

# THE TRAILWALKER

ISSUE 98    PRINT POST APPROVED PP565001 / 00079    SUMMER 2005/2006



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

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**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	

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

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

**MEETING DATES**

**Council**  
Wed 21 Dec, 2005  
Wed 18 Jan, 2006  
Wed 15 Feb, 2006

**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**

The End to End 1 group  
See articles pages 20 - 27  
Photo: Julian Monfries

**OFFICE HOURS & VOLUNTEERS**

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

Keneatha Pick, Mike Parsons  
David Beaton Dawn Bon, Julie Loftus, David Rattray  
Jack Marcelis, Jenny Prider,  
Arthur Smith, Frances Gasson, Jan Mortimer, Bradley Howell  
Kath Palyga,, Jim Alvey

**IN THIS ISSUE**

Editorial	3
Membership info	3
New members	4
Enders	4
President's Report	5
Office Report	6
Maintenance Committee Report	6
Maintenance Report	7
Section Leaders	8
Burra Branch Report	9
Walking Federation of SA Report	11
Doug Leane profile	12
Honorary Member nominations	14
Walking Committee Report	15
Australia Day BBQ	15
Twilight Walk program	16
Opening of Walking Season	16
Social Club	17
Grampians weekend notice	17
Innes NP weekend notice	17
Alpana Station advert	18
Paddy Pallin advert	18
Letters	19
Explorange advert	19
Talyala advert	19
End to End 1 articles	20
Australian Alps Walking Track (Pt 3)	28
Discounts	31
Marschall Hut & reroutes	32

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Editorial

Hi Everyone and welcome to the Summer 2005/2006 Edition of The Trailwalker!

Thanks to all those who answered the challenge and wrote up their End to End stories, they make for some inspiring reading for those of us who always think "Could I do it?" We've also included the final instalment of the Australian Alps story.

Along with our regular articles this Edition we're starting a new column "Member Profile". Our first "profilee" is Doug Leane, ably profiled by Jo Chessier. If you feel there is a worthy "Friend" out there, let us know, or even better yet, get in there and interview them yourself and send us their story. Don't forget that all profiled will need a photo so that we can recognise them when we meet them on the Trail!

In the Autumn Edition of Trailwalker we intend to include some useful information relating to the planned weekends away at Innes National Park and the Grampians, as well as notices for the 2006 AGM.

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 **3 Feb, 2006**.  
Publication date will be late **Feb, 2006**.

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

We would like to extend our best wishes to all our readers for the holiday season and 2006.

### Editorial Team

## 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.

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

Single	\$20.00 per year
Family	\$30.00 per year
Organisation	\$50.00 per year

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

### Day Walk Costs

Members	\$7.00 per walk
Non-Members	\$15.00 per walk
Children	\$1.00 per walk
Golden Boots	\$50.00 per year

GB cards cover all walks in the walking program and can be taken out with membership or purchased separately for a 12 month duration

### Twilight Walks

All comers	\$5.00 per walk
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These are an addition to the walking program and are not covered by Golden Boots cards (see page 16)

## 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.

George Adams	Anne Hicks	Donna Mackereth	Ron Ricketts
Andrew Cox	Philip Hicks	Elizabeth Marlow	Heather Salt
Vicki Cox	Robert Hirsch	K Marlow	Margaret Taylor
Angela Crettenden	Leonie Hobbs	Liz Melling	Michael Talbot
Ian Crettenden	Graham Jones	Michael Middleton	Hilde van Beusichem
Gareth Davies	Janette Jones	Greg Pain	Peter van Beusichem
Loretta Deconte	Michael Kerin	John Pym	Sue Zadey
Dominic Henschke	Deborah Lawton	Karen Pym	
Marlene Henschke	Scott McDonald	Jill Randell	

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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 22 End to End 1 group

Ray Blight	Geoff Couch	Trevor Lee	Richard Thorpe
Dawn Bon	Dorothy Farmer	Kevin Liddiard	Stephen Veale
Kevin Boyce	Michelle Foster	Robyn Morris	Nic Waite
Eve Buckley	Oliver "Jim" Freak	Dennis Sandery	Peter Wynen
Simon Cameron	Debra Gustavsson	Maria Sandery	
Jo Chesher	Pamela Lee	Sue Thorpe	

The following persons were also registered and issued with "End-to End" certificates between 1 Aug, 2005 and 31 October 2005. Members of the Friends are denoted by \*.

David Beaton *	Janet Callen	Denis Harper	Keneatha Pick*
Lorraine Billett	Carol Cowles*	Jim Hughes*	Ray Reynolds
Merily-Clair Browne	Glenn Foley	Mary Nettle	Arthur Ward

## President's Report Summer 2005

Since my previous report things have moved afoot. The End to End group, to be known as End to End 1 (E2E1) has completed the trail after 5 years and about 61 days of walking. The final group of 37 crossed the line on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August with 22 attaining their End to End certificates.

The accomplishment was celebrated in appropriate style, at the Woolshed Restaurant, at Rawnsley Park that night, with much laughter, some libellous stories, more drink and some tears. But more on that later in this edition of Trailwalker.

You will find a flyer included in this Trailwalker for the Northern Guide to the Heysen Trail. We hope to have these available at the shop for Christmas. GREAT GIFT idea.

Two of our members were honoured recently, with Kate and Hugh Greenhill of Farrell Flat, receiving awards for outstanding service to the Friends of Parks Network. Hugh is of course our section leader for the Trail in the Mid-North, and Kate has been the president of the Burra branch of the Friends. Well done!! (See page 10)

The Friends have taken on the task of organising the opening of the 2006 Bushwalking Season in conjunction with Walking SA.

The opening will take place at The Pines Oval, Belair Conservation Park on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2006.

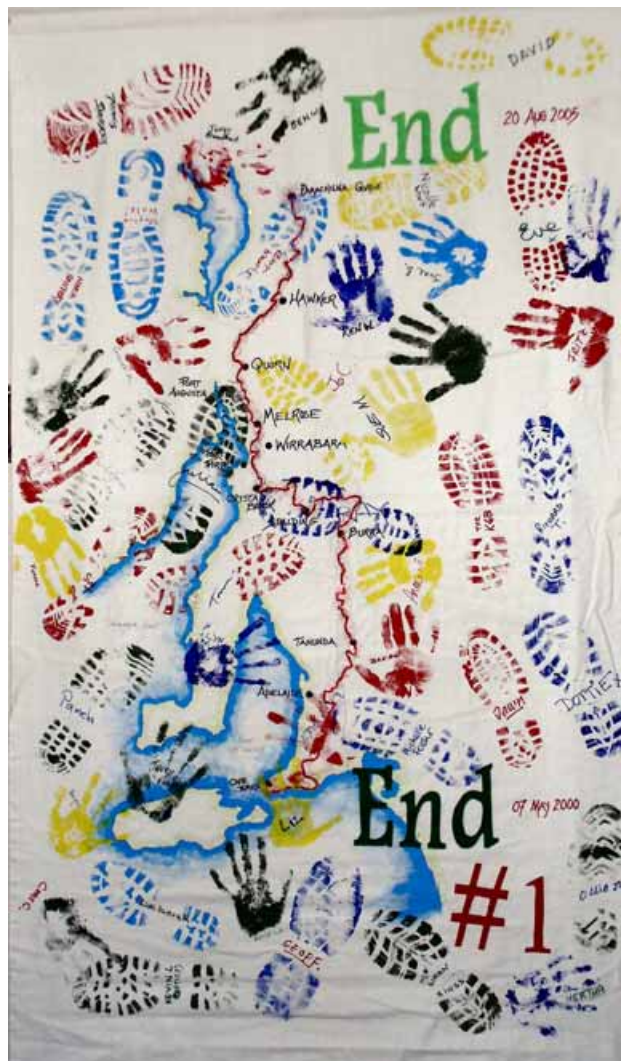
We plan it to be "a Celebration of Bushwalking and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Foundation of the Friends". To this end our organising committee have invited all the bushwalking clubs and retail outlets to take part, and will involve the various Friends of Parks groups, DEH, Recreation and Sport and Tourism SA.

We would also like to get as many of the inaugural council to attend, as our guests for a celebratory luncheon, and as many old members, both in the ex-member and aged categories, as possible to be a part of this occasion.

If you know people who were previously associated with the Friends, invite them along. We would be delighted to make contact with them.

Time rushes towards the end of the bushwalking season, and the start of our Twilight walks.

These are a chance to do shorter walks in the summer with a more social aspect. An opportunity for members to bring along friends who may want to start bushwalking and need a gentle introduction. (see Walking Committee Report and Walk Programme).



The New Year brings the AGM, which will be on Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at Enterprise House, Unley. We plan to have a dynamic guest speaker to stimulate the mind and the adventurous spirit. Keep that date in mind.

Just in case it had slipped your memory, the Friends are a volunteer organisation. That means we employ no paid staff. We depend on our members to VOLUNTEER their time and expertise to help carry out the various functions we perform namely maintenance, public information through the office/shop and walking.

We cannot do this without your help. We know that most people are very busy running their lives, jobs and undertaking family matters, yet some find the time to help us out.

Could that person be you? Could you find some time to help us?

**Julian Monfries**  
**President**

## Office Committee Report

**Office Coordinator:** Thanks to Frances Gasson who for the last few years has taken on this position. Frances has indicated that she wishes to step down as coordinator and her efforts in this area will be missed. Luckily for the Friends she is remaining as a regular worker in the office. Thanks Frances.

**Office Staff:** We are **urgently** in need of extra assistance if the Friends office is to continue to open each day. **Can YOU help?** If you can spare one day a week or one day a fortnight please contact me. David Beaton Phone 8298 6340.

Thanks to the all the Office Volunteers who have staffed the office this year.

As the public face of the Friends, your friendly greetings, your ready supply of information and willingness to help walkers and prospective members make you a most valued part of the Friends. Thanks from a very grateful FOHT Council.

**SUMMER CLOSURE** - The Office will be close on Friday 16 January and reopen on Monday 16 January.

**David Beaton**  
**Chair, Office Committee**

## Maintenance Committee Report

The Maintenance Committee has had a number of meetings with DEH staff with the primary aim of discussing the Friends representation at two Heysen Trail Facility & Infrastructure Planning Workshops which were held in November. The purpose of the planning workshops is to determine the future facility and infrastructure standards, and design, classification and route of the trail, and a range of stakeholders attended.

