



The Trailwalker

Magazine of the Friends of the Heysen Trail

Issue 112 Winter 2009

AGM Report 2009

**The Gammon Ranges
A Dry Walk**

**A Weekend with The Friends
Innes National Park**

**Tramping in New Zealand
Nelson Lakes National Park**

Walking on Kangaroo Island

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Burra Branch

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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

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- 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.

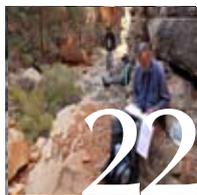
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Simon Cameron
Jeanette Clarke
Dana Florea
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David Rattray
Cliff Walsh
John Wilson
Peter Wynen

Council Meeting Dates

17th June
15th July
19th August
16th September

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David Rattray

Office Coordinator

Jack Marcelis

Maintenance Coordinator

Gavin Campbell

Bookkeepers

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Xun Wang (Michael)
Jeanette Clarke
Jie Fang Zhang (Carol)

Shop/Office Hours & Volunteers

Monday 10.30 - 2.30

Mike Parsons, Beverley Blanch,
Robyn Quinn, David Beaton,
Elizabeth Rogers

Tuesday 10.30 - 2.30

David Rattray, Dawn Bon,
Chris Porter

Wednesday 10.30 - 2.30

Jack Marcelis, Wendy Fox,
Gilbert Downs, Allan Wadham

Thursday 10.30 - 2.30

Chris Casper, Chris Hanna,
Jim Alvey

Friday 10.30 - 4.30

Sandy Melbourne, Colin Edwards,
Jamie Shephard

Saturday & Sunday Closed

Relief Staff

Jim Alvey, David Beaton, Jack
Marcelis

President's Report

Simon Cameron

The start of the walk season always seems to ramp up the activity levels, particularly in the office with the End to End bookings.

Front Cover

The Depot Tree Gammon Ranges Walk



The tree that cared for our extra water supplies.

Photo by Russell O'Brien
See full story on page 22

It is always gratifying to see growing interest and enthusiasm to walk the trail, and this is reflected in the large number of walkers registering for the start of End to End 4. Nearly 200 walkers have embarked on the challenge, and it is a true challenge of will and fitness to navigate the entire length of this iconic trail. As many of you know it is a marvellous journey through SA's prettiest landscapes, and a journey that forges special friendships.

It is also a true challenge for the volunteer organisers, office workers and walk leaders and a good deal of forbearance helps deal with the mammoth task. And it is an important task. The more walkers along the Heysen Trail we have the more the trail becomes visible in local communities. Social, historical, and political visibility will enhance the iconic status of the Heysen Trail, and that is what the Friends of the Heysen Trail are here to serve.

At our AGM I was pleased to report growing membership and growing volunteer activity. Our maintenance group has provided nearly 2500 maintenance hours in 2008, which is an amazing achievement.

A prototype water tank has been approved by DEH, and built and the provision of up to 10 tanks looks to be within our means. This will go a long way to providing water supplies at suitable distances along the trail.

Strategic planning by DEH for the Northern Flinders is still proceeding and the Council has formed a view that it can enhance the walk amenity and safety of the trail in this area without major re-routing. This will be an area of ongoing interest and we will keep you informed.

Meanwhile the most important work of the Friends goes on maintaining and developing the trail. I will keep asking for volunteers to form and develop a "Greening Committee" because I think it is an area where we could provide so much.

See you on the trail!

Office Report

By Jack Marcelis
Office Coordinator

Hello all,

The Caravan and Camping Show

we participated in earlier this year was a great success. We handed out some hundreds of brochures, leaflets and gave answers to a great many questions about walking, bushwalking, and "our" Heysen Trail in particular.

Many curly questions such as "do you still walk when it rains" and "what if I need to use the bathroom?" But also "what level of fitness is required, how do I get there, do I have to walk in those big boots?" etc.

Our indoor stall most certainly was a vast improvement on last year when we had a tent stall in which we were "quietly cooking" in 42°C heat facing west.

I would like to thank all participating staff and Gilbert Downs, our "site manager" for the show.

To say the walking season

has started with enthusiasm is an understatement.

The walk bookings speak for themselves; 80 on this year's first End2End 3; 44 on the first section of the Yurrebilla Trail; 200 on the new End2End 4 starting at Cape Jervis.

These large numbers are creating a real shock in the office. Introducing our new, untried, automatic booking system, brilliantly written by Jeremy Carter, was not such a clever idea however at this very busy stage. Our staff, most of whom are "mature" take a little extra time when confronted with new systems.

The Caravan and Camping show and the unstinting efforts of the Marketing & Membership Committee under the chairmanship of Robert Alcock led to an unprecedented 89 new member applications this quarter. However welcome this is, it added only further pressures to our overloaded staff. All of this naturally coinciding with various key members going/being on leave.

Again I am asking our members to volunteer some of your time in our office.

Ideally this volunteer would be available 1 day a week, could answer emails, create simple forms, and would be computer literate. The person needs to be accurate and precise and used to following office procedures. You may be required to handle money, use the EFTPOS machine and cash register, and lastly you need to be friendly, but businesslike on the phone. In other words I am looking for secretaries/school office staff or such persons who are used to this type of work. Would you need to know about bushwalking? Not really, your office experience is required. If you have never handled an EFTPOS machine or a cash register, don't worry; we will teach you. I will be happy to show you around our office and discuss this in private if you wish.

Brief News

* **Great Ocean Walk**

We wish to advise that the Great Ocean Walk in November is now fully booked with 16 people on the waiting list.

* **The June long weekend**

at Collinsville is now also fully booked.

* **The Walk Committee** is

planning more weekends away in 2009. Currently we are looking at possible venues including Kangaroo Island.

* **Sea to Summit Walk**

The Friends recently undertook a recce of the Sea to Summit walk in preparation for the Sunday walk in August. This recce took 8 hours of steady walking by a fit group. Potential Sea to Summit participants need to have above average fitness to complete the whole walk on the day. However there is an option to complete the Sea to Summit in two walks on two Sundays. See the walk program.

Next Issue Deadline

Submissions for the Spring edition of the Trailwalker will close on 7th August 2009.

Walking Committee

*By Arrienne Wynen
Walking Committee Chairperson*

The 2009 walking season has started well with a very successful weekend at the Innes National Park (see page 12) and the start of another group doing the Heysen Trail from Cape Jervis. We have held our annual training day for new and experienced walk leaders and everything is in place for a busy and varied walking program. Walking is a great winter past time and remember, the weather might seem miserable at home but often where the walk is being held conditions are much better.

Both the Burra Weekend and the Great Ocean Walk are fully booked but a small reserve list is kept. It is important to book early for walks as there can be a limit on the number that a walk leader is able to take.

The committee is working on the program for 2010 so if you have any suggestions for weekends or specific walks that you would like to see included, now is the time to tell any of the walk committee or drop a line to the office and they will pass the information on.

New Members

The President and the Council would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members for this term (being 89 in number), 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.

Veronica Eaton
Kym Edwards
Ross & Helen Portolesi
John King
Sharyn Ridgewell
Georgina Patoir
Helen Stephens

Brian & Angela Caton
Ola Hansson
Elley Parry
Steve & Margaret Clift
Elizabeth Cooper
Michelle Coram
Shirley Deveraux
Ian Davidson
Shirley Stanfield
Barry Brown
Graham Dunstan
Lee Ralph
Judith Smith
Daryl & Debra Fox
John Skipworth
Dianne Colleran
Rebecca Denichilo
Simon Hynes
David Brompton

Pamela Morutto
Margaret Schmidke
Susan Nathan
Carola Sanders
Sue Quinn
Robert Smedley
Heather & Jon Holmes-Ross
Lari McDonalds
Giles Walkley
David Webber
Jonathon Jaensch
John Bojczuk
Annie Michelmore
Jill Franklin
Anne Marie Gibb
Helena Sweeney
John & Anne Gibson
Maggie Moy
Garry Pearce
Andrea Burnett
Deanna Clark
Andre Carracher
Jason Young
Paul Arnold
Anne Way
Cathy Foster
Danielle Hinora

David Knowler
Glynis Varvounis
Anne Kane
David & Lynette Jones
Peter Crabb
J.K Mayotte
Jane Walkley
Martin Frayne
Bronwyn Little
Jenny Simcock
Oleh Truss
Liz Watson & Chris Kelly
Maria Markogiannis
Caroline Prescott
Barbara Walters
Wendy & Byon Gordon
Gary & Sally Fieldhouse
Keiko Aboutaleb
David Sando
Stephen & Deb Furber
Lorraine Poole
Debbie & Mark Hardy
Cara Turner
James Wenzel
John Hillard

The Walking Federation of South Australia, Inc.

