERS

Terry Lavender*
Jim Crinion
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

* (deceased)

TRAILWALKER EDITOR

John Wilson, Terri Hawke, Heather Nimmo

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

David Beaton

OFFICE COORDINATOR

Jack Marcelis

MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR

Dean Killmier, Arthur Smith

BOOKKEEPER

Kath Palyga

Keneatha Pick, Mike Parsons, Chris Caspar
David Beaton Dawn Bon, Julie Loftus, David Rattray
Jack Marcelis, Chris Porter,
Arthur Smith, Frances Gasson, Jan Mortimer
Sandy Melbourne, Colin Edwards, Jamie Shephard

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Editorial

Hi all and welcome to this Spring edition of The Trailwalker. The weather has been wonderful of late and we hope that you are taking advantage of it to enjoy not only walking but also just being alive.

We really hope that you able to sit down, put your feet up, have your favourite brew handy and enjoy your reading, get out your diaries and mark some dates down to spend time with Friends.

This Spring we bring to you stories of walks in Europe, how being a Friend can lead to being a Friend and open up a whole new world, and a snippet of a blog written by and E2E member to inspire us all. This is on top of all our usual reports and the great walking calendar that our walking committee have put together for us.

In recognition of the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Friends of the Heysen trail, we have included two articles combining some background history with that seen through the eyes of Fred Brooks and Frank Hall, two members of the Interim Council, which managed our affairs while the Friends was being formed.

There is also a Trail Report form inserted in this magazine, so please keep a copy of it somewhere, because you never know when you might need it!

Spring is a great time to go walking, so we look forward to seeing you out on the trail in the beautiful sunshine and having a great chat/walk/time!

We've found that articles of 400-500 words and 1200-1500 words work best. And we do want photos (especially headshots of the writer) and maps with captions. We will do our best to print all articles submitted. Readers should be aware that views expressed in contributed articles are those of the authors, and not necessarily those of the Council or editors.

Although a closing date is listed, don't wait until it is too late, we will accept articles at any time.

CLOSING DATE

Closing date for our next issue is **3 Nov, 2006**.

Publication date will be late **Nov, 2006**.

Editorial Team

The Trailwalker, Spring 2006

Membership Renewals

Have you renewed your membership? Please check the address label on your Trailwalker envelope for your membership expiry date.

We are providing reminders to members whose membership is about to expire or has recently expired by inserting notices and renewal forms in The Trailwalker.

Please take care when filling in your Renewal Forms, to ensure that our staff have up to date information on your contact numbers and email addresses where relevant.

NOTE that both sides of the forms should be completed.

Would Family Members please include names of both adults and children under 18 years of age on their Renewal Forms, as we are updating our records and need this information to calculate our public liability insurance premium. (Note that members are responsible for their own personal accident insurance.)

Please also notify the Office of any change of address, telephone number or email address.

Membership Cost Information (\$10 surcharge for new members)

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Single | \$20.00 per year |
| Family | \$30.00 per year |
| Organisations | \$50.00 per year |

Membership is valid from the date of payment until the end of the corresponding month in the following year

ADVERTISING RATES

Per issue:

1/4 page \$40

1/2 page \$80

Full Page \$120

A flyer - supplied for insertion - \$120

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

President's Report Spring 2006

Following the flurry of the AGM, Walking Season Opening and the release of our walking book, Push the Bush, we have now moved into the day to day, week to week business of the Friends.

The End 2 End 3 has really taken off with the inaugural 4 walks averaging about 90 participants, way beyond our wildest expectations.

Dean Killmier, our Maintenance Coordinator, resigned in July and council regretfully accepted his resignation. Dean contributed in many roles to Friends over the past 10 years and as the Coordinator for the last five. The Friends recognised Dean's skills and dedication by conferring him with Honorary Membership earlier this year and we wish him well. He will be sorely missed.

Gavin Campbell has stepped up to the mark and will take on the role as new Maintenance Coordinator. Thank you Gavin.

A chance meeting with a landowner, Brian Daniel, whose property lies south of Mt Brown, has led to a water tank for walkers being installed on his property. Funds donated by the End2End 1 group were used to re-roof the shed and supply a suitable tank for walkers needs. Brian has also installed a lean-to shelter for walkers to use.

We have tried over the last twelve months to develop a social programme to attract our non walking members. Some great events have been organised with the high-light (for me) being the 'Blessed Cheese' wine and cheese trail. For those that missed it, bad luck!!! I would really like to encourage members to keep an eye out for these activities and take part. We have a great time, and it would be nice to see some new faces.

The Friends continue to work closely with the department and we are delighted that Chris Halstead has been appointed in position of Trails Officer. He is responsible for Heysen Trail and Reserve Trails and will be an active member at Council. With his appointment, we hope that maintenance on the Trail will step up a notch.

Our call for more volunteers has born fruit, with a number of members joining some of the

committees and also contributing to the running of the shop. Of course we need more, particularly to participate in the management committees. Do you have skills in finance or marketing? Please share them with us, join a committee.

Many of our newer members may not be aware that the Friends had a very active Greening Committee. Their achievements can be appreciated along the road reserve leading into Kapunda. As many walkers are aware we have many back road sections that would benefit by greening, particularly along the Burra reroute north of Burra Gorge. We would like to restart Greening Committee however need someone (or two) with green thumbs to take it on. We can supply the trees, however we needs someone to coordinate it all. Please step forward. (See the article by Arthur Smith on page 13 of this edition)



Mount Brown from the south

We have been working on a Friends database to better utilise our members' information and have struggled with this project now for over a year, with stops, starts and stutters. The committee did not realise quite how difficult it would be to develop a collection of data to better serve our members. We started with rather grandiose plans of links to our website, on line booking for walks and membership payment, however have had to trim our ideas due to lack of the required skills to bring it to fruition. Any member with database development skills would be most welcome to review our current progress and offer suggestions- PLEASE!!!

In my previous report for The Trailwalker I was remiss in failing to acknowledge the contribution of Walking SA to the Opening of the walking season. In the general flurry of thanks, they missed a Guernsey and I apologise for their omission. Without Walking SA there would not be an opening of the walking season and the Friends would not have had the opportunity to take on the

2006 event. Walking SA was an integral part of the organising committee and I take this opportunity to thank them and their effort in making the event a success.

Julian Monfries
President

Maintenance Committee Report For Spring 2006

Personnel. For family reasons, Dean Killmier has decided to relocate to Western Australia, and has resigned as Maintenance Coordinator and from the Committee. Dean has been the driving force of our maintenance activity over the past decade, and his enthusiasm and organizing ability will be sorely missed. I'm sure all his colleagues will join with me in wishing Dean all the best in his new life, and in expressing our sincere thanks for his contribution.

However, the maintenance need is as great as ever, and we are pleased to report that Gavin Campbell, our Leader on the Section between Dutchmans Stern and Wilpena and Council Member, has agreed to take over as Maintenance Coordinator.

We also welcome Council Member Norrie Hamilton, and ex-Presidents Colin Edwards and Jamie Shephard to the Maintenance Committee.

Long serving Section Leader Joe O'Neill (Section 5 between Hindmarsh Tiers and Blackfellows Creek Roads) has also resigned, and we express our thanks to him for his work over the years. Maintenance on this Section will be carried out by Women in the Bush, an Organisation Member of the Friends and affiliated with YWCA. We welcome as joint Section Leaders Adrienne Fortanier and Eleanor Martin.

Trail Condition Reports. Colin and Jamie, who together with Sandy Melbourne work in the Friends office on Fridays, have undertaken to set up a register for recording and following up reports on the condition of the Trail. We are asking our Walking Groups, as well as all Members, to report on anything that may need attention. Things to look for, with location and grid references, could be

Markers Damaged, faded, loose in ground,
 badly placed or misleading (often need
 checking from both directions)

Stiles Damaged or loose, difficult to
 negotiate, should have two steps and a support
 post. There may be new fences where a stile is
 needed

Undergrowth Growing wild, obscuring markers,
 blackberries, trees down over track

Bridges/boardwalks Condition, or where a new
 one is needed

Buildings General condition, state of bunks,
 water supply, toilets etc

Safety Difficult track conditions, loose
 stones, steep drops

Track condition Erosion, state of
 steps, need for contouring

A report form is inserted in this Trailwalker, and reports by email or phone would also be appreciated. It is suggested that phone reports be made to the Office on Fridays if possible.

