

THE TRAILWALKER

ISSUE 97 PRINT POST APPROVED PP565001 / 00079 SPRING 2005



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

FRIENDS OF THE HEYSEN TRAIL AND OTHER WALKING TRAILS INC

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COUNCIL MEMBERS 2005

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Simon Cameron	Vice President
David Beaton	Secretary
John Wilson	Treasurer
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Ray Blight	
Kevin Boyce	
Gavin Campbell	
Dean Killmier	
Bob Randall	
Claire Randall	
Claire Savage	
Arthur Smith	
Cliff Walsh	

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

MEETING DATES

Council

Wed 21 Sep, 2005
Wed 19 Oct, 2005
Wed 16 Nov, 2005

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

* (deceased)

TRAILWALKER EDITOR

John Wilson, Terri Hawke, Heather Nimmo

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

David Beaton

OFFICE COORDINATOR

Frances Gasson

MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR

Dean Killmier, Arthur Smith

FRONT COVER

Plaque commemorating completion of the
Heysen Trail – in Woodhouse Scout Centre.
See article page 7
Photo: John Wilson

OFFICE HOURS & VOLUNTEERS

Monday	10.30 - 2.30	Keneatha Pick, Mike Parsons
Tuesday	10.30 - 2.30	David Beaton Dawn Bon, Julie Loftus, David Rattray
Wednesday	10.30 - 2.30	Jack Marcelis, Jenny Prider,
Thursday	10.30 - 2.30	Arthur Smith, Frances Gasson, Jan Mortimer, Bradley Howell
Friday	10.30 - 2.30	Kath Palyga,, Jim Alvey
Saturday - Sunday	Closed	(Chris Porter – as required)

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Editorial

Hi everyone and welcome to the Spring 2005 Edition of The Trailwalker. We have a new member of the editorial team Heather Nimmo. Those of you who have been doing the End to End walks should know her by now.

There have been some changes to Trailwalker this edition, and there will continue to be changes over the next few editions as we are attempting to make our "little" publication look more polished and professional. We are also hoping to have more room for YOUR stories of the trail and walking in general. As the Millennium End to Enders are finishing off the trail this week, we look forward to seeing some of their stories in print next edition (Hint! Hint!) They should be encouraged by one End to End story in this edition from Anna who walked the trail in one go! Well worth the read. We also continue with the Alpine Walking track story.

This edition also has some interesting articles about the history and maintenance of the trail, a couple of the big reasons why the FoHT is in existence today.

Remember that when you submit articles to us that we love to get photos too, however, it's really important that the photos come with captions!

While we endeavour to print all suitable articles received in a timely manner, space considerations may dictate that not all contributions or photos can be published in a particular edition. We recommend that articles be no longer than 1500 words so that we can provide some variety.

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 4 Nov, 2005.
Publication date will be late Nov, 2005.

Look forward to hearing from you about your adventures on the trail!

Editorial Team

Advertising Rates

Standard advertising rates for Trailwalker are:

Full Page	\$60
Half Page	\$40
Quarter Page	\$20
Flyer for Enclosure	\$60
(max 2 A4 sheets to be supplied by advertiser)	
Special rates can be negotiated for repeat advertisers	

These rates are being reviewed by the Marketing and Membership Committee

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 your 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.

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.

Sylvia Adler
Graham Barr
Heloise Barr
Malcolm Blight
Jeff Bowey
Sharon Brown
Annette Cahill
Mark Carroll
John Hood
Elaine Horwood
Jim Horwood
Wendy Jeffrey

Tom Johns
Geoff Lawrie
Desmond Lawry
Lorraine Masters
Maggie McLean
Cate Owen
Hermina Pincus
Robyn Quinn
Julie Rogers
Barbara Ryner
Sarah Sullivan
Michael J P Scott

Jon Selby
Shirley Snelling
Helen Suridge
Barbara Thompson
Glen Thompson
Richard Thorpe
Susan Thorpe
Anne van Dulken
John van Dulken
Peter Wilson
Rae Wood
Simon Wood

Calling all Heysen Trail Walkers

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

Enquiries and application forms available from the Friends office.

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).



The following persons were registered and issued with "End-to End" certificates between 1 Feb, 2005 and 31 July 2005. Not all are members of the Friends.

Roderick Matheson
Charles Ashwin
Oliver Freak
Anna Keating
Michael Davis

President's Report Spring 2005

Sometimes it is useful to stand back and look at where we've been, to get an idea of where we are going.

You may recall that in November 2003 we were faced with the prospect of being unable to undertake maintenance activities on the Trail due to funding shortfalls within the department.

This and the fact that our annual profit for the previous year (2002) amounted to about \$400 made us acutely aware of the frailty of our organisation, financially. This led to the need to undertake a review of where we were, where we were going, what we were doing and how well we were doing it.

As a consequence of that review, the council decided the Friends needed to take on a more professional stance, particularly in dealing with the department or we risked being sidelined.

We organised closer contact with the department on a number of levels, where previously we had only dealt with them about maintenance matters. As a result, various council members were involved in both a Management Project Team and a Strategic Plan Steering Committee.

The council also decided that, as part of our more professional approach, we should become more business-like, and through that approach work harder to fulfilling the goals as laid out in our constitution.

They are **"promoting public awareness and usage of the Heysen Trail and other walking trails in South Australia"** and **"to assist and advise in the development and maintenance of walking trails in South Australia"** to list just the *first* two.

(As an aside, it is interesting many of the other Objects of the Friends are now undertaken by the Walking Federation.)

To achieve the objectives of our constitution we need to market both the Trail and the Friends, and to do that we need funds, which are not going to be forthcoming from the department.

Unfortunately, we don't have too many ways of procuring funds other than from recruitment of new members, walking fees or sponsorship.

So if it appears we are keen to get more walkers out there, you betcha.

So where are we going?

Well, we plan to promote the Heysen Trail as the premier long distance walking trail in Australia and the Friends as a "vibrant organisation presenting a Trail and walking experience of world class".

We plan to present the Trail through our ongoing maintenance commitment, encouraging users who enjoy walking the Trail, to become part of the team that keeps it to world standard.

We plan to provide a varied and interesting walking programme that promotes usage of the Trail and Other Walking Trails.

We expect to bid for distribution of the Northern Guidebook and have had help in formulating a plan to move with that, at the appropriate time. We hope to recruit someone with appropriate experience to manage that process for us, on a volunteer basis.



Over the past 5 years, I have had the pleasure to walk with the first group of End to Ender's who will complete the Trail in August. Over 20 will complete the Trail and we plan to have a celebratory dinner at the Woolshed Restaurant, at Rawnsley Park on Saturday 20th August.

The group has had a great time and the End to End concept for the Friends has been very productive in recruiting new members both as walkers and as maintainers.

A group of Honorary Members have got together to organise a number of social activities for the Friend's in an effort to involve ALL members, both past and present, current or lapsed.

I would urge you to consider taking part in these activities, outlined elsewhere in the Trailwalker p 11.

Let's see you out there supporting the Friend's-maintaining, volunteering walking and socially.

Julian Monfries
President

Maintenance Report For Spring 2005

During Dean Killmier's absence interstate, the Maintenance Co-ordinator duties are being shared by Arthur Smith (phone 8261 6746) and John Wilson (8356 9264)

Section 1

The Trail between Trig Campground and Eagle Campground has been realigned by volunteers working with DEH rangers. Planned future work is to remark between Tappanappa and the waterfall. Approximately 5K west of Waitpinga, the Trail has been re-aligned to the fenceline on the northern boundary of Park for a short distance, in order to protect newly planted native vegetation, and help rehabilitation of sand blowout areas. Parks are remarking the trail in this section.

Section 2a

Ralph Ollerenshaw and Dean Killmier remarked the trail west of Parsons Beach. In two areas the trail was rerouted inland due to erosion by storm action exposing rocks and a stile was installed.

Section 4

The Wandergruppe Bushwalkers are building their third bridge south of Hindmarsh Tiers Road.

Section 5

Two stiles were built on fences at Mt Cone. The new landowner is fencing off the scrub patches on his land. Ray Merrick and Dean Killmier participated

Section 6.

A group from 4 Seasons did some vegetation clearing in Kyeema Conservation Park and Blackfellows Creek area.

Section 7

Trevor Lee and Thelma Anderson are sharing responsibility for this section.

Four volunteers from the Friends, Ralph Ollerenshaw, Trevor Bright, Graham O'Reilly and Arthur Smith, along with Bronte and John from DENR for a short time, assisted contractors with transporting a new prefabricated steel suspension bridge to the Cox Creek crossing in Engelbrook Reserve. We also helped clear away the old bridge and construct the replacement.

The Heysen Trail has now been marked across Woodhouse Camp Ground, with stiles on the boundary fences and signs erected at each end showing the conditions of entry to the property. Arthur Smith, Alan Dandie, John Wilson, Trevor

Lee and Dean Killmier participated (See cover and article on next page).

Section 10

The boardwalk at Gumhaven has been pulled up and a rubble path constructed with two drains pipes beneath.