Walking SA

By Thelma Anderson
Walking Access Committee

Official Opening of the 2009 Walking Season

This important annual event was celebrated at Murray Recreation Park at Eden Valley in the heart of the Lavender Federation Trail in the Barossa Valley. It was particularly well attended both by the local community and various member clubs providing an excellent response to the guided walks organised by members of the Lavender Federation Trail and A.R.P.A. Bushwalking Club. The local community groups provided an excellent assortment of luncheon delicacies and various outdoor stores took advantage of the large crowd to display their wares for sale; and a festive atmosphere was created by the Celtic Band with some walkers displaying their dancing prowess as part of the entertainment.

Drivers Road Trail

Work is scheduled to commence on this walking trail under the auspices of Adelaide Hills Council in supervising a Green Corps team in the clearance of weed species primarily along undeveloped road reserves in the Piccadilly district to connect the Trail to Mount Lofty Botanic Garden and to the Heysen Trail at Woodhouse. Experience will be gained by the young Green Corps team with supervision and training by Adelaide Hills Council staff in various aspects of recreational trail building. It is expected that leaflets describing the walk, prepared by Walking SA, will be available from various Hills outlets.

Recreational Rail Trail from Oakbank to Woodside

This trail was referred to in the previous issue of "Trailwalker" and a more recent public reference

announced the imminent commencement of the Trail in order to prevent the escalation of its cost. In addition the Horse-riders' Association has publicly sought inclusion for use of the initial section of the "multi-use" recreational trail that will eventually extend to Mount Pleasant using the former rail corridor.

"Off-leash" areas for dogs proposed in Bridgewater area

Adelaide Hills Council continues to debate the issue of providing areas near Bridgewater to enable residents to exercise their dogs "off-leash". The Heysen Trail has been referred to in discussions relating to the problem and the safety of walkers must surely be relevant to councillors' deliberations and ultimate decision. It is understood that concerns have been held by residents living in the area adjacent to Woorabinda Park regarding "off leash" dogs and the risk they could pose to the native bird-life. Dogs must also be seen as a distinct threat to the abundant native wildlife known to exist at Woorabinda Park and the adjacent Hender Reserve.

Flinders Ranges National Park Draft Management Plan

Walking SA is indebted to Walking Trails Support Group for alerting us to the availability of this document for comment by peak bodies. An obscure method of distribution of this Plan ensured that Walking SA, as the peak body for walking in South Australia, did not receive a copy until a specific request was made allowing only minimal opportunity to respond to the proposed closure of some of the walking trails currently used by walking clubs affiliated with this organisation.

Belair National Park Draft Management Plan

Similar concerns have been expressed by visitors to Belair Park regarding the proposed loss of the walking trail from Sequoia Valley to Saddlebags Road to view the various species of native orchids that occur in this location. It is understood that construction of a mountain bike park is proposed for this area that would of course devastate the walking trail, the rare and endangered orchids and all else in its wake, including impact on the sequoias, planted as a memorial. The Draft Plan has not yet been released for public consultation but all environmentalists should take the opportunity to express their views at that time in an effort to retain one of our priceless natural assets.

Proposed closure of link to the Lavender Federation Trail

All walkers are indebted to a developer who took steps to evaluate a request by a landowner to purchase an adjoining road reserve following the sub-division of a large property adjacent to the Lavender Federation Trail at Harrogate. Following exhaustive enquiries of all walking connections, starting with the Walking Trails Support Group, the developer concluded that the proposal was inappropriate for the location and recommended that the landowner not proceed with an application to buy the road reserve. The walking community generally can feel a strong sense of gratitude to this developer. Onkaparinga Council - The Walking Access Committee continues to meet with staff at Noarlunga for discussion and resolution of items of mutual interest.

Burra Branch

By Hugh Greenhill
Chairman

The Burra Branch held its AGM on the 22nd March 2009 with 24 people attending and 11 apologies accepted. This was the most successful attendance we have had for long time and hopefully will carry on to the coming walking season.

The elected Officers for 2009 are as follows:
President: Arthur Simpson. Vice President: Kate Greenhill. Secretary: Sally Fieldhouse. Section Leader: Hugh Greenhill. Publicity Officer: Jenny Reid, Assisting: Jennie Abbott.

Planned walks for this year after much discussion by all attending resulted in the following 9 walks and weekend away.

1st Walk on the 9th May, a Full Moon walk on the Riesling Trail.

2nd Walk on the 17th May, Tothill Gap to Huppatz Hut.

3rd Walk on the 2nd June, following part of Dust Hole Creek to Newikie Creek.

4th Walk on the 20th June Burra Gorge to Burra.

5th Walk on the 12th July Paradise (Caroona Creek Conservation Park).

6th Walk on the 4th August Stone Chimney Creek (Red Banks Conservation Park)

7th Walk on the 22nd Sept, Mt Bryan.

8th Walk on the 11th Oct, Tothill Range.

9th Walk on the 31st Oct, Burra Gorge to Princess Royal.

10th Walk on the 14th Nov, Spring Gully / Break up.

Camp out this year will be at Braemar Station, north east of Burra on the 29th and 30th of August. Anyone wishing to come and join us on a walk you are quite welcome. You can contact me, phone 88438115 for details of the planned walks. The rain in our area was very good rainfalls recorded and makes the start of the walking season very pleasant.

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Reports from the 22nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*By Peter Wynen
Secretary*

The 2009 AGM was held on 27th March 2009 at Woodville Bowling Club.

We had 61 members in attendance and a few observers/potential members who had been made aware of it. After welcoming our Patron Warren Bonython and his wife Bunty, President Simon Cameron spoke on the vast extent of volunteering that occurs throughout our organisation. He then went on to highlight the achievements of 2008 and the planned projects for 2009 and beyond. (refer to his report on page 5).

John Wilson presented his report of another successful year's operations with a profit for 2008 of \$11,900. Profit from Sales increased from \$4,900 to \$10,400 mainly due to the sales of a lot of maps from the shop (\$7,000) and Push the Bush (\$4,500 wholesale). A magnificent effort by Manuela Vida in moving these. We still have about 1,100 in stock. Our profits from walking activities were down a little due mainly to the increased costs of buses for E2E walks. Of our expenditures, the biggest item was for the Office which underwent a major refurbishment during the year. The costs for producing the Trailwalker magazine is also up on last year — this is mainly a reflection of the fact that more are being printed. We have assets of about \$112,000.

Our annual profit will allow us to install 1-2 water tanks/shelters per year. We have sufficient assets to buy more if we choose to. While we have spent about \$1,300 of our own money on maintaining

the Trail, we need to be aware that there is also an amount of about \$9,000 that we spent which has been reimbursed to us by DEH. DEH have spent about \$400,000 (unchanged from 2007) on the trail.

Maintenance Coordinator Gavin Campbell spoke of the efforts of Doug Leane who passed away during the year. We also lost the maintenance services of David Beaton and Ralph Ollerenshaw during the year. Their sections have been taken over by Tim James and Roger Dunne. Colin Edwards will be assisting Graham O'Reilly with his section. Many thanks to all Section Leaders and volunteer workers for the job they do, continuing to provide tireless and loving care for the trail.

Following the Treasurer's report and the maintenance report the election of officers took place. Simon Cameron continues in the role of President, Robert Alcock continues as Vice-President, John Wilson continues as Treasurer and Peter Wynen continues as Secretary. Continuing as Council members were Jerry Foster, Julian Monfries and David Rattray. Renominating Council members were Gavin Campbell, Dana Florea and Cliff Walsh. New Council members were Bob Gentle and Jeanette Clarke.

(Since the AGM, Nick Langsford and Chris Porter have been appointed to Council). Retiring from Council were Jim Alvey and David Beaton.

Following a recommendation from the Honorary Membership

Committee, Terry and Francis Glasson were bestowed with honorary membership in recognition of their contributions to the Friends in particular, Terry with his involvement through the Walking Committee and Francis with her involvement in the Office.

A number of constitutional changes recommended by Council were put to the meeting and accepted. The purposes of these changes were to:

- define the payment that an individual can make for Life membership (10 times the annual subscription rate) in Rule 5,
- allow for the operation of payments using modern practises (eg internet banking) in Rule 19,
- restrict the distribution of the Association's assets in the event of winding up or dissolution to bodies with similar objectives to ours in Rule 22, and
- alter references in the Appendix from Branch Chairman and Branch Vice-Chairman to Branch President and Branch Vice-President.

Following the formal part of the meeting, Simon introduced our Guest Speaker: John Shepherd (Operation Flinders) who gave a history and explanation of the organisation, which seeks to give "challenged" adolescents (either young offenders who have been before the courts or youths who have problems dealing with school or their home environment) an opportunity to "discover themselves".