The meetings also reviewed the state of the trail, the working arrangements between FoHT and DEH, and developing a program of future work.

Subjects discussed, but not resolved include:

- policy for reimbursement of Friends volunteers
- provision of water tanks along the trail
- construction of a pilot trailhead with information signs and parking facilities

Progress through 2005 has been slowed by reorganizations and transfers within DEH, and delays in finalizing the higher level Strategic Plan. The middle level Management Plan for the Heysen Trail will shortly be circulated in draft form for comment, and the third level Maintenance Manual can then be updated. The workshops are a step towards these objectives.

While these planning and standards issues are being resolved, some Friends initiatives have been put on hold, a situation aggravated by an apparent lack of funds.

Our committee is currently preparing an overview of the present state of the trail, with recommendations on the areas of work which should be given priority. From this it is intended to develop a maintenance program and cost estimates as a basis for planning future development. The results of these actions will be passed to Section Leaders as quickly as possible.

In other news, the Department has provided the Friends with a number of safety vests for use by volunteers working near roads or busy areas. 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, and decals of the Friends logos applied to help promote our activities to the general public. We have also been donated a water tank which will be sited on or near the trail (see photos opposite page).

### Late News

The heavy rains in early November have caused considerable damage to the Heysen Trail, including land slips and erosion, while several bridges were washed away. This is likely to have a significant impact on our maintenance planning.

As this is the final Trailwalker for the year, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all Section Leaders and volunteers for your support during 2005.

**John Wilson**  
**Chairman, Maintenance Committee**

## Maintenance Report For Summer 2005

### Section 4

The Wandergruppe Walking Group have completed their third bridge near Myponga. The opening will be held on Saturday 26th November at 1pm.

### Section 5

The landowners of the property at Mt Cone, requested that the Heysen Trail be altered from west to the east side of the fenceline where the trail follows the ridge towards Woodcone Road from Mt Cone. A road has been constructed and fenced, walkers will not have to walk in the stock paddocks. Seven stiles were removed, 2 stiles shifted and marking altered. J Wilson, R Merrick, J O'Neill and myself participated.

### Section 6

Bronte Leak has had Blackfellows Creek Road surveyed and the trail can now be constructed off road. Marking and clearing will need to be carried out. Due to logging in Kuitpo Forest, two reroutes have been marked, one at Knotts Hill and one in Jupiter Creek.

R Webb and volunteers worked on the reroutes.

### Section 7

The new bridge in the Engelbrech Reserve and the Davenport Bridge in the Mount

George Conservation Park have both been demolished by the recent flooding of Cox's Creek.

Trail closed signs have been erected.

### Section 9

The reroute sign in Morialta Conservation Park has had to be replaced twice in recent times. It had been pulled out and thrown in the scrub. A Smith replaced post.

### Section 10

Pewsey Vale Forest is being logged, a reroute has been marked along Browns Road, Heggies Range Road, Tanunda Creek Road and through Kaiserstuhl Conservation Park. Access to Rossiter Hut is permitted via this reroute. D Leane and volunteers carried the work.

### Section 13

Two stiles between Burra and Wandallah and one near the top of Mt Bryan have been repaired. The trail in the Caroon Creek Conservation Park has been re-marked, and checked between Mt Bryan and Hallet, and between Brownhill range and the Spalding channel. Heysen Trail long distance signs have been replaced. The Caroon Ck Shelter (old) was removed and put into storage to be used at another location. (Hugh Greenhill)

### Section 14

Trail marking has been upgraded in Never Never Creek and through to Bundaleer Forest; also Gulnare Road, and Lehmann's Road to Georgetown. There is still a 1km section in Never Never Creek to upgrade, continuing the meander along the valley floor, but old markers on the fencelines are still visible so nobody should get lost.

A minor re-route has been completed in Bundaleer Forest to align with the Heysen map and avoid some 'walkers follow the fence' steep ups and downs. Unfortunately, it seems that the forest is to be logged in this area, which precluded a section through pines, so all that was achieved was to divert the trail around a rather nasty hill. All markers in the forest are now up to current standards. (Kevin Liddiard)

**D Killmier,  
Maintenance Co-ordinator**



**The Friends' Trailer**



**Water tank  
generously  
donated by  
Bunnings Marion,  
for siting on the  
Heysen Trail.**

## HEYSEN TRAIL VOLUNTEER MAINTENANCE SECTION LEADERS

HEYSEN TRAIL SECTION	HEYSEN MAP Strip	Book South	SECTION LEADERS NAME AND CONTACT NUMBERS	
1. Cape Jervis to Tapanappa	8	1.1 – 1.3	David Beaton	(H) 8298 6340
2A. Tapanappa to Waitpinga Campground	8	1.3 – 1.5	Ralph Ollerenshaw	(H) 8379 0998
2B. Waitpinga Campground to Back Valley Road	8	1.5 – 2.2	Geoffrey & Pamela Gardner	0417 818 053
3. Back Valley Road to Moon Hill	3	2.2 – 2.3	David Evans	(H) 8558 2854
4. Moon Hill to Hindmarsh Tiers Road	3	2.3 – 2.5	Hermann Schmidt (Wandergruppe Bushwalkers, German Assoc)	(H) 8344 4072
5. Hindmarsh Tiers Road to Blackfellows Creek Road	3	2.5 – 2.7	Joe O'Neill	(H) 8296 7827
6. Blackfellows Creek Road to Glen Bold	1	2.7 – 3.2	Richard Webb	(H) 8381 5308
7. Glen Bold to Piccadilly	1	3.2 – 3.4	Thelma Anderson Trevor Lee	(H) 8278 4420 (H) 8398 0516
8. Piccadilly to Norton Summit	2	3.4 – 3.4	Liz O'Shea (WEA Ramblers)	(H) 8352 1636
9. Norton Summit to Cudlee Creek	2	3.5 – 3.7	Graham O'Reilly	(H) 8397 1217
10. Cudlee Creek to Bethany	2, 9	3.7 – 4.4	Doug Leane	(H) 8443 3388
11. Bethany to Peters Hill	9	4.4 – 5.3	Joyce Heinjus	(H) 8525 2054
12. Peters Hill to Logans Gap	10	5.3 – 5.9	Norrie Hamilton	(H) 8332 1982
13. Logans Gap to Spalding	11, 12	5.9 – 6.12	Hugh Greenhill (Burra Branch)	(H) 8843 8115
		<b>North</b>		
14. Spalding to Georgetown	13	1.1 – 1.6	Kevin Liddiard	(H) 8289 4236
15. Georgetown to Mt Remarkable	13, 6	1.6 – 2.11	Mary Cameron Ian Pool Roger Collier (ARPA)	(H) 8165 1025 (H) 8258 3425 (H) 8264 1660
16. Mt Remarkable to Horrocks Pass Rd	7	2.11 – 3.4	<b>Vacant</b>	
17A. Horrocks Pass Rd to Dutchmans Stern		3.4 – 4.1	Ian Hartley	(H) 8641 1435
17B. Dutchmans Stern to Wilpena	5, 14, 15	4.2 – 5.7	Gavin Campbell	(H) 8296 8613
18. Wilpena to Parachilna	4	5.8 – 6.8	John Henery (Alpana Station)	(H) 8648 4864
<b>MAINTENANCE CO-ORDINATOR</b> (Voluntary)			Dean Killmier	(H) 8261 3241
Maintenance Committee Chairman			Arthur Smith	(H) 8261 6746
			John Wilson	(H) 8356 9264

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

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



## Burra Branch

The Bundaleer Forest walk scheduled for 20 August was undertaken in cool, windy conditions but these did not deter attendance by an enthusiastic group of regular and new walkers. Led ably by Hilde and Peter Van Beisichem, the walk contained many surprises, including the many sculptures that can be viewed either close by the forest entrance and picnic area, or on the trails further into the forest. In particular, the 'The Forest Temple of the Sun', sculptured on a stonewall with the temple entrance overlooking the valley and hills beyond is sited with obvious thought.

The planned weekend at Bimbourie Conservation Park during September was cancelled because 'the roads were out', however a small group of hardy souls enjoyed an overnight excursion to the Mt Bryan East School, with activities being organised by president Arthur Simpson in nearby areas. Saturday afternoon, he had us hard at work, dismantling 'Hugh's Hutch' in the Caroona Creek Conservation Park, as a fancy new shelter has been erected nearby. Eventually the hutch was removed successfully with not a Hugh in sight!!!

Our reward for this hard work, was a huge bonfire to keep us warm on the Saturday night, and a chauffeured trip by Arthur the next day (I'm told the account for this is pending), that took us through Caroona Creek Conservation Park, passing the old Thomas homestead ruins, a lunch stop at Tooralie Gorge, where a 'cuppa' was supplied, a tour of the nearby shepherd's hut followed by a cooks tour via

Caroona and Collinsville stations back to Mt Bryan East.

Our last walk for the season was on Thursday 6 October on Blackjack, land south of Mt Bryan, and was again organised and led by Arthur Simpson. This day a group of 12 headed out in magnificent weather, allowing splendid views from the Blackjack summit, looking west towards the Razorback range and east towards the saltbush plains. This walk was repeated on Sunday 16 October and we are indebted to Arthur for giving up his time to repeat the walk.

Again the day was fine and a group of 8 headed out in warm to hot conditions which not only attracted hordes of flies, but a feral goat who challenged our right to be in his space, several stumpy and frilled lizards who were enjoying their first spring outings, a couple of roos, a deer and even a goanna sighting. The native wildflowers caused great interest and as usual Heather B was able to identify many of the species for us. We hope Arthur enjoyed his thank-you cake (chocolate with smarties!!) as much as we enjoyed his liquid refreshments at the end of the day.

Congratulations must go to Hugh and Kate Greenhill on receiving a well-deserved Certificate of Appreciation recently, for their outstanding service to the Friends of Parks network. We hope you are enjoying your break and adventures in the northern hemisphere and look forward to your safe return soon. (See article next page)

A joyous festive season to all.

**Jenny Reid for Hugh Greenhill**



**Dismantling 'Hugh's Hutch**

## Local couple awarded for being outstanding friends

Farrell Flat couple Kate and Hugh Greenhill have both received awards for outstanding service to the Friends of Parks Network

Presented at the recent Friends of Parks annual forum at Victor Harbor, Mrs Greenhill received her award as a member of the Friends of Spring Gully Conservation Park and Burra Parks groups and more recently Friends of Gluepot Reserve.

