

# THE TRAILWALKER

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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 2005/2006**

Julian Monfries	President
Simon Cameron	Vice President
David Beaton	Secretary
John Wilson	Treasurer
Robert Alcock	
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 15 Mar, 2006  
Wed 19 Apr, 2006  
Wed 17 May, 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**

Walkers "following the fence line"  
at Princess Royal re-route  
Photo: Keneatha Pick

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**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, Chris Caspar  
David Beaton Dawn Bon, Julie Loftus, David Rattray  
Jack Marcellis, Jenny Prider,  
Arthur Smith, Frances Gasson, Jan Mortimer, Bradley Howell  
Kath Palyga, Sandy Melbourne, Colin Edwards, Jamie Shephard

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Editorial

Welcome to our first Trailwalker for 2006, a year which marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of Friends of the Heysen Trail. We want to celebrate this achievement by featuring in later editions of The Trailwalker some of the highlights (and low points?) of the past 20 years, and - more importantly - some of the sung and unsung heroes (and that's not just the blokes) who have made such an achievement possible. So. Get researching. And get writing

We also want articles and letters about what we should be doing in the next twenty years. Perhaps Trail re-routes or spurs/loops which allows walkers to walk from town to town (or b-and-b to b-and-b) and which can be marketed in 7 and fifteen day packages, to suit interstate and overseas visitors?

In this issue of The Trailwalker we have information about the **Annual General Meeting on Friday 24 March**, and some weekends away in the Grampians (April) and on Kangaroo Island (October). There is also a call for people to help in the office and to lead walks.

Our very popular member contributions are a real dinkum assorted: convicts on the Trail, more of Gavin's ramblings, End-to-End back-to-front. And on the subject of convicts, it is interesting to recall that one of the first huts refurbished on the Heysen Trail was built by disadvantaged men being helped by the then Adelaide Central Mission, hence our presence in the (now) Uniting Care Wesley building.

We've found that articles of 400-500 words and 1200-1500 words work best. And we do want photos (especially headshots of the writer) and maps with captions.

We know you are all waiting eagerly for April 2<sup>nd</sup> and the opening of the Walking Season 2006 when life can begin again. Get ready to dust off the GPS and start crossing off those kilometres.

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.

We take this opportunity to congratulate our co-editor, Terri and her husband Jason, on the birth of their son, Jameison Wolf Hawke, on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb.

### CLOSING DATE

Closing date for our next issue is **5 May, 2006**.  
Publication date will be late **May, 2006**.

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

## President's Report Autumn 2006

Welcome to a new year and to an exciting range of activities and events planned for the Friends.

The New Year of course brings us a continuation of the twilight walks, which have proven once again very popular, combining walking with a social side of the Friends. If you haven't tried them come along on Wednesday evening.

It also brings us to the Annual General Meeting on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March at Enterprise House, 136 Greenhill Road, Unley at 7.30PM (details pages 9, 10).



**Joan Russell**

This year we are lucky to have as our guest speaker Joan Russell, four times Australian Antarctic Base commander, at Casey, Macquarie Island and Mawson Bases. In addition, she is probably the first grandmother to be a base commander and has held a number of senior positions in the South Australian public service, prior to her icy adventures. We are looking forward to a most interesting dissertation with slides and questions.

This is your opportunity to return something to the Friends. Come along and be a part of the night. Come along and be an active part of your organisation.

## ☞ WE NEED YOU. ☜

We have vacancies this year on council and we need new blood to keep our organisation vibrant and vital. We need members to participate in the various committees, or on occasional projects, without being involved in council matters.

The plans for the 2006 Walking Season Opening proceed apace with help from BankSA, LJ Hooker and plenty of interest from many of the other Friends organisations, walking shops and travel agents with an interest in walking.

We hope to get Ian McNamara from the ABC *Australia All Over* programme to kick off the event by broadcasting from Belair. This will then lead into the Opening programme proper with help from *Life Be In It*, *Heart Foundation*, DEH with their *Healthy Parks, Healthy People* programme.

The Friends long awaited walking book, *Push the Bush, Extended Day Walks in the Mount Lofty Ranges*, will be launched and available for sale at the Opening and I think you will find it was well worth the wait.

The Opening will be a celebration of bush walking and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Friends of the Heysen Trail. All members are invited, not just the actively walking ones. We would like to see as many of the old Friends as possible. Be there and make it an event to remember!!