What's What?

A column with info on equipment and walking

What's better for walking?

A "Soft Shell" jacket or a combination of fleece and a rain jacket.

We have all seen in the last few years the proliferation of the Soft Shell garment.

"Soft Shell" is a term that loosely describes a type of garment that has been developed to be both windproof (or wind resistant) and has a form of fleece or insulation on the inside for warmth. The soft shell category started in the United States and Europe and was originally developed by WL Gore & Associates the makers of Goretex. It was developed for conditions that were cold, dry and windy. Traditional wool and fleece garments were not very windproof and you would therefore lose a lot of heat in any windy conditions.

Unfortunately, what started out as a clearly defined category has now become quite confusing. Some manufacturers of windproof / waterproof shell garments are making the outer fabric or shell 100% waterproof and this does make the garment less breathable. While other manufacturers are making the garment more breathable but only shower proof.

This leads to confusion when people are buying soft shells.

They may well ask ...

Is it waterproof? Well yes.

So I do not need a rain jacket? Well yes you will still need to have a rain jacket.

Why? Because a soft shell jacket does not normally have a hood, and is not seam sealed to provide full protection in very wet and windy conditions.

So in summary; The soft shell jacket can be better than a fleece jacket in that it is more wind & water resistant and therefore has better warmth to weight ratio. It is perfect for the snow country, high altitude trekking, and walks in windy places when not expecting a lot of rain.

But if you are heading somewhere wet and cold like New Zealand or Tasmania, you may be better off with a fully waterproof jacket that will keep the elements at bay, plus a jacket to keep you warm. I would recommend a traditional Goretex rain jacket and a Polar Fleece jacket combination.

Just remember, it is hard to have one piece of clothing that can do it all.

David Nicolson
Paddy Pallin Adelaide



Paddy Pallin



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Innes National Park long weekend 7th to 9th March

A Weekend with “The Friends”

By Julie and Peter Moore

After rushing to leave work early and trying to miss the long weekend traffic we joined the Main North Road queue and made surprisingly good time to Pt Wakefield. Once we turned off and made our way down the Peninsular we made very good time.

After an evening meal at the Marion Bay Tavern (very worthwhile) we made the remaining 6 km to join the rest of our fellow hikers (22 in all) at Stenhouse Bay. Accommodation was dormitory style, with 5 separate sleeping areas — pot luck if you were in with snorers or not. We were lucky but I recommend ear plugs regardless.

Next day we were awoken at 7.00 am to the gentle melodies of a wailing bagpipe courtesy of our intrepid walk leader Simon. Self help breakfast with decent coffee, make your own lunches and then car pooling to Pondalowie Bay for the first day's walk.

The weekend walks were in two parts with an option for people to leave a walk at the half way mark. Half way mark today was Browns Beach, with the full day's walk doing an extra 9 km loop from Browns Beach to Gym Beach and back, all up about 22 km.

Predominately a beach and cliff top walk we took in magnificent coastal views, walked past a pod of dolphins who were literally 10 metres from us, saw surfers although the famed Pondalowie surf was relatively flat and plenty of fishermen

who really didn't have all that much to show for their efforts. Walking was definitely a better past time. Plenty of secluded bays and coves, lunch was at one of those, Shell Beach. After lunch it became a bit more challenging by including high, soft, sand hills which we had to cover to reach Browns Beach

our half way stop. Here we bade farewell to those who wanted to

leave and 9 of us continued on along Browns Beach to Gym Beach. Soft sand. For those of you who have walked Tungkillo beach at Deep Creek you will understand. Although everyone was grateful to arrive at Gym Beach the walk once again

was just spectacularly beautiful. The return trip, once we found the

This part of the walk was predominantly cliff top and rocky beaches interspersed with secluded, sheltered bays and rock pools, perfect for a cooling dip on a hot day





right trail, was inland back to Browns Beach. This time it was a mallee bush setting, a really pleasing vista and physical contrast to the coastal walk just completed.

That night was a hearty curry meal with just the right amount of amber fluid to accompany it.

For the weekend everyone was encouraged to dress at night to the two themes, surf for Saturday and pirates for Sunday. For entertainment tonight, Simon took us through some basic dance moves of the surfing era and it would be fair to say that as dancers we made very good hikers. After dancing lessons and practice it was time for surfing charades where surfing phrases such as rash vest, grommet, wipe out etc were mimed out to hilarious effect.

The first day is always the longest walk so Sunday we had a sleep in till 7.30 when once again the wail of those bloody bagpipes! Today was car pooling to Foul Bay our starting point, mid way was Hillocks and the end point several km closer to Marion Bay. Apparently we walk at Innes this time of year because the weather is relatively calm. Well with the wind that was howling today, seeing this coast at its worst would be very interesting - no wonder there were so many ship wrecks in the early years. This part of the walk was predominately cliff top and rocky beaches interspersed with secluded, sheltered bays and rock

pools, perfect for a cooling dip on a hot day - but not today. Lunch was at the Hillocks store where Golden North Giant Twins were the order of the day. Once again the group parted company with 12 continuing on.

This leg included a small section of paddocks followed by a mandatory break to pick out all the grass seeds accumulated in our boots and socks. Someone (it could have been Simon) unkindly likened the scene to a group of monkeys picking out ticks whilst grooming each other. This was followed by more beach, sand hills and cliff tops through some spectacular, rough, isolated yet beautiful coastline. Total distance walked today was 18km, relatively easy.

Tonight was a BBQ and pirates night. Most dressed accordingly with George in his 1930's one piece woollen swimming costume and Simon in his Peter Pan outfit winning the best dressed. Entertainment that night was courtesy of a blow up "Pirate" beach ball with which we played a version of "poison ball". Two throwers stood at opposite ends of the hall throwing the ball at people in the middle. If you were hit between knees and shoulder, you were out. Talk about simple things amusing simple minds! It was great fun. A much less energetic but equally enthusiastic darts championship followed.

Monday's walk was optional although everyone did participate. After cleaning

up the hall and dormitories, we followed the Thomson-Pfizer plaster trail to the old Innes township. The trail follows the original wooden rail line used to haul gypsum mined at Innes to the jetty at Stenhouse Bay. After a brief stop at Innes and some time to explore the ruins before we made our way towards the cars left at Cape Spencer. A very comfortable 8 km walk through bush land finishing at the Cape Spencer lighthouse with its contrasting coastal views. Magnificent! That was the official end of the weekend although most reconvened for lunch back at the Stenhouse Bay Hall before leaving for the easy drive back home.

To summarise, many had not been to Innes before and for the few that had, it was a long time ago. Without exception, all were impressed by the natural beauty and the abundance and breadth of fauna and flora the park offered. The walks were varied, provided options for different levels of fitness and were through unquestionably beautiful scenery. The Innes National Park is a real gem and within such easy access from Adelaide. Our thanks go to Simon and Arrienne who organized the weekend and made it the success it was.

If you haven't been away for a weekend with the Friends we can certainly recommend it! ■

Tanks for the Memory

By Julian Monfries

Old tanks never die they just lie around collecting water, or at least that's what we hope.



The tank

And so it happened to an old tank that the Friends salvaged from the feet of Mount Arden, the original Huncken Tank, named after a member who died and left the Friends a bequest.

Contaminated with dead bees, it was replaced in December 2007 (with a tank donated by Bunnings). The old tank was steam cleaned and rejuvenated, and languished at the Cobblers Creek shed until a clean out of the old shed deemed it needed a new home. Eyre Depot became the chosen site.

With alacrity, the tank, with a newly designed stand, was taken to Eyre Depot over Easter. It was installed with the help of John Potter, David Curtiss, Bob Gentle and some elbow grease.

Andrew Smart, owner of Wilkatana Station, assisted by agreeing to the construction on his land, and hopefully the clouds have since also assisted with a few millimetres of rain on the collecting panels.

Donated funds from the End to End 3 group paid for the materials to construct the stand and shelter. A very worthy addition to the Trail infrastructure.

But wait there's more.....

DEH revealed the new modular tank/shelter design, at Black Hill, last month. The long awaited tank/shelter was viewed by Simon Cameron, the Friends' President, and other interested members, along with Bronte Leake, Trails Officer from DEH, and the designer. As you can see from the picture it is an all steel design with wings. Much discussion took place about the collection panel size and various other concerns; however the basic design achieved general approval.

Once design and cost are finalised, the Friends plan to purchase a number of these tanks to be strategically located along the Trail increasing the water points available for walkers.

GPS location 776E - 297N

Talyala Hills Accommodation ~ Laura

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Bob Gentle, Dave Curtiss and John Potter - A job well done!