ARPA conducted a maintenance working party in June, between Georgetown to Mt Remarkable, and we would like to express our appreciation of their work.

Cobblers Creek. Arthur Smith (8261 6746) and Bob Randall (8255 4393) have set up a system for keeping up our stocks of posts, markers, logos and other materials at the Cobblers Creek shed

Department for Environment and Heritage. We welcome the appointment of Chris Halstead as Trails Program Leader in DEH, and look forward to addressing a number of maintenance issues with him and Bronte Leak. These include progress on the Heysen Trail Management Plan and Maintenance Manual, marking standards, and preparation of a plan and budget for future maintenance work.

John Wilson
Chairman, Maintenance Committee

Heysen Shop News

New items for sale

1) An excellent multi coloured road map of the Fleurieu Peninsula showing the Heysen trail from Cape Jervis all the way to Mt Torrens. Ideal for finding the nearest access road to the Heysen trail and thus very suitable for 'End to Enders'. Full price \$7.95; members price \$7.15 plus \$6.00 for P&H if required.

2) The Yurrebilla Trail which winds its 54 km way from Belair Railway station to Ambers Gully on Gorge Road now comes with a FREE

48 page Product & Services Guide when purchasing a map of the Yurrebilla Trail.

The guide shows all the details about using public transport and loads of info about places to stay and all those swanky cafes and restaurants' for your caffeine pick up.

Full Price of the map \$7.95, members price \$7.15 plus \$6.00 for P&H if required.

Jack Marcelis
Office Coordinator

Burra Branch Maintenance Report

There has been lot of work carried out by the SA Water fire crew. During May and June, they remarked least 50 kilometre of the Heysen Trail. In a few places through the mallee country the trail was slightly moved to have a better line of sight between markers and less clearing of the native scrub. I over saw the work carried out and they did a good job of doing the work. They also spent time in the Red Banks Conservation Park constructing walking paths with in the park.

I have continued on remarking more of the Heysen Trail another 5 or more kilometres, still more to do before the walking season finishes.

Willalo Hall is now close permanently. The windows are boarded up and doors are locked, so could you please note this in your map books. I am looking for another suitable site in the same area. The Hall has white ants through it and now not suitable for anyone to use.

Hugh Greenhill
Section 13.

Burra Branch Report

The recent walks have attracted good numbers once more. Must also report having caught up with End to End Walkers as well as "enjoy the experience" walkers in this area.

The Never Never Ranges brought in great views of the Bundaleer area, a bit of travelling involved but well worth it.

Tothill Ranges treated us with a lovely day in addition to views and climbing that only few of us had experienced before. It's amazing how these spots hide from us for years.

Hopkins Creek is always popular although we have to stay away from known bird nesting habitats, this aside there is still an abundance of diversity for us to enjoy.

Work is always being carried out on the trail under the watchful eye of Hugh.

One of our members is home tutoring on a remote property in the Northern Territory. She keeps in contact and makes us envious with photos enclosed in communications.

We enjoy our walks immensely but agree that the life experiences shared along the way are a bonus.

Trust you are all enjoying Friends of the Heysen Trail as we are.

Arthur Simpson,
Burra Branch President.

THE WALKING FEDERATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, INC.

Annual General Meeting. The quarterly general meeting and the Annual General Meeting of Walking SA will be held at 7.30 p.m. on 17 August, 2006 at the Burnside Council, Community Centre, Corner, Greenhill and Portrush Roads. Representatives of affiliated clubs are urged to attend these meetings when a new Committee for the ensuing year will also be elected.

Australian Activity Standards. AAS for bushwalking have now been launched. Details are set out in the current Winter edition of *Walking SA News* and further information is also available on the website www.recreationsa.org.au under "Sections".

Woodcutters Road. This location is developing into another ongoing saga with Onkaparinga Council making a decision to close and retain a section of this undeveloped road reserve "for conservation purposes", but failing to proceed according to provisions for closure under the Roads (Opening and Closing) Act. Council has re-commenced the process and will advertise its intention in the "Government Gazette" and the newspapers in due course. An alternative course of action is available to overcome Council's dilemma, but councillors have chosen not to pursue it. Walking SA will submit objection to the proposal to close the road and it is expected that other objections will also be made. Individual objections would also support retention in Government ownership of a valuable walking location.

Belair National Park. Walking SA has accepted a contract with DEH to submit a report on the various signs, way-marking and notices throughout the Park, including condition, durability and information. John Eaton has developed a customized data base for the requirements of this contract, together with photographs and location for compilation of a comprehensive report and overview of the current situation for both the Ranger and DEH.

Pioneer Women's Heritage Trail. Walking SA has been contracted by the Office for Recreation and Sport to mark this Trail between Silver Road, Bridgewater, near the South Eastern Freeway Overpass, and Beaumont House. Work is

continuing with co-operation from Adelaide Hills Council and Burnside Council. Current emphasis is on a road reserve between the area near the Mount Osmond Golf Course and Beaumont House on Government land containing thickly wooded hawthorn trees on a steeply sloping hillside. A valuable contribution is being made by Rob Marshall and members of the Walking Trails Support Group to provide a sustainable walking trail marked with distinctive logos.

Scenic Road, Mount Bold. Negotiations are continuing between Onkaparinga Council and SA Water with a view to walking access becoming available on Scenic Road near Clarendon and Kangarilla. Scenic Road provides an important link with Scott Creek Conservation Park and other vital walking locations.

Undeveloped Road Reserves –Springton – Saunders Gorge, Marne Gorge. The Mid Murray Council is examining two undeveloped road reserves in these two scenic areas in the eastern Mount Lofty Ranges. The Lavender Federation Trail is in relatively close proximity to both locations and their retention in public ownership would be a distinct advantage to the walking community.

Draft Recreational Trails Strategy, 2006-2010, District Council of Mount Barker. This document has recently been released for consultation by Mount Barker Council. It appears to be based largely on the Recreational Trails Strategy for South Australia, 2003 – 2010 that has not yet been confirmed by the South Australian Government. It is considered that a separate focus would have been more appropriate for an individual council authority. A generalised list of existing trails throughout the area, together with locality maps of the numerous trails within the local government district is comprehensive and informative. However, a section dealing with undeveloped road reserves implicitly refers to the manner in which funds from the sale of undeveloped road reserves would be allocated. The clear message from Walking SA of the importance of retaining these valuable walking access routes for the potential use of both present and future generations of walkers, and for vegetation and wild life corridors, has obviously not been considered. All walkers are advised to

respond to the Draft Recreational Trails Strategy and urge Mount Barker Council to retain in public ownership the abundance of undeveloped road reserves throughout the district to ensure both the availability of safe walking routes for both present and future generations and for the re-generation of native vegetation. In cases of need the potential for adjoining landowners to lease the road for grazing would remain without denying legal public access to the wider community. All submissions to Council will greatly assist the efforts of Walking SA to protect undeveloped road reserves within this location and to support amendments to relevant legislation for their protection in perpetuity. The postal address is District Council of Mount Barker, P.O. Box 54, Mount Barker, 5251 and the web site is www.dcmtbarker.sa.gov.au.

Pedestrian Crossing Onkaparinga River, Verdun. The degree of urgency of this project continues to increase with the constant danger to walkers using the spur Trail of the Heysen Trail between Bridgewater and Hahndorf where it is necessary to follow the Onkaparinga Road either through the village or on the outskirts of Verdun to cross the road bridge that is not designed to

cater for pedestrians. Apart from this ever-present threat to the safety of walkers the Heysen Trail Spur Route provides a delightful connection between Bridgewater and Hahndorf, an area steeped in a fascinating history of the early days of the State.

ARPA Volunteers in the Mid North. In June, six volunteers from ARPA Bushwalkers spent a week in the mid-north where they stayed at Laura to check the Heysen Trail between Melrose and Georgetown, a particularly interesting and varied section of the Trail. Strong wind and storms late last year had taken toll of vulnerable areas in Wirrabara Forest littering the Trail with debris from fallen trees and plants. Two stiles were restored near Melrose and another installed where the Trail has been re-located from the Main North Road by using more scenic and safer undeveloped road reserves. An interesting observation was the door of the toilet at Hiskeys Hut near Georgetown that had again blown off its hinges but was providing refuge from the chill winter winds for two sleepy lizards during hibernation.

**Thelma Anderson,
Walking Access Committee**

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 2007 AGM, nominations should be received by the **end of January, 2007**.