She was elected president of the Friends of Spring Gully Conservation Park earlier this year and has injected a new enthusiasm into this small, but dedicated group, Mid North District Ranger for the Department of Environment and Heritage Ian Falkenberg said.

“Kate’s passion and dedication for protecting and conserving biodiversity in Mid North parks has been outstanding,” he said.

“Her efforts in protecting threatened orchid species in Spring Gully Conservation Park and other small but important remnant areas of grassy woodland in the Clare Valley have been significant.”

Together with other dedicated Friends members, Mrs Greenhill spends many weeks a year controlling pest plants that threaten the survival of orchids and other plant species. She also participates in a monitoring

program for threatened species and helps with educational programs aimed at developing awareness and understanding of grassy woodlands for local schools in the Clare Valley.

Hugh Greenhill is a member of the Friends of the Heysen Trail and a Section Leader for the trail in the Mid North. He is a member of the Goyder Tourism Committee and actively promotes the Heysen Trail and its benefits to local tourism and the community. Mr. Greenhill is also an active member of the Friends of Burra Parks and together with his wife has made a significant contribution to this relatively new group.

“Hugh’s dedication and commitment to providing a well maintained and safe trail requires the sacrifice of many weekends a year” Mr. Falkenberg said.

“At times the trail requires realignment and through careful negotiation with landowners Hugh is often able to secure a favourable alternative route.”

More recently Mr. Greenhill was the driving force behind the upgrade of facilities at key locations on the Heysen Trail north of Burra.

Both Hugh and Kate Greenhill are highly respected within the community for their contributions to biodiversity conservation and the Heysen Trail.

**From: ‘Northern Argus’ Wednesday, September 14, 2005**



**Kate and Hugh receiving their award**

## **THE WALKING FEDERATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, INC.**

**Opening of the Walking Season for 2006.** It has been confirmed that the Official Opening of the Walking Season for 2006 will be hosted by the Friends of the Heysen Trail in co-operation with Walking S.A. The venue for the event will be located at the Pines Oval, Belair National Park, on Sunday, 2 April, 2006. Details of the format for the day will be advised to all member clubs and individual members and friends for the convenience of the planning of clubs' walk programmes for 2006.

**Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) - Bushwalking.** This issue continues to remain unresolved but steps are being planned to provide clubs with more detailed information about implications of the proposed Government introduction of AAS by inviting speakers from a Government agency, Bushwalking Leadership S.A. and the Adelaide Bushwalkers to attend the November General Meeting of Walking S.A. Representatives of all Clubs are urged to attend the meeting. Correspondence has been sent to the Hon. Michael Wright, M.P., Minister for Recreation and Sport, by the Chairman of Walking S.A. requesting clarification of the issue and its implications for member clubs and walkers.

**Protection of Undeveloped Road Reserves for Recreational Use.** The importance of efforts to ensure the availability of safe walking access throughout the State remains high on the list of concerns of Walking S.A. in the interests of both present and future generations of walkers. Additional committee members are becoming involved with alternative ideas and strategies to guarantee the permanent retention of these valuable existing and potential walking trails. A classic example of the tenuous nature of the use of road reserves as walking trails is located in one of the most scenic areas of the Adelaide Hills. Some walkers may recall a real threat to the continuity of the Heysen Trail as it follows Davenport Road through the Mount Lofty Golf Course on its way to Arbury Park and Bridgewater. In the late eighties volunteers and departmental officers attended a Council meeting of the former Stirling Council to take part in the agenda item proposing the closure and sale to the Golf Course of Davenport Road (the Heysen Trail between Old Carey Gully Road and Arbury Park). Strong opposition to the proposal was presented to Council by those attending in support of the Heysen Trail; also opposing the road closure and defending the importance and value to the State of the Trail was a letter read and tabled by the Chairman from a local resident (Judge von Doussa). Before any further

discussion of the issue could take place the Chairman declared the agenda item be "deferred". When pressed for a time period for the deferral the Chairman stated that it was unlikely the matter would ever be raised again. The fact remains however, that Davenport Road is an undeveloped road reserve in accordance with provisions of the Roads (Opening and Closing) Act and requires constant vigilance to protect it from the ever-present danger of becoming absorbed into adjoining private property, thereby threatening the integrity of the Heysen Trail.

**Woodcutters Road.** Following an item in this column in previous issues of "The Trailwalker" Walking S.A. received an email, through the Friends' office, from an adjoining landowner relating to walking access in the Ironbank area. A line of communication has been opened and discussions have been held relating to negotiations for walking only access to provide a link between Scott Creek Conservation Park, Mark Oliphant Recreation Park and Belair National Park. It is important that the private ownership of all adjoining landowners in this area of high conservation value be respected and observed during the sensitive negotiations being conducted by Walking S.A., particularly in view of the absence of clearly identifiable boundaries.

**Lavender Federation Trail.** Inclement weather conditions did not deter an enthusiastic group of volunteers who attended the Working Bee at Tungkillo on Sunday, 11 September, 2005 to assist with the marking of the Trail between Tungkillo and Springton. Representatives of various Member Clubs of Walking S.A., as well as numerous other supporters, braved the unrelenting elements to assist S.A.R.T.I. organisers with the installation of stiles and trail marking. The official opening of the section has been organised to take place on Sunday, 7 May, 2006 at the Tungkillo Hall involving local residents, landowners and walkers. A comprehensive programme will be offered and will include a range of walk options. A new map will be available showing co-ordinates and will include Stage 3 and two loop trails. Forestry S.A. will provide a loop trail in Rocky Gully and volunteer labour will install signs. A.R.P.A. Bushwalking Club has offered to monitor and maintain a section of the Lavender Federation Trail. More information about the Trail and associated activities is published in the newsletter "Footsteps", available by email at [asta@lm.net.au](mailto:asta@lm.net.au). Simply forward your name and email address and you will automatically be added to the mailing list.

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

## Doug Leane



Doug Leane's love of the bush, of being outdoors and of doing something for the community, come together in his commitment to the Friends of the Heysen Trail. He has certainly earned his position of Honorary Member, having worked and

walked with the Friends since shortly after the organisation's inception in 1987.

With a life-long passion for bushwalking, Doug has walked many trails, not only in Australia but also in a number of overseas countries including Greece, Italy (twice), France (4), Spain (2), Great Britain (4), Norway, New Zealand (4), Papua New Guinea, India including Kashmir, Switzerland (2), Austria, Nepal and South Africa. But no matter where he has roamed, Doug has always returned to his family home in Thebarton, and I can understand why. It's that kind of place. A villa with the strength and character of beautiful weathered stone and with lacework softening the timbers of the verandah. With a slatted timber bench for watching the world go by - if you had the time - and a tangle of greenery bringing a hint of the country into the inner city suburb. The house was built for Doug's parents in 1917 and has been the place he calls home for all of his 79 years.

There are photos of Doug's family in the lounge room, including a photograph of his mother holding her favourite possessions - a Bible and a violin. A number of small diaries, unpretentious but obviously filled with so many memories and adventures, sit on a coffee table under the window. I think of their value, not only to Doug and to the history of the Heysen Trail, but also to our South Australian heritage in general. An invaluable account of one man's involvement with one of South Australia's icons.

Sunshine streams in through the window as Doug talks about the Thebarton of his childhood - a very different place to the clean and orderly suburb of today. He remembers a lot of children living in the area and how for some reason they used to congregate in his street, so there were always plenty of mates to play with. Perhaps this had something to do with the disused pughole which was almost at the back of Doug's home. This was the 'adventure

playground' for the neighbourhood kids - a deep hole - a dangerous place. Naturally the local children weren't supposed to play there, but they did. The clay had been dug out for the local brick factory and once the brickmakers stopped using it in around 1913 it became a place to dump rubbish, and soon attracted legions of unsavoury squatters such as rats. Doug remembers he and his mates making shanghais and using them to shoot at the rats. Thankfully the pughole and the vermin are now just a childhood memory!

Doug attended Thebarton Technical High School, which taught elementary woodwork and sheet metal work in preparation for moving students into a trade. In Doug's case this was cabinet making. This career was interrupted by the WWII and in 1943 at the age of 18, he joined the Royal Australian Air Force, being assigned to the local transport unit for the South West Pacific region which was based in Townsville. Doug worked on the aircraft and helped to arrange transport to Papua New Guinea and Borneo. His responsibilities included loading aircraft and getting them away.

When the war ended in 1945 Doug returned to Adelaide and went into joinery and carpentry, working for numerous builders. In 1963 he joined the South Australian Railways and worked on signal installation. This work took him all over the state. Doug and his fellow workers slept in sleeping vans - mobile rooms on wheels on the tracks, which were shunted into sidings where ever the men happened to be based at the time. Initially the sleeping compartments were made of timber, but later these were discarded in favour of steel. Doug describes them as being like bakers' ovens in the heat.

After spending two years living in hostels in Peterborough, Doug returned home in 1965 to care for his mother, and continued his work on signalling. This included constructing boomgates, which at the time were made from oregon timber. Doug retired from the railways in 1988, and this enabled him to become more involved with the Friends of the Heysen Trail.

Doug's first experience with trail maintenance was in 1987 when there was a call for volunteers and he contacted Fred Brooks, who was running a working party at Mylor. (The group included Terry Lavender.) At this time a number of walking groups took on responsibility for different sections of the trail, and Doug took on Mount Lofty (Piccadilly to

Norton Summit). By 1994 he was working three days each week on two sections of the trail. When Fred Brooks retired he asked Doug to take on the Barossa section (Cudlee Creek to Bethany) and the Ramblers took on Mount Lofty.

During Doug's time leading the Barossa section there were a number of major works. These included building two giant staircases (to Mount Crawford summit and South Para in Warren Conservation Park), four suspension bridges in the Myponga area, the construction of Rossiter's Hut and countless stiles. And of course there has been the ongoing general maintenance work centred around re-marking the trail with the red and white Heysen Trail signs and cutting back the undergrowth to make the trail visible and accessible.

The staircase to Mount Crawford Summit numbered 106 steps in all, using three-metre treated circular pine logs 150mm in diameter and each weighing 18 kgs. The work was done in day trips, with early morning starts and long hard days. The South Para staircase was 100 steps, built under similar conditions.