Trail Maintenance Sections

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

Maintenance Co-ordinators Gavin Campbell 8296 8613 (H)

Maintenance Committee Chairman John Wilson 8356 9264 (H)

Section	Map	Section Leader	Contact
1. Cape Jervis to Tapanappa	Southern Guidebook, Maps 1.1-1.3	Tim James & Friends	8556 7015 (H)
2A. Tapanappa to Waitpinga Campground	Southern Guidebook, Maps 1.3-1.5	Roger Dunn & Friends	8260 2146 (H)
2B. Waitpinga Campground to Back Valley Rd	Southern Guidebook, Maps 1.5-2.2	Geoffrey & Pamela Gardner	8552 5213 (H)
3. Back Valley Road to Moon Hill	Southern Guidebook, Maps 3 2.2-2.3	Michael Scott David Evans	0400 293 132 8554 3551 (H)
4. Moon Hill to Hindmarsh Tiers Road	Southern Guidebook, Maps 2.3-2.5	Hermann Schmidt (Wandergruppe Bushwalkers, German Association)	8344 4072 (H)
5. Hindmarsh Tiers Road to Blackfellows Creek Road	Southern Guidebook, Maps 2.5-2.7	Adrienne Fortanier Eleanor Martin (Women in the Bush)	8556 5051 (H) 8341 6024 (H)
6. Blackfellows Creek Road to Glen Bold	Southern Guidebook, Maps 2.7-3.2	Richard Webb	8381 5308 (H)
7. Glen Bold to Piccadilly	Southern Guidebook, Maps 3.2-3.4	Thelma Anderson Trevor Lee	8278 4420 (H) 8398 0516 (H)
8. Piccadilly to Norton Summit	Southern Guidebook, Maps 3.4-3.4	Liz O'Shea (WEA Ramblers)	8352 1636 (H)
9. Norton Summit to Cudlee Creek	Southern Guidebook, Maps 3.5-3.7	Colin Edwards Graham O'Reilly	8264 1492 (H) 8397 1217 (H)
10. Cudlee Creek to Bethany	Southern Guidebook, Maps 3.7-4.4	Dave Curtiss John Potter	8264 0793 (H) 8337 9515 (H)
11. Bethany to Hamilton	Southern Guidebook, Maps 4.4-5.3	John Potter Dave Curtiss Joyce Heinjus	8337 9515 (H) 8264 0793 (H) 8525 2054 (H)
12. Hamilton to Huppertz Hut	Southern Guidebook, Maps 5.3-5.9	Norrie Hamilton	8332 1982 (H)
13. Huppertz Hut to Spalding	Southern Guidebook, Maps 5.9-6.12	Hugh Greenhill (Burra Branch)	8843 8115 (H)
14. Spalding to Georgetown	Northern Guidebook, Maps 1.1-1.6	Kevin Liddiard	8289 4236 (H)
15. Georgetown to Mt Remarkable	Northern Guidebook, Maps 1.6-2.11	Mary Cameron Ian Pool (ARPA)	8165 1025 (H)
16. Mt Remarkable to Horrocks Pass Rd	Northern Guidebook, Maps 2.11-3.4	Graham Hill	8632 4804 (H)
17A. Horrocks Pass Rd to Dutchmans Stern	Northern Guidebook, Maps 3.4-4.1	Ian Hartley Michael Kerin	8641 1435 (H) 8642 4728 (H)
17B. Dutchmans Stern to Wilpena	Northern Guidebook, Maps 4.2-5.7	Gavin & Marie Campbell	8296 8613 (H)
18. Wilpena to Parachilna	Northern Guidebook, Maps 5.8-6.8	David Henery (Alpana Station)	8648 4626 (H)

2009 Walk Season Programme

		April	May	June	July	August	September	
1st Week of month	Trail Starter	Sun April 5 Opening of Walking Season Eden Valley	Sun May 3 Trailstarter Morialta Lyn Wood	June Long Weekend Sat June 6- Mon June 8 Trip Away Collinsville Station, Burra	Sun Jul 5 Trailstarter Stirling Liz Barry	Sun Aug 2 Trailstarter Kersbrook Mike Parsons	Father's Day	
	Trail Walker		Sat May 2- Sun May 3 End-to-End 3 Peters Hill to Webb Gap Rd		Sat July 4- Sun July 5 End-to-End 3 Worlds End to Wandallah	Sat Aug 1- Sun Aug 2 End-to-End 3 Wandallah to Summit Rd		
2nd Week of month	Trail Starter	Easter	Mother's Day Sun May 10 Trailstarter Scott Creek Bob Gentle	Sun June 14 Trailstarter Blackhill A Wynen	Sun Jul 12 Trailstarter Ansteys Hill Robert Alcock	Sun Aug 9 Trailstarter Warren Con Pk Robyn Quinn	Summer Part	
	Trail Walker			Sun May 10 Trailwalker Montacute Richard Milosh	Sat June 13- Sun June 14 End-to-End 3 Webb Gap Rd to Worlds End	Sun Jul 12 Trailwalker Peters Hill Colin Edwards	Sun Aug 9 Trailwalker Kaiserstuhl Ray Blight	
3rd Week of month	Trail Starter	Sun April 19 Trailstarter Yurrebilla Trail Rhonda Dempster/ Lyn Woods	Sun May 17 Trailstarter Yurrebilla Trail Rhonda Dempster/ Lyn Woods	Sun June 21 Trailstarter Onkaparinga Robyn Quinn	Sun Jul 19 Trailstarter Mt George Chris Porter	Sun Aug 16 Trailstarter Chambers Gully Nic Waite	November	
	Trail Walker	Sun April 19 Trailwalker Mount Compass Richard Milosh	Sun May 17 Trailwalker Onkaparinga Steve Wilkinson	Sun June 21 Trailwalker Yurrebilla Trail Rhonda Dempster/ Lyn Woods	Sun Jul 19 Trailwalker Yurrebilla Trail Rhonda Dempster/ Lyn Woods	Sun Aug 16 Trailwalker Mount Crawford John Potter		
4th Week of month	Trail Starter	Anzac Day Long Weekend	Sun May 24 Trailstarter Horsnell Gully Arrienne Wynen	Sun June 28 Trailstarter Belair Raelene Shaw	Sun Jul 26 Trailstarter Wistow Sandy Melbourne	Sun Aug 23 Trailstarter Aldgate Gavin Campbell	Mt	
	Trail Walker		Sun April 26 End-to-End 4 Cape Jervis to Cobblers Hill	Sun May End-to-End 4 Cobblers Hill to Tapanappa	Sun June 28 End-to-End 4 Tapanappa to Balquhidder	Sun Jul 26 End-to-End 4 Balquhidder to Waitpinga	Sun Aug 23 End-to-End 4 Waitpinga to Tugwell Road	T I
5th Week of month	Trail Starter	Key to Walk Programme	Sun May 31 Trailstarter Sturt Gorge Nic Wait	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 Aug 30 Trailstarter Sea-to-Summit Part 1 of 2 / Bob Gentle	FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
	Trail Walker		Sun May 31 Trailwalker Warren/Hale Richard Milosh				Sun Aug 30 Trailwalker Sea-to-Summit Whole trail / Julian Monfries	T

For further information about each walk, walk grades, frequently asked questions or to print off a colour copy

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 4).

September	October	November
Sun Sept 6 Trailstarter Mt Pleasant Graham Parham	October Long Weekend	
Sat Sept 5- Sun Sept 6 End-to-End 3 Summit Rd to EE George Rd		Sat Oct 3- Mon Oct 5 End-to-End 3 EE George Rd to Curnow's Hut
Sun Sept 13 Trailstarter Sea to Summit 2 of 2 Bob Gentle	Sun Oct 11 Trailstarter Cox's Scrub Dot Farmer	Sat Nov 7- Sun Nov 15 Great Ocean Walk
Sun Sept 13 Trailwalker Deep Creek Ray Blight	Sun Oct 11 Trailwalker Para Wirra John Potter	
Sun Sept 20 Trailstarter Swainland Head Robyn Quinn	Sun Oct 18 Trailstarter Athelstone Mary Cartland	
Sun Sept 20 Trailwalker Belair Michelle Foster	Sun Oct 18 Trailwalker Waitpinga Steve Wilkinson	
Sun Sept 27 Trailstarter Lofty/Cleland Colin Edwards	Sun Oct 25 Trailstarter Anstey's Hill Graham Parham	
Sun Sept 27 End-to-End 4 Logwell Rd to Inman Valley	Sun Oct 25 End-to-End 4 Inman Valley to Myponga	
 The Friends of the Heysen Trail 10 Pitt Street Adelaide 5000 Phone 08 8212 6299 www.heysentrail.asn.au		Sun Nov 29 Walk Rally Walk Nic Wait
This version released 10 February 2009		

For more information of the programme, visit www.heysentrail.asn.au/walks)

Walk Cancellations

Walks are cancelled if the broadcasted forecast is for temperatures above 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.