Section 11

The bridge over the North Para River at Tanunda has been repaired, with the wooden boards being replaced with expanded metal tread, supported on angle irons.

Section 13

Hugh Greenhill has marked some rerouting of the Trail around Caroon Station (see page 8)

Section 15

The reroute of the trail from Murray Town to Survey Road and in to Melrose has been completed. Ten stiles, marking, benching and G.P.S readings were taken. Marking and a stile built at Crystal Brook, pruning and a stile in Wirrabara Forest. This work was carried out by the A.R.P.A. Bush Walking Group.

Section 16.

A new Section Leader, Ian Hartley of Pt Augusta, has taken over maintenance of the Trail between Horrocks Pass Rd and Dutchmans Stern

Section 17b

Gavin Campbell and Trevor Lee checked and remarked the Trail as necessary between Wilpena and Hawker. (See article page 23).

General Information. At the request of DEH, we have surveyed our Volunteers and compiled more accurate figures for the number of volunteer hours/days spent on the Trail in 2004. The returns show that in 2004, 70 volunteers working for FoHT gave 3273 volunteer hours of Trail development. Approximately half the volunteers are members of FoHT.

The Friends trailer has been fitted with a Tradesman's Top to provide convenient storage, transport and security for tools and hardware used for maintenance

Arthur Smith
John Wilson

Woodhouse Scout Centre

The Trail has now been re-routed through the Scout centre. See map below. As a result, we once again have access to the cairn and plaques commemorating the completion of the Heysen Trail. The plaque on our cover photo reads:

To Commemorate the Completion of the
Heysen Trail

This plaque was unveiled by
the Hon Lynn M F Arnold, MP.
Premier of South Australia
4 April, 1993

Access is conditional, as indicated below.



On the other side of the cairn is a historical plaque:

A History of the Heysen Trail

As early as 1947, it was advocated a series of walking trails be developed in the Mt Lofty Ranges. Over some twenty years maps and information were collected and a series of meetings were convened to discuss access to the Ranges. At a meeting in 1969 the concept was proposed of a long distance walking trail from Cape Jervis, the southern tip of the Fleurieu Peninsula to the Northern Flinders Ranges.

The name Heysen Trail was chosen, after one of South Australia's great artists, Sir Hans Heysen, for his strong associations with both the t Lofty and Flinders Ranges.

Between 1976 and 1978 the first sixty kilometres were constructed.

From 1980 through to its completion in 1992, close to 1500 kilometres of the Heysen Trail were developed.

The construction of the Heysen Trail was undertaken with the co-operation of other state government departments, many district and local councils, numerous volunteers, and most importantly, some 500 individual landholders who supported its development.

The Heysen Trail is one of the world's greatest long distance walks. It is a unique South Australian achievement.

Its success must go to the people of South Australia, who have continued to support the trail with enthusiasm.



Heysen Trail
Closed Section



Burra Branch

The Burra Branch is having a very successful walking season with plenty of people coming along to our monthly-organized walks and it helps when weather is just right. We start this year walk in Caroona Creek Conservation Park in an area we haven't been and this enable to see great scenery of the country surrounding Caroona Creek C.P. , it also enable to look at further walks in this area.

The second walk we headed south of Burra to Hopkins Creek Conservation Park which enlighten the walkers who haven't walked in this area before as there was plenty to see from scenic views, vegetation to rock formation in Hopkins Creek. The next walk was up to Wilpena Pound to climb St Mary Peak which a few manage to reach to the top, while others wishing not to climb St Marry Peak did a more gentle walk around the pound.

The last walk we headed to Hallet, to walk along the Heysen Trail up to Mt Bryan summit and finish on the Mt Bryan East road and then drove to the old Mt Bryan East School for cup of tea and piece of birthday cake. Our walk leader for the day Ken Farmer wanted to climb Mt Bryan before his 80th birthday, which is later this year. Some of our walkers set about planning a surprise birthday cake

for Ken as we all had make sure he was going to old Mt Bryan East School afterwards.

For the next walk we are heading to the Bundaleer Forest (at end of this month).

Burra Branch Maintenance.

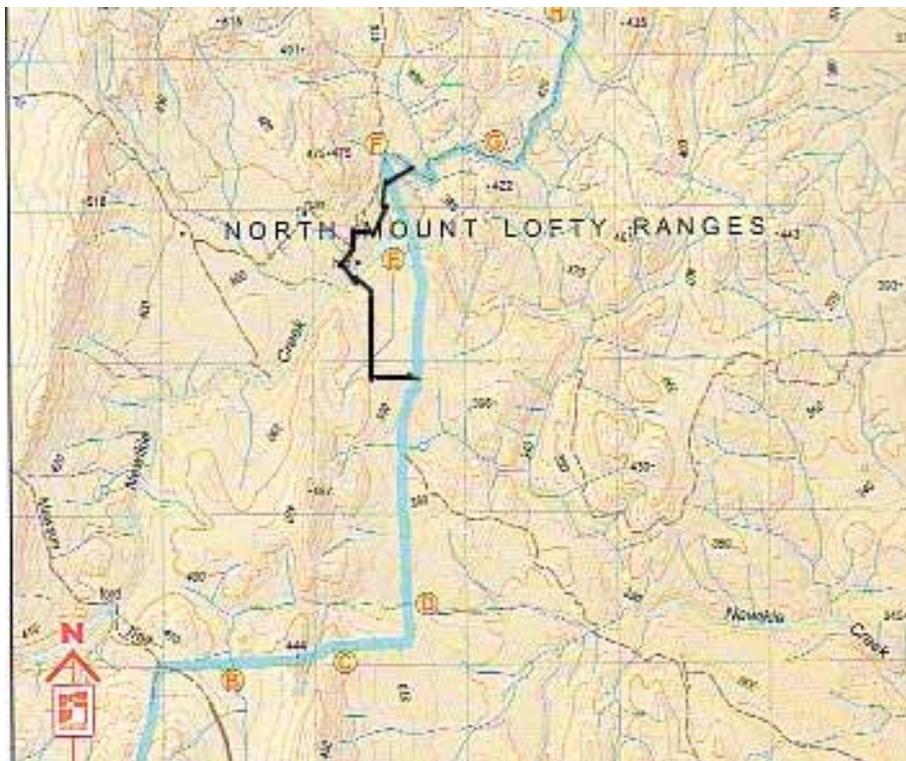
A small amount of maintenance has been done on the Heysen Trail since the last Trailwalker. The H.T. remarked from the Spalding Channel to Brown Hill Range and Hallet to Mt Bryan Summit is also remarked and I have some jobs left in this area to tidy up.

Two tables placed outside old Mt Bryan East School and another two tables in Caroona Creek C.P. (new Heysen Trail shelter and at the old shearing shed).

Purchased material to make a wind break at Old Mt Bryan East School and is planned to have it place by end of September.

**Hugh Greenhill
Burra Branch.**

Burra to Mt Bryan East Map 6.4. Old Map 12.



The Heysen Trail crossing at Newikie Creek has been moved about 500 meters west, as the landowner has withdrawn our rights to walk on his property.

ARPA Heysen Maintenance

Our ARPA Heysen 8 Group has just completed the section of the Heysen Trail between Wilmington Cemetery and the Oaks Track south of Hawker. We carry a hammer, bag of clouts, replacement signs and sticky arrows with us and have been doing a fair amount of minor signage maintenance along the trail. There are a couple of issues which we discovered and these are listed below for your consideration. (You may already be aware of these problems).

1. Despite the words of warning in the track notes, the waterfall between Eyre Depot and Mt Arden Picnic Ground came as a surprise. It was fortunate that I had packed a stout rope of 20 metres in length. We had some excitement climbing up the waterfall even with the rope. On reflection I think that walkers should be warned explicitly in track notes and by signage at Eyre Depot and Mt Arden Picnic Ground that a rope is needed. I have been told that there is a path around the waterfall. We searched for this but could find nothing. If there is an alternative route perhaps it should be marked. We clearly could have scrambled around one side of the waterfall, but it would have been a scramble and as it stands, more dangerous than the waterfall itself. (However this creek and the waterfall are highlights of the trail.)
2. Further up the creek, the trail turns right up the side of a hill along a fence line. After a couple of

hundred metres, it turns sharp left and then joins a track along another fence line. This corner is easily missed coming from south to north. It is only possible to walk up the hill at a short distance from the fence line because the fence line is overgrown and the stile and signage are easily missed. We suggest an additional sign on the worn path away from the fence would help. (787317)

3. It has been said that the reroute away from Saltia Ridge is regrettable. However the new route has much to recommend it. The ridgetop walk is delightful. However the signage is a problem. Some additional signs along the ridge would be more reassuring. Half our party walking from south to north missed the sign (786088) directing the trail down the hill. Perhaps some additional signage on the ridge would help. On the French GR system, which I call the Giant Rambleways, they have signs beyond turns which have the trail logo with a cross on it. This would be useful here. The goat track along the side of the hill has no signage as you probably know. (790090 to 794110)

Marita & Chris Bushell
ARPA Heysen 8 Group 21/5/2005

Volunteering In The Friends Office

The Friends' office is currently running on a group of dedicated volunteers who work on either a fortnightly or once a week basis. At the end of August we will be losing one of our Friday volunteers with no-one to fill the void. We have been able to open the office/shop five days a week for the past year but because we have lost three or four volunteers recently

this is becoming increasingly difficult. If you can spare four hours a day once a fortnight - or better still, once a week and would like to assist in the office PLEASE RING me on 8384 1019 or ring the office on 8212 6299.