The four suspension (swing) bridges built in the Myponga area between 1990 and 1993 remained in use for around 13 years and have now been replaced with fixed bridges. I am so glad however that I had the opportunity to cross the original swing bridges. I

loved the sense of adventure - felt as if I was truly out in the wilderness as I held on to the chains and felt the slight drift under my feet as I took each step. Doug remembers the day that 60 people crossed the Yulte Creek bridge in one day - all adhering to the obligatory 'one at a time' ruling.

Freeman's Hut near the Wirra Wirras in the Williamstown area was another major achievement for Doug and his volunteers, and once again it was a physically-demanding exercise. For example, the men accessed slate for the verandah floor from Victoria Creek. Just raw rock to start with, they had to split it to break it up, and then hauled it up on ropes and loaded it on to a trailer to transport back to the site. They bedded the slate down into sand that had been carted, on the suggestion of the ranger, from up behind Mount Crawford.

Rossiter's Hut in the Barossa is another achievement of which I have personally been very grateful. This was originally an old hermit's hut on farmland known as Pohlner's Estate. In 1972 Forest SA bought the land and planted the pine forest. The old hut was in a broken down state of disrepair and completely open at the front when, in 1996, the Friends asked Doug if he would be able to rebuild it into a hut suitable for walkers who might want to stay the night. He accomplished this with a team of around six volunteers.



**Laying the slate verandah floor – Freeman's Hut**

Dean Rossiter of Rossi Boots donated \$1000 and this gave the group a start in buying the materials, including iron and the timber for the bunks. During the reconstruction they practically demolished the old framework. There was a chimney, but it was very smokey, so they built it up another 400mm. There were blocks of stone under the earth that covered the floor of the hut and these were lifted and used to make the floor for the front verandah. Using a touch of ingenuity, the group laid a broken concrete floor inside the hut that gave the appearance of slate. The concrete was from a garden path which had been broken up, loaded on to trailers, carted to the site and then laid in a 'crazy' pattern. The front window came from a temporary building at the Kidman Park School, and the furniture came from hard rubbish collections. The result is a cosy hut with two three-level bunks providing six beds for weary walkers. The fire now draws perfectly and there is a stack of firewood ready to take the chill off the coldest winter night.

A couple of weeks ago, on a Friends of the Heysen Trail Sunday walk, a group of us made excellent use of the hut. We arrived at lunch time after climbing Kaiser Stuhl, just as a heavy rain squall blew through, but we were able to stay out of the rain, sitting on the verandah and inside the hut, chatting and enjoying a typical German communal lunch of wurst, cheese and ryebread. Without the shelter of the hut our lunch stop would have been a rather hasty

cold and miserable affair. Instead it was the stuff that memories are made of! Added to these major undertakings there have been the countless seemingly smaller achievements, but which are imperative for providing a safe and enjoyable experience for those walking this first class South Australian Trail. For example, the many stiles that we can so easily take for granted, the Heysen markers that are crucial to staying on track, and being able to walk without having to bush-bash our way through the undergrowth.

Doug is still committed to the upkeep of the Trail, still working with volunteers, and still happy to be there after 17 years. He now works on maintenance one day a week and on other days he enjoys walking in a range of areas closer to home, often along the beach or along the river on the linear path. He also walks regularly with the Four Seasons walking club, riding into town on his bike and then catching a bus with the group to the walk location. And he enjoys the Lord Mayor's walks around the parklands.

Chatting with Doug brought home to me yet again that the Heysen Trail that we enjoy so much doesn't just happen - that it is the result of a lot of hard yacka by a number of hardworking and dedicated people. And one with a remarkable history of commitment is Doug Leane.

**Jo Chesser**

## Nominations For Honorary Members

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

Recommendations from the sub-committee will then be considered by the Council, before being presented to the full membership at the next AGM. In order to be considered for the 2006 AGM, nominations should be received by the **end of January, 2006**.

### Guidelines for Honorary Membership (Distinguished Service)

- (i) normally at least 10 years of paid membership as an Ordinary, Family or Life Member;

#### **AND**

- (ii) at least 6 years of substantial voluntary contributions to the Association, including especially one or more of
- Membership of Council
  - Chair of Walking Committee
  - Regular Walk Leadership Roles
  - Chair of Maintenance Committee
  - Maintenance Section Leader or Volunteer
  - Office Volunteer

### Guidelines for Honorary Membership (Exceptional)

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

## Walking Committee Report

Spring walking has been bright and brisk with numerous Sunday outings, and the weather has been superb. The mid north is the lushest and greenest I have seen in many a year and as the End to End 2 group has wended its way through the lovely Tothill ranges our path has been festooned with flowers.

### Walking Fees

The walking program is run entirely by volunteers and is a major fundraiser for the Friends activities. The fees for next year will remain unchanged. Golden Boots covers costs for all of the walk season program, but not the Twilight season. As usual we will endeavour to offer walks on every Sunday during the walking season of 2006 so the Golden Boots program offers remarkable value. See page 3 for details

### End to End

End to End 1 has now passed into Heysen history – and a wonderful time was had by all.

The End to End 2 group have now started weekends away – the last two based at historic Riverton and Kapunda. Now they are rapidly approaching Burra where we will begin next year.

End to End 3 begins at Cape Jervis on the 30<sup>th</sup> April next year so come and join the fun. If you wish to finish the trail quickly come and join both groups.

### Weekends Away

The Golden North Weekend was enjoyed by all and I was amazed to discover that there are 28 different flavours of Golden North icecream. Not sure which is my favourite. No such problem with the walks because the Betaloo valley walking was a wonderful experience. On the reconnaissance at one stage we followed a path through waist high barley and it vividly reminded me of walking in England.

For 2006 we plan a coastal walk around Innes national park on the March long weekend, a

Grampians adventure over the Anzac weekend, and KI in October.

### Twilight Walks

Even though the walk season officially finishes at the end of November we will once again run the summer Twilight walks. The program is listed elsewhere in the Trailwalker. (See next page). These were very popular last year with approximately a 2-hour walk followed by a quick meal, coffee or drink. Guests are welcome, and it is a very good opportunity for new walkers to begin.

Costs \$5 with bookings at the office. Please note that the summer walk program is separate from the main walking season and is not included in the Golden Boots program. During January the walk leaders will take bookings directly.

### Walk leaders

With the end of the season I must say a big thank you to all the walk leaders who have made the year such a success. In a Churchillian salute to the few may I say that we have never had so many walkers out and about and it is all because of our walk leader dedication. Our walk leaders are all volunteers. What better way to support the trail than to walk it and share it with others.

### Important Dates for 2006

**January 26 Australia Day BBQ**

**March 11-13**

**Innes national park – Yorke Peninsula**

**April 22-25 Grampians Adventure**

**April 30**

**End to End begins again from Cape Jervis**

See you on the trail.

**Simon Cameron,  
Chairman Walking Committee**

**Australia Day BBQ  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January  
South Parklands  
5.30 pm walk  
followed by BBQ dinner 7pm  
BYO drinks  
\$15  
bookings close 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan**

## Twilight Walks Summer 2005/2006

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

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

During January while the office is closed bookings are taken directly by leader.

Description: Wednesday 6pm – 8pm followed by meal, coffee, drink etc.  
\$5 per walker (the summer walk program is not covered by Golden Boots).

DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
7 Anstey Hill Colin Edwards	4 Sturt River Simon Cameron 0422 529 560	1 Semaphore Seaside Julian Monfries	1 Belair
14 Seacliff To Hallet Cove David Beaton	11 Stirling Parks Liz Barry 0413 670 618	8 Henley To Glenelg Lyn Wood	8 Cleland To Hazelwood Pk
21 No walk	18 Black Hill Ralph Nicholls	15 Shepherds Hill Rhonda Dempster	15 TBA
28 No walk	25 No walk	22 Cobbler Hill Bob Randall	22 TBA

Advance Notice - Important date for ALL walking calendars

# OPENING OF THE WALKING SEASON! SUNDAY 2 April 2006

## Belair National Park

Pines Oval - No 2

### The Friends of the Heysen Trail

in conjunction with Walking SA are organising the Opening.

### The Friends of the Heysen Trail

will be celebrating their **20th** Anniversary.

*Walk Leaders please plan your walk in or around the Park  
with lunch to coincide with the official opening at 1.00pm*



## The Friends of the Heysen Social Club

Our first attempt “Boules in the Park” was a wash-out. We managed to strike the worst of the early October wind and rain. We will try this event some other time.

Bookings for Christmas Dinner are proceeding well, as with the Symphony in the Serengeti at Monarto Zoo. If you haven't got around to booking for these don't hesitate any longer or you will miss two great events.

### COMING UP

#### **Symphony Under The Stars**

**Sat 4<sup>th</sup> February**

Bring a basket supper and join us on the lawns at Elder Park for a night of good music. We will have an area selected from 4pm – come along and enjoy a casual evening with “good company”.

Bring a low chair and your own food and drinks.

Bookings at the office please so that we can organise sufficient space.

Look for the Heysen sign near to the Sound Shell.

#### **Breakfast at Semaphore**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

An 8am BYO breakfast gathering for all members and friends to catch up with the summer gossip and to get us in readiness for the coming walking season. We hope to organise some silly activities for the morning to get everyone smiling.

Meet on the lawn south of the Palais – near the playground

#### **Walking Season Opening**

April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Pines oval, Belair

More information later.

**Colin Edwards**

## Grampians Walking

### Anzac Long weekend

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Tues 25<sup>th</sup> April 2006

Staying at Halls Gap Baptist Camp

Accommodation      Twin Cabins (limited)  
4 bunk cabins

Including:      meals, walking, 3 nights accommodation

Tariff:	Member /	Non-Member
Twin Cabin	\$230	\$260
Bunk Cabin	\$200	\$230

## Come and enjoy a Friends Walk in the magnificent Innes National Park Long Weekend 11-13 March 2006

A series of beautiful coastal walks with views of shipwrecks, light houses and offshore islands. Heritage sites to visit and the habitat of the very rare Western Whipbird.

Share accommodation available at around \$45 per person per night in the Miners Cottage and

Gateway Cottage at the historical Inneston settlement. Arrive Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and depart Monday 13<sup>th</sup> - book now through the Friend's office.

Walk leaders are Robyn Morris and Ray Blight – enquire about caravan park options.