The Northern Guide for the Heysen Trail was finally released after a few hiccups and sales have been very gratifying.

There is a very full walking programme this year with weekends away and the usual variety of Sunday TrailStarter and TrailWalker walks on offer.

We must not forget that the Friends charter includes "the development and maintenance of walking trails of South Australia" and like the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the Trail needs constant attention.

With the release of the Southern and Northern Guides, the Trail is now, more or less fixed, although it does need minor tweaking, upgrading and refurbishment.

Walkers should be beholden to the volunteers who work to keep it up to scratch.





**Thelma**

Congratulations are due to our very own Thelma Anderson who was awarded an **OAM** at the recent Australia Day Honours *“for service to the environment and to natural heritage preservation through the establishment and maintenance of walking trails and conservation areas.”*

Finally, remember that the Friends is an all-volunteer organisation which means that involvement by a large number of our members is needed.

If we don't have volunteer workers things just don't happen!! WE NEED YOU.

Share a bit of your time and expertise to help make the Friends a better organisation.

**Julian Monfries**  
**President**

### **Thelma Anderson, OAM**

As a child and teenager Thelma lived on a property situated adjacent to Cox's Creek at Bridgewater so it can be claimed that her association with the Heysen Trail dates back to that period. She loved the hills and the creeks and the bushland and spent her leisure time exploring the surrounding area. She also lived near the undeveloped road reserve (Aldgate Terrace) that extends from Strathalbyn Road to Cox's Creek. Perhaps this is the motivation today for her endeavours to protect these vital walking access routes to ensure they remain in Government ownership for future generations to enjoy.

As the Heysen Trail was developed through the Adelaide Hills and south through Kuitpo Forest and beyond, she walked the Trail with her friends savouring the experience of previously unknown legal walking areas along a path through magnificent and colourful native vegetation and forests of gum trees.

When the meeting called by Terry Lavender to be held at the Dom Polski Centre was advertised in June, 1986 Thelma and her friends joined the enthusiastic attendance of many other walkers seeking to learn more about the development of the Heysen Trail and with the formation of the Friends, the opportunity presented itself to make a contribution to an event in the history of the State.

After working as the Administrative Officer of the Friends of the Heysen Trail, Thelma joined the Committee of the Walking Federation of South Australia where she has continued to promote the retention of road reserves for recreational use and to foster the interests of the route of the Heysen Trail. She has published two small books describing walking in the Adelaide Hills and has been privileged to work with the well-known botanist, Enid Robertson on nature conservation projects and with Friends of Newland Head Conservation Park. She shared a vital, valuable and highly respected working relationship with Terry Lavender, Andrew Moylan and Martin Foster that proved critical in completing the Heysen Trail six years ahead of the projected date.

Thelma has been a member of the A.R.P.A. Bushwalking Group for many years and has accompanied the group on various walking camps both in South Australia and in other States. She has also walked on numerous occasions in New Zealand and on one occasion in Canada where she has taken advantage of these opportunities to discuss legislation relating to walking trails with the local authorities. Thelma also walks locally with Noarlunga Bushwalking Club, W.E.A. Ramblers, Four Seasons and occasionally with Bushlanders. She is also a member of the Friends of Onkaparinga Park and shares responsibility for the maintenance of a section of the Heysen Trail.

## 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.

Kathleen Ariffin  
Gilbert Calaby  
Peter Chapman  
Andrew Cowley  
Brenton Elsdon

Kate Giles  
Christine Harris  
Dennis Harris  
Garry Hiskey  
P Johnstone

Rudolf Karpelis  
Dorothea Megow-  
Dowling  
Chris Robson  
Leonie Robson

Ms S Steel  
Joan Stubbings  
Peter Telfer  
Ian Uppill  
Judith Uppill

## Calling all Heysen Trail Walkers

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

Enquiries and application forms available from the Friends office.

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

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

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

The following persons were also registered and issued with "End-to End" certificates between 1 Nov, 2005 and 31 January 2006. Members of the Friends are denoted by \*.

Richard Pash

Bev Petherick

Michael Phillips

Joan Stubbings



## The Friends of the Heysen Social Club

So far we have had one wash-out and two successes. Our first attempt "Boules in the Park" was a wash-out. Since then we have had a very good Xmas dinner and a good gathering (about 40 persons) at the Monarto Symphony in the Serengeti. We are pushing on and hope that our future events will get everyone out and about.