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

HEYSEN TRAIL VOLUNTEER MAINTENANCE SECTION LEADERS

| HEYSEN TRAIL SECTION | HEYSEN MAP Strip | Book South | SECTION LEADERS NAME AND CONTACT NUMBERS | |
|---|---------------------|---------------|---|---|
| 1. Cape Jervis to Tapanappa | 8 | 1.1 – 1.3 | David Beaton | (H) 8381 7601 |
| 2A. Tapanappa to Waitpinga Campground | 8 | 1.3 – 1.5 | Ralph Ollerenshaw | (H) 8379 0998 |
| 2B. Waitpinga Campground to Back Valley Road | 8 | 1.5 – 2.2 | Geoffrey & Pamela Gardner | 0417 818 053 |
| 3. Back Valley Road to Moon Hill | 3 | 2.2 – 2.3 | David Evans | (H) 8558 2854 |
| 4. Moon Hill to Hindmarsh Tiers Road | 3 | 2.3 – 2.5 | Hermann Schmidt (Wandergruppe Bushwalkers, German Assoc) | (H) 8344 4072 |
| 5. Hindmarsh Tiers Road to Blackfellows Creek Road | 3 | 2.5 – 2.7 | Adrienne Fortanier Eleanor Martin (Women in the Bush) | (H) 8556 5051 (H) 8341-6024 |
| 6. Blackfellows Creek Road to Glen Bold | 1 | 2.7 – 3.2 | Richard Webb | (H) 8381 5308 |
| 7. Glen Bold to Piccadilly | 1 | 3.2 – 3.4 | Thelma Anderson Trevor Lee | (H) 8278 4420 (H) 8398 0516 |
| 8. Piccadilly to Norton Summit | 2 | 3.4 – 3.4 | Liz O'Shea (WEA Ramblers) | (H) 8352 1636 |
| 9. Norton Summit to Cudlee Creek | 2 | 3.5 – 3.7 | Graham O'Reilly | (H) 8397 1217 |
| 10. Cudlee Creek to Bethany | 2, 9 | 3.7 – 4.4 | Doug Leane | (H) 8443 3388 |
| 11. Bethany to Peters Hill | 9 | 4.4 – 5.3 | Joyce Heinjus | (H) 8525 2054 |
| 12. Peters Hill to Logans Gap | 10 | 5.3 – 5.9 | Norrie Hamilton | (H) 8332 1982 |
| 13. Logans Gap to Spalding | 11, 12 | 5.9 – 6.12 | Hugh Greenhill (Burra Branch) | (H) 8843 8115 |
| | | North | | |
| 14. Spalding to Georgetown | 13 | 1.1 – 1.6 | Kevin Liddiard | (H) 8289 4236 |
| 15. Georgetown to Mt Remarkable | 13, 6 | 1.6 – 2.11 | Mary Cameron Ian Pool Roger Collier (ARPA) | (H) 8165 1025 (H) 8258 3425 (H) 8264 1660 |
| 16. Mt Remarkable to Horrocks Pass Rd | 7 | 2.11 – 3.4 | Vacant | |
| 17A. Horrocks Pass Rd to Dutchmans Stern | | 3.4 – 4.1 | Ian Hartley | (H) 8641 1435 |
| 17B. Dutchmans Stern to Wilpena | 5, 14, 15 | 4.2 – 5.7 | Gavin & Marie Campbell | (H) 8296 8613 |
| 18. Wilpena to Parachilna | 4 | 5.8 – 6.8 | John Henery (Alpana Station) | (H) 8648 4864 |
| MAINTENANCE CO-ORDINATOR (Voluntary) | | | Gavin Campbell | (H) 8296 8613 |
| Maintenance Committee Chairman | | | Arthur Smith | (H) 8261 6746 |
| | | | John Wilson | (H) 8356 9264 |

If you discover a problem on the Heysen Trail, please contact the Friends Office, Maintenance Co-ordinator or relevant Maintenance Section Leader.

Friends Office numbers: Ph: 8212 6299 Fax: 8212 1930 Email:maintenance@heysentrail.asn.au

A Look Back in time

In the following two articles we have combined some background history with that seen through the eyes of Fred Brooks and Frank Hall, two members of the Interim Council of the Friends of the Heysen Trail.

Fred Brooks



Today I met a man who has jumped over boxes of gold ingots, helped to smuggle the British and Dutch Crown Jewels out of England and Holland, and who was instrumental in forming the Friends of the Heysen Trail.

Fred Brooks is a Scottish Australian who lives in a warm and cosy place in Paradise - an outer Adelaide suburb. Amongst his collection of memorabilia is a small red and yellow plaque that makes Fred's ancestry crystal clear with its message, 'I'm British by birth and Scottish by the grace of God'. There are photos of family and Heysen mates, a black and white photograph of the British battleship *HMS Revenge* above the door, and on the table there are glasses of stout, beer and lemonade while Fred, John Wilson (Trailwalker editor) and I while away the late afternoon, reminiscing about times gone by.

Fred's association with the Heysen Trail began in 1983. When Terry Lavender, the father of the Heysen Trail, advertised for walking clubs to help with its construction Fred with other members of the Common Venturers, a walking group made up of colleagues from the then Weapons Research Establishment (WRE) at Salisbury, joined an enthusiastic bunch of people to throw their ideas in to the melting pot that became the nexus for the Friends.

On 1 July 1986 The Honourable Kym Mayes, Minister for the Department of Recreation and Sport, sponsored a public meeting to discuss the possibility of forming an association that would take an active interest in the preservation and maintenance of South Australian walking and network trails, including rights of way, developing new trails etc. The meeting was attended by 150 people from various walking clubs and groups such as scouts, schools, orienteers, conservationists, heritage and other groups and it was unanimously agreed that such an association be formed. Seventeen of those present, including Fred,

volunteered to form the Steering Committee under the chairmanship of Jim Crinion. Subsequent to this in 1987 Fred became a member of the Interim Council, remaining a member for many years and, in the words of John Wilson, 'applying his own particular blend of common sense and Scottish humour to the task'.

The Heysen Trail concept had been proposed by Warren Bonython in 1969 as a long distance walking trail from Cape Jervis to the Northern Flinders Ranges. The government of the time saw merit in the proposal and after investigation a Long Distance Trails Committee was formed. The name Heysen Trail was chosen in recognition of the highly acclaimed artist, Sir Hans Heysen. Although Sir Hans was not really a walker, he portrayed his fascination with both the Mount Lofty and Flinders Ranges through his paintings.

During 1976 nine kilometers of trail was constructed mainly through the Cleland Conservation Park and the trail was officially opened by the Governor Sir Mark Oliphant. In June 1976 the Department of Recreation and Sport assumed responsibility for the development of the Heysen Trail and the state-wide system of walking trails. More specifically, Terry Lavender was responsible for the development of the Heysen Trail, supported by a team of staff including Martin Foster and Andrew Moylan. At this point around 780 kilometers of the 1200 kilometers of the completed trail had been marked, including the sections Cape Jervis to Greenock, Crystal Brook to Wilmington, and Hawker and Parachilna.

The formation of the Friends as an incorporated body in 1986, with its official committee structure, meant that work on the trail could be managed by a dedicated group of volunteer team leaders with the benefits of government recognition and assistance including materials and insurance.

As with all successful teams, there was the usual progression of forming, storming, norming and performing. First there was the 'forming' - the initial coming together of the different walking groups, and then the 'storming' as their experienced leaders threw their ideas into the pot with a passion that soon had the brew bubbling away. And then out of this came

the 'norming' - the stage when the policies, procedures and guidelines for the building and maintenance of the trail and other Friends endeavours settled and sorted themselves into the basis for the association's constitution. After around a year the structures were set in place and the group moved on to the 'performing' stage. The success of those early discussions and debates has been proven in that the Heysen Trail has gone from strength to strength, to ultimately becoming recognised as a South Australian icon in April 2005

The inaugural committee's first priorities were to establish a name for the association, along with the aims and objectives necessary to enable them to create a constitution and thus to become an incorporated body. The name 'Friends of the Heysen Trail and other South Australian Walking Trails Incorporated' was selected, with the aims and objectives including the rights of walkers, and public awareness and usage of the Heysen and other walking trails. Four sub-committees were formed: Organisation and Management, Promotions and Publicity, Building and Maintenance, and Conservation. Fred's particular focus was with the Building and Maintenance Committee because he believed that designing, building, marking and maintaining walking trails was the main reason that the Friends association was formed.