## 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](mailto:alpanastn@bigpond.com.au)
- Website: [www.alpana-station.netfirms.com](http://www.alpana-station.netfirms.com)
- Bookings essential

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## Letters To The Editor

Dear Sir

During the past few years whilst walking the trail, on many occasions the realisation has come to me that thanks are due to many people who keep the trail so that we can enjoy it. Generally we take it for granted and don't thank them! So here goes:

### BIG THANKS TO:

firstly, the **landowners**. We owe you a great deal. Without you allowing us to share your land and visit some of those great places the whole walking experience would be a great deal poorer.

Of course, Fellow Walkers, that places a duty on us to 'do the right thing'.

Respect the landowners and their property, don't interfere with buildings, fences or stock, remember not to walk on private property during the fire ban season, stick to the trail, and take all your rubbish with you.

In public lands, the forests and national parks, we should give thanks to the land managers - the **Rangers and Foresters** - for not only sharing the lands with us but also, in many cases, developing walking trails which enhance our experiences.

The **maintenance people**, the volunteers who give so much time and effort to keep the track clearly marked and to a good standard. Whilst some of the maintenance workers are members of the Friends we are also lucky to have the cooperation of members of some other walking clubs who do very valuable work on the trail. Thank you!

The **'department'** - or in full, the Department for the Environment and Heritage, which manages the Heysen Trail for the government, and the people, of South Australia. Without your overview, your plans and your money the trail would soon fall into disrepair. I hope that by your close cooperation with the Friends and other interested parties the Heysen Trail will continue to improve and provide a range of stimulating walking experiences.

And lastly, but not least, **fellow walkers** who share experiences on the trail and add to the value of the journey.

We are most fortunate to have the Heysen Trail in our community. Walkers - use it, experience it, share it but above all, value it.

Remember those who have put time, effort and resources into building and maintaining the trail - and say Thanks !

**David Beaton**

Trailwalker, Summer 2005/2006

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## End to End 1 – the Experience



*It is the journey, not the destination.* Now I really knew what that meant. Part of me wanted to walk those last few steps in the warm Flinders Ranges sunshine - to climb over that last stile in Parachilna Gorge. But another part of me didn't want the journey to end. My mind flashed back five years - to those early

days along the coast at Cape Jervis, walking along the sand and climbing up and down along the rugged cliff faces. How those years had flown.

My sister Dee and I had decided that we needed to get out in the fresh air and meet some new people. A walking group seemed just the ticket. And it was. So after enjoying a few Sunday afternoon Heysen loop walks we joined the group that was setting out on the entire 1200 kilometre Trail in a series of day walks.

I remember the morning that I took the first step of that long journey north. The cars had been left at the point where we would end the day's walk and the bus had taken us to the start. The group was kitted up but milling about and chatting. My sister and I spotted a local deli and wandered over for a latte to start the day. Not a good move. We weren't aware of the unwritten code - that once gathered together in the Heysen name you didn't leave the flock for something as frivolous as a coffee fix. As we traveled further north I did notice however that while pre-walk forays into delis were not acceptable, sitting on pavements with your own ground coffee beans, plunger and mug was. It was these subtle nuances that separated experienced Trail walkers from the newbies.

One of the first things we learned was to 'follow the fence line'. The Trail crossed through many farming properties that we were lucky enough to access through the generosity of the landowners, and we were reminded by our walk leaders to respect this. We also maintained the Heysen philosophy of leaving nothing behind but our footprints.

Along the Trail a whole new world of maps and other such 'position delineators' opened up to us. There was the morning when we queried where we would walk that day and Ray handed us a map. He asked if

we would like to have a look. Dee thanked him very much. We agreed that the colours were just lovely. Even more baffling were the later discussions about GPS readings, and I have somehow managed to walk the entire Trail and still remain geographically challenged.

Because of the increase in travel time as the Trail wound further away from Adelaide, from Kapunda onwards we changed from one Sunday per month to one weekend per month. We loved it. Walking together was great, but going away as a group and enjoying après-walk afternoon teas in local cafes, happy hours in caravan parks, and dinners together at the local pub was the icing on the cake.

Accommodation ranged from rather salubrious bed and breakfasts complete with spas, to hauling out the swag. It was many moons since I had stayed in a country pub but I soon felt right at home - and I got to know my walking mates so much better. Instead of just noting the weight of their backpacks or the state of their walking boots, I got to know who wore dressing gowns to the shared amenities and who just did a quick wrap-around with the closest towel, who wouldn't leave for the walk the following morning without putting their eyes on, and who liked to stay up late for that last nightcap.



I remember those nights so well, sitting out on the upstairs verandah in some of the smaller towns and taking in the cool night air, looking out over a street where you could shoot the proverbial bullet and not hit a thing. And other nights when young and old from around the district were in town, when the jukebox was pumping in the bar below - and sleep was a distant dream.

And then there were the backpackers' hostels. One was in the middle of an enchanted forest - in the middle of a cold winter. There was a roomy kitchen and a cosy lounge with an open fire. There were three bedrooms with comfy bunks for 24 weary walkers, with our usual assortment of nocturnal rustlings, sighs and the odd snore or two or three. Imagine the plight of a half-asleep walker making the dreaded frosty night pilgrimage to the outside loo, and then coming back in to the wrong room and stumbling about in the dark, wondering why he couldn't find his bunk. And the early-to-bed walker who decided to repay our late-night carousing around the fire by serenading us with gay abandon at sparrow's tweet - but we loved every note and called out for more!

The group had become a family and we supported each other when the going got tough. There was one particularly cold wet mid-Flinders walk - a ridge-top day. To walk a ridge top in the sunshine was one thing, but to climb the steep and slippery rock face in blustery winds and driving rain was another. There was a great sense of camaraderie, of shared challenge and achievement - a feeling of exhilaration.

For the majority of the Trail we were blessed with fine weather. In fact I kind of appreciated the occasional encounter with precipitation. How else could you feel the bliss of coming in wet, cold and muddy to the paradise of a steaming hot shower? And I learned how crucial it is to carry adequate wet weather gear; no matter how good the forecast you never leave home without it.

I also learned the value of blister pads. What mini miracles they are! And a good pair of walking boots, gortex lined of course. Orthotics, taping feet, and other such foot-focused issues were the basis of many a conversation along the way.

Gaiters were a great protection against prickles and spinifex, of keeping socks dry and water out of boots, and of course against the unlikely threat of snake bite. We did see a few snakes along the way but they were just as keen to avoid us as we were to avoid them. This was proven one sunshiny afternoon in the

mid-north when Colin demonstrated that instant levitation is in fact an option to forward movement. The rather large and long King Brown took off so fast from the point where Colin had been about to tread on it, that it hit the slight mound on the verge of the bush track and flipped up into the air, falling and flailing backwards in our direction. But it managed to gather its coils together - to restore its somewhat tattered reptilian dignity - and disappeared in a flash. The only person disappointed with this split-second outcome was John the snake enthusiast. He had been walking further back in the group and hadn't been on the spot to witness the adrenalin-pumping event.

We came across so many animals along the way: sheep, cows, horses, goats, chooks - the usual farmland critters. An entourage of around 40 walkers wasn't the ideal situation for bird watching or observing shy bush creatures but we still saw plenty of native birds and animals - emus, kangaroos, eagles, hawks, crows, magpies, brilliantly coloured parrots and raucous cockatoos. There were Golden Orb spiders, hanging about in webs that were strung across our path. And there were my favourites - the Sleepy Lizards that defiantly stood their ground when we walked too close for their stumpy liking. But it's hard to look fierce when you just happen to have a bright yellow daisy in your purple mouth.

The landscape was so variable: from the rugged coastline of Cape Jervis and the creek-crossings and challenging terrain in Deep Creek Conservation Park, through rolling farmland and on into the Mount Lofty Ranges, meandering through the Adelaide Hills and the beautiful Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens, through the Barossa Valley with its lines of vines, and Burra with its quaint old world charm, heading further north into the National Parks and soul-stirring beauty of the Flinders Ranges. There were the colourful splashes of wildflowers and now and again the excitement of spotting an orchid. Spiders and Donkeys were my favourites. We walked through bushland covered in yaccas and picked our way across mountain slopes prickly with Spinifex. Depending on access points for buses, some walks were an easy saunter and others were long and demanding. Mount Remarkable to Alligator Gorge Road was 26 kilometres of challenging terrain, but the views were stunning and the weather glorious.

We turned a few local heads at times. A group of around 40 dusty and bedraggled walkers meandering down the main street of Melrose, wearing boots and backpacks, with walking poles and an odd assortment of brightly coloured hats certainly drew some attention.

Food was an ongoing topic. Lunchtime staples included small cans of tuna and baked beans, hardboiled eggs, salads, fruit, nuts, dates and sandwiches. And every day had two special highlights: Pam and Trevor's supply of Tim Tams at morning tea and Julian's generous lollie bag after lunch. Double dipping was allowed and I usually managed to find a Haigh's sparkle and sometimes even a milk bottle or two. And then there was the *piece de resistance* on the very last day - a bag full of Haigh's chocolate frogs.

Of course there were the inevitable good old Aussie barbeques - like the night at Rawnsley Park when a small group of stayers sat around the fire with a glass or two or whatever, swapping yarns and serenading the stars, while Nic taught us how to toast marshmallows over the campfire on the prongs of a blackened toasting fork. How could anything taste that good!

We had our favourite food stops along the way. At the top of my list were the former Wirrabara Bakery, which has now re-located to Stone Hut; Maggie's Rendezvous at Orroroo; and the bakery in the middle of the main street in Clare. Not to forget the superb bakeries down south at places like Yankalilla - the list could go on.

We also had favourite country pubs, like the pub in Jamestown with its friendly staff and open fire, where dinner was just perfect. That was the night our resident Latino groovers, Simon and Jenny, got our toes tapping with their exhibition of the Cha Cha. So we fired up the glitter ball, got the jukebox jumping, and hit the dance floor for some good old 'dusty dancing'. No - we didn't quite hit those heart-stopping heights of Patrick Swayze's unforgettable moves - but I reckon we came close!

And there was the pub where Dee decided to have an early night. She was tucked up in bed in her stripy jim jams but accepted the story that she needed to pay for the room that night and that there was no one in the front bar other than a few fellow Heysens, so coming down in jammies would be fine. The story wasn't quite correct, but she came downstairs in true Wee Willie Winkie style and an hour or so later was still sashaying around the bar with a smattering of bemused locals.