### 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 north of the Palais – there are some tables available under the big palm trees.

### Boules in the Park Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 11am

This is a case of "if at first you don't succeed ...." After our wash-out we thought it still a good idea to have this outing.

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

**Colin Edwards**

## Office Committee Report

### STAFF

A new year and a good positive start.

Firstly, a big welcome back to all our office staff. You do a vital job in ensuring that essential areas of the Friends operate smoothly.

It's great to have some new faces on the Office team. (Now don't take that the wrong way!)

We welcome our new helpers: Sandy Melbourne, Colin Edwards and Jamie Shephard.

They may be new to the office staff but not to the Friends. Sandy has walked with the Friends for a number of years and Colin and Jamie are both Past Presidents with a wide knowledge of bushwalking and walking tracks which will be of great benefit to all our members and the members of the general public who seek advice from the Office.

It is great to have Jack Marcelis as the Office Coordinator for 2006. Another keen walker, his latest trek was WA's Bibbulmun Track, Jack has been involved with the office for many years

### OPENING HOURS

The Friends Office is open Monday to Friday from 10.30am to 2.30pm.

Where possible call during these times to book onto walks or weekends away.

If unable to contact the office during opening hours you can always email the Friends or leave phone messages to be followed up by staff on the next work day.

Jamie and Colin have proposed having the office open until 5.00pm on Fridays as a service to those booking on for walks and to be more accessible for enquiries and sales to members and the public.

**SALES** New members might not be aware that the Friends' office is actually a shop!

In fact we should be talking about 'the shop' not the 'office'.

As well as being at the centre of the day to day operations of the Friends there is a range of maps and books relating to walking for sale.

You may purchase items by visiting the office, or placing phone or mail orders. We are able to accept payment by credit card

Have you seen the Heysen Trail guidebooks? Providing up-to-date maps of the Heysen Trail (the Southern book covers the area from Cape Jervis to

Spalding with the Northern Guidebook following the trail northwards to Parachilna Gorge) the books also provide background information about the areas through which the trail passes.

Available at the Friends Shop. \$29.95 each, plus \$2.50 postage.

Remember all members receive 10% discount on all items purchased from the Friends' Shop.

**David Beaton**

**Chair, Office Committee**

Friends of the Heysen Trail  
**HEYSEN TRAIL OFFICE / SHOP**  
**CALL FOR  
VOLUNTEERS**

**2 hrs a fortnight?      4 hrs a week?**

Our office/ shop in Pitt Street Adelaide is staffed by volunteers.  
We are facing a severe shortage, with the likelihood of the office / shop being closed for a day or two a week.  
Opening times are 10.30 to 2.30 Mon – Fri.

Please contact David Beaton on  
Or the Office on **8212 6299**

## Burra Branch Report

**Section 13.** There have been a few bushfires in this area and adjoining section in the last month or two. The fire at Burra burnt approximately 7000 ha including some of the Heysen Trail. With luck there won't be any loss of stiles and signs. Another bush fire just south of Huppattz Hut has burnt about 2km of the Heysen Trail. The bushfire came within 800m of the Hut.

The Heysen Trail between Wandallah Shelter to White Hill road to be re-marked some time this year as the markers have deteriorated and need to be brought back up to standard.

I would like to thank Jenny for the Burra Branch write up while Kate and I were enjoying a Trip to Sweden, Norway, England and Germany. More about it later.

**Hugh Greenhill**

## Maintenance Report

There has been little change since our report in the Summer Trailwalker. We are awaiting the reports from the Trail Facility & Infrastructure Planning Workshops which were held in November. We hope they will define standards for the trail infrastructure, and for the design, classification and route of the trail

The Strategic Plan for the Heysen Trail is almost ready for circulation in draft form for comment, and hopefully the draft Management Plan will also shortly be circulated.

The heavy rains in October/November, followed by some bushfires in the Mid North, have caused

considerable damage to the Heysen Trail and its infrastructure. This is likely to have a significant impact on our maintenance planning.

A Section Leaders meeting is planned for mid March, to report on the present state of the trail, with recommendations on the areas of work which should be given priority. A maintenance program and cost estimates will then be prepared as a basis for future development.