The maintenance alone on such trails is almost a full time job, with bush fires, erosion, and wear and tear on stiles, bridges etc requiring constant upkeep. Fred took on the responsibility for setting up groups of volunteers and organising them into working parties. Under the direction of Terry Lavender he then organised for the teams to attend workshops conducted by the Department and lead by Terry, Martin Foster and Andrew Moylan. The volunteers were instructed in a range of building and maintenance skills including trail marking, bridge and stile building, and erosion barriers. The first workshop was held in Mylor in 1986 with two more in 1987, with around 34 Friends, including 11 women, attending. Over time different ways of doing things evolved through the ingenuity of Fred and others, as they worked out innovative ways of making the job easier. For example, Fred produced a water pipe with a T bar that greatly simplified the problem of bending reinforced rods of steel into U-shapes to secure erosion barriers.

Another of Fred's early leadership achievements was to ensure that instead of volunteers working in an adhoc manner over the entire length of the trail, that they worked in a more organised way, with specified teams taking responsibility for particular sections.

And it was thus that Fred and the Common Venturers team took on the Cudlee Creek to Bethany section. This was only half marked when they started, up to around the Wirras, and they worked to bridge the gap from Mount Crawford as far north as Tanunda.

With their newly-acquired skills and under Fred's guiding hand, the group blazed a new trail from the Microwave Tower in the Mount Crawford area to Bethany, followed by marking the trail with star-droppers, and then followed by the same group at a later date with the building of 19 stiles along the section. This formed part of the eventual link-up of the Heysen Trail to Crystal Brook. A party of Year 12 Gawler School students lead by one of their teachers (Section Leader Joyce Heinjus) completed the section from Bethany to beyond Greenock.

Another major project in which Fred was involved was building a Dutch Sand Ladder on a section that led down to the beach at Waitpinga. There were 28 people involved and Fred wrote in his report at the time that everyone enjoyed their participation and that the teamwork was a sight to behold. Another project was building an Irish Bog Ladder in the Jupiter Creek area.

Other highlights of Fred's work include opening up the Mount Lofty Trail through the Hale and Warren Conservation Parks including construction of the Giant's Staircase of some 130 steps just north of the South Para River. Fred recalls having to get authority from E&WS Department (now SA Water) because it went partly across their land. A bridge was built across the river at this point by a professional bridge builder and it all worked a treat for around two years - until the day when excessive rain created such a massive surge of water that the bridge including its concrete foundations was lifted out and drifted about 50 meters downstream.



**Barb Jeffrey and the remains of the bridge
Photo: Graham Jeffrey, 2 Sept, 1992**

Fred was instrumental in many other Heysen Trail projects, one of the most notable of which was the bridge in the Warren CP, for which he did the majority of the organising of plans and the people who provided their labour. Once the plans were agreed on they were given to a draftsman to draw up. The bridge was assembled at Kidman Park and transported to the site where it remains one of the few bridges that hasn't been washed away. Unfortunately ill-health prevented Fred from returning to see the completed structure and he was forced to retire from his work on the trail.

If the Heysen Trail is now a South Australian icon, then it seems to me that Fred Brooks is one of the mini icons among the Heysen Trail family who have made this a collective achievement. Fred has played a key role in the formation of the Friends and been an integral part of developing the ground rules for building and maintenance of the trail. He is also one of the people who have established the Heysen tradition of mate-ship - of developing close bonds with people with common interests and shared goals. Fred's invaluable contribution to the Friends - and thereby to South Australia and to walkers from near and far - was officially recognised with his Commonwealth Bank Volunteer of the Year 1990 award.

And so it is that the boy from Musselburg - five miles east of Edinburgh in the land of lochs and heather - has found his way into the Heysen Trail record books. Oh - and just how *did* he come to jump over those boxes of gold ingots? - and get mixed up with the British and Dutch Crown Jewels? Along the way Fred went to war alongside of another team of mates - around 1200 of them - on the battleship *HMS Revenge*. With a German invasion of England imminent in 1939-40, the ship was commissioned to transport all the British 'margarine' (as the ingots were called by those aboard) and jewels to Halifax in Canada for safe keeping.

As the afternoon drew to a close it was obvious that we had just touched the surface of the swag of stories that Fred has tucked away in his memory, of the people and places and projects of around 30 years of Heysen Trail history, and of many stories from a childhood in Scotland and adventures at sea - but it was time for dinner. Fred wrapped himself up in his warm and woolly scarf and walked us to the car, talking cricket with John along the way - as good mates do.

Jo Chesher

Early Days with the Friends.



I became involved with the interim council at the meeting convened at the Dom Polski Centre by Terry Lavender. At the time I was Walks Secretary of the Adelaide

Bushwalkers and felt that our club should be represented. I was a member of the Interim Council during 1986 – 87.

Over the preceding two years, Terry had asked ABW to help out with various projects along the Trail, including the rebuilding of a section (no longer in use) from Horsnell Gully to Norton Summit burnt during the Ash Wednesday fires.

In 1985 the club embarked on the long and difficult project of marking the Trail from Boat Harbour Beach to Tent Rock Creek. This took

us many weekends (we were all working at the time), but I am pleased to note that this section is still following our original route.

The initial meetings of the Council were not always very exciting. The writing of the Constitution is a long and tedious task, especially as certain members (no names) were rather verbose. After a couple of years, I was happier when I joined the Trails Maintenance sub-committee led by Colin Malcolm (1988 – 92).

In 1988 volunteers from the Friends, ABW and other clubs spent a busy weekend remarking the Trail from Horrocks Pass to Spring Creek and Mount Remarkable summit after the bushfires the previous summer. I particularly enjoyed these activities except for one nasty job. To carry the star droppers along the Trail someone had designed a metal "scabbard" holding about 8-10 droppers and worn as a "backpack". This was not only heavy but extremely noisy, making conversation impossible.



Balquhider Photo Dorothy Farmer E2E1

Later that year, Terry asked me to organise a reroute of the Trail near Tent Rock Creek in Deep Creek Conservation Park. A group of six of us carried lengths of heavy chain, star droppers and sledgehammers for 1.5 km (nearest vehicle access point) into the creek in very heavy rain and spent 2-3 hours affixing the droppers

into a steep rock face and attaching the chain to make access up the slope easier. Returning to our packs which we had left by the creek we were horrified to see that the water level had risen over a metre. We had to detour upstream to the park boundary fence and carefully cross the creek by hanging on to the fence wire. A very unnerving experience!

To add insult to injury Terry organised a reroute of the Trail some months later to a safer location.

I have walked nearly all of the Trail over the years but the Deep Creek and Newland Head sections remain my favourites perhaps because I expended so much energy on their construction.

Frank Hall

Tree Planting

Following on the construction of the new 'Emerald Hill' bridge near Yulte conservation Park by Hermann Schmidt and his group from Wandergruppe, we received advice that the landowner, Steven Paceitti, was amenable to trees being planted in the open area adjacent to the bridge.

Due to restrictions imposed by S.A. Water, the area is not subject to grazing, making it an ideal site.

Subsequently, seed was collected from about eight species of native trees and understory growing in the area, and seedlings were raised over the summer months, using surplus materials from Trees for Life.

With the advent of autumn rains, Tree Guards were purchased using funds from the FOHT maintenance budget, and a working party organized to plant the seedlings. If rainfall is somewhere near normal, the seedlings should get through summer without watering.



Participants were Jan Mortimer, Shirley and Kevin Liddiard, Carolyn and Dennis Slade, Ron Warren, Les Trezise and Arthur Smith.

Thanks to all who helped, and to landowner Steven Paceitti for his cooperation.

Arthur Smith

EXPOSED - The Heysen Trail

Many of the Friends activities are well known to active members, and to those reading the Trailwalker.

The Friends also, (from our Constitution) have a responsibility to promote the Heysen Trail.