As we worked our way further north towards Quorn, the increase in travel time again became an issue, and so we did two blocks of ten days away to complete the Trail. We had become a troupe of gypsies that roamed (if somewhat periodically) from the sea to the

mountains; some towing their vans, most car-pooling, but all heading for the same destination. Over the five years a few of the initial crew had left the group, but others had joined and numbers more than doubled. For our final ten days we had 37 walkers plus partners and bus drivers, and Dawn and John's gorgeous little dog, Emma - the sweetest thing - so patable. 23 of the walkers - but not the gorgeous patable Emma - completed the Trail on that last warm August day.

For me the highlights of the walk were the last two Flinders trips. The weather was mostly sunshine and cool breezes. The countryside was the greenest ever. The Ranges reflected their blues, reds, oranges and golds in the changing light, especially as the sun began to set. And then there were the amazing star-filled night skies.

The day we climbed Mount Arden had it all. It was long. It was challenging. We walked through a series of dry creek beds under the shade of majestic gum trees with their wide girths and spreading branches. Then there was the steep climb up the mountain, and a fierce cold wind at the summit that added an extra meaning to the term 'breath taking'. How good it was to have Ben and his trusty 4WD there to meet us, with his warm welcome, a bucket of barley sugar and - believe it or not - an esky full of ice blocks.

The long haul down the mountain, through more creek beds with plenty of rock-hopping and boulders to clamber over, certainly tested our endurance and I doubt that there was anyone who wasn't delighted to see the buses and their smiling drivers waiting for us as dusk fell. Ah - that tin of goodies that appeared as if by magic from behind the driver's seat! But it had been a day to remember - perhaps the best day of the whole Trail.

Another favourite was climbing Bridal Gap on a picture-perfect day and looking out over the Elder Range, and then walking through Wilpena Pound. So many kilometres behind us, and just three days left to go.

And then - suddenly - it was over. We climbed the last stile. We hugged and congratulated each other. We shed a tear or two. We took the photos. What a celebration! There was the End to End 1 sign that Geoff had erected above the stile. There were glasses of champagne. There were the bottles of red that Pamela handed out to. (She had grown the grapes, bottled the wine, organised the labels and called it 'Boots n All'.) And there was the amazing wall

hanging that Sue had created, laid out in the sunshine and on which we stamped our boot prints or handprints in bright blue, red, yellow or green paint all over a map of the Trail - and then signed our names for posterity.

We continued the celebration that night with dinner in the Rawnsley Park Woolshed, with Cliff as master of ceremonies and Simon presenting us with individual awards that highlighted some (mostly hilarious) aspect of our contribution to the walk. Another highlight was the debut performance of the Heysen Choral Ensemble. They rounded off the evening with a sterling rendition of the tribute song they had composed that very afternoon - on the bus trip home following their après-walk champagne session.

The logistical challenges and the responsibilities of leading a group of walkers along the 1200 kilometre Heysen Trail over five years were considerable. The achievement of such a successful outcome was due to a combination of knowledge of the Trail, forward planning and a huge amount of hard work and dedication by a number of people. Walk leaders Julian Monfries and David Beaton were the ultimate

heroes of the walk, ably assisted by their partners Sue and Liz. There were other walkers and partners who led catch-up walks or filled in as leaders if Julian or David was away. And others who drove the buses, or were waiting with hot or cold drinks and nibbles at the end of the walks.

☺ ☺ ☺ *For they are jolly good fellows!*  
*And so say all of us!* ☺ ☺ ☺

If you have ever wanted to go on an adventure that includes challenge and perseverance, where you get out into the fresh air and spend time walking through stunning and varied landscapes, where you get fit and form enduring friendships - and most of all where you have a whole lot of fun and come away with a bag full of memories - then I encourage you to think about heading out on End to End 3 in 2006.

**Jo Chesser**

## End To End 1 – The Last Day



After rain all day yesterday and coping with muddy and boggy roads to get us into the Aroona Hut, today was near perfect. It was fine with scattered clouds and a light breeze. The country was alive and fresh. The birds were singing. The grass was green and wildflowers were starting to appear.

We walked among a mixture of native pines, acacias and river gums along the creek lines. The track was soft underfoot and gently undulating and we were flanked on one side by the ABC Range and on the other by the Heysen Range. This is the Flinders at its best – what more could a person wish for.

The pace of the group was steady, the mood was relaxed and happy with a sense of anticipation – we

were going to finish the whole trail today – although for me, also a sense of disbelief.

Just before the end the group gathered together and with encouragement from Julian I was privileged and honoured to lead the group on. We crossed the creek and as we walked up the slope on the other side emotion welled up inside me. There were streamers, balloons and cheers from our drivers and supporters. With tears in my eyes I summoned the strength to climb the steps of the last stile. It was happening! We had made it!

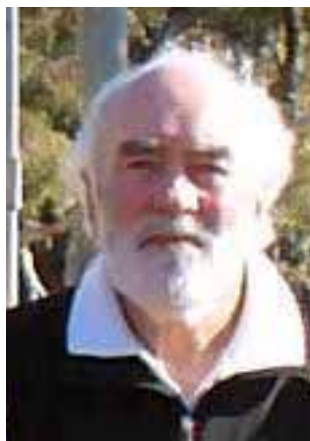
Thank you our drivers and supporters.

Thank you all those who took part for your support, encouragement and friendship along the way.

Thank you our leaders Julian and David for your tireless efforts in making this journey such a success. A journey I will remember with much emotion for the rest of my life.

**Dawn Bon.**

## My Story (or how I walked the Heysen and survived)



I started walking the Heysen with my wife Lee in 1990. On most days we completed several kilometre chunks of the trail with self-planned circular walks or Jim Crinion masterpieces. I purchased all the trail maps and pondered for hours on how to make progress on a linear walking trail without support. A decade later,

having also spent two years on an overseas posting, our progress was so slow that I estimated I would not complete the trail until aged 150!

I joined the Millennium walkers on the first day at Cape Jervis, 20 May 2000; progress at last. Thus inspired I commenced my own walk programme, filling holes inevitably left by numerous circular walks, and walking north on new ground. Some days I walked alone for up to 30km 'there and back'; on other days with the help of Lee (who was recovering from a foot operation) I managed similar distances all on the trail. I decided to take my mountain bike, cycle to the start of the walk and trek back to the car. This is rather fun, and good progress can be made, but there are downsides. It's possible to become completely bogged in mud with a mountain bike, thereby arriving at the start point filthy, tired and irritable. On one day north of Burra I drove and cycled on a road reserve populated by several hundred sheep, resulting in massive cleaning and decontamination to the car, bike and myself (the Burra Motel was most understanding). On another day I misread the contours and cycled 20km uphill before walking the same distance back to the car.

Another memory I have is sitting on a stile in the middle of nowhere on a beautiful sunny day, magnificent scenery, and answering a business call on my mobile. It sure beats being in the office! There were several such instances before completing the Heysen.

By the time the Millennium walkers (including myself) reached Kupto, I was well on the way north, and except for a few difficult-to-arrange sections eventually reached Georgetown. About this time I took on maintenance of Section 14 (Spalding to Georgetown), and this occupied much of my time, the section having had little maintenance for many

years. I rejoined the Millennium walkers (to be later renamed End to End 1) to fill in those missing sections, then stayed with the group to Parachilna.

No doubt there will be many anecdotes in the Trailwalker about the End to End 1 walking group. For me, the greatest pleasure was sharing the trail with such a good natured and disparate crowd from many walks of life. Gavin Campbell's description of a "Chatter of Walkers" is apt.

My major concern was whether I could keep up with this elite group, which often stepped out at 6km/hour, little short of a jog. Despite being a 'gym junky' and capable of walking long distances at my own pace, I'm an asthmatic and my knees give out after long uphill-downhill slogs. With the aid of knee braces and Ventolin supercharging for the steep climbs, I made it to the end. There were others braver than I who persevered without complaint. Some pulled out, which is rather sad.

The walk purists amongst us would never be seen dead on a formal guided walk, but End to End 1 was The Ultimate Guided Walk: come on, spit-spot, don't be late, keep up, no time to lose, 5 minutes. Slogging up a steep slope to find the hares rested, no time to tarry, let's go. My experience with guided walks such as the Milford is that the pace is leisurely, no hassles, walk all day alone if you wish, so long as you keep between the front and rear guides. But the logistics of End to End 1 were daunting: arranging transport for up to 50 walkers to remote locations, subject to weather and tight time schedules, and noting that the Heysen is hardly a doddle in the park. All credit to David and Julian.

Another acknowledgement: the first day of End to End 1 I walked with my friend Jonathan Knauth, who was visiting from Utica, NY, USA, and with whom I have enjoyed many walks in the magnificent Adirondack Park. Thus it was appropriate that I started and completed the Heysen with an Adirondack Mountain Club patch on my backpack.

So what now? More walks in NZ, perhaps the Tasmania Overland or UK Coast-to-Coast? Yes, all of these and more in planning. Or perhaps selecting the best of our magnificent Heysen Trail, walking alone or with a self-minded companion(s), taking in the scenery, enjoying the solitude, smelling the roses, and listening to the silence.

**Kevin Liddiard.**



## “Something to Do”



I am not terribly literate in the sense that I don't generally enjoy writing, but I would find it a shame if you were not able to share one of the greatest achievements of my life with me. It started as 'something to do on a Sunday', back in 2000. A way to meet some people and get out of the office and

rat race for a few hours. That first attempt is a story on its own, going to a Saturday night party knowing there was an early start, setting the alarm incorrectly, speeding to the meeting point at Marion and then all the way to Normanville. I wasn't sure what I was looking for, a bus, or a group of cars. Neither was found before I conceded defeat with a walk along the beach before heading back home to bed.

It was no big deal at the time. I had just missed a walk. But as time passed it became quite a big deal to 'catch up' about two kilometres of Heysen Trail in the Deep Creek area before I got to Parachilna Gorge. You see the first Sunday, and later the first weekend, of every hiking season month, became a priority. An obsession some may call it. Whilst everything else in my life changed (some things more than once!), hiking the Heysen Trail was the one thing that remained constant.

Well, over a five year period I have not only met some people, I have also met South Australia and many beautiful areas it has to offer. I would not otherwise have taken the time to find out they existed.

Each walk has had its own highlights, whether it was the scenery, the singing, the lollies, the Tim Tams, the company or, on the odd occasion, the end (due to my lack of fitness!) The trail has something for everyone. Sometimes you felt on top of the world with views for miles, other times you were immersed in a forest, a creek bed or in farm land. The sound of bird calls, the wind or very occasionally silence. Everything has its own beauty if you take the time to absorb the surroundings.