**John Wilson**  
Chairman, Maintenance Committee

## A Busy 2005 for the Wandergruppe/Bushwalkers

In 2005 the volunteers of the Wandergruppe Bushwalkers of the S.A. German Association had a very active year on the Heysen Trail at section 4. At the beginning of the year we had to complete improvements to the 69 steps in Yulte Conservation Park, which had previously been very difficult for walkers to use.

Then in March the volunteers started a new project. The old suspension bridge near Hindmarsh Tiers Road had become badly dilapidated and needed replacing. A new site 50m closer to the hillside was chosen and the volunteers prepared to build a new bridge similar in design to the other two bridges we have already replaced.



**The Third Bridge**

We first had to clear debris and other unwanted items from the 9m-wide dry creek bed. Then four large holes 450mm in diameter and 1500 mm deep had to be dug on either side, and four hardwood poles

embedded in concrete to carry the 9m-long steel beams. Because of a delay in the supply of materials we were still working when the weather became wet and the creek was flooded with 2 feet of water, making the area very muddy and difficult to work in. Once the steel beams arrived, they were delivered to the bridge location by a neighbouring farmer, who used his bulldozer to bring them in and place them on the hardwood poles. The decking was then completed in tallowwood, a hardwood which grows

along the coast and in the coastal ranges between the Hunter River in NSW and the Maryborough district in Queensland. The bridge was finished with steel balustrade posts and hardwood rails. The completed bridge is 14m long and 1m wide.

I would like to thank all my helpers for their wonderful work

and a special thanks to Lawrie Rowley, the local farmer who helped us with his bulldozer.

**H. Schmidt**  
Section Leader



## 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**

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## NOTICE OF MEETING

The nineteenth Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Heysen Trail and Other Walking Trails Inc will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday, 24th March 2006 at Enterprise House (Rooms 3 & 4, First floor), 136 Greenhill Rd. Unley. Free car parking will be available under the building; enter from Greenhill Road.

The agenda for this meeting is printed on the next page.

Nominations are sought from you, our members, for election to the Friends Council at the Annual General Meeting, for all positions including the Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and half of the remaining members (our Constitution calls for not less than four and not more than ten non office bearing members).

Council meetings are currently held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6.00pm, in a room provided by Uniting Care Wesley (above the Friends offices). Meetings usually conclude by 7.30pm.

In addition to Council, there is an opportunity for members to contribute to one of the various Committees: Walking, Trails Maintenance, Marketing and Membership, Trailwalker, etc.

To nominate, please complete and copy or detach the form below and send it to:

The Secretary  
Friends of the Heysen Trail, 10 Pitt Street Adelaide, 5000

### NOMINATION FORM

I.....wish to nominate for the position of .....  
Vice President, Secretary,  
Treasurer Council Member.

.....  
(Proposer)

.....  
(Signature of Nominee)

.....  
(Secunder)

.....  
(Name -Please Print)

**NOMINATIONS CLOSE AT 2.00pm ON FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2006**

**AT THE FRIENDS OFFICE**

**Note:** We welcome nominations for Council, particularly for new members. The section of the Friends Constitution relevant to nomination and election to the Council is reproduced overleaf.

# 19th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY 24 MARCH 2006 AT 7.30PM

AT ENTERPRISE HOUSE, 136 GREENHILL ROAD, UNLEY

## AGENDA

1. Apologies.
2. Acceptance of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 18 March 2005.
3. President's Report.
4. Financial Report
5. Maintenance Report
6. Election of Officers.
  - 6.1 Vice President
  - 6.2 Treasurer
  - 6.3 Secretary
  - 6.4 Council Members
7. Appointment of Auditor.
8. Election of Honorary Members
9. Other Business.
10. Close of Meeting.

At the conclusion of the business of the evening, we have invited Joan Russell to be our guest speaker, to share some of her experiences as Station Leader for the Australian Antarctic Division.

Tea and coffee will be served at the conclusion of the evening. Please bring a plate of light supper.

**Note:** Any member wishing to move a motion at the AGM should be aware of the Constitutional requirements as follows:

“Notice of any motion proposed to be moved at a General Meeting by any member not being a member of the Council shall be signed by the proposer and seconder and shall be delivered to the Secretary at least seven days before the meeting. No motion moved by any member other than a member of the Council shall be entertained by the meeting unless notice thereof has been given as aforesaid.”

## ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AT AGM

The Section of the Friends Constitution relating to Management of the Association, and to the procedure for nomination and election of members of the Council is reproduced below.