It has been through the efforts of the Council, and a number of the members, that we have been very successful in promoting, ie gaining exposure, for the Trail. Recently:

- Gaining the **State Bank Heritage Icon** in April 2005. The Friends made the application and it was through the actions of members the Icon status was recognized.
- Two separate articles on the Heysen Trail have appeared in recent issues of **OUTDOORS**, the national colour magazine. The articles were accompanied by many colour photos (most by members) to show the variety experienced along the Trail.
- **Opening of the Walking Season 2006.** The decision by Council to co-ordinate the Opening day on 2 April this year provided a wonderful opportunity to also promote the Friends, and the Heysen Trail as a worth while outdoor experience.
 - The active committee, which organised the day, brought together a variety of people who had an interest in walking, incl **WALKING SA, Life Be In It** got behind the event, providing **posters** and sponsoring the “Come and Try” walks, and the department (**DEH**) were represented and had one of the many displays on the day. The result was a turn up of hundreds of experienced and novice walkers enjoying the displays, the “Come and Try” walks and attend the opening of the season. Credit was given to the Friends for their part in the organising, and our display / shop was well patronised.
 - The new Book of Walks – **PUSH THE BUSH** - produced by a group of members, was released on the day. Another great initiative which will provide funds and help promote the Friends.
 - As part of the Opening Day lead-up, the Friends organised a week long **display in Rundle Arcade**. Manned by members it promoted the Opening Day, and also the Heysen Trail.
 - There were a number of **radio interviews** on local radio stations, plus promotion on websites and magazines.
- The **EtoE 1 Completion** in August last year also generated interest in the Heysen Trail. So much so we had 120 walkers start the EtoE 3 group in April!!
 - The sale of **EtoE merchandise** to those completing the Trail helps spread the word, as these walkers keep exploring new paths.
- A **Membership Promotion** was run late 2005, in conjunction with Mountain Designs. A week long **window display in Rundle Street** helped to promote the Heysen Trail.
- The **new brochure** plus the popular **website** have also contributed to the awareness on the Friends, and the Heysen Trail. The website is continually evolving to provide information on the Heysen Trail, and the activities of the Friends.

Robert Alcock
Chairman, Marketing and Membership Committee

The Friends of the Heysen Social Club

The Cheese and Wine Trail day proved to be an interesting and well attended event. All present had a good time with tasty cheeses and wines presented to match the cheese.

The success of this event gives us some heart to continue to find outings that are interesting, different and inexpensive such as our next event on August 19th at the Port Adelaide Maritime Museum

Warrawong Wildlife Sanctuary

Saturday 7th October

This day will start with lunch followed by a Bird of Prey Display and then a walk around the Sanctuary. We meet at the entrance to Warrawong at 12 midday. The Display starts at 2pm and then the walk will complete our day by 3.30 to 4pm.

Cost: Lunch \$10.00, sweets \$4.00, Display \$2.50 and walk \$5.00 ...total \$21.50

Bookings required by Sept 22nd. Please advise if you do not want all above

Pay as we go on the day

Christmas Dinner at the Hackney Hotel

Friday 1st December

Same venue as last year and hopefully as good as last year. A'la carte menu and pay as you go on the night.

There will be a casual walk of about one hour starting at 5.30pm. Meet at the Hackney Bridge opposite the Hotel.

Bookings required for both the walk and the dinner

Colin Edwards

Walking Committee Report

Great walking weather has blessed the End to End walks along the south coast and up in the mid-north. Sunday walks continue unabated

Walk leaders

The End to End 3 group is keeping the committee busy with over 100 walkers a month. We rely heavily on walk leaders and the committee is trying to develop training and support services to make their job easy. Taking on a walk leader role does entail assuming responsibility. Training / induction information is available plus support for more formal training such as first aid.

Walk Policy – Walker Safety

At the start of each walk leaders will offer a briefing of the expected demands and duration as well as general safety rules. It is very important that walkers inform the leader of any physical illness or impairment which may impair their ability to meet the walk demands.

A “walk incident” will be notified to the office and walk committee if, during the course of a walk, a

leader becomes concerned about a walker's capacity to safely complete the walk, requiring an alteration to the walk plan or delay in the finish time.

The committee executive will investigate each incident and formulate walk guidelines for the individual walker.

Twilight Walks

Returning with daylight saving every Wednesday evening. These are expected to be approximately 2 hours followed by coffee or dinner. The program will appear on the website closer to kick off or just ring the office.

Upcoming Weekend Walks

October long weekend Kangaroo Island
31 March / 1 Apr 2007 Coorong Discovery weekend

See you on the trail

Simon Cameron,
Chairman Walking Committee

Father's Day Breakfast and Walk (3rd Sept)

Onkaparinga Gorge / River

Breakfast 9am

Trail walker and Trail starter leaving from Old Noarlunga 10am

Coorong Discovery Weekend

Gemini Downs

Near Salt Creek

2 Nights Shared Accommodation

Friday night 30th March – Sunday 1st April

All Meals provided

Members \$100

Non-members \$130

Walking Program 2006 (September to November)

Bookings are open a month prior to the date of the walk.

To book phone the Friends Office on **8212 6299**

| W/E | GRADE | SEPT | OCT | NOV |
|-----|-------|---|---|--|
| 1 | TS | 3 Father's Day Onkaparinga Breakfast Sandy Melbourne | 1 Oct LWE KI Hugh Greenhill | 5 Port Elliott Gavin Campbell |
| | TW | Father's Day Onkaparinga Breakfast Simon Cameron | | |
| 2 | TS | 10 Hahndorf Cedars Jennifer Dow | 8 Belair David Beaton | 12 |
| | TW | 9-10 End-End 2 Mundunnie – Spalding- Spalding Nth (chlorination stn) Simon Cameron | 7 – 8 End-End 2 Spalding Nth – Curnows hut – Bundaleer Gdn Simon Cameron | 12 Morialta Richard Milosh |
| 3 | TS | 17 Morialta Lyn Wood | 15 Warren Chris Caspar | 19 |
| | TW | Scott Creek Richard Milosh | Charleston Jennifer Dow | Sturt Gorge Circuit Simon Cameron |
| 4 | TS | 24 Classic Cars Walk Bob Randall | 22 Rocky Creek David Beaton | 26 End – End 3 Myponga – Mt Compass Simon Cameron Gavin Campbell |
| | TW | End – End 3 Tugwell Rd – Inman Valley Simon Cameron Gavin Campbell Jim Freak | End – End 3 Inman Valley – Myponga Simon Cameron Gavin Campbell Jim Freak | |
| 5 | TS | | 29 Wildflower Walk Liz Barry | |
| | TW | | Montacute Richard Milosh | |

Walk Description

TrailStarter

The aim of these walks is to introduce people to bushwalking, for those who are not regular walkers and those who have not walked in a group previously or who want a shorter walk. TrailStarter walks are usually close to Adelaide, have a walk time of about 3-4 hours and will generally be not too physically demanding. Anyone undertaking these walks may have only a modest degree of physical fitness.

TrailWalker

These walks are reasonably demanding and for walkers who have walked regularly in various terrain. They have a walking time of about 5-6 hours and will require a high degree of physical fitness.

TrailRambler

These walks are for specialist events like bird watching and historical walks; and would by their nature be relatively short and informative. These walks are available to all levels of walkers.

WHAT TO BRING

TrailStarter

Basic First Aid and Emergency Kit. This should contain your personal medication such as Ventolin, etc, sunscreen, headache tablets, Band-Aids, and torch.

Lunch and snacks (include some for emergency).

Plastic bag for rubbish.

Water in a secure container; minimum one litre, and two litres if the temperature will be over 20° C.

Gear should be carried in a day pack; one with a supporting waist belt is recommended.

TrailWalker

All of the above and –

Whistle

Roller and triangular bandages

WHAT TO WEAR?

TrailStarter

Good walking boots or shoes, with good gripping soles. Thongs, sandals, elastic sided boots and smooth-soled sneakers are not appropriate.

Wet weather gear – ¾ length waterproof rain jacket.

(Showerproof spray jackets and quilted parkas are not waterproof and create a danger of hypothermia).

Warm jumper or jacket of wool or polyester fleece.

(Cotton shirts and windcheaters have minimal insulation when wet and retain water.)

Shorts or loose comfortable wool or synthetic pants.

(Jeans are not suitable as they are cold when wet and dry slowly.)

Warm hat. (shade hat in warmer weather)

Thick socks

TrailWalker

Suitable sturdy walking footwear with good gripping soles, **or as specified by Walk Leader**

Recommended optional extras: thermal top and long johns, waterproof overtrousers.

WALK CLOTHING

Your safety and the safety of the walking group can be jeopardised by not having the correct clothing.

In an emergency situation it can take hours to evacuate the sick or injured walker. Prime considerations are warmth and weather protection.

Note: Leaders may not accept people for a walk who have not come safely equipped.

DON'T LET IT BE YOU!