In unforeseen circumstances arise and you are no longer able to participate in the walk, please notify the office as soon as possible, preferably by email on Friday, or leave a message on the answering machine after this time.

Recommended Clothing and Equipment

Walkers joining our groups need to be appropriately equipped. Prime consideration is your safety, comfort and weather protection. Your safety and the safety of the walking group can be jeopardised by those walkers wearing inappropriate footwear or clothing. Evacuation of a sick or injured walker from an inaccessible area can take many hours. A Walk Leader may decide not to accept people for a walk who are not appropriately dressed or prepared for the local conditions.

What to Wear for Trail Starter and Trail Rambler walks.

- Good walking shoes, or boots with grip soles. Not appropriate for bushwalking are: thongs; sandals; elastic sided boots; and smooth-soled shoes or sneakers.
- Socks suitable to the footwear worn.
- Wet weather gear. A three quarter length waterproof rain jacket is ideal (showerproof spray jackets and quilted parkas are not waterproof and may lead to hypothermia). In summer a poncho style waterproof may be sufficient.
- A warm jumper or jacket of wool or polyester. Cotton shirts and windcheaters provide little insulation when wet, and retain water which quickly cools.
- Shorts, or loose comfortable wool or synthetic pants (jeans are not recommended as they become cold when wet and dry slowly)
- Shade hat and sunscreen in sunny weather. Warm hat/beanie in cooler weather.

For **Trail Walker** and **End-to-End** walks, in addition to the above list, depending on walk location and the weather, please also consider

- Thermal underwear
- Waterproof over-trousers
- Gaiters.

What to Bring for Trail Starter and Trail Rambler walks.

- Personal medication requirements, Basic First Aid and Emergency Kit
- UV Sunblock
- Insect Repellent
- Torch
- Lunch and snacks (include some for emergency)
- Plastic bag for rubbish
- Water in secure container; minimum 1 litre, and two litre if temperature will be over 25°C (even more if temperature is forecast to be higher)
- Gear should be carried in a day pack. One with a supporting waist band is recommended.

For **Trail Walker** and **End-to-End** walks, in addition to the above list, please bring

- Whistle
- Wide elastic bandage and Triangular bandage with safety pins.

Twilight walks are of shorter duration and generally in more accessible areas. The above recommendations can be modified to suit the walk and weather conditions. The minimum requirements are to dress for the weather conditions and sun protection, wear comfortable walking shoes, a sun hat, sunscreen, and bring 1 litre of water. If unsure, please check with the Walk Leader.

The clothing and gear outlined above are our recommendations. Note that the Walk Leader may not accept you for a walk if you are not suitably equipped for the local conditions. If unsure, always check with the walk leader.

Tramping in New Zealand's South Island

THE WONDERFUL NELSON LAKES NATIONAL PARK

Story and Photos by Alan Davis

“Nelson Lakes National Park, yes I’ve heard of it..... Where is it again?” That’s the typical response from most people when I’m asked about where I have been hiking recently.

Well you have to cross the Tasman to New Zealand's South Island for a start, and once there, you'll find plenty of Kiwi trampers who know little about the park. Why? Well that's the mystery especially when you consider the nearby Abel Tasman N.P. gets infinitely more visitors but can't touch Nelson Lakes for scenery. I suspect those who know and love the place are just keeping quiet.

The geography of Nelson Lakes is classic South Island with a chain of mountains thrown up by the same great fault line that has formed the Southern Alps and the mighty peaks of Mt. Cook and Mt. Aspiring NP's. Here the mountain ranges hide long deep valleys and little alpine lakes and tarns feed the crystal clear rivers lined with beech forest that flow down from the upper peaks. The passes and saddles that dot the ranges open up possibilities for much extended tramping.

The best known “named” walk in the park is the Travers/Sabine Circuit, a 5 to 7 day hike that most do in a clockwise direction beginning and ending near St. Arnaud, the friendly little town that lies on the northern perimeter of the park. In many ways it's a classic New Zealand tramp, following a river (the Travers) upstream through lovely beech forest before climbing above the headwaters



Alan with Waiau Pass Behind

over an alpine pass then descending into another valley (the Sabine). For most, the highlight of the Circuit will be the crossing of the Travers Saddle so good weather is a prerequisite but a 1000 metre descent to the West Sabine River that follows tends to turn hikers' knees to jelly (I'll take the climb up any day). There are two “must do” side trips from the track with by far the most popular being the climb up to Lake Angelus. By anyone's reckoning this is a beautiful region (many Kiwis consider the setting of Angelus Hut above the lake the most spectacular in New Zealand.) There are at least

5 approaches from the Circuit up to Angelus so it's easy to enter and exit by different routes. My favourite by far is the climb from Hopeless Creek over Sunset Saddle, magnificent scenery all the way with the view from the summit simply jaw dropping. Because there's no track, few use this pass so the added bonus is you'll have the place to yourself.

The other “must do” side trip is from West Sabine Hut up to Blue Lake. Surrounded by forest and with its impossibly beautiful blue green colour, this is another great place to spend a night. Most do the trip up and down

in a day so the Doc hut doesn't get crowded, but hey, why not just camp on the lake? Use the afternoon to walk further up the valley climbing above the tree line to Lake Constance. Wonderful vistas of the mountains further south will be your reward.

All sounds promising so far? Well now to the *REALLY* good part. The aforementioned walks probably occupy 95% of visitors to Nelson Lakes and venturing further a field from here, you can almost expect to have the place to yourself. It must be said that away from the main tramping areas there are far fewer marked routes and this presupposes the ability to hike off-track. But for me, it's this combination of wonderful scenery coupled with a real sense of remoteness that makes the park so special.

From Lake Constance the first obstacle to progress south is the mighty Waiau Pass. Writers have used words like

formidable and challenging to describe its crossing. Well having climbed over this past summer (south to north) I can say there's nothing to fear here though it is a true alpine pass and carries snow well into summer (Doc advise carrying an ice axe.) The views in all directions are just amazing.

The scenery all the way is simply stunning. Except for some short sections through the forest, for the first few days there are no tracks so this route is probably best not done alone.

Most trampers having crossed the pass and continuing southwards will now be following the Waiau River and there's about 3 hours of forest travel to Caroline Bivy.

(The map shows a track, however this is more a footpad but persistence will keep you on the right

path. Remember even a crappy track through the forest is far better than none at all.) From the Bivy onwards the valley opens out and travel is much easier. After a couple of days the St. James Walkway is met and this can be followed to Lewis Pass or Boyle River.

From the base of the Waiau Pass on the southern side a far more

spectacular route is to climb up to the exquisite Lake Thompson. To camp the night here as I did last summer, surrounded by snowy mountains and with my only company a few ducks and a lonely lost seagull, was an unforgettable experience. Just above the lake it's an easy climb to Thompson Pass. However the descent into the D'urville Valley is a different matter evidently. (I haven't crossed the pass myself.) "Don't slip" is the advice I've been offered. A far easier route supposedly is to stay up high and follow just below the ridgeline around to the Upper D'urville Pass before descending down into the East Matakita valley. Either way you're in the western region of the park now. This was my introduction to Nelson Lakes four summers ago when my brother-in-law David March and I spent seven days on a hike from Lewis Pass to St. Arnaud, a classic trip if there ever was one. Leaving the St. James Walkway (and civilisation) behind at Ada Pass Hut, a bush bash through the forest following Maruai Stream leads to a crossing of the Three Tarns Pass. These little alpine lakes are the source of the West Matakita and it's a long



Paske Creek



Waiau River

slog following the river downstream until a 3 wire bridge crossing leads to the East Matakītaki branch. Climbing up to the head of the valley the choice is cross the previously mentioned Upper D'urville Pass or as we did climb over David Saddle and descend to the D'urville River. The scenery all the way is simply stunning. Except for some short sections through the forest, for the first few days there are no tracks so this route is probably best not done alone. The walk down the D'urville is rugged but there is a well marked track, huts and personally, I think this is even a more beautiful river valley than the Sabine. Highly recommended.