### 8. MANAGEMENT

- (1) The affairs of the Association shall be managed and controlled by a Council which may exercise on behalf of the Association all the powers conferred on the Association by this Constitution, and may do all such things as are within the objects of the Association except such things as are required to be done by the Association in General Meeting.
- (2) The Council shall consist of the President of the Association, together with a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and not less than four, nor more than ten other members, all of whom shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- (3) The President shall hold office for a period of two years and shall be eligible for re-election after that period, provided that after three terms in office he or she shall stand down for at least one year.
- (4) The Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and half of the other members shall retire annually. The members to retire each year shall be determined by the Council which shall ensure, as far as possible, that they shall retire in rotation. A retiring Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer or member shall be eligible for re-election without nomination.
- (5) Nominations for election as President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer, or as a member of the Council shall be invited by notice in the Association's Newsletter or other appropriate publication not less than 21 days before the Annual General Meeting. All persons nominated for election must be members of the Association.
- (6) Nominations must be in writing and must be signed by two members of the Association and by the nominee to signify his willingness to stand for election. **They must include brief biographical details of the nominee for distribution to members at or before the Annual General Meeting and must reach the Secretary of the Association not less than seven days before the Annual General Meeting;** provided that if an insufficient number of nominations has been received to fill the vacancies, additional nominations may be accepted at the Annual General Meeting.
- (7) If the number of nominations received is more than the number of vacancies to be filled, an election to fill the vacancies shall be held by secret ballot.



## THE WALKING FEDERATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, INC.

**Special Planning Meeting.** 16 January, 2006, discussed the following:

- The Pioneer Women's Trail. Walking SA has been contracted to mark this heritage walking trail between Verdun and Beaumont. Volunteers asked to assist with the installation of signs.
- Monarto Lands. Walkers are urged to lobby their local MP to keep this open space in Government ownership. This is a valuable area for walking access, bird-watching and the preservation of the natural environment.
- Proposed Extension to the Riesling Trail from Clare to Barinia siding ( 8.5 km) by The Riesling Trail Management Committee feasibility study.
- Opening of the 2006 Walking Season – 2 April, 2006. Members to liaise with the Friends of the Heysen Trail in hosting the occasion.
- Change to the fee structure for affiliation with the Federation was discussed.

**Adventure Activity Standards.** It was agreed that existing arrangements continue and that commercial organisations should comply with the standards applicable to the activity being promoted and conducted.

**Railtrails Australia.** The State Government is planning to sell approximately 700 metres of rail trail land at Noarlunga Downs to a housing developer. This will affect the continuity of the 34km Coast to Vines rail trail extending from the sea at Hallett Cove and Marino through vineyards to Willunga. Walkers are urged to lobby their local MP to retain the integrity of a significant SA walking trail. This situation highlights the importance of legislative protection for walking trails throughout the State.

**Presentation to South Australian Trails Co-ordinating Committee, 2004** referring to legislative changes to the Roads (Opening and Closing) Act and the Greenways Act, as advised by Clive Brooks, Federation member and recently-retired Parliamentary Counsel. A reply, dated 12 December, 2005 has not yet been discussed by the Committee or the Walking Access Committee but it is clear that further action is required by Walking S.A.

**Woodcutters Road.** Negotiations are continuing between Onkaparinga Council and Walking S.A. regarding Council's proposal to designate a section of this undeveloped road reserve as a conservation area, thereby excluding traffic and pedestrians. The Office for Recreation and Sport want to retain it for proposed future development of the Yurrebilla Trail. No access is currently available due to the overgrowth of broom and blackberries

**Yurrebilla Trail.** Efforts are being made to ensure continuity of access along the undeveloped road reserve that passes through the Springwood Park property, formerly owned by Andrew Garrett and recently sold to new owners at auction by the National Bank.

**Belair National Park.** A sustainable walking trail has been marked by volunteers on the hillside above Minnow Creek and a stand of Sequoias (Californian Redwood) on the eastern boundary of Belair National Park, replacing the existing track that had become seriously eroded.

**General Meeting.** 7.30 p.m. Thursday, 16 February, 2006 at Burnside Council Community Centre, cnr Greenhill and Portrush Roads (parking in Council Carpark).