FREE

FREE

SPECIAL INTEREST WALK!
SUNDAY 10 Sept 2006
The Cedars

The home, studio and grounds of Hans Heysen

Trail Starter - 10 kms - Bring a Friend

Details: Book at friends Office
10 Pitt St, Adelaide
Phone: 8212 6299

FREE

FREE

Just a small taste of Kangaroo Island

September 29 th to October 2nd Long weekend

Friday afternoon to Monday afternoon

Come along for a great weekend on Kangaroo Island

Join the Friends for relaxing, great walking and fun long weekend.

There are few vacancies left on the bus.

Details of the weekend are in the winter issue of The Trailwalker.

A newsletter will be sent out in the next few weeks to those have booked.

BOOK NOW FOR A GREAT LONG WEEKEND !

Contact the FOHT office (82126299)

Don't miss out! Numbers are Limited.

Letters

Dear Friends of the Heysen Trail,

I would like to thank you for all your efforts to ensure that the Heysen Trail is such an enjoyable walking track.

I recently walked two sections of the trail, the part from Parachilna Gorge to Wilpena, and the southern "end" from Victor harbour to Cape Jervis. I found the trail well marked and I had a great time.

The Gulf Getaway Bus Company dropped me off right at the start of the Trail at Parachilna Gorge, apparently they service that area every Sunday (contrary to their timetable on the internet).

Well, thanks again for maintaining such a great long-distance walk.

Regards, **Yvonne Henky**

Blackfellows Creek Reroute

Today (9/5/06) we walked a new piece of the Heysen Trail. So new, it was only marked the previous Saturday!

It lies south of Kyeema Conservation Park. After the ups and downs along the fence through lovely scrub, it does not cross the Blackfellows Creek but crosses a stile and on to an open ridge with views in all directions, before passing through a stand of trees and dropping to the dirt road.

To think for years we have walked that hard, dusty and dangerous road when we could have enjoyed the scenery.

This new stretch is in Richard Webb's Section, and he with the Four Seasons Walkers built two stiles and erected many posts in the one day. Congratulations on a job well done!

Many people find great satisfaction from working on the Trail. Some enjoy it more than walking. If you have never tried it give you name to Arthur Smith or Gavin Campbell for contact when workers are needed.

Jennifer Dow

Footnote: As the last nail was driven home, a group of backpackers walked past, and were most appreciative of the new work.

Subject: Larapinta Trail e-book

From: "John Daly" <info@takeawalk.com.au>

To: "Bushwalking Clubs"

Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2006 7:15 PM

Hi Bushwalkers!

Our next book, Take A Walk in the Northern Territory will be published later this year, but we have received heaps of emails from bushwalkers requesting info about the Larapinta Trail.

Because of this demand, we have released our Larapinta Trail notes as an e-book. If you thought it appropriate, we'd appreciate you inserting a brief paragraph in your club's newsletter to let your members know about this new development promoting one of Australia's 'classic walks'.

We've attached some text for you to work with. If you have any questions,

Please don't hesitate to contact us.

Regards

John & Lyn Daly

Take A Walk Publications

(07) 3843 3930

Larapinta Trail e-book

Planning to do the Larapinta Trail?

Take a Walk Publications have released their Larapinta Trail track notes as an e-book. These notes include sketch maps and gradient profiles for the complete walk and are available for \$11.95 from their website

www.takeawalk.com.au

All e-book purchasers will be offered a substantial discount on Take A Walk in the Northern Territory when it's published later this year. That book will include the Larapinta Trail notes, along with a detailed collection of day walks and overnight hikes in every national park in the Territory. It will also include a hikers guide to cooking and dehydrating trail food, and recipes that have been tried and tested 'in the bush'.

New Members

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

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Annie Bainger | Lesley-Anne Francis | Mervyn John Illman | Johanna Pankin |
| Gary Barter | Anne Franks | Daniel Johnson | Lange Powell |
| Teresa Barter | David Franks | Steve Kirk | Susan Rolton |
| Peter Bartram | Leon Franks | Matthew Kneen | William Rowland |
| Nikki Birrell | Michele Galazows | Graham Lee | Mairi Spedding |
| Christine Bonnily | Carolyn Gill | Jenny Lewis | Helen Stacey |
| Graham Connor | Jane Haar | John Lewis | Raylene Sutton |
| Rachel Cornelius | Neville Haar | Megan Low | Tony Sutton |
| Jennifer Court | Gary Haddrell | Bill McBain | Kaye Tassell |
| Paul David | Jeffrey Haddrell | Anne McEwen | Brent Telford |
| Shannon Emrick | Roger Hanckel | David McGraw | Stephen Tregoweth |
| Ruth Evans | Jenny Hanna | Margherita Marzola | Ian Trewartha |
| Marie Fendler | David Harvey | Jan Matthew | Jill Uellendahl |
| Michael Forrest | Margaret Haseldine | Margaret Miller | Len Underwood |
| Suzanne Forrest | Tony Hill | Bruce Munday | Leonie Underwood |
| Karen Foster | Matthew Howie | Kristin Munday | Italo Vardaro |

Calling all Heysen Trail Walkers

Have you completed the entire trail from Cape Jervis to Parachilna?

The Council of the Friends of the Heysen Trail in response from requests from our members and members of other walking groups has established a Register and developed a suitable badge (displayed opposite) and a certificate.

These will be presented to anyone who has covered the entire Heysen Trail.

Ideally people wishing to Register should be supported by their club, but the Friends will not exclude anyone who has covered the Trail independently. (This also includes runners).



Enquiries and application forms available from the Friends office.

The following persons were also registered and issued with "End-to End" certificates between 31 January and 30 April 2006. Members of the Friends are denoted by *.

Jill Kerby*
Helen Miles*

WALKING IN SA FORESTS

Forestry SA Rangers have asked us to inform all walkers and clubs that they would like prior notification of all planned walks in forest areas, giving the approximate number of participants and details of the walk route. This applies to all walks throughout the year.

This is a safety issue due to logging, burning and other forest activities which may take place at any time.

Contacts:

Mt Crawford Forest
Phone: (08) 8524 6004

Kuitpo Forest
(08) 8391 8800

Or write to:

The Forest Ranger
Mt Crawford Forest
Private Bag
Williamstown SA 5351

The Forest Ranger
Kuitpo Forest
Private Mail Bag 2
Meadows SA 5201

A Course through Corse



There are many splendid walking trails in France, trails which take you through a sweeping panorama of history, geography and the European present. One of the finest for grand and rugged geography is

the GR 20 (GR for grandee Randonnee) which follows the watershed of the granite mountains of Corsica, traversing the island from northwest to southeast. The trail is about 180 kilometres long but, as it involves many steep climbs and descents and a certain amount of rock climbing (better described as scrambling) assisted by fixed chains, it is not easy to average more than fifteen kilometres a day. So for most walkers to complete the whole walk requires 12 to 15 days.



It is generally accepted that the GR 20 is one of the hardest walks in Europe. Much of the terrain it crosses is rock-climbing country, especially at the southern end near Bavella, which is a chaotic jumble of granite, and walkers pass on their way all the highest mountains of Corsica. Perhaps the most spectacular of the mountain experiences on the trail is the passage of the famous Cirque de

Solitude where the trail drops two hundred metres nearly straight down (with fixed chains to help) into a deep chasm, and then climbs up the other side to the Cirque's exit, the Col Perdu.

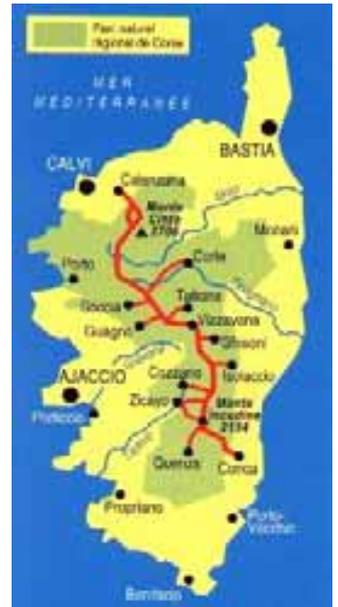
But the trail is not just up and down. It passes through silent, leafy forests, green meadows, and by ancient shepherds' huts and rock pools of translucent blue. The scents of pine-resin, juniper and oregano are in the air, along with birdsong and the rustle of the wind. The everyday lovely vista of mountains is punctuated periodically when high on a peak by the sight of the Mediterranean Sea to west, to east (where Elba and the coast of Italy may distantly be seen) and south to Sardinia.