Frances Gasson.

Sea to Summit Challenge Sunday 30th October

The Sea to Summit began as an adventure pilgrimage from the holy waters of the Ganges to the heavenly heights of Mt Everest. Adelaide's version from Seacliff to Mt Lofty is a little more manageable but still a challenge. The masochistic can fulfil the complete challenge on Sunday 30th, 8-9 hours at a brisk



pace, or you can stop at Belair and walk the remainder on the following Sunday. We will be meeting at the Kingston Kiosk at 7.45 am for breakfast, departing at 9am in two groups – fast or slow. Let the office know if you plan to go all the way or stop at Belair to allow bus bookings.

THE WALKING FEDERATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, INC.

Proposed Wind Farm Development on Waitpinga Cliffline. The Development Assessment Commission has refused the application for the wind farm on the grounds that the proposed development is contrary to more than fifty provisions within eight categories of the City of Victor Harbor Development Plan. This result gives endorsement and protection to the scenic amenity of the Heysen Trail along Waitpinga cliffline and to the environmental sustainability of the efforts of the Friends of Newland Head in an ongoing cliff and native vegetation restoration programme. A number of the Friends of the Heysen Trail responded to a request for assistance following the re-location of the Trail along the coastline and continue to attend the regular monthly working bees with the group on the second Saturday of each month. Assistance is always welcomed, either on a regular or occasional basis. Walkers wishing to join the group on a casual basis can contact Pam Taylor (8552 5693) for information advising the time and particular location. Your efforts will be greatly appreciated.

Bank S.A, Heritage Icon Listing of Heysen Trail. The President and members of the Committee of Walking S.A. wish to congratulate and acknowledge the efforts and initiative of all committees, volunteers, and walkers involved in the establishment and development of the Heysen Trail, in particular, Warren Bonython and the late Terry Lavender, on the elevation of the Trail to its Heritage Icon Listing by the National Trust South Australia.

Walking Trails Support Group. A Track Maintenance Fieldbook is being developed for use by volunteers involved in track maintenance. It is currently at the draft stage, is illustrated and is of a convenient pocket size. A copy has been made available to Bronte Leak, Manager, Heysen Trail Unit, DEH

Adventure Activity Standards. John Golding, President of Adelaide Bushwalkers, has examined details of a plan being studied by a South Australian Government Project Group that is working on the adoption of Adventure Activity Standards similar to those recently published in Victoria. Bushwalking is one of the wide range of outdoor activities covered by the standards. Concerns are held that amateur and volunteer based groups may be required to comply with the same obligations and legal liability as commercial operators. This will be strenuously resisted in South Australia for a wide range of reasons.

Future Funding and Directions for Walking SA. A Special Meeting of member clubs was held by Walking S.A. on 14 July, 2005 to discuss problems relating to future funding and directions for the Walking Federation. Although grants are made by Government in accordance with particular criteria it is not possible to classify the requirements and the role of this organisation totally in accordance with those criteria. For example, office establishment costs, rent for accommodation are items that are not eligible for certain types of grants. On the other hand an office accommodation base is essential for our volunteers and Administrative Officer to carry out the

functions of Walking S.A. (recognised by Government as the peak body for walking) for the benefit of all clubs and walkers throughout South Australia.

Protection of Undeveloped Road Reserves. Efforts continue to be pursued to secure protection of undeveloped road reserves for use as walking trails. It is vital to the needs of future generations that these valuable potential access routes be retained in Government ownership to provide continuity for future walking and other recreational trails. We are currently awaiting a response made in a Presentation to various Government agencies last November regarding changes to legislation encompassing proposed amendments that have been professionally drafted by Clive Brooks, a participant of a member Club. These two amendments would automatically afford the necessary protection to our future walking trails system without the need, as presently exists, for constant surveillance of every issue of the Government Gazette. Support has been received from the Hon. Iain Evans, M.P., a member of the Opposition, but it is important that any amendment to the legislation contains principles with the same degree of security for the protection of road reserves as that provided in our Presentation to Government

Woodcutters Road, Cherry Gardens. No further progress has been made.

Pioneer Women's Trail. A Partnership Agreement has been signed for this Trail extending from Hahndorf to Beaumont. Contact is being made with representatives of the National Trust; also land managers for Adelaide Hills Council, Mount Barker Council, Cleland Park and the Heysen Trail and field work is being arranged.

Walking S.A. Annual General Meeting. This meeting will be held at the Burnside Council Chambers on Thursday, 11 August, 2005 at 7.30 p.m. Guest Speakers will be from Australian Friends of Nature (Wilf) and Graham Hallendal from SARTI will speak about the Lavender Federation Trail.

Lavender Federation Trail. Sunday, 11 September, 2005. Volunteers are invited and urged to attend the Working Bee at Tungkillio, meeting opposite the **Tungkillio Hotel at 9.00 am.** to assist with the marking of the Lavender Federation Trail between Tungkillio and Springton. Walkers (and non-walkers) with four-wheel drive vehicles; also trailers, will be welcomed and greatly appreciated as there is a significant distance of 'back country' work involving the installation of 32 stiles. Come one, come all! Shovels, picks, crowbars, and trench-digging tools also required. Volunteers will only be asked to assist with tasks within their physical capability with lighter duties available such as the installation of markers and signs along fence-line posts, so bring your hammers too. A medium sized screwdriver and pliers can also be of assistance. Nails, glue, markers and signs will be provided. Bring lunch!

**Thelma Anderson,
Walking Federation of S.A. Inc.**

It has happened at last The Friends of the Heysen Social Club

is up and running starting with our first outing at Bonython Park

- **Boules in the Park**

Saturday 8th. October 11am

Picnic (BYO) in Bonython Park. Drive in to the Park at the entrance next to the traffic lights on the corner of Phillip St and Port Rd, Thebarton. Follow the road south to the round lake and car park. Bring the family and friends and learn all about the fine art of playing boules under the tutorship of our resident expert – Terry Gasson who will be on hand to settle all disputes.

- **It's Christmas time**

Friday 25th November 5.30pm

This year we have organised an a`la`Carte meal at the Hackney Hotel for our Xmas dinner and end of year wind-up with a short appetiser walk beforehand. Meet in the park opposite the Hotel at

5.30pm for a short leisurely walk before dinner at 7pm. We have our own room at the hotel and a very good menu. Main courses are priced between \$14 and \$24. Book at the office by 11th Nov.

- **Music with the animals**

Saturday 10th December

Symphony in the Serengeti at Monarto Zoo at 3.30pm. BYO everything – low chair, rug, eats and drinks etc. Food and drink stalls will be available for those needing extra

sustenance. Take short walks and enjoy the entertainment (jazz bands etc) before the start of the Symphony music at 6.30pm. An area will be set out for us so please book at the office so that we can make sure of sufficient space.

Purchase tickets at Bass - \$30.00 each at group rate if you organise a minimum group of 10 people.

This is an occasion not to be missed

And then some more events still being organised:-

Feb 12th Breakfast at Semaphore near the Palais

March Symphony Under The Stars at Elder Park

April 2nd Opening of the 2006 walking season at the Pines Oval, Belair

Your participation will ensure an ongoing program can be maintained. We hope that all members will pass the word around so that past members will be able to meet up with new and old members. Family and friends all welcome.

One of the stopping places on our way to the Flinders is the Wirrabara Bakery for a treat. Apparently it has relocated to Stone Hut before you get to Wirrabara. Could be of interest to all those in need of a fat fix!!!!

Colin Edwards

Golden North Weekend October Long Weekend 30th Sept – 2nd Oct Talyala Hills Farm Stay

Near Laura - Home of the famous Ice Cream Factory

3 Nights Shared Accommodation

All Meals provided

Walking wonderful Wirrabara and Beetaloo valley

Historic walking tour of Laura

With ice cream afternoons teas

Members \$170

Non members \$200

Numbers Limited

Phone Payment with booking or within 5 working days by cheque



ALPANA STATION

BLINMAN

There is a passenger transport service available to Wilpena, Blinman, Heysen Trail Head for walkers (individuals or groups) provided by John & Jan Henery of Alpana Station.

Quality self-contained accommodation suitable for walkers, artists, nature groups, etc.