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

## Walking Committee Report

The 2006 Walk Program sees the Friends starting the long trek again at Cape Jervis on the 30<sup>th</sup> April with our End to End 3 group. It is a symbolic moment on the Heysen trail and, like the start of any journey, a moment to enjoy. As always, walk bookings open one month before the program day. Buses need to be booked and we need definite numbers – if you want to ensure your seat on the bus take the opportunity of paying the \$10 bus fee by credit card over the phone at the time of booking. Also as usual, there is a full refund for cancellations up to one week from the program date. Please make the walk leader's job easier by booking early.

### Walk leaders needed.

In 2006 we are short of walk leaders for the shorter Trail Starter walks. These are usually 3-4 hours and around 12 kms. Even if you have never led walks please give it some consideration. The walk committee will assist and we offer in-house training.

We have a training weekend for walk leaders, and a fun walk planned for March 26 so get in early and let the office or anyone on the committee know.

### Weekends Away

**Innes National Park Saturday March 11 – 13**  
(Adelaide Cup Weekend)

### Grampians April 22 – 25

I am assessing the damage from the recent fires. It is not clear how bad everything is at the moment. At this stage we plan to go ahead but the committee is investigating alternatives.

### Important dates

Opening of the walk season Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

See you on the trail

**Simon Cameron,**  
Chairman Walking Committee

## Twilight Walks

### 6pm Wednesday nights

2 hour walk followed by a quick dinner  
Bring a friend \$5 per walker

Bookings are open a month prior to the date of the walk.  
To book phone the Friends Office on **8212 6299**

(The summer walk program is not covered by Golden Boots).

MARCH	1	8	15	22
	Westlakes/Grange	Burnside Parks	Mitcham Hills	Linear Park
	Julian Monfries	Liz Barry	Jennifer Dow	Mike Parsons

# **Friend's Walking Weekend**

## **Innes National Park Information**

### **for Weekend of 11<sup>th</sup>. 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

#### **Location Description (Parks & Wildlife)**

Innes National Park is approximately 300kms from Adelaide and is situated on the southern tip of the Yorke Peninsula. It encompasses spectacular coastal landscapes, a diversity of wildlife habitats and a wide range of recreational opportunities. Hear the waves crash on the beaches, the wind whispering through the sheoaks, view the rugged coastlines sculpted by the Southern Ocean and wander through remnants of South Australia's mining and maritime history.

#### **Walk Program**

Saturday 11 March

Travel from Adelaide to Innes National Park, arriving before 12 noon

Meet at Inneston

Short guided walk Saturday afternoon; estimated 2/3 hours

Saturday evening: Pub meal to arranged at Marion Bay or Stenhouse Bay (own cost)

Sunday 12 March

Meet at Inneston

Long guided walk starting Sunday morning through to Sunday afternoon (lunch not supplied)

Sunday evening: barbecue to be provided in the vicinity of the Lodges at Inneston

Monday 13 March

Checkout of the lodges by 10 a.m.

Travel to Port Victoria or Port Rickaby for a short coastal walk (1/2 hours, lunch not supplied)

Return to Adelaide

#### Walk Program Cost

\$50 for the weekend, including the barbecue on Sunday evening.

#### **Accommodation**

2 Lodges have been booked at Inneston within the Innes National Park, the Gatehouse and Miners Lodges. The Miners Cottage sleeps 8 in 3 bedrooms – 1 double, 2 singles and 2 double bunk beds. The Gatehouse Lodge sleeps 6 in 2 bedrooms with one double and 2 double bunks. Both lodges have limited facilities for small electrical 240 V items.

Accommodation costs for Sat and Sun nights (for either lodge):

- \$80 for either of the double rooms

- \$70 for the room with 2 singles (Miners Cottage)
- \$30 per person for a bunk.

Water is unfiltered rain or bore water and not recommended for drinking – please bring drinking water with you.

Additional Accommodation of various types is available at the Marion Bay Caravan Park ([www.yorkeregion.on.net/marionbay-caravanpark](http://www.yorkeregion.on.net/marionbay-caravanpark)) which is about 6kms from the Park.

#### **Rules re the Lodges**

There are permits for a maximum of 3 vehicles per lodge and Registration numbers must be provided 2 weeks before so that permits can be issued. If they are not submitted to the Visitor Centre 2 weeks prior to arrival you will be required to pay a \$7 entrance fee. Permits will be sent out to the individuals concerned, so please supply address details with the registration information. Permits must be displayed in the Park – fines of up to \$165 may be issued if they are not visible.