Accommodation (and food and drinks) is available at several refuges along the trail, and where there are no refuges, it is frequently possible to avoid a night under the stars by moving down off the trail to red-roofed villages in the valleys below.

The GR 20 is crossed by few vehicle routes, so it is not easy to do short sections and best to do the whole in one go. However, there are a few places where shorter sections can be done, and that is what my daughter and I did on the fateful day of 11 September 2001, accessing the trail at Col de Verde, where one of the island's few east-west roads crosses it, and leaving it a day and a half later by a long side track down to the village of Cozzano.

We spent our one night in a crowded but cheery refuge on the trail. We left very early the following morning and were high on a rocky ridge with a steep drop below and nothing but birdsong breaking the silence, when my daughter's mobile phone rang.

It was her brother calling from Beijing where he lived to tell her what had happened on the 11th in New York. In the calm and silence of the Corsican





mountains, where the grandeur of Nature diminishes the power and pretensions of man, it was hard to comprehend what had happened and what it might mean. But when we got to New York (where my daughter then lived) ten days later, and saw the Stars and Stripes on practically every car and every lapel, we began to see to what it might lead.

Robin Ashwin

Counting the Waders



While reconnoitering the Terry Lavender Federation Trail in the wilds of the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges with Terry and George

Driscoll., I thought it should go to Mount Gambier (Terry's vision was that the trail should go to Broken Hill). As a result of enjoying my Heysen Trail experience of staying in a country town one weekend each month, I decided why not walk to Mount Gambier on the same timetable. This could be done in the warmer months rather than winter and would fit in with the rest of the walking season which traditionally happens in the winter.

This expedition however is to be an extension of the Heysen Trail. My wife, Marie and I have walked from King's Beach through Victor Harbor, Pt Elliott, Middleton, the Murray Mouth, Goolwa, Hindmarsh Island and now the Coorong, the only gap in the walk being the Mundoo and Tauwitchere Barrages. Most of this section was done barefoot paddling in the shallows on some very hot days.

When we were away on one of these walks, Marie and I happened to attend the Meningie Show and while there we became "Friends of the Coorong". For \$10 a year it seemed a good investment because the poor old Coorong needs all the friends it can muster at this stage of its life and it would give us an insight into one of the world's most beautiful wilderness areas.

Amongst the paper work that arrived at home was a request for help in the annual "Counting of

the Waders" experience. Again why not, I knew very little about wading birds. My knowledge being little more than they are either little birds or big birds, or I can distinguish between a Seagull and a Pelican, so I thought a little extra knowledge wouldn't go astray and besides they may be able to use a bit of muscle, so I signed on.

The expedition started when I left home at 6pm after work and my evening meal. The trip down was beautiful, especially near Meningie where there was a stunning sunset over the lake. After that it was off to Gemini Downs. On the way I started to worry about kangaroos, but seeing no dead ones, I hoped there weren't any live ones either. I arrived at Gemini Downs at 9:15 and after meeting Maureen Christie, Ken Gosper, Jeff Campbell and a few others, it was off to bed.

I was up before dawn, only to find Maureen preparing the hot water etc for breakfast. For brekkie I had my usual Weeties and chocky milk. This time I had chocky milk in my coffee which is also pretty yum. At 7:30 we got under way with Jeff driving Rob and myself to Parnka Point ready for our walk to The Needles and back. Rob (from Cheyenne, Wyoming) had a rather grand telescope, Jeff had a slightly lesser one and I had my pocket binoculars "pockynocs". Our first bird encounters were flocks of Banded Stilts soaring and diving as they met the low hills of Parnka Peninsular while flying south into a stiff breeze. This has to be one of the most beautiful sights, for they are quite a large black and white bird and the movement of hundreds in unison was stunning.

There were thousands of these birds flying south, skimming across the water, then soaring and diving in the wind currents as they negotiated the turbulence around the hills and then back to skimming across the water once again.

After these encounters, we were off walking, counting more Banded Stilts as well as the occasional Pied Oyster Catcher, Sharp Tailed Sand Pipers “Sharpies”, Avocets and so on. As we sauntered north along the beach the boys regularly set up their telescopes and counted. I would see a flock and estimate while they would be more detailed with their count. One flock in the distance I estimated to be 5,000 while the others estimated it at 3,000. Who knows? It may be the counting of the legs and dividing by two that causes the discrepancy. Jeff said how he has been to Broome and seen the smaller Sand Pipers and Stints take off for Siberia or Alaska. They wait for the right weather conditions and fly up high into the heavens to catch the prevailing wind that will take them to their destination. They are little more than balls of fluff and the concept is almost overwhelming.

It was a lovely day and we strolled for about 9kms including a small sojourn onto Rabbit Island. We got a bit muddy at one stage but all in all it was a good walk. As we walked past McGrath Flat, I was reminded of Great Grand Father Thomas’s diary and his mention of the place on his trip to the Victorian Goldfields. It was named after a drover who was battered to death, while he slept, by Aborigines in the early days of the colony. Whether he deserved it or not is open to conjecture, for it appears he and his mates were using the Aborigines for labour but not even supplying them with food.

The trip back to the car was a bit arduous but we all made it and then headed back to Gemini Downs. At Policeman’s Point we stopped off for beer which was surprisingly inexpensive. The smell here of the rotting briny shrimp was almost overwhelming. Back in the kitchen, Rob and I settled down to some beer and nuts which were really enjoyable. Jeff declined the offer. After a pleasant afternoon, I had a shower, prepared and ate my evening meal. I was surprised to see how little protein peas have (no wonder I hated them as a kid). This time they tasted OK with some

fried onion but when the onion ran out I couldn’t eat any more. I would have been better off with baked beans on toast with my chops and onions.

Some of the others got back late and after we were allocated tasks for the following day, I went off to bed. Ken didn’t have time for his picture show about **our** waders on the Yellow River Delta in China. My task for the following day was to be getting in a fishing boat at Long Point and going to The Needles and back. “You little beauty” for this sounded like the best job imaginable! For next year, I volunteered to help Maureen band chicks.

Sunday was another early start, with the same breakfast and on the road by 7:30 to get to Long Point by 8:30. On the way, the Coorong looked stunning. It usually looks a little hot and tired by mid afternoon but at this time, early in the morning, it looked magnificent, with one flock of Banded Stilts which I estimated to be several thousand birds. I arrived at Long Point at exactly 8:30 with every one else arriving within a minute. We walked onto the small jetty and into Butch the fisherman’s boat. We were soon on board and heading across the Coorong to the sand hill side for the bird counting cruise. It was a bright, cool, calm and sparkingly sunny morning. How good does it get?

My education was continuing and by the end of the day, I would be able to distinguish between most types of birds. There were stints, avocets, plovers, stilts both banded and black winged, sand pipers, green shanks, etc, etc, etc. My counting technique was again different to my fellow counters and I constantly came up with a different number. One of this group was Brian from Botany Bay, an Accountant studying Ornithology in his spare time, now that’s an activity that looks interesting.

Highlights of the trip, other than the waders, were the pelicans, the occasional emus (one of which showed special interest in us) and two eagles. One eagle was rounding up a large flock of starlings and occasionally swooping into the middle of them trying to get a feed with no success, proving that there is safety in numbers. They courteously created a hole big enough for him to fly through then closed it up when he had

passed through. In the end he gave up and went home empty handed. The other eagle was cruising the nearby sand hills looking for a meal and was either a young sea eagle or a little eagle. The underside of its wings and my memory when I could find my bird book indicated it could have been either. One thing that annoys this “Croweater” is the bird books’ insistence that a crow is a raven. It appears that for all these years we have been eating Ravens, which is much more up market but never the less wrong.

We counted thousands of birds all the way to The Needles. An interesting point of conversation was three sticks in the sand. When I pointed this out to the crew and how I had seen them several years ago while kayaking, Butch the fisherman told us this was Gallows Point where two aborigines were hanged for killing the crew and passengers of the Maria which wrecked at Cape Jaffa. They were hanged above the graves of their victims and left there as a warning to other aborigines not to do the same thing. The incident was a major scandal at the time, ultimately contributing to the recall of Governor Gawler, SA’s second Governor. The rough justice, or “kangaroo court”, was not

considered the way to treat British subjects. The sentence was carried out by Major O’Halloran of Major’s Road and O’Halloran Hill fame. It was Major O’Halloran who first used the term Coorong in his journal of this expedition.