Contact details:

- Postal address: PO Box 11
Blinman SA 5730
- Phone: 08 8648 4864
- Fax: 08 8648 4661
- Email: alpanastn@bigpond.com.au
- Website: www.alpana-station.netfirms.com
- Bookings essential

NUNGAWURTINA HUT & TRAIL

- Alternative for not so active walkers – an easy 2 day walk.
- Stay a night or two in a new replica pine & pug shepherds hut en-route from Alpana to the Blinman Pools and Angorichina Tourist Village to be picked up by John and returned to Alpana

OR

- 4WDrive/be transported to the hut and experience a true Flinders retreat in a serene setting. Suitable for 6 people.

NEW - En-suite facilities for caravans/campers now available.

Paddy Pallin presents 2005 Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour

The festival consists of seven films covering aspects of mountaineering, adventure and human endeavour.

- ▶ Screening is Wednesday September 7th at 7pm, Mercury Cinema.
- ▶ Tickets available only through Paddy Pallin

Ring for a store Catalogue!

228 Rundle St. Adelaide

Ph: (08) 8232 3155

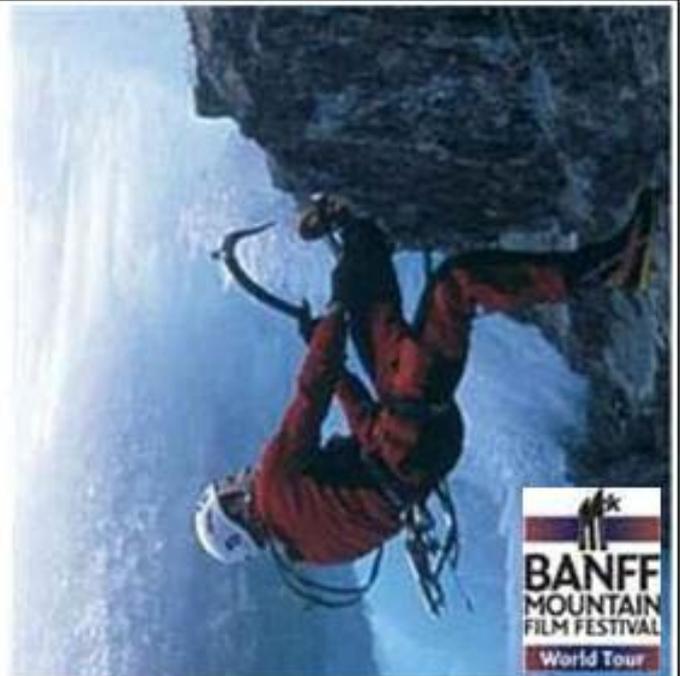
Fax: (08) 8232 3156

TOLL FREE: 1800 039 343

OPEN SUNDAYS!

www.paddypallin.com.au

Paddy Pallin Supports Friends of the Heysen Trail.



Paddy Pallin
Gear For Going Places!

Walking Committee Report

The height of the walk season and we have seen more Friends walking than ever before. This is largely because we are offering more walks than ever before! The End to End 2000 group has spent one week in June and plans another in August to complete the trail – the first group to do so under the guidance of the FOHT. All credit must go to Julian Monfries and David Beaton who have stuck with it for six years. A testament to the success of their organisation is that the group has steadily grown with over forty walkers now winding their way through the Flinders. Not to forget the 2003 End to Enders – shepherded by Kevin Boyce now nearing Kapunda.

The novelty walks have been popular with a large crowd earning their muffin at Marble Hill by climbing a couple of huge hills and the masked Mystery walk is due to snake its way along some of Adelaide’s more mysterious paths. Upcoming is the Father’s day event and a river ramble in September.

Walk Bookings

Just a reminder about walk bookings for the weekends away. FOHT need to know if there is sufficient interest a long time in advance to avoid last minute cancellations of accommodation and subsequent penalties. The walk committee put a great deal of effort into planning and reconnaissance and we need to know as early as possible how many participants we will have. To simplify the booking process and know well in advance whether we have sufficient participants to make the weekends viable we encourage everyone to pay over the phone at the time of the booking. We do not have the admin staff to chase up bookings. Places are usually limited and it makes it easier on everyone if we know how many are coming. Payment will confirm your booking and

let your overworked walk leader know in advance what arrangements are needed. Trying to organise everything in the last week is unfair on these volunteers. Priority will be given to those who are committed enough to pay on the day - or within five days of booking. There is a full refund policy up to one week before the weekend and thereafter at the discretion of the walking committee. The FOHT is not a commercial company and we plan the weekends as a communal activity to keep the costs very low. We aim to make them convivial, entertaining, and interesting



Twilight walks

These will start with the beginning of Daylight saving this year ie November. They will follow the same format as last summer. A two-hour walk from 6pm on a Wednesday followed by a meal or coffee. Bookings for November and December can be made at the office.

Weekends Away 2006

Always popular so you can diarise the following dates:

March 11 – 13 Adelaide Cup Innes National Park
 April 22 – 25 Anzac Grampians.

Details in the next Trailwalker.

See you on the trail

**Simon Cameron,
 Chairman Walking Committee**

**TWILIGHT WALKS BEGIN WITH DAYLIGHT SAVING
 EVERY WEDNESDAY
 START TIMES 6PM FOR A 2 HOUR WALK
 FOLLOWED BY DINNER OR A SNACK
 WALK FEE \$5**

DATE	DESCRIPTION	Leader
November 2	River Torrens	Chris Caspar
November 9	Cobbler creek	Bob Randall
November 16	Sturt Gorge	Simon Cameron
November 23	Volunteers bbq	
November 30	Chambers Gully	Ray Blight

Walking Program 2005 (July to November)

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

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

		JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV
1	TS	3 Jupiter Creek David Beaton	7 Mystery Masked Walk Bring a Mask	4 Father's Day Feast Greenhill CP Chris Caspar	2 Labour Day Golden North W/E Laura Simon Cameron /Julian Monfries	6 Sea-to-Summit Challenge, Belair to Mt Lofty Terry Gasson
	TW	Myponga Colin Edwards	Cape Jervis Gavin Campbell	Gandys Gully Simon Cameron		Mt Crawford Chris Caspar
2	TS	10 Marble Hill Muffin Walk Simon Cameron	13 – 21 Aug, Heysen End to End Rawnsley Bluff	14 Mt Hayfield nr Normanville Terry Gasson	11 Aldgate Gavin Campbell	9 Kuitpo Kevin Boyce / Ray Blight
	TW	Hale and Warren Daphne Sands			Montacute CP Bob Randall	Charleston Jenny Dow
3	TS	17 Sturt Gorge Liz Barry	21	18 Waitpinga/ Parsons Beach <i>David Beaton</i>	16 Eagle on the Hill David Beaton	20 Belair National Park David Beaton
	TW	Heysen Catch-up Pewsey Vale to Tanunda Ray Blight		17/18 Heysen Kapunda-Hamilton-Peters Hill Simon Cameron	15/16 Heysen Peters Hill- S Tothill Rgs – Webb Gap Simon Cameron	19/20 Heysen Webb Gap – Tothill Gap –Old Robertson Rd Simon Cameron
4	TS	24 Morialta Cons Park Daphne Sands	28 O'Halloran Hill Liz Barry	25 River Ramble Simon Cameron	23 Wurst Walk Kaiser Stuhl CP, Barossa Terry Gasson	27
	TW	Inman Valley Mike Parsons	Heysen Catch-up Tanunda to Kapunda Kevin Boyce	Aaron Creek at Deep Creek Terry Gasson	Wurst Walk Kaiser Stuhl Julian Monfries Colin Edwards	
5	TS	29/30/31 Weekend at Quorn Terry Gasson			30 Sea-to-Summit Challenge, Kingston to Mount Lofty	
	TW	Booked out			(TW) or Belair (TS) Simon Cameron	

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!

WALK BOOKINGS

Please phone the office between 10.30am and 2.30pm Monday to Friday for registration and information. Day walk cost for members has been held at **\$7.00** for 2005.

If the office is unattended please leave a number where you can be contacted during office hours. Our answering

machine can be used to record last minute cancellations, and can be accessed by your leader prior to the walk

NON MEMBERS

The cost for non-members participating in walks is now **\$15.00** per walk, for a maximum of two walks. Walkers are then expected to join the Friends to ensure they are covered by our insurance policy

54 Days on the Heysen Trail



For 4 and a half years, while studying, I had been working at Mountain Designs, using my time there to swap stories of adventures and travels with other customers and staff. Whilst working at MD's I had always maintained that hiking was my favourite past-time, one of the main reasons being that you don't need much equipment and the only skill necessary is the motivation to walk all day

Therefore, it is a relatively cheap and accessible activity for those who want to enjoy the outdoors.

I have been fortunate enough to have hiked many times in the Victorian Alpine region, loving every trip and, even enjoying the highly variable weather conditions. A few years ago I met a customer from Adelaide. Whilst discussing the possibility of trekking to Everest Base Camp in Australia's best selling sports shoe, the Dunlop Volley, I found myself (being a proud Victorian) saying "*did he know that the entire Alpine walking track contains more ascent and descent than climbing up Mt Everest and down again?*". He said he did, and then he asked me if I knew "*that SA boasts Australia's longest walking track, the Heysen Trail, which is, in fact, sometimes claimed to be the world's longest dedicated walking track?*" On hearing about the Heysen Trail, my eyes lit up. "*Where? And how long?*" I asked. He replied "*From Cape Jervis on the coast to Parachilna Gorge, way up in the Flinders ranges. Its approximately 1200km long*". This sounded like a challenge! An adventure, a journey; exactly the type of thing I would love to do. My only problem now was finding the time to do it!