The eastern boundary of Nelson Lakes is delineated by the St. Arnaud Range but a number of lovely valleys just outside the park (but in an area under Doc control) have their beginnings in these mountains. The Hamilton River, Connors and Begley Creeks, the Rainbow and Paske Creek all flow eastwards and often it's just a case of following the river upstream before crossing a saddle at the headwaters which leads over and then down

into the next valley. There are some sections of track through the forest and several huts but the passes are all unmarked. Again, plenty of wonderful scenery and very few trampers (I've spent a number of days exploring up and down these valleys and using them as access routes into the park over the last two summers and have yet to see another soul.) The head of the Paske is particularly lovely and few would pass up the opportunity to spend a night in the old Forestry Dept. hut. From here it's a good three hour climb to Paske Saddle (no tracks but all straight forward navigation) then a steep descent down to the Clarence, this valley almost Himalayan the way steep stark mountains climb straight up from the river. If heading upstream you eventually have a long climb up into a little alpine meadow at the base of Mt. Belvedere. Again if the weather is good this is an exceptionally beautiful spot to camp. It's about an hour then onto Clarence Pass and standing atop here you'll be inclined to think as I did "Is this as good as it gets?"

From the saddle you descend into the East Sabine but following this valley

downstream is for the hardy only, many hours of bush bashing through the forest. The consolation is great scenery and you're guaranteed to have the place to yourself.

Back at the Clarence below Paske Saddle, the easier route is to follow the river down to Lake Tennyson then hike (and wade) around the eastern shoreline. At the outlet an old stock track can be accessed that offers a quick an easy route over the Maling Pass into the Waiau Valley and the option then of travelling north into the heart of the park or south to the St. James Walkway.

This overview of Nelson Lakes is based on my three visits here over the past four summers. Obviously there is much more to the park and if you're interested in exploring its potential as a wonderful tramping region, visit Peter Kemp's website at www.nelsonlakesshuttles.co.nz. Pete and his wife Trish run a trampers transport service based in St. Arnaud and few know and love the park as they do.

See you there next summer. ■

Walking on Kangaroo Island

Richard Trembath

So You've Finished the Heysen Trail and You're Looking for a New Challenge?

During April and May this year two brothers, Tom and Jake Giles, attempted a circum-navigation (or perhaps a circum-terragation) of Kangaroo Island by foot. Their 500km trek - mainly following the coast - took them across cliff-tops, through secluded valleys and coves, over remote windswept beaches and past spectacular rock formations. They both finished the walk at Emu Bay on the 16th of May although Jake had to bypass the Dudley Peninsula section due to ill health.

It is the first time a complete 'circum-terragation' of Kangaroo Island by foot has been attempted in one go. To do this, Tom & Jake had to live off the land and they conducted extensive research into the edible fish and plant life on and around Kangaroo Island before commencing their trip.

Their main objective for their walk was to raise awareness of Spinal Cord Injury and PARAQUAD SA.

PARAQUAD SA is a not for profit community organisation committed to serving and promoting the best interests of people with disabilities in a manner which recognises their worth and dignity, their right to experience life's events and develop their full potential.

For those not up to the challenge of a 'circum-terragation' of KI there are a number of shorter walks that access the natural attractions of the Island.

The Clifftop Hike at Cape Borda is the perfect introduction to this spectacular site. You may be rewarded with dolphin or whale sightings, or views of soaring sea-eagles. The Hanson Bay Hike at Kelly Hill Conservation Park is also spectacular. It is 18km (return) taking 6 hours to complete. The trail meanders from the Visitors' Centre to the south coast at Hanson Bay and showcases Pink Gum woodlands, mallee, coastal heaths, freshwater lagoons and ancient dunes. There are

several spectacular viewpoints along the way.

Recently re-opened after the 2007 bushfires the Snake Lagoon Hike in the Flinders Chase National Park winds through Sugar Gums and mallee before descending into the Rocky River valley. The trail crosses Rocky River and meanders along its bank to the mouth, providing spectacular views through the valley and across the Southern Ocean.

There are a number of other interesting day walks on Kangaroo Island and further details can be found on the Tourism Kangaroo Island web site:

<http://www.tourkangarooisland.com.au/wildlife/walks.aspx>

The Friends of the Heysen Trail will offer a weekend away on Kangaroo Island as part of the 2010 walking program. ■



Cape Borda



Beach Walk

The Gammon Ranges Walk

Story and Photos by Russell O'Brien

Having done a little walking in the Flinders Ranges, how could I pass up a chance to take a walk in the Gammon Ranges?

A phone call from two ex-work colleagues, recently retired, inviting me to join them in a walk in the Vulkathunha - Gammon Ranges National Park over Easter resulted in a planning meeting over coffee at the Adelaide Central Market.

A route essentially following the creek systems was determined that was to explore an area west of Grindell Hut. The idea was to use notes from a book written by Adrian Heard in 1990 titled "Gammon Ranges National Park and Arkaroola Sanctuary: A Walking Guide to the Northern Flinders Ranges". This looked like a really exciting walk with location names like Old Man of Italowie, Cleft Peak, Rover Rockhole, Fern

Chasm, The Terraces and Streak Gorge. Few tracks to follow and remote and rugged country would mean carefully plotting an intended route and preparing to know exactly where we were all times. But what about every walkers' most precious resource, water? Would Heard's notes regarding its availability be relevant in 2009? How much water would we need to carry? How hot would it be? How far would we be able to go?

A stop over at Balcanoona Park Headquarters on the way

to our base camp at Grindell Hut to register the walk was a fundamental safety precaution. Other precautions included an

But what about every walker's most precious resource, water? Would Heard's notes regarding its availability be relevant in 2009? How much water would we need to carry? How hot would it be? How far would we be able to go?

appropriate number of walkers in the group each with a good level of fitness, a PLB (personal locator beacon), extra water to leave part way along

the route, good maps, compass, GPS with route and waypoints loaded and good quality equipment.



Gibber Plain

Our party of four (Quenby and Peter Sinclair, Geoff Gibbons and myself) assembled at Grindell Hut late afternoon of Good Friday. On Easter Saturday we set off just after 8.00 o'clock in the morning along a 4 wheel drive track heading for an area called Gibber Plain. Leaving the 4WD track at this point we crossed the southern part of Worturpa Pound with the intention of meeting up with Italowie Creek. It didn't take long for the temperature to rise and along with it the need to drink the water that was, by now, weighing each of us down. Italowie Creek is impressive by its



Italowie Creek

width, countless rocks, many gum trees (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) and stands of Flinders Ranges pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*). At the junction of the North and South Branches of Italowie Creek we located one of the creek's magnificent gums that conveniently had a large hollow in its base into which we placed water supplies for our return trip. Carefully the hollow was covered with bark and its location marked with a GPS. We then moved on to our planned destination for the day: the junction of North Branch and Wildflower Creek just a couple of kilometres to the northwest.

After setting up camp, a light lunch and, most importantly, changing heavy packs in favour of day packs, we made our way up Wildflower Creek to the turn off to Old Man of Italowie, a rock hole that was supposedly to contain potable water. No such luck. The rock hole contained a small volume of a milky - green, putrid looking substance which was constantly under attack by insects of various descriptions. The gorge however was spectacular. Not surprisingly

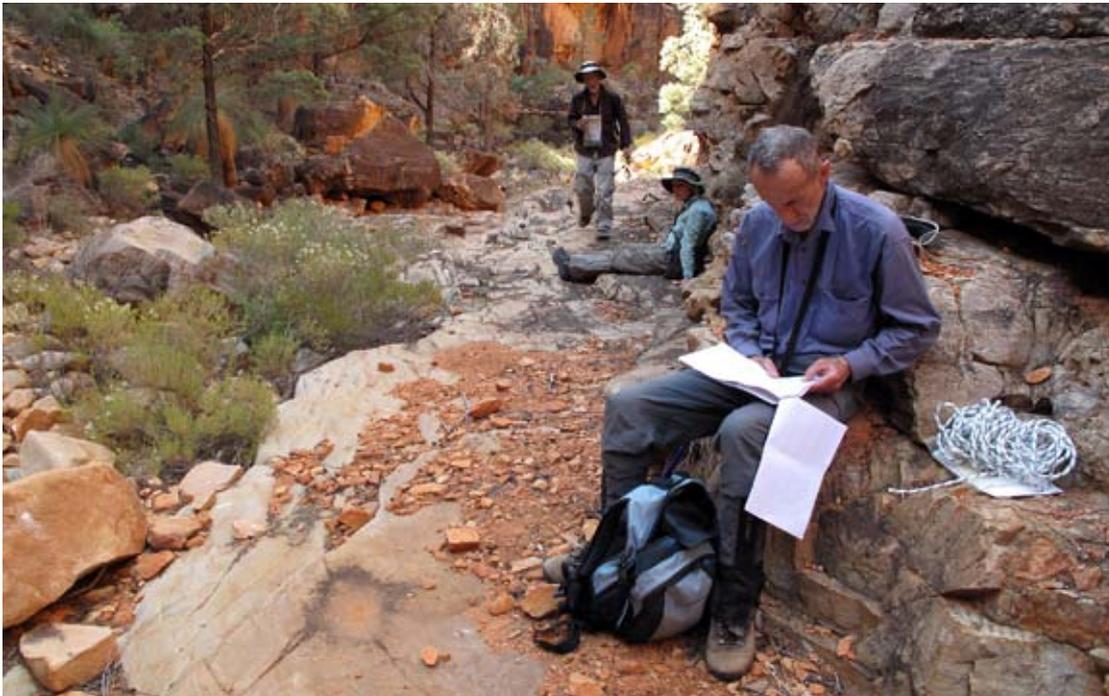
Wildflower Creek was also beautiful with numerous grass trees (*Xanthorrhoea quadrangulata*) but dry, dry, dry.