My experience was made more complete as we started weekends away. Who will ever forget the bad jokes and good wine, while comparing aches and pains, at happy hours in the caravan parks. The country hospitality can never be taken for granted.

Each place did its best to cope with a tribe of rowdy, hungry hikers and the majority succeeded (especially once we learnt not to devour the goodies in the bannister before dinner was served!). Trying to remember dance lessons in rock-and-roll and cha-cha from one month to the next was a challenge in itself. I will also never forget learning I should take a torch when going to the toilet in the night, so I can find my bed without searching the wrong room first! I'm sure Ken will agree ... kindly rescuing me in the hallway.

The emotions encountered on the last day heading to Parachilna Gorge were very mixed. In the morning there was the excitement of it being the last day. At lunch, it was not wanting to start the last leg because it would mean the end of an era. At the end, elation and sadness. I had completed this goal, but the experience was over.

I can not thank enough the efforts put in by Julian and David for their planning and organisation. To Sue and Liz, who kept us motivated when it was needed, knowing there would be goodies at the end. And to every one else who made this experience as great as it was.

My biggest regret is not realizing what a big part of my life the Heysen Trail would become and therefore not having kept a journal and taken more photos in the early stages when I was 'just out for a walk'. Maybe one day I'll have to do it all again.

If you think you want to hike the trail, you can, so don't just think about it. Set your alarm correctly and set off on what you may find to be one of the most rewarding experiences you will ever have. I am sure it won't be the last time I am seen on the Trail.

**Nic Wait**



**Nic with Julian and David**

## Reflections along the Heysen Trail:



Having walked with the End to End 1 group for five years and seen so many finish the trail in August 2005, I determined that I would also finish this year. The problem I faced was how to complete the last eight

sections? I set our 'get together' date, October 22 as my deadline. My husband Bill helped me with Mundunnie Hill to Bundaleer Chlorination Station. Thank goodness we had booked the Clare Country Club as the weather was appalling and the promised marvellous views were enshrouded in low very wet clouds – as were we! Horrocks Pass to Woolshed Flat was also wet and windy, but spectacularly lush with great views. On our way home from Quorn I walked a 6km section into Burra that I hadn't finished – but I think that the head wind was even stronger than when I had pulled out in 2003! Lyn Wood walked Bowman Park to Wirrabara Forest Nursery with me. Once again the promised marvellous views were lost in the clouds and rain and the thought of coffee and 'goody' at the Stone Hut bakery was all that kept our spirits up as we got wetter and wetter.

The last two sections I walked on my own – an interesting experience having walked with such a large group for the majority of the trail. Because the weather was still inclement I decided to walk Block

Nine Road to Murray Town before the final section from Wirrabara Forest Nursery to Block Nine Rd. On my last day I left my car at Block Nine Rd and was ferried back to Wirrabara Forest Nursery – ready for the final leg. A beautiful day: blue sky, light breeze, plenty of wildflowers and finally, the marvellous views from the ridge, over St. Vincent's Gulf. A perfect day.

As I had found that completing the Heysen Trail had become a very personal challenge (and somewhat of an obsession), walking on my own for the last two days enabled me to reflect on the whole of the journey over the last 5 years. I've met many like-minded walkers, made enduring friendships, laughed and cried, admired the spectacular scenery and tolerated the tedious road walking. Many times I've felt pushed to my limit and 'the group' have encouraged me on. So when I reached the end of my journey and a small bottle of celebratory 'champers' was waiting in my car, a 'Toyota Leap' was definitely in order – but I was too tired to lift my feet off the ground!

Special thanks to Julian and David for their commitment, long hours of planning, regular lollies and encouragement to keep me going as well as thanks to the many others who helped our group enjoy the journey along the way. Definitely team effort.

**Keneatha Pick**

## Long Trek

South Australia's 1,200 kilometre Heysen Trail is Australia's longest and its first dedicated and marked long distance trail.

Named after famous German immigrant painter Sir Hans Heysen, the trail winds its way along the 'spine of South Australia', through the Mount Lofty Ranges and Flinders Ranges, from Cape Jervis in the south to Parachilna Gorge in the north.

Marked trails had been proposed as early as 1947 and by the late 1960's the National Fitness Council was establishing a network in the Adelaide Hills. When Warren Bonython was at a National Trust symposium in 1969 looking at the future of the Ranges, the idea was born, enthusiastically supported by Government Minister Murray Hill.

A 'Long Distance Trail Committee' was formed and began a tortuous, long-distance effort to realise the dream. After years of 'enthusiastic planning' turned to 'frustration' due to legal problems, funding and staff shortages, a nine-kilometre section, mainly in the Cleland Conservation Park, was opened in May 1976.

In 1978, a 50-kilometre pilot section between Mount Lofty and Mount Magnificent built public enthusiasm and was followed in 1979 and 1981 by the sections between Mount Lofty and the Barossa Valley and Mount Magnificent and Newland Hill.

Negotiations with some 500 private landowners avoided any necessity to compulsorily acquire land and fears, prejudice and hostility of some individuals

and district councils had to be overcome before the Trail was finally completed in 1993.

If Warren Bonython is the ‘father’ of the Heysen Trail, its ‘architect’ was Terry Lavender. A dedicated sailor, mountain climber and bushwalker, and an ‘anti-bureaucrat public servant’....’his genial manner, dogged persistence and willingness to talk with and listen to farmers and rural communities all over South Australia made him a legend’. He helped prepare maps and co-edited the volumes of *The Heysen Trail; A Walkers Guide*. Terry’s book *The*

*Last Post* gives an account of the development of the Trail.

The Heysen Trail celebrates nature, the South Australian landscape, health, the open air, and more and is now welcomed to the pedestal and into the spotlight as a BankSA Heritage Icon.

### **Julian Monfries**

## **Tyranny of Distance**



The Buddha said free your self of goals and ambitions. Or perhaps it was an End to End Heysen Trail walker doing a solo catch-up. Having missed the communal monthly walk the hapless Heysen Trailer is haunted by the need to make up the lost ground. A tyranny which grows with distance; as the End to End group approaches the end, the desperation to catch up builds.

End to End is a romantic goal, a call of the wild and a worthy ambition. End to Enders soon become a merry band of brothers (and sisters), linked by the long trek from Cape Jervis. Once a month they gather together on frosty morns fostering a group momentum to tackle the track. Each section is a journey met in the company of friends.

How different then is the solitary catch-up? I had cause to reflect on this as I walked a Wirrabara section. Maudlin thoughts are the penance of the solo walker particularly as I tramped beside ghost forests with their fields of grave-marking stumps. Why the compulsion to tread every metre of a trail contrived and constructed by a few perambulating dreamers? And why strive to achieve this goal to the timetable of a pair of hapless and long suffering organisers who initiated the first marshalled End to End in 2000? Arbitrary goals such as walking E2E can lead you to cycle for two hours along muddy roads so you can then walk 20 Ks along stony ridges. I can see Buddha’s point of view. We are a goal-obsessed culture which frowns on aimlessness. Not content with the normal challenges of living we yoke ourselves to all manner of goals. The more disaffected and aimless we feel the more desperate

the goal. Conquering Everest is the ultimate goal with cohorts of affluent westerners paying a small fortune for Sherpas to carry them to the top. What possible purpose is being achieved?

It was about this point that I crested the summit with panoramic vistas over the gulf and an answer became apparent. Goals are not supposed to have a purpose. Life has no magical, preordained meaning and it is pointless to weigh the value of one goal over another. Goals are just excuses to depart on new journeys and harvest fresh experiences.

Having embarked on the End to End with a group of like-minded travellers you experience the trail through a host of eyes and interactions. Staying with the group and finishing with the group becomes the imperative, sharing more and more experiences. The end has no meaning – it is the journey that was fun.

### **Simon Cameron**



**Heysen Trail – a different view**  
**Photo: Nic Wait**

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

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



Day 15 (Day 13 walking) - Friday 19<sup>th</sup>

The weather deteriorated, it started to rain and the wind picked up markedly in the night, and we awoke to fairly misty and miserable looking day. Mind you I like walking on days like this, although we missed the views on The Viking.

The Viking climb was steep but thankfully short.

On top we came back towards the summit and found a marker on a tree at the top of the rock chute.

The summit was taken in cloud, and we quickly moved on to follow the spur downwards to the north east. This vaguely follows just below the rocky outcrops, and has markers from time to time.

We walked from the summit with maybe 20 metre visibility, so walked a bearing just fine, picking up a fairly distinct foot pad, which petered out as we progressed along the north east ridge.

Towards the walk off the Viking spur, keep high so not to miss the cairn at the turnoff.

Keep close to the rocky ridgeline and you'll find markers.

The walk off the ridge was steep as expected, and there are negligible markers.

Take a bearing to the first knoll (GR769927) and walk it as closely as possible, avoid the rocky outcrops by walking down a gully left or right.

We lunched at the knoll and continued to Barry Saddle where we took water from the shelter tank to get us to the next (unmarked) tank at East Riley Road (GR843950).

Walking off the Viking we had probably the closest snake encounter.

The party shall remain anonymous in case his spouse forbids any further forays.

Walking left across the 45 degree slope, down maybe a few hundred metres from the top, he stepped below a large tree and felt something at his left knee.

A large curled up and flattened out Tiger snake was on the high side of the hill, licking his knee with its tongue, just above the gaiter ! It was obviously cold, being flattened out to warm up quicker to get operational.

Well, I was about 20 metres up the slope, and as expected one would do, the victim of this vicious licking immediately leapt about 2 metres back, without looking at the steep difficult terrain mind you, and hopped his way down further yelling "my knee, my knee !"

I thought hell, he's twisted his knee or something, but then I heard snake mentioned too.

I got down there quickly, and we sat him down. Calming down a little, he remarked he was absolutely positive he was not bitten. I trusted his judgment somewhat, but I had to be a little surer.

There were no bite marks or scratches present, no bleeding, no pain, etc. There were a couple of spots of moisture present where the snake touched him, and knowing that bites can produce a good amount of venom left on the skin, investigated closer. I tasted this, no taste present (venom is bitter), so assume moisture either from the snakes tongue, or from vegetation. Venom is harmless ingested, must enter the bloodstream via the lymphatic system to do its stuff. Keep the venom out of the bloodstream and you have no problems.

Well, back to the walk.