Arrival time is 2pm and departure time 10am.

Bedding is not supplied, so please bring your own. The Lodges both have open fires and self contained kitchens. Firewood is not supplied and can be purchased from the Innes park Trading Post at Stenhouse Bay (collection of firewood within the Park is prohibited).

We will be visiting during the fire season, so no open fires will be permitted.

#### **Meals**

Barbeque is supplied on Sunday evening at the Lodges, but please bring provisions for the breakfast and lunch on the walk days.

Pub meal will be organized for Saturday evening at either Marion Bay or Stenhouse Bay and each person will pay for their own meal. Please advise if vegetarian is required.

Any queries, please call Ray Blight (0417 199 992) or Robyn Morris (0408 232 230)

## WALKING PROGRAM 2006 (April to July)

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

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

		APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
1	TS	2 Opening Walk Season Pines Oval Belair	7 Chambers Gully David Beaton	4 Kersbrook Mike Parsons	2 Horsnell Gully Lyn Wood/ Helen Cradock
	TW	Belair Gavin Campbell	Tungkillo Springton Gavin Campbell		Vixen Gully Bob Randall
2	TS	9 Willunga for Nuts Mike Parsoms	14 Mother's Day TBA	11	9 Belair Ray Blight
	TW	Brighton to Port Stanvac Gavin Campbell	13-14 End to End 2 Webb Gap – Old Robertstown Rd- Worlds End Simon Cameron +	10-11-12 End to End 2 World's End – Duttons trough – Burra	9-10 End to End 2  <i>Burra – Wandallah – Black Jack – Corunna</i>  <i>Gavin Campbell</i>
3	TS	16 Easter	21 Little Mt Crawford Chris Caspar	18	16 Kuitpo Mike Parsons
	TW	Easter	Brownhill Creek Raelene Shaw	Tungkillo Oliver Jim Freak	Pioneer Women's Walk  Leaders required
4	TS	23	28 Scott Creek Ray Blight	25 Wistow Rosie Gubbins	23 Mt Misery Chris Caspar
	TW	22-25 Grampians Simon Cameron	3 Cobbler Hill – Tapanappa Simon Cameron  <i>Gavin Campbell Jim Freak</i>	End to End 3 Tapanappa – Balquhiddier Simon Cameron  <i>Gavin Campbell Jim Freak</i>	End to End 3 Balquhiddier – Waitpinga  <i>Gavin Campbell Jim Freak</i>
5	TS	30 Chambers Gully David Beaton			30
	TW	End to End 3 C Jervis – Cobbler Hill Simon Cameron			Willunga Almond Blossom Walk Gavin Campbell



## WALK DESCRIPTION

### *TrailStarter*

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

### *TrailWalker*

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

### *TrailRambler*

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

## WHAT TO BRING

### *TrailStarter*

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

Lunch and snacks (include some for emergency).

Plastic bag for rubbish.

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

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

### *TrailWalker*

All of the above and –

Whistle

Roller and triangular bandages

## WHAT TO WEAR?

### *TrailStarter*

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

Wet weather gear – ¾ length waterproof rain jacket.

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

Warm jumper or jacket of wool or polyester fleece.

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

Shorts or loose comfortable wool or synthetic pants.

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

Warm hat. (shade hat in warmer weather)

Thick socks

### *TrailWalker*

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

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

## WALK CLOTHING

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

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

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

**DON'T LET IT BE YOU!**

# OPENING OF THE WALKING SEASON!

**SUNDAY 2 April 2006 11am – 3pm**

## 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

Under a giant marquee there will be outdoor and adventure travel displays, bushwalking gear information.

It will also be the official launch of the Friends new extended day walks guide book.

The inaugural council will be the official guests for the day and in conjunction with Life Be In It we will be offering hourly guided walks.

### **Preliminary Notice**

## ***Just a small taste of Kangaroo Island***

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> Sept to Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct long weekend.**

### **Friday afternoon to Monday afternoon**

Come along for a great weekend on Kangaroo Island.

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

There will be more information on the long weekend in the next Trailwalker

## 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

## Membership Competition

Held Oct - Nov 2005



Competition winners, Lorretta Deconte and Michael Kerin (Pt Augusta) with Duncan Henderson, manager of the Mountain Design Adelaide store and Julian Monfries, President of the Friends. They are wearing the vests donated by Mountain Designs as competition prizes.