Back at camp over the evening meal the conversation inevitably turned to our present water supplies and how far they could safely take us along our intended route. The only sensible solution given the reasonably high daily temperatures and hard walking conditions that we had experienced was to check a further nominated water supply located at Rover Rockhole. In Heard's notes this water source was given 90 to 95 percent reliability in all but exceptional seasons. It was decided that the following day we would take day packs only and maintain our existing camp. If water existed at Rover Rockhole, we would replenish our supply, return to camp and collect backpacks before proceeding with our planned walking route.

The walk to Rover was hard going and required climbing over a substantial saddle which took us into the upper reaches of the

South Branch creek system and finally into the gorge where the rock hole is located. The climb to the saddle and down the other side was made treacherous by scree and required careful and considered steps. Fortunately there was a narrow track from the saddle to the valley floor. The gorge was cool and spectacular, but devoid of water. On the return trip Peter brought our attention to a slender green fruit that was subsequently identified for us by some local Adnyamathanha people as mayaaka or wild pear (Native pear, *Leichhardtia australis*).

Both at our camp site and at Rover Rockhole there was evidence of camp fires used by bushwalkers some time ago. It was obvious that this area had been well trodden but many years had passed since. Almost certainly this would be because of the years of drought that had plagued the area. Heard makes the point that the Gammon Ranges' water supplies result from summer rains rather than those in winter received in the south. He says, "... because the Northern Flinders are on the dividing range



Gorge near Rover Rockhole

between southern (ie. winter rainfall) and northern (ie. summer rainfall) weather patterns, some unusual things can occur. Sometimes thunderstorms may bring rain to the north or east of the ranges and leave the south and west dry."

Beaten by lack of water and now with reduced supplies, we made our retreat a little disillusioned but pleased that we had had a go and seen this magnificent country albeit under the stress of drought. I have little doubt that we were all a little dehydrated as we set out mid afternoon after collecting our backpacks from the camp and headed for the stored water kept cool in the hollow of the tree. In a short time we had retrieved the water, made camp nearby and settled into yet another night of mild temperatures.

The next morning we walked back along Italowie Creek until we met the road upon which we had commenced our walk from Grindell Hut. Interestingly, while we walked, storm clouds were gathering not far away. A couple of hours later as we travelled towards Copley rain fell and water flowed alongside and over the roadway.

Good falls of rain over a number of years will hopefully transform the rugged and beautiful Gammon Ranges to its former glorious state. To see it with an abundance of water would truly be a wonderful experience. For the sake of the area's future I just hope with all my heart that it will be sooner rather than later. ■

Notes:

Map used: Illinawortina, 6737-3, third edition, 1:50,000
Book: Heard, Adrian. Gammon Ranges National Park and Arkaroola Sanctuary: A Walking Guide to the Northern Flinders Ranges. State Publishing, S.A. 1990 (This book is in the State Library of SA collection.)

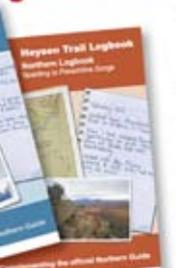
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Heysen Trail Logbooks



Example page





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The logbooks provide an easy way to log your progress, make notes, keep a diary or keep a record of photos. They are structured to complement the Southern and Northern Guides (the map books). You will note similarities enabling easy reference between the logbook and the guide books. The aim is for you to refer to the guide book for navigation and information, and record the journey in the logbook, as you complete various Trail sections.

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		Wattyl Paints Centres Refer to page 52 of the 2008 White Pages for your nearest outlet.	

Attention Walk Leaders

Forestry SA Rangers have asked that clubs provide prior notification of all planned walks in forest areas. Please provide the approximate number of participants and details of the proposed walk route. This would apply to all walks throughout the year.

Contacts:

Mt Crawford Forest

Phone (08) 8521 1700

Kuitpo Forest

Phone (08) 8391 8800

End to End 3 and End to End 4

By *Gavin Campbell*

To quote the words of the song “Here we go again”, a new walking season and a new season of End to End walks has begun. With the End to End 2 group finishing last year to much fanfare and excitement it meant this year we would be starting a new group at Cape Jervis. As the bookings for this new group surpassed the 120 of E2E3 we decided to call a stop at 200. This meant 4 bus loads with the two busses doing a return trip. This would make the logistics easier, for it would divide the groups into 100 each which meant two groups of about the same number as with E2E3.

The Beginning for the End to End 4 Group

The first walk was to be 26th April and the weather forecast looked all but promising. Anzac Day was very wet and windy and it would have been a minor disaster had the walk been then, but it wasn't. The 26th turned out to be quite a pleasant day. In fact for all of the bluster and foreboding of the morning the weather at Cape Jervis turned out to be pretty good. There were a few showers but they were light and diminished during the day. Our group, “the smell the roses group” from the second bus had a really good day.

We were a little slow because of new boots and some lack of fitness but I, and from all accounts our group had a magnificent day. As I said to those who were ecstatic about the scenery, “It gets better and better. The next walk is a bit tough but beautiful and is probably the hardest on the whole Trail. If you can survive that and it is only marginally harder than the first day, then you are in for one of the most magnificent experiences of your lifetime. You will see scenery you didn't think South Australia was capable of and you will see it

a leisurely pace so as to take it all in. Ask any one who has walked from end to end and they will tell the same story with one word repeating itself. “MAGNIFICENT”.

To those who whimped out because they thought the weather would be too unpleasant, don't miss the rest and don't be turned off by the weather, just come dressed for the occasion. Some of my most memorable days have been rough weather days. One thing about South Australia, we don't have many rainy days.



Start of End to End 4 Group



Blow Hole Beach



View from Tothill Ranges



The statue of Curio the best buck jumper!

End to End 3 Walking Group Continues

The following weekend was to be E2E3's turn and what a weekend. The weather couldn't have been better. Perfect on Saturday, more perfect on Sunday. Some of us went up on Friday and enjoyed a great meal together at the Riverton Pub. Marie and I went on to stay at the Saddleworth Pub, to be up bright and early for a rendezvous at the bucking horse statue at Marrabel. As you know Marrabel is the home of a Rodeo and, 'Curio', the horse in the statue was apparently the best of the best buck jumpers.

The walk for the weekend was to be across open farmland and then along the base of the Tothill Range. Again our "Roses group" had a good day. Taking things steady and taking in as much of the local way of life as possible. We had a look around the Marrabel Catholic Church with its stained glass windows and its cemetery, with tombstones dating back to the mid 19th century. As

usual there were a lot of infant and child deaths recorded which leaves a sad note. We also had lunch watching a motorbike rally which added to the flavor of the day.

Saturday night consisted of a meal at the Riverton Bowling Club which most people attended. The theme was red to celebrate Mayday. There were some quite stupendous outfits, along with those who forgot and dressed normally. Thankfully I had a long forgotten red beanie in my bag which saved me. I thought I might look a bit silly but Simon's red beret saved my day.

Sunday morning was again perfect and after the Campbell's little mishap at the start the busses got away and again the Roses group had a good day. There are some good views as well as some lovely walking along and over the Tothills Range. Some interlopers to our group

were surprised at our leisurely pace of morning tea and lunch and implied they may join our group for future walks. One such interloper was new member, 'Heysen Rose' and we all look forward to progress reports on future walks.

So ends this little synopsis of the start of the End to End season and I hope the rest of the walks are as good as these were.

To view more pictures of the E2E walks go to www.heysentrail.asn.au/links/blogs.php. - or picasaweb.google.com.au/ralcock1

If you have a blog or photo site showing pics of the Heysen Trail let us know and we can add the address to the links page.

PROMOTION WORKS!

By Robert Alcock

Chair Marketing and Membership Committee

At the End 2 End 4 (E2E4) first day on April 26th we had a crowd – a pleasingly large group of 145 walkers. There were also 78 on the E2E3 weekend away in May. Both of these walks were booked out, as there are only so many seats on the buses.