We entered the Barry Mountains proper, often referred to as the dry Barrys, where it is harder to find water. The good news is the addition of the 2 shelter / water tanks (mentioned previously) makes it less difficult.

Another note about the Barrys, it is highly burnt from bushfires, almost all of it from just past Barry Saddle to Mt Hotham.

Walking the Selwyn Track, we made camp at the East Riley Road water tank about 4.30pm.

This was a great camp site too.

The weather fined up through the day.

About 12km walked today.

Day 16 (Day 14 walking) - Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>

Taking water for the days walk ahead, we followed the Selwyn Road. At the saddle just north

(GR845956) we had a jumper stop, and when restarting walked just a few meters before a large Eastern Brown snake moved quickly off the track in front of us. On to the foot track junction to South Selwyn, we continued to South Selwyn summit, where we had a fairly early lunch. Nice spot.

The foot track is an old 4WD track, easy to follow, and Mt Selwyn was fairly easy on the more used 4WD track leading to the summit. The foot track off the summit of Mt Selwyn to meet the Great Dividing Range Track is rocky and steep, plus there will be trouble with regrowth of trees in the coming years.

Once the Great Dividing Range Track is reached it is good open walking, though the tedious ups and down are relentless, especially the hard climb up Twins Jeep Track to join the Mt Murray Track.

On the walk down from the 1331 spot height to cross the Selwyn Road we came close to another Tiger snake, this one almost all black in colour.

We camped at the saddle on Mt Murray Track (GR994999), good water obtained by a steep walk down the creek to the south east, about 800 metres down to where several tributaries join to give good supply. Mark and I did this run, taking my empty pack, and brought back 14 litres to last us for camp and the walk next day.

About 21km walked today.

Day 17 (Day 15 walking) - Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>

A few hundred metres north up the Mt Murray Track, we took the foot track to knolls 1597 and 1600 spot heights, then the 1616 spot height, on to the 1646 spot height, and then on to The Twins.

Views all along here were excellent, Hotham just a valley away, and Feathertop looks so close now. Lunch was had on the leeward side of the main Twin 1703 metres height.

From the eastern twin, the track descends sharply along a rocky foot track to a Twins 4WD track.

2-1/2km along we came to the Alpine Road (bitumen) that goes from Harrierville to Mt Hotham and beyond.

The water tank mentioned in JS's book is fairly dry, there is a wooden ladder leaning around the back to the top of this large concrete tank, and you could use it to then get down inside where there are pools among the rocky bottom.

The walk along the Alpine Road is tedious, and being a Sunday was fairly busy.

We checked out Blowhard Hut along the way, and if it had a water tank, we would have stayed there.

However, we needed water at camp that night and had decided Diamantina Hut was the go, arriving around 5.30pm.

Water was mentioned in JS's book in Diamantina River headwaters, we walked up the road in the hope we could get this from the high side, but this was dry. Returning to the Razorback Track, we walked along a little then clearly saw the headwaters flowing well, taking water from where it comes from the ground spring below the track about 80 metres to the east (approx GR107078).

After 14 nights in the Megamid, and because it was fairly late, we decided to throw down a groundsheet sleeping mats and bags on the floor of Diamantina Hut, which proved to be a good move.

By 7.00pm it was practically whiteout, and the winds that night were very strong.

We hoped we would have reasonably clear weather for the walk next day along the Razorback.

About 17km walked today.

Day 18 (Day 16 walking) - Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>

Next day was clear and sunny again, though the wind was still very high from the east.

We had decided to spread the walk to Harrierville over a day and a half, so not to rush things, and in case we needed a second chance at Feathertop if the weather was not suitable. Started about 9.00am.

The wind was gusting strongly, walking in Goretex jackets, it was hard not to get blown off track numerous times.

We got to the Federation hut site for lunch, after which we hid our packs away in the scrub, and with water bottles and cameras took off for Mt Feathertop. Had an awesome view from here, even the snow covered NSW Main Range was clear as crystal.

On the return walk, we spotted from a distance a couple of people with what looked like a huge kite (it was of course a tent fly), and as we got closer saw that there were around 20 Shepparton High School students and teachers setting up camp. The wind had picked up a lot again.

We retrieved our packs and after some friendly banter with the teachers, decided to head down Bungalow Spur a ways, to make for some peace and quiet that night.

What a good move. The wind that night was very high, and I can imagine the commotion that might have been occurring up there among the students. As it was we camped at the old Feathertop hut site (GR097165), which was just about the best site we'd had on the walk and so well protected, plus we were another 1-1/2 km closer to our finish.

Very good water at the spring down the track leading south from this site, marked by a signboard.

Go to the second (higher) flow where the pipes are laid.

About 13-1/2 km walked today.

Day 19 (Day 17 walking) - Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>

The next morning we got going around 9.00am. Easy walking down this track, looks steeper on the map, but it does contour a lot.

Some trees down across track but easily negotiated compared to some of the previous 240km covered.

From the bend in the road as you enter Harrierville (GR057168), cross the bridge over the Ovens River East Branch which leads to a lane through to the Alpine Road. Then just a stones throw south you encounter the Harrierville General Store, where it is hard to resist some old favourites, baked goods!.

After a short break we walked south another 300 metres to Camping Road and Harrierville Caravan Park shortly down this road, right by the Ovens River West Branch.

About 9km walked today to the Caravan Park, arriving at 12.00 noon.

After a siesta, we organised gear, packs, and offloaded rubbish, then headed to the Snowline Hotel to check out tonight's fare, and after a quick beer, took a walk up the street. Dinner that night was unanimous T-bones all round with various salads / vegies, etc, and it was great!

Day 20 - Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>

After a few hours of sleep, we had Bright Taxis pre-booked to pick us up at 5.00am, and take us to Bright

for the 5.45am V-line bus to Wangaratta. From here we caught the Benalla train, which got in at 7.55am.

A walk across town, via a bakery of course, and we retrieved the Magna. Leaving Benalla at 9.30am, we drove to Jamieson, said g'day to the Police to let them know we were fine, and check out the Licola Road conditions again.

Figuring we only had to retrieve the drop at Skene Road, we again made a mistake in underestimating time to get across to Walhalla. This time it was a lot slower drive in the Magna.

After retrieving drums, we got to Walhalla at around 3.30pm, still in time to have a great hamburger and get the other vehicle from the general store. We left Walhalla at 4.30pm, but figured this wasn't as bad as we originally thought, after all Rhonda & Norm at the general store advised it was just a couple of hours drive to Melbourne.

We arrived at a caravan park at Bacchus Marsh around 8.00pm, where we booked a cabin, parked one vehicle, and the 4 of us headed down town to eat.

Day 21 - Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>

Left Bacchus Marsh 7.30am, arrived Adelaide 4.30pm.

**Les Skinner**



**At The Twins**

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### ANNAPURNA OUTDOOR SHOP

210 Rundle Street, Adelaide, 5000

(08) 8223 4633

**10% Discount** (excluding sale items)

### FLINDERS CAMPING

187 Rundle Street, Adelaide, 5000

(08) 8223 1913

**10% Discount** (excluding sale items)

FAX (08) 8223 1358

email: [info@flinders.com.au](mailto:info@flinders.com.au)

### PADDY PALLIN

228 Rundle Street, Adelaide, 5000

(08) 8232 3155

**10% Discount** (excluding sale items)

### MOUNTAIN DESIGNS

185 Rundle Street, Adelaide, 5000

(08) 8232 0690

**10% Discount** (excluding sale items)

### MITCHELL'S ADVENTURE

Shop 2001C, Westfields Marion Shopping Centre

(08) 8296 7700

Shop 217, Tea Tree Plaza Shopping Centre

(08) 8395 9555

**5% Discount** (excluding sale items and portable fridges).

### BOOTS GREAT OUTDOORS CENTRE

1277 South Road, St Marys, 5042

(08) 8277 7789

**Up to 10% Discount** (excluding sale items and fridges)

### SNOWY'S OUTDOORS

92 Richmond Road, Keswick, 5035

(08) 8351 2111

**Up to 10% Discount**

### AUSSIE DISPOSALS

119 Pirie Street, Adelaide, 5000

(08) 8224 0388

Shop 146, Western Mall, Elizabeth City Centre, 5112

(08) 8287 3008

Colonnades Shopping Centre, Beach Road, Noarlunga, 5168

(08) 8326 3186

163 Main North Road, Nailsworth

(08) 8342 4844

**Up to 10% Discount to members**

### TRIMS

322 King William Street, Adelaide, 5000

(08) 8212 5099

Level 2, Shop 2050, Westfield Marion

(08) 8298 9777

Shop 162/3, Westfield Tea Tree Plaza

(08) 8396 3800

**5% Discount**

### ADELAIDE HATTERS

36 Adelaide Arcade, Adelaide, 5000

(08) 8224 0131

**10% Discount**

### SA CAMPING WORLD

109 Jetty Road, Glenelg, 5045

(08) 8376 1330

10% to 15% to members

**MEMBERS CARD MUST BE SHOWN TO OBTAIN DISCOUNT  
DON'T FORGET TO IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS A MEMBER OF THE FRIENDS**

## Huts Along The Heysen Trail



**Marschall's Hut**

Map #	Location	Grid Reference	Management Authority/Landowner	Facilities
HT Bk 1 Map 5.3 (Old Map 10)	Marschall's Hut	001 170 (300119 / 6216993) (Zone 54 WGS 84)	J. Huppatz	Hut, bunks, water, fireplace, table, seating., toilet.

## Re-Routes

### Mt Crawford

The Heysen Trail has been diverted around the Pewsey Vale forest. It now continues along Brownes Rd, Heggies Range Rd and Tanunda Creek Rd to the Kaiserstuhl CP main entrance, and through the park to the Trail. Access to the Rossiter Hut is now only available from the eastern side

Please contact the Ranger Mount Crawford Forest  
Tel: 08 85246004 for further information.

### Kuitpo Forest

The two temporary detours of the Heysen Trail, in the Jupiter Creek and Knott Hill areas of the Kuitpo Forest have been removed. The original trail marking is being restored.

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

### Newland Head

The Trail has been re-routed away from the clifftop for about 1km from the eastern boundary of Newland Head CP, to protect local wildlife

### Mt Cone

A minor re-route has been marked from just south of Mt Cone, along a newly made track towards Woodcone Rd. This was requested by the landowner, to separate walkers from grazing stock and to allow for new fences.

### John Wilson