I mentioned to my boyfriend that I was going to attempt to walk the Heysen Trail all in one go, over the space of two months. I expected him to tell me that I was crazy, delusional and out of my mind; however, his first question was "*When are we going?*". Recruiting people to voluntarily subject themselves to 8 hours of walking a day carrying a 20+ kg pack, sleeping in a cramped tent, eating basic food, toileting in the wild and contending with rain, heat, wind etc. is not an easy thing to do. This was

the shortest pitch I had ever had to give. I barely got past the opening statement!

Whilst hiking itself is extremely enjoyable and satisfying, the planning and researching for a trip is right up there with one of my most favourite indoor activities. It didn't take long to find a website dedicated to the Heysen Trail, set up by The Friends of the Heysen Trail based in Adelaide. The Friends of the Heysen Trail are a group of dedicated volunteers who host an updated website, provide an office in Adelaide with information and maps and help maintain the whole track.

With maps secured (a combination of strip maps and the newly produced Stage 1 guidebook -Cape Jervis to Spalding), the next phase was working out exactly how we were going to tackle the 60 day hike with respect to the ever essential need for FOOD. By carefully navigating all the necessary maps, we worked out that we would be able to locate food drops in towns along the way, never having to walk with more than 6 days food in our already heavily laden packs.

Neither Mike nor I had ever had the pleasure of sampling dehydrated food and we decided it was time to learn the very popular hiking skill of making edible and enjoyable dehydrated meals. The main advantage of dehydrated meals is that it reduces the weight you are carrying by lowering the water content of the meal. This also means that the food lasts longer and does not require refrigeration. To our surprise, even our last food drop (7 weeks after departing) contained 4 perfect dehydrated meals without a hint of smell (except pleasurable curry and sweet chilli aromas!) or mould. So, for 6 weeks prior, we busily cooked lamb currys, chicken stir fries and beef stews, dehydrating them one by one (unfortunately our Ezidry dehydrator came with only one drying tray!) We also dehydrated a lot of pineapple, which turned out to be a real treat after a hard morning of walking. Most towns we were walked through had a tourist information office which was more than happy to store our food drops until we arrived. Otherwise, the town newsagent or pub was very obliging.

On a mild autumn morning, May 1, 2005 we set off, beginning our walk on the coast at Cape Jervis. As we watched all the people loading onto the ferry heading to Kangaroo Island, we spotted the first of many distinctive white and red Heysen Trail markers

with a sign stating “This is a long distance walking trail. Do not attempt to walk it unless you are well equipped and experienced”. “*Are we fit enough and experienced enough?*” we wondered, and then decided there was only one way to find out and so we started walking.

The ambitious task of creating Australia’s longest walking track began in 1978. The late Terry Lavender, who has written two comprehensive guidebooks on walking the trail, was the main instigator and motivator for the completion of this trail. Although some progress was made in the early years, government reshuffling and lack of funds seriously impeded its construction with the SA newspaper *The Advertiser* claiming that “at its present construction rate, the Heysen Trail will be completed in the year 2376”. At this stage only 10km had been completed, however, with the unfailing commitment of Terry Lavender and a troop of dedicated volunteers, the Heysen Trail movement gained momentum. The tedious task of seeking permission from private land owners to use their property for walkways was begun. As we walked the trail, it became obvious as to how massive a task all of this must have been. Despite ample “bush walking”, the Heysen Trail passes through many private properties in order to reach national and conservation parks. Creating this trail was an impressive task and we were only trying to walk it!

The walking wasn’t always easy though. It’s quite amazing how much your fitness improves as you walk the trail. I remember the first three days, along rugged coastline, gasping for each breath as I tried to climb yet another incline from beach to cliff edge. Of course, Michael was always at the top, sunbaking and admiring the view waiting patiently for me whilst trying to think of a joke that would lighten my spirits at the top. I didn’t realise how unfit I was, and I also didn’t think that walking along the coastline would involve ups and downs – aren’t we at sea level? At least, this is what I had assumed when I proposed we started at Cape Jervis! But the views that we admired from the top of the cliffs were spectacular, and at one stage we were fortunate enough to see 30 or so dolphins playing in the waves.

As the days went by, the walking became easier and we used the maps to forewarn us of any major climb ahead. The Heysen Trail is so well marked that you rarely have to consult the map (but still need it!). Even re-routes (all of which are updated regularly on the website and should be checked before embarking on the trip) are marked with “Re-route” posts along the way. Each time I walked past a post I wondered

how in the hell Terry Lavender and his crew managed to carry all the posts and equipment to these isolated areas. So, if you are wondering, then I suggest reading “The Last Post – or how to build the Heysen Trail on 400 years or less” by Terry Lavender, which can be purchased at the Friends of the Heysen Trail office.

At this point, you are probably wondering about the other important consideration when completing a long distance walk- WATER. Well fear not, as the Friends of the Heysen Trail have erected many water tanks, located at well-thought out places along the trail and all of these locations have been posted on their website. Of course water can be obtained from towns as well and despite having the ability to carry up to 15 litres of water between us, we generally only needed to carry enough water for each day. In fact, we sometimes even arrived at a water tank and found that we didn’t need to fill up and so, since this felt so weird to us as hikers, we would make a cup of tea just to use some water.

Apart from the frequent stop in towns where we could wash ourselves, eat bakery goods, sample the local brew, chat with the locals and find out the footy updates, the Heysen Trail also has many huts along the way that can be used by overnight walkers. These make for a pleasant change from the cramped atmosphere of tent life. Not that our tent wasn’t great (in fact, after my \$600 tent broke for the third time on day 3 we bought a \$50 tent in Victor Harbour) as it turned out to be the best investment ever, working out at about \$1 a day for accommodation. The huts provided give great shelter from the wind, have fire places to toast marshmallows and are all in extremely good condition; thanks again to the Friends of the Heysen Trail. Fires can be also be lit at a lot of the campsites along the way and are almost necessary as the winter chill of June sets in.

Walking from south to north, we truly had saved the best till last. Arriving in Quorn, we began the last stage through the stunning Flinders Ranges. Whilst in Quorn we found a café that listed all the Australian films that have been made in and around the area. Think of a classic movie like the “Light Horsemen”. It’s set in Turkey with fake buildings etc. but filmed in the area that we have just had the pleasure of walking through. To see this movie is like reliving the beauty of the Flinders Ranges.

As we carved our way between steep ranges and along dried creek beds in the Flinders Ranges, we arrived at Hawker. We were used to being the only ones on the walking track and were naturally

surprised, arriving at the caravan park, to find lots of tents pitched, with the Caravan park owner telling us of the many walkers here. I felt a sense of relief and calm because as I walked past one of the parked cars, I read the bumper sticker on the back proudly stating "I'M A FRIEND OF THE HEYSEN TRAIL". So it was then that we met 42 members of the Friends of the Heysen Trail and finally had an opportunity to thank them for all the work they've done to make such a wonderful trail. As well as this they were able to tell us the names of most the birds and lizards we'd seen along the way. Mike casually mentioned to some of the walkers that he was thinking of getting a t-shirt made with a map of the Heysen trail on it, titled "Mikey's bakery tour of the Heysen", with all the bakeries marked on it. To this they responded "You must have enjoyed the Wirrabara bakery then?" And we said "No, we missed that one". They then said "oh no....you missed the BEST one!". So, if you are planning this walk, take it on good authority that the Wirrabara bakery is a must for refuelling!

The President of the Friends explained to us that they were a group of day walkers who had been doing the trail in stages over the last 6 years and that they too were near completion. For those living in SA, this seems to be a great way to do the Heysen as you get to meet a lot of other keen walkers and you can complete the whole trail without having to quit your jobs like us! The Friends of the Heysen Trail

organise car ferrying and there is a leader on each trip to help navigate. So, if you're reading this and you think 2 months is just too long, then don't dismay because there are many options for day walks or weekend hikes.

In total, it took us 54 days to complete the hike. We had two rest days, one in the Barossa Valley (yippee!) and one at Wilpena Pound (brilliant place except when it rains all day, in which case the chalet has a lovely pub with a warm fake fireplace!). Walking the Heysen Trail has been my most rewarding experience to date. Besides all the amazing flora and fauna, the views from Mt Lofty, Mt Brown, Mt Bryan and the most remarkable Mt Remarkable (all of which required a chupa chup during the ascent), meeting unique and interesting people from towns I'd never heard of before, getting to spend 8 weeks away from the comfort of city living was an invigorating experience. As we ended the walk, our attention turned from reflecting on past outdoor experiences to What next? Where? And When? And so thanks to the most wonderful experience to date, my ever growing, never ending list has begun again.