A black and white advertisement for Mountain Designs. The top left features a diamond-shaped logo with a mountain range silhouette and the text "MOUNTAIN DESIGNS". Below the logo, the slogan "Gear for places you'd rather be..." is written in a stylized, handwritten font. The background is a photograph of a hiker with a backpack standing on a rocky mountain peak, looking out over a vast, hazy landscape. At the bottom left, contact information is provided: "ADELAIDE • Basement, 167 Rundle Street • (08) 8232 0690 www.mountaindesigns.com". A small "Photo: David Brown" credit is visible at the bottom right.

## Convicts on the Heysen Trail

*Forced labour built a path through difficult terrain in the early days of the NSW colony. George and Elfi Driscoll, now living in Sydney walked the track built in 1829 by these men.*

At Wisemans Ferry, 80km from Sydney, walkers can begin the Great North Road Walk built by hundreds of convicts. This ambitious engineering project was designed to link Sydney Town with settlements in the Hunter Valley. The southern section of the road is now open to cyclists and walkers only. Points of interest are marked. The road came down to the Hawkesbury River at what is now Wisemans Ferry. A circular walk links this section of the Great North Road with a track called Finches Line. This is another convict route where an attempt was made to come up from the river. This route was abandoned in favour of the Great North Road project.

This walk has wonderful views across rugged bushland valleys on one side and on the other you overlook farmland and the township of Wisemans Ferry, beside the confluence of the Macdonald and Hawkesbury Rivers. It is an easy four hour walk with a steady climb along the gravel road followed by a bush track along the saddle and then a descent on the narrow convict track. This path passes through tree ferns and Gymea Lilies. These are large bright red flowers on top of two to three metre stalks.

Could we use convicts on the Heysen Trail now?

Just think. If the builders and maintainers of the Heysen Trail had the assistance of a few hundred convicts wouldn't the job of overseer be much easier! On the Great North Road the men blew up rock walls with dynamite and had the occasional accident in the process. They chiselled and hammered through huge rocks to make square blocks. They were forced to carry the blocks to a wall and lift them carefully into place.

A hanging tree is highlighted where legend has it that any recalcitrants were dealt with.

I don't suppose this treatment of workers could be implemented in 2005 to maintain the Heysen Trail. We will just have to continue to progress with volunteer labour.

When you look at what has been achieved by many volunteers in building, marking and maintaining the Heysen Trail it can be more appreciated what a marvelous feat has been accomplished.

The work by dedicated members of the Friends of the Heysen Trail continues.

**George Driscoll**



**Confluence of Hawkesbury and MacDonald Rivers**





## Walk- Umberatana Station The quest for Mt Thomas



My sister has compiled a family tree about our ancestors and although all of them had led fairly interesting lives, the most interesting was William Henry Thomas. William

Henry had come to Australia from Cornwall in 1848. He worked at Burra and the Victorian goldfields and then in 1857, with his brother James, became the first lease holder of Umberatana Station. In their day it consisted of 188 square miles of semi- arid land in the North Flinders Ranges, west of Arkaroola.

They had driven cattle to the property and, as was the custom of the time, became the first leaseholders. They had bad luck as the area soon became subject to drought, and after four years they were forced to sell to Thomas Elder and the subsequent overseer, a Mr. Stuckey. Stuckey over-grazed the property, the results of which are still visible today.

As a result of an article I wrote for the Trailwalker, Neil Field, a descendant of James, contacted me and we set a date, the Queen's Birthday long weekend, to make the pilgrimage to Umberatana and, in my case, to climb Mount Thomas, "the family Mountain". Not many people have a mountain in the family. In Neil's case there is also Mount John Roberts.

On a wet Saturday morning we set out on our



**Buildings at Umberatana Station**

expedition. We were to spend the night at the Copley pub and make our way to Umberatana on Sunday morning. The previous days' rain had marked the end of a particularly dry period. In some places there had been considerable rain. But, according to the Weather Bureau, most of the rain had been south of Blinman, some seventy kilometres to the south of our destination.

Our first port of call was Quorn where, by chance, we met up with the "Friends of the Heysen Trail" End to End 1 walkers. After a quick g'day we were off to Copley arriving at about 2:00 pm. There were lots of puddles in the main street and on the highway into the town. Having had nothing to eat since we left home we made a beeline for the famous Copley Bakery. The Copley pasty