On reaching The Needles at about 3pm we headed back, covering the 25km in about an hour. The coral bombes are plentiful and dangerous. Butch explained they are a modern phenomenon and are in fact tube worms, the same ones as seen on the carapaces of the crabs. (When I sailed the Coorong in the 80’s they weren’t a hazard). They are probably a result of too little fresh water caused by the Barrages and I feel they are like a cancer on this dying water way and will soon cause the Coorong to silt up and die. I think they should be got rid of but I guess the greenies would object to that solution. The Gelnite solution seems appropriate; it is a problem caused by Europeans and requires a European solution.

Soon the little jetty at Long Point was reached and we were off home after one of the great weekends of my life

Gavin Campbell



The Coorong with fishing boat. Pelicans are extra

Jeremy's Story

Jeremy Carter joined the Friends of the Heysen Trail in April, undertaking the challenge to walk the trail end to end. He has a blog updated with each walk, including photos, at www.jeremyc.com. He writes here after the fourth End to End 3 walk:



Margarita, Karen and Jeremy – barefooted in the sand

It was decided. We'd do it. We were up to the challenge. We'd just spent three hours wandering around Scott Creek Conservation Park, guided by Simon Cameron. It was our free try-out walk, for those of us who had been to the Opening of the Walk Season at Belair National Park. We wanted to do more hiking, so why not? We had a deal – Sue, Leanne, Michelle and myself – to meet at Cape Jervis for the End to End 3 walk, the first leg of the 1200km Heysen Trail.

The first walk was easy, well, once I was there. When the alarm went off at a quarter to six, it was cold, dark and raining. Second thoughts filled my head, my early morning daze and late night clouding my desire to do more hiking. What had I been thinking? But no! I wasn't to be defeated, I had been inspired to do more hiking after climbing St Mary's Peak in Wilpena Pound the previous year. I loved it. I was going for a hike! This was to be a defining moment.

On the walk, it was a beautiful day, warm and sunny with clear skies. This was to be a common occurrence, poor weather in the early mornings, but a beautiful day down south. You'd think it would be the opposite, but no.

Amongst the other one hundred and thirty people, I found my new friends. True to their word (and mine – only just!), we were there to start our challenge. Having established we didn't want to be in the fast group (are you mental?!), we started our walk from the Heysen Trail's rather modest head of the trail. Or is it the tail of the trail? In smaller groups of about twenty people, we followed the coast, past the UFO (what were they thinking?) to Blowhole Beach for lunch, then up the formidable Cobbler Hill. That long, steady climb... phew, it was hot! Our sense of anticipation at the start of our 1200km challenge was

matched with the sense of achievement from making it up Cobbler Hill.

The next walk was tough too, with four steep descents and ascents, but we were rewarded with the beautiful scenery of Deep Creek and glimpses of the ocean. I didn't see my new friends. Had they bailed? Had they found Cobbler Hill too much for them? Whilst waiting back at the cars they caught up with me. With over a hundred people on the walk, it was quite easy to miss people. Our weather come good for us again, it was only back at the cars that the sun retreated and the rain came.

The third walk? Sand. Lots of it. Not really a problem, except, it was soft. Soft sand. So much effort to walk through... or so I am told. I was sick. People seemed to think it was a tough walk because it didn't matter where one walked, in the wet, on the hard sand, or on the loose sand, it was all very difficult to walk such a long distance along Tunkalilla Beach. But in the carpark after the fourth walk, I found one lone person who offered an alternative view. They conceded that it wasn't easy, but they enjoyed it! Walking on super soft sand and getting led up the wrong section of a steep hill was all part of walking the trail. Now that I am inspired, rather than being filled with dread, I'm ready to catch this walk up at a later date.

The fourth walk? Another sunny day walking from Balquhidder down through a beautiful creek to its outflowing at the beach. We walked the several kilometres along the beach, which I am assured was much easier than last time. We finished up at Waitpinga, marking a special occasion. Herta was finishing the Heysen Trail at Waitpinga, today being her last leg. At the end of the new boardwalk, Herta walked beneath everyone's trekking poles that formed an arch of honour.



Herta completes her End to End

“That’s a pity,” someone was heard to remark. “Why?!”, “Well, the trail ends over there,” pointing to the older boardwalk another twenty metres on!

The day was marked with another special occasion: Jeff’s birthday. I knew it was his birthday, but did I see him to wish him a happy birthday? No. Too many people, and I had been in the first walking group, and him in one of the last ones, and I needed to get back to Adelaide. I later thought I should have left a giant message in the beach sand.

Did I see my friends on this walk? No. Again, too many people. But I know they were there, I’ve seen them in other people’s photos! The large group size doesn’t matter, there is always someone new to meet, always someone to have a laugh with. And always someone to walk with you barefoot on the beach sand.

Jeremy Carter

Walking the Camino de Santiago de Compostela



From late April to early June this year we walked the pilgrimage route, the Camino de Santiago (the way of St James) across northern Spain.

The route has significant history. It follows an ancient path walked by Christian pilgrims since the 10th century to revere the remains of St James the Apostle entombed in a silver casket in the magnificent Cathedral at the city of Santiago de Compostela about 90 km from the west coast of Spain. Some of the route includes sections of road laid down during the Roman occupation. Also star-gazing Celts went this way too, heading west toward the setting sun and the solar temple of Ara Solis, on the coast at Finis Terra, the end of the earth.

We took one of the traditional routes known as the “Camino Frances” from just over the French border with Spain at the base of the Pyrenees Mountains at St Jean Pied de Port. The journey of 34 consecutive days took us to Santiago de Compostela, 800 km to the west at an average of about 23km per day.

The route wanders through five geographical regions of considerable diversity of landscape, language and culture and food and beverage making each day a new experience. It began in the mountains of the Pyrenees and Basque country and moved into the famous wine-growing Navarra and Rioja region, then through

the flat, treeless high plain of the Meseta, the



mountains of the Cordillera Cantabrica and finally the western plains of Galicia.

It is difficult to sum up the number of population centers we passed through: between 200 and 300, ranging from small hamlets of a few houses to major cities such as Leon and Burgos. The Camino passes through, rather than around population centers as the pilgrimage focus even today revolves around the church. As the churches in Spain are always set on the highest point of town or village we found ourselves always climbing, a frustration sometimes when fatigue sets in at the end of 6-8 hrs of solid walking. Nevertheless, we learned a lot about church architecture of which there is significant variation from the magnificent cathedrals of Leon, Burgos and Santiago de Compostela to more modest structures in rural villages.

In keeping with the tradition of the pilgrimage we stayed each night in a pilgrim’s hostel (an “albergue”). Generally sleeping arrangements were on double-bunk beds closely set in dormitories which could house over 100 persons

in some instances. The albergues we stayed in ranged in ownership from church properties such as monasteries to buildings set aside by local government agencies to privately owned hostels. Many had limited shower and toilet facilities and kitchens to facilitate food preparation. Generally we ate out at cafes for evening meals utilizing the ubiquitous “peregrino” menus. For 8 or 9 Euros we got a three course meal including bread, water and wine (a staple of the diet). Often the wine consisted of a bottle between us of “vino tinto” which on the whole was superb (even at a local cost of 1-2 Euros).

Our daily routine was to rise about 0545, pack, breakfast and depart by 0630 just as it was light enough to see the track markers. We endeavored to be at our next albergue between 1300 and 1430 as the heat of the day became a serious consideration, particularly in mid-May on the Meseta. On reaching the albergue we booked in (generally about 5 Euros each), found a bed, showered, washed our walking clothes (we carried only 2 sets of clothes) then rested, talked and wrote up diaries until evening meal time of 1930. It was then to bed and lights out by about 2100.

While the routine was physically and mentally punishing at times, the pain and tiredness was counterbalanced by the uplifting experience of interacting with a wonderful lot of people of varying language and cultural background all focused on a common goal, the Camino. While the comradeship was truly impressive, however, at the end of the day each had to walk their own Camino, a very personal quest.

The reasons for taking the pilgrimage were almost as diverse as the people. Obviously religious reasons, principally Roman Catholic tradition, predominated but we found many, like us who walked the route as a “pilgrimage of the spirit”.

For us all, irrespective of motivation, walking into the square and up to the steps of the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela, and being greeted by some of our fellow pilgrims was a deeply emotional experience. We realized we had achieved a significant life goal: we had finished our Camino.

Kevin Boyce and Gillian Ashton



At the 0 km post at the lighthouse, Cabo Finisterre

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