For more information regarding food drops, distances, huts and campsites plus a photo gallery, check out our website at www.askmikey.net/heysen

Anna Keating



The Campsite

Trip Report - Australian Alps Walking Track Walhalla to Mt Hotham / Harrietville (via Mt Feathertop) Part Two

(Ed's note: This is the second of a three part story.)



Map from Commonwealth DEH
Australian Alps website

Day 7 (Day 5 walking) -Thursday 11th

The walk to Mt Victor was overall fairly good along the 'position doubtful' section of old 4WD track, the Victor Spur Track then took us along quickly.

Approaching Walhalla Road there were 2 wild dogs to the north west, on Walhalla road, who really took off when they saw us.

We passed the old hut marked on the map, and were soon at the historic monument is a tree trunk with early road cutters names carved into it.

It was good walking along to Fiddlers Green, where being just before lunch, we downed packs and walked down Fiddlers Green Road to get good water from the big creek running south east from Sunflower Hill. Lunch break was had on returning to the AAWT with that remaining day / night / next mornings' water.

We camped near the 1265 spot height (GR460410), arriving fairly late, from memory around 5.30pm.

JS's track notes indicate that the AAWT leaves the 4WD track to the west as it climbs the spur towards the 1339 spot height (not shown on 25k map). We were looking for a camp, so decided to stay on the 4WD track, but found this runs off to the east and north east below the ridge.

We didn't rejoin the AAWT until the 1265 spot height, where we were relieved to find a great camp. I have a feeling the AAWT follows the ridge more closely.

About 18km walked today.

Day 8 (Day 6 walking) -Friday 12th

The next morning we got moving about 9.00am, walking down the steep and rough 4WD track to the foot track to Black River.

A little way down the foot track, I encountered another snake, another Highland Copperhead about 3' in length.

This one is cold, not having the inclination to move away immediately, so we get around it with a wide berth as it moved slowly away from us then too.

We get to Black River around 10.00am and, because there are 3 crossings within the first few hundred metres, to walk downstream in the river.

There appears to be a track either side of the river most of the way, but it is very overgrown and there are lots of leeches.

In the river is much better and much quicker, and leeches are not so much trouble.

Rocks can be a little slippery in places, but overall no obstacles including deeper pools gave any trouble. The depth at the entry point from the foot track was just under the knees, to give an idea on best depths to wade.

We did try the track along the east side for a couple of hundred metres or so, but it is hard to find, and tough going, I soon found myself back in the water wading along with the current instead, while my companions kept to the track. I could have walked the whole 1-1/2 km in the river in less than an hour, while the track would take maybe a couple of hours. I would imagine that trying to walk Black River upstream would be very much harder work.

Did I mention there are LOTS of leeches on the tracks ?

The guys de-leeched at the 4WD track crossing.

We had lunch after the last ankle deep crossing to the base of the spur heading north. De-leeched again.

Took good water from the river as expected, enough to last to Rumpff Saddle next morning.

Mark was feeling pretty crook, having had a bout of 'the runs' for the previous 24 hours, and was feeling very flat walking up the spur towards Mt Shillinglaw. It was a fairly hard climb anyway.

Dennis was up front when he came upon another brownish coloured snake (I didn't see this one to identify).

We decided to have an early camp just before the 1073 knoll (GR465476) when we came across a nice spot by the turn eastwards to Mt Shillinglaw.

It was early, around 3.00pm.

Only about 8-1/2 km walked today.

Day 9 (Day 7 walking) -Saturday 13th

A thunderstorm during the night was a little too close. A Megamid with a single vertical metal pole, perched atop a high peak is not a safe place to be.

Mark is a lot better (we can tell by the speed he walks this morning), and we take off to Mt Shillinglaw, then by the 4WD track down to the Jamieson Road.

The road was fast walking as expected, the off track section between the main roads was quite overgrown in places and slow progress, but generally an easy route to follow.

Lunch was had at the intersection of Middle Ridge Road, and good water retrieved from the creek about 1/2 km north along Middle Ridge Road.

The weather had been deteriorating all morning, and by the time we got to rejoin the Jamieson Road it was blizzarding with powder snow.

It got very cold along the road, and by the time we reached camp, we were all grateful to get set up quickly, retrieve our food drums, and get inside to keep warm.

We decided to bag Mt Skene and take in the views either in the morning if cleared, or on the return car trip, as it would have been fairly pointless in the current weather conditions.

We ate as quick as we could, and slept.

We were about 1 day ahead of schedule, but we knew that terrain is the days ahead of us would be slower, so were glad to have a buffer of time.

About 12km walked today.

Day 10 (Day 8 walking) - Sunday 14th

The weather was still overcast, and we had quite a bit of high wind the previous night.

We sorted out our next 8 days food, left some, as well as excess gear, gas cylinders, and rubbish, and re-stashed our drums for later recovery.

Setting out via the Barkly River jeep Track we downed packs and retrieved good water from the track heading north west of the Rumpff Saddle, then continued along the Middle Ridge Road.

The old forestry hut as described in JS's book are now dismantled and stacked around the site, which would be a good campsite.

The walking was fast along the 4WD tracks, and we soon found ourselves at The Gorge (GR495607) for lunch.

A 4WD (Landrover Defender with all the bells and whistles, GPS with laptop mapping etc) came past, stopping to chat before taking on the hill up towards Mt McKinty.

We finished lunch and continued, finding him winching up the track just 80 metres or so along.

We passed him on the deeply rutted and muddy section of track.

"I would have been straight up that track with my mud tyres that are sitting at home in the garage" it was stated when he caught up with us on Mt McKinty summit.

After this we joked from time to time among ourselves, "Should have brought along my 'mud boots'", or "Wish I had those 'steep downhill on loose gravel boots'".

The walking was fine along the track, we continued on and bagged Mt Sunday (on a Sunday and all), then back to the helipad and down the old 4WD track to The Low Saddle.

This old track was fairly overgrown, and we found perhaps the heaviest leech population of the walk on the 1km section from the hairpin bend north to the Mount Sunday Road.

Thankfully there was no such problem at The Low Saddle.

Good water was taken from the recommended spot north of the saddle, though the flow through the pool was slow, and would likely dry up in summer. The guidebook and a sign say 400m, but we paced it as 300m.

Interestingly leeches were prolific at the pool late afternoon (Mark and Dennis), but next morning (me, Gunther and Mark) there were none to be found.

Weather overcast, no precipitation.

About 17-1/2 km walked today.

Day 11 (Day 9 walking) - Monday 15th

Headed east about 1km then north about another km to the saddle higher on a northern spur (GR510683).

There are no markers to be found anywhere near this corner of the supposed foot track, and no obvious foot pad until around 50 metres in. Just go in on the top of the spur and you'll find it eventually.

Shortly after starting you will come across the odd marker here and there.

The 700 metre climb over the 8km or so to Mt McDonald is another good workout.

We had pretty good weather for a change.

Decided to camp at the marked water source about 3km past Mt McDonald (GR551730), getting surprisingly good water from a large rutted section of

the 4WD track heading south west from the saddle. Water was flowing freely into this, it was clear, and you just have to be careful not to disturb the water when dipping your water bottle. About 11km walked today.

Day 12 (Day 10 walking) - Tuesday 16th

Today would be interesting, with many neat looking features along the way, and because (like Mt McDonald) much of this is above the tree line, the views are fine.

We walked The Nobs, High Cone, and skirted Square Top, getting to the Square Top / Mt Clear saddle for lunch.

We camped just at the base of Rocky Point next to the track (GR641787), arriving early around 3.00pm.

Reasonable water was recovered from the creek down from Rat Camp / Chesters Yard, but we treated it due to the high number of signs of cattle (pats).

We saw a black wild dog from the creek below, walking up towards Rat Camp / Chesters Yard.

Next morning we discovered a great alternative camp at the top of the hill to the east of the track (GR642794).

About 11km walked today.

Day 13 (Day 11 walking) - Wednesday 17th

Starting early, we made good time along the 4WD track to King Billy No.2 and No.1, and then followed

the foot track to the north east to Mt Magdala. Past Hells Window, we lunched at the saddle (nice campsite) and retrieved water from the excellent source in Hellfire Creek (well trodden foot track to the south west).

After lunch we moved on to Big Hill then the incredible views from Mt Howitt.

We could see all that lay ahead of us from here, Mt Hotham, Feathertop, and nice views of Buller and the Bogongs.

The Crosscut Saw was next, 3km - 4km of undulating track over a saw tip like ridge. Although we had the company of different groups of kids, travelling both ways and totalling in the 150 number, it was a beautiful walk. We hoped to make it to camp at a saddle north east of Mt Speculation, but after a big day decided on Mt Buggery, where there was a nice site on the peak to pitch the Megamid.

A note, the AAWT markers are supposed to have been removed from the Crosscut Saw to Barry Saddle wilderness area, though we did find them at times in places.

Perfect sunny day !

About 16km walked today.