Occasionally other popular walks have also been filled (although certainly not all of our walks). It would appear that our promotional activities over recent years have released the secret that is the Heysen Trail.

The Friends promotional activities are focused around the regions along the length of the Heysen Trail (HT), and in Adelaide. Yet the trail does get coverage outside of Adelaide too. There have been articles on the Heysen Trail in interstate newspapers, and published recently in national and international magazines (below). The south coast section of the Heysen Trail is soon to be featured in the **Australian Geographic** with an article by South Australian, Quentin Chester. The Friends were contacted and were able to provide some assistance with each of these magazine articles.

Tiger Tales, the in-flight magazine of Singapore-based Tiger Airways featured the HT and other walks near Adelaide in the Jan-Feb 2009 edition.

Coast and Country magazine, a large glossy national publication,

had a HT article in Edition1, 2009 – in which a number of members photos were published.

Amongst the various groupings and committees that support the Friends, there is a **Marketing and Membership committee (M&M)**. This committee was formed to:

- ***promote the profile of FOHT and the Heysen Trail in SA, nationally and internationally***
- ***prepare strategies of achieving sustained growth in FOHT's membership***
- ***identify and evaluate potential sources of sponsorship support for FOHT's activities.***

In working to these objectives we become involved with many of our other groups – from the office/shop, walking and maintenance, assisting them to achieve their goals. The Friends main links with members and the public are through the website and our magazine, Trailwalker. These are managed by this committee.

Included in activities planned for 2009 are:

- ***Heysen Friendly Town Proposal*** – Commenced some time ago, the aim is to increase the awareness and information available on the HT in the regional towns, for the locals and visitors. An increase in advisory, information and safety signage is part of this proposal. The Friends aim is to work with Local Govt plus local business and Development groups.
- ***Shop*** – to look at ways to increase traffic to the shop in Pitt Street.
- Look into the production of a **FOHT Photo Calendar** for 2010

The **Friends** and the **Heysen Trail** are promoted at events that seem appropriate.

An opportunity was at the **Caravan and Camping Show** (Feb), with WALK SA and a number of other walk clubs, Thanks to Jack & Gilbert for organising the volunteers over the 5 days. We had a great promotion, with a heap of enquiries on the Heysen Trail and our walk programme. We also gave away our stock of Trailwalkers!!

We were at the **Walk Season Opening** at Eden Valley (April). There were many walkers in attendance, with a limited number of the public (it was a wet and dull morning in Adelaide, then the day turned on lovely sunny skies for us, and the many walkers out on the various walks). Our display attracted many enquiries, and a lot of chatting to fellow walkers. Thanks again to Jack.

We plan to attend the **Friends of Parks Forum** in August.

The Committee looks after the merchandising of our publications (Manuela did a great job and we haven't found a replacement!) and clothing (thanks Mary). It also produces brochures, flyers, posters, maps and cards as required.

Recently new **hut logbooks** have been made up to go into huts and shelters. These replace the old hut books (in various states of disrepair), and provides for similar books at all huts. Eight books were taken to the northern Huts during an inspection trip over Easter. Other Hut books will be installed as the huts are visited.

Have you something constructive to contribute? Then chat with a committee member about it, or come and check us out at a meeting.

Editor's Note: If you have any interesting photos that you have taken on your Heysen Trail walks and you would like to share them with other walkers then please email it to trailwalker@heysentrail.asn.au with some information relating to where the photo was taken.

END 2 END Walks commence for the year.

Heysen Trail E2E3 days 22 and 23

By Robert Alcock

Many of the 78 walkers farewelled the family and went north for the weekend. This was the first of many E2E3 trips in 2009. The weather controller gave us 2 glorious sunny days perfect for walking (thanks Paul). And with the green buds across the paddocks we knew the late spring was finally here. Yes, Saturday was too long on the roads, although fortunately most were minor back roads, leading us on from below Peters Hill. Also fortunately, we missed getting tangled with the local motorbike trial (100 bikes) which scooted past our tail, and then appeared at the finish, when the bikes competed for the road as we left in the cars. On the walk one group spent some minutes contemplating the "Curio" horse statue while their leader ducked into the local Pub (Marrabel). No, not for a beer. He had been informed that they sold Golden North icecream, and so as a good leader (and a

good South Australian) should, he gave opportunity for the group to purchase one. Saturday night found a lively group at the Riverton Bowling Club, where Simon presided with red beret, red waistcoat and red lipped cheeks. Red being the "May Day" theme for the weekend. Mary displayed the Friends books, maps and tops to a crowd and made some sales. The stayers finally left so that the club volunteers could clean up and get home (it's always a hint when the chairs go on top of the tables).

The hotel and cabin crews awoke to cosy warmth while the campers found it chilly and damp outside their thin shelters. Sunday started with an adventure, with many brave drivers following Google map instructions down a two wheel very muddy track. It was with faith we stuck to it and came out as the map said. This was a glorious day with the "normal" walkers snapping at the heels of the "sprinters" on the first climb up and over the Tothill Range. Mallee scrub, rocky hills and a patchwork of farmlands stretching across the valleys made for a very pleasant walk, with morning tea up on top of the range. We even passed 2 picturesque windmills to keep the shutter snappers happy.

With fit walkers and good weather we made good time to Web Gap Road, which provided time for a relaxing drive home. (or to get up north, for the group who continued their trip by trekking over Mt Arden).



View from Tothill Ranges

Loop walk

Aldgate — Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens — Bridgewater

By Gavin Campbell

This walk is fairly long but possibly a must do in autumn when the leaves in the hills are at their most colourful and in spring when the flowers, both wild and domesticated, are at their best. It is a walk I have taken "Friends" groups on several occasions, so for those people this will be old, familiar territory.

The walk starts at the shopping centre carpark at Aldgate. Make sure you leave your car in the right place for a lot of the car park is private and indicates only 2 hour parking. From the car park, walk away from the main road onto Fenchurch Road and turn right. Before and adjacent to Stangate House there is a lane way follow this through to Euston Road (this all sounds a bit Monopoly boardish) then cross over Euston Road, cross over the railway line (lookout for trains) and follow the railway line to your left until you reach Milan Terrace. Cross over Milan Terrace onto Madurta Avenue, take the first road on your right (Keroma Drive) and follow that onto Linwood Avenue. At its conclusion, or when Madurta Avenue meets it, turn right along a bush track. If you get onto Bogaduck Road you have gone too far. The reason for this diversion is to walk past "Richwyn" one of the best gardens in the hills. Stangate is another and is open on all Sundays during September.

Once on this bush track follow it to its conclusion which is onto a vehicle track that follows the railway line. The next bit is tricky, but try to find a track that leads into the Woorabinda Reserve and walk around the lake. On all of my walks this is where we have morning tea, for there are lots of sitting places overlooking the lake. After morning tea, walk onto Woorabinda Drive, turn left and follow the road back onto the track following the railway line. Follow that track to the right, back onto Mabel Street and then almost immediately back onto the vehicle track on railway land next to the railway line. Follow the railway line under the road bridge, up some steps onto the railway platform of Mt Lofty Station. Immediately turn right onto Birch Road and walk up the hill. The first road to the left is Lenton Lane, follow this, climb up some steps to Rostrevor Road, turn right and then left on a bush track adjacent to Ayers Hill Road to the roundabout. If you miss that track, walk along the Ayers Hill Road footpath to the roundabout.

At the roundabout, go down Turner Crescent, down a foot lane and then left onto Howard Drive. Walk a short distance then onto the footbridge across the Freeway into Crafers. Follow the footpath along Piccadilly Road until you reach Georgina Road on your left. Follow

this through some pine trees on a road reserve and then work your way up the hill on any one of the tracks to Mawson Drive and the Heysen Trail. (Those tracks mentioned are bicycle tracks, so look out for bikes coming down the hill at a fairly fast rate.) Follow the Heysen Trail down through the gardens or follow any of the tracks through the gardens to meet up with the "Trail" at the bottom gate. I always stop in the gardens for lunch for there are some good views and seats and tables and an hour or two taken walking around is well spent.

After this follow the Heysen Trail to Bridgewater and the "Mill", then back along the Mount Barker Road footpath to Aldgate and your car. A pleasant conclusion is a drink and/or a meal at either the Bridgewater Hotel or the Aldgate Pump Hotel. I always walk back through the suburbs and back streets rather than along the main road but that is up to the discretion of the walker as there are many routes that can be taken.

Most of this walk can be followed on the UBD street directory and the Heysen Trail Southern Guide (maps 3.3 and 3.4)



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