Continued page 25



The Crosscut Saw

The Tongariro Crossing Walk

“Often called the finest one day walk in New Zealand” is how the Lonely Planet describes the Tongariro Crossing walk. With such a build up, and being in the area, how could we avoid doing such a walk. As it is a one way walk and so popular, there is a well organized series of bus runs from accommodation in the surrounding 60km area to get walkers to and from the walk

We were staying at the Youth Hostel at Turangi and, along with all other tourist offices and accommodation points the weather forecast for the walk for the next few days is faxed through. The topic of conversation around the YH kitchen and lounge was “the Crossing” – had we done it yet?, when were we doing to do it?, what was the weather forecast for the walk. Among

the items we were advised to carry were, hat, gloves and 3 litres of water – walking in gloves? in summer? What were they on about?

The walk starts with a gentle climb up the Mangatepopo valley with a line of walkers up

ahead of us from the buses that had arrived earlier than ours, and, as we looked back, we could see a line of walkers behind us too. There were so many people that, in places, we had to wait to let the logjam ahead of us break up before we could continue on the path. The walkers ranged in age from sixties to a school party of 10 to 12 year olds, all in good humour and polite. There was a watery sun, not even trying to break through but it was warm enough on the first part of the climb. At the Mangatepopo Hut there were queues for the 2 toilets but we continued on, after this the climb suddenly became steeper and we climbed about 800 m up to the South crater. At the top of this climb the wind was very strong and I could understand why gloves had been recommended, it was COOOld. The going underfoot was on loose scoria or slippery clay, the path narrow and the drop off to one side about 100 m, I was more afraid of being blown off the path than admiring the view and the slightly overcast weather didn't make stopping for sight seeing an attractive proposition. Over the

top and onto the bed of South Crater was a complete change, flat walking, protection from the wind and a desert like landscape with a slight whiff of sulphur in the air. At the far side of the crater we had another windy and cold climb off 200 m or so and then we were over the high point and looking for a rock to shelter from the wind where we could eat lunch and take in the view. We found such a place and the hillside was dotted with other people with the same idea, we didn't want to linger long over lunch as it was still cold and threatening rain and limbs were starting to ask “What have you got us into now?, keep going or we'll seize up”. Down was



1200 m of losing height with steps, slippery slopes or pleasant down hill tracks. Just over the top the down was so steep that some just sat down and slid down the scoria slope. I was glad that I had my stick with me to help control



the descent. At the Ketetahi hut there was a party atmosphere as people thought the walk was almost over – in fact there was still 7 km of down still to go. The track passes close to some hot springs but the Maori traditional owners have only given permission to traverse this section, not to stay and relax in the waters. As an indication of the numbers who have walked the ‘Crossing’ the track was eroded in places to over 1 m below the surrounding hillside The Department of Conservation is putting in boardwalks to counteract this problem and a mighty fine job they do too.

The last 4 kms or so was a gently sloping path down through woods and, once in line on the path, one was constrained to keep up the pace – it became more like a route march as if you stepped off the path it took some time to get back into the flow of walkers. At the bus pick up point the multinational nature of the group of walkers became apparent with comparisons

Continued on page 25

Walk – Maintaining the Trail

This expedition started on the Thursday before Anzac Day, with the intention being to work on the Trail for 4 days, coming home on Anzac Day. Because of the usual holdups like buying food, packing up and other menial tasks, I was able to get away by about 11am. I went via the map shop to buy the cadastral maps for my walk to Mount Gambier and around Kangaroo Island and then it was off to meet Bob at the “Friend’s” shed, to get more equipment for the expedition. When I got onto Grand Junction Road I thought, “Boots!! I didn’t pack my bloody boots”. I had a meeting with Bob Randall at 12:30, so I had to keep that appointment. Does any one realise how far along Bridge Road the shed is when in fact you want to be going the other way? I got the gear from Bob and then it was back to Brighton, to collect my boots. My main thought was “If we are going to live up to the mission statement ‘The Heysen Trail: Australia’s best’, then I needed those extra sign markers”.

Boots in stow, I again set off, this time at about 2pm, surprisingly happy after wasting over 2 hours. I won’t leave **them** again. The trip to Quorn was uneventful, with me stopping only once to take a photograph of the, near full moon rising over the Flinders near Port Germein. I arrived in Quorn at 6:15 thinking that Trevor, my fellow maintainer, would have been considering going home after waiting all day, but no, he had only arrived about 5:00 himself. I booked into the Criterion Hotel where we settled down to a lovely meal after which it was off to bed ready for the next day and trail maintenance from Wilpena to Moralana Drive.

Breakfast the next morning, in the corridor of the upper story of the Criterion Hotel, was interrupted by massed cocky screech and Trevor called me to the window to see one of the largest flock of corellas I had ever seen, swooping and climbing over the nearby creek. When they settled on some dead River Reds they looked like magnolia blossom, and that was only a part of the flock. We were soon on our way and after leaving one car at Moralana Drive, we took the other to Wilpena where, after a quick look through the shop, we were off again. The signage around the resort was poor and needs to be corrected for there are no Heysen Trail markers, only indicators to Bridal Gap. A local walker could probably work it out but, working on the German Tourist principal, it should be clearer. This matter I will take up with the appropriate people. For this expedition the overriding thought was, if we can’t decide where to go with the current signage then it needs to be clearer.

We were going to walk the Trail without reference to a map, although we had one in case.

The walk through the Pound to Bridal Gap was fairly easy and, although we enhanced it several times, the signage could be little improved upon. Bridal Gap is on the outer rim of the Pound and the views from it are magnificent. We lunched with the view of Elder Range to our fore, thinking it would be a great place to camp, for dawn on the Elder Range from this vantage point would be super spectacular. But this didn’t happen and it was soon down the sometimes perilously steep descent to Black Gap. On some extra steep parts of this section I thought back to the time several years ago when I did this section with a full pack and, with my then companion Robert, we nearly toppled over. We enhanced the signage on this section at every appropriate time. Black Gap Creek is still beautiful and when we arrived at the car, we were happy with the day’s effort. Trevor also remarked on the good trail marking that was already in place.

We retrieved the car from Wilpena and, as the time was late, settled down to our evening barbecue where the Trail Crosses Moralana Drive. After the meal we got up to go, only to find my car with a flat tyre, so we settled down for the night under the stars and a near full moon. During the evening an owl decided to make a visit with its silent swooping. The night was warm and we were very comfortable. We changed the tyre in the morning and at about 7:40am we were met by Les and his gang and were soon off again on our maintenance expedition. It was not long before the others left us behind, them walking ahead to Red Range camp, us correcting anomalies in the Trail. It was a hot day and there were quite a few markers to put up although the previous Trail maintainers had done an exceptionally good job. When we arrived at Red Range camp, the others were lying around and it was quite tempting to join them, but no, we were soon walking up a short steep creek and over the Red Range. The climb was quite short and when we arrived at a ridge at the source of the creek, the view was overwhelming. The Pound was to our left and in the distance to our right were the Chase and Druid Ranges, glowing in the afternoon sun. The slopes of Red Range memorable for their red soil, flecked with green native pines. This has to be as good as it gets. I took a panoramic photograph of this view and have to now work out how I can get it framed and hung.

We retrieved the cars and headed for Hawker to repair the tyre and organise our night's sleep. The tyre proved to be a write off for it had been fractured by a rock. The young red headed bloke who changed the tyre was a pleasure to deal with, although he had had a good night the night before and was feeling a little under the weather. He was probably feeling worse than me, after two days walking. All in order, we headed for Wonoka Station to organise a stay at Mayo hut. We went to the homestead and although Peter McInnis was absent, the gentleman we spoke to was a delightful chap and most helpful. (For those who think Mayo Hut is a bit Spartan, Wonoka Station offers B&B facilities at the homestead)

We unloaded our bedding on the ground to the west of the hut, fired up the barbie and had a thoroughly enjoyable meal which included some beer rehydration. The night was mild and the moon nearly full, giving a viewing range of several kms. At about 8:30 a warm, dry breeze sprang up from the north, going from 0km to 15km in the blink of an eye or the flick of a switch. It stopped in the same fashion at 11:36pm. In the morning Trevor was up before dawn and although it would be great to lie there and watch the dawn, we had a big day ahead of us so it was up and at it.

We started at dawn and were soon going over the hills of Red Range and after a quick look at the magnificent scene behind us, it was down into Slaty

Creek and back to Trail marking. The other walkers had gone before we got to their camp. There were a few anomalies in this section, with one problem section taking over an hour to correct. The day was hot, dry and sunny and a walk that should have been 17kms turned out to be 25km and very thirsty. I got a bit dehydrated and couldn't help envying Les, Dennis, Gunther and John knocking off the cold beers we had left at the hut. It is interesting that whenever I am in such a hot and dry situation I think of sailing, surrounded by cool, clear water and cold beer drinking. We got to the hut in a very weary and thirsty state, only to find Dennis sleeping almost on top of the undiscovered beers. It was soon beer all round and the process of rehydration began. What a way to go!

This couldn't last forever for we had to retrieve the other two cars and be back in time to cook the evening meal. The return trip was about 120km, quite a distance in city terms, but we were back in time. Although Les, John and Gunther ate from their ration packs, Dennis joined Trev and me for a barbie and beers. The others joined us and after a long parlay including a remembrance of Anzac. The Anzac talk revolved around the theme of "Where for their grace go we?" or "This life we enjoy is solely because of their sacrifice and how sad it is that they probably never enjoyed such a weekend as this, dying (probably hard) while still only boys, on some hot and steamy jungle trail or in a barbaric POW camp.



The boys getting ready

We were then off to bed, Trev and me under the stars, the others inside the hut and down in the creek. The moon was full and again the viewing distance was kilometers. A very drying wind blew up as it had the night before causing me to get up during the night in a very thirsty state which required quenching. Clouds blew over during the night and I thought we might be in for a change in the weather, to no avail. The country was very dry and in dire need of a good drenching rain.

The morning was clear and hot and, as Les and Gunther were a bit late in arising, one of the party played reveille on his trumpet. This happened at dawn, so it was appropriate on this Anzac day. We were off at about 8, heading up the Wonoka Creek and the day was already hot. The creek bed is a very dry affair and it was difficult at times to work out which way the creek flowed. In some places there were indications of a massive flood some metres above the now dry creek bed. The creek heads towards Wonoka Hill before diverting to the west. The real surprise in this walk were the yet unnamed pools on this creek, a substantial series of water holes surrounded by many animals that rely on it to survive. Maybe this is the opportunity to name some landmark after Trail founder, Terry Lavender. The walk was hot and dry and we were thankful when it

Tongariro Crossing (from page 22)

and sentiments being expressed in many languages, although mostly in English as all backpackers, tourists and other nutters who do such walks seem to be able to speak English. The bus was on time, walkers checked off the list of those who had been delivered in the morning and off we went on a hot shower and a meal.

The walk was probably the toughest one-day walk I've done. It is 17 kms – although my normally accurate pedometer said that we'd done 23 kms due to the number of steps both up and down – with over 1000 m of ascent and 1200 m of descent. Had the weather been better we could have enjoyed more of the views but we were lucky that we could complete the walk in the window of time that we were in the area. Best one day walk – maybe, toughest – certainly.

Jim Alvey

Australian Alps walk (from page 21)

Day 14 (Day 12 walking) - Thursday 18th

A good descent through Horrible Gap, then of course a good ascent of Mt Speculation again brought great

ended at about noon. It was along the Wonoka Station drive, while retrieving cars, that we came across an Emu dad and his chicks. Cars retrieved and clothes changed we soon headed to the Quorn Café for an absolutely yum Railway Sleeper. What a magnificent weekend! Trevor and I had achieved a lot and I believe the Trail is a lot better for our visit. That German Tourist shouldn't get lost now. The scenery in this section is as good as it gets and sleeping under the stars is something that can't be done too often and a really great experience.

The things that stand out are how much the weather changes during the night. We saw scores of kangaroos with the highlight being some Yellow Footed Rock Wallabies at a rock pool on Slaty Creek. The way they bound up those creek cliffs is amazing. The Wonoka Pools were a total surprise and particularly delightful as was the view to the east from Red Range which is magnificent as is the view from Bridal Gap. We were pleased with our maintenance efforts and believe the Trail is improved by our efforts. The re-route along Wonoka Creek is a 1,000% improvement on the previous trail and special thanks should go to Peter McInnis and the "Friends" volunteers who made it possible

Gavin Campbell

views. After a brief rest on top, we decided to take an alternative route from the saddle (GR686911) 1/2 km north to the 4WD track, where great water was obtained from the creek just west of the foot track junction. We walked the 4WD track, and rejoined the AAWT at Catherine Saddle.

Passing over Mt Despair, we got onto some fairly scrubby track, onto the start of The Razor the track was often hard to follow and indistinct, it now follows below The Razor rock line, rather than over the top as marked on the map.

We had lunch at the saddle just before the start of The Razor (GR720928).

The track climbs along with the Razor rock line, and leaves at the same knoll leading to Viking Saddle.

We got to Viking Saddle about 3.30pm, fairly tired so decided to camp there and tackle The Viking next day.

A good decision, as it is slow going on the climb, through the cliffline, on top, and off the other side.

Good water was located west of the saddle in the creek, about 400m away.

Again a beautiful sunny day to enjoy the views.

About 13km walked today.

Les Skinner

The Mafia reaches Sydney

Prominent members of the Friends, Lorraine, Darcy, Chris and Marguerite visited Sydney recently to stay with former Pathfinder Pamela who now represents the Walking Mafia in Sydney. They met George there. This is his version of the events.

At Narabeen, a picturesque suburb of Sydney close to the sea I encountered the girls known by the Pathfinders as the walking mafia. Now I am not sure why they are known as The Mafia but that is how it is. They were in Sydney to stay with Pamela, explore the Narabeen Lake, do some walks, see the nightlife and go shopping. We fitted in the program a trip to The Basin in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park via Palm Beach. I explained that I had arranged a boat to take us across Pittwater for a picnic. When we got to Palm Beach the girl's expectations appeared dashed. Instead of a private luxury cruiser that my words had conjured up our transport was a public Ferry!

It is amazing how five South Australian women can give so much cheek to the Captain of a Ferry. Perhaps this is why they are known as The Mafia. I kept a low profile!

The Basin is a beautiful grassed picnic and camping ground under Norfolk Island Pines fronting the Pittwater Estuary. Behind the picnic area there is a crystal clear saltwater lagoon surrounded by bushland hills. We were all

quickly in the water for a swim and a chance for me to try out some new flippers. My flopping about in flippers bought much amusement. We then had a slap-up picnic lunch with fine wine. There was much reminiscing about the early Adelaide day walks and trips to Tassie with the Pathfinders.

Chris particularly remembered Toby encouraging, cajoling and helping her little legs over rocks to the top of Cradle Mountain. This is an achievement she will always treasure.

Another memory was Tess singing in a beautiful voice "Climb every Mountain" at the Gingerbread hut up high above the Franklin River when Norma, a determined lady approaching 80 years made it to the

hut. There was also much banter about the Pathfinder Leaders and Tim got his share of mentions about good times on canoe trips. "We have done the hard bit. It's easy from here!"

I proposed an "easy" walk up a big hill so we could inspect some ancient rock carvings. This trip did not happen. Apparently I have a credibility problem. The second option was a walk at sea level along the bushland coast of Pittwater. The Track notes are brief. "Walk along rocks heading north for 200 meters and return". Maybe the problem was the fine wine for lunch (Lorraine).

The Ladies made their peace with the Captain of the ferry on the return trip. At Palm Beach the marvel of

text messaging was revealed.

Darcy sent a note to her son.

"Taking coffee overlooking Pittwater at Palm Beach in perfect weather". Reply came, "Look out for someone famous, I am in a hot dust storm at Bordertown."

"Too bad" said Darcy the recognized Godmother of the group. "The

Godfather" from the films would have said the same thing.

Perhaps that is why they are known as The Mafia!

George Driscoll

PS Patricia, one of the original Mafia died in January 2004, but her boots continue to walk D'arcy is now hiking in them, keeping Tricia's memory alive, particularly her phrase "just keep going; put one foot in front of the other" said in her best pommy accent when the going was tough.



On the Pittwater ferry

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Huts Along The Heysen Trail



Huppatz Hut

Map #	Location	Grid Reference	Management Authority/Landowner	Facilities
HT Bk 1 Map 5.9 (Old Map 10)	Huppatz Hut	086 509 (308649 / 6250880) (Zone 54 WGS 84)	J. Huppatz	Hut, bunks, water, heating/ cooking facilities, table, seating, toilet.

Forest Re-Routes

There have been some re-routes to the Heysen Trail in both the Mt Crawford and Kuitpo forests, due to harvesting operations.

Mt Crawford 1

The Heysen Trail has been diverted around the Pewsey Vale forest. It now continues along Brownes Rd for a further 900m, where a new stile provides through access to the forest and rejoins the Trail along the forest eastern boundary. Access to the Rossiter Hut is now only available from the eastern side

Mt Crawford 2

There has also been some confusion regarding access in the Wirra Wirra peaks area. The re-route shown in the Spring 2004 Trailwalker is still valid ie access south from Freeman Hut is possible, following the northern boundary of the forest area to Tower Rd,

then Blockers Rd and Wirra Wirra Rd to the Red Gums picnic area..

Please contact the Ranger Mount Crawford Forest Tel: 08 85246004 for further information, and check with the Ranger before planning walks in these areas

Kuitpo Forest

The two temporary detours of the Heysen Trail, in the Jupiter Creek and Knott Hill areas of the Kuitpo Forest are still in force. Maps of these detours, although not in colour, have been printed and inserted in this Trailwalker for the convenience of members.

For further information contact the Kuitpo Forest Information Center on 8391 8800.

John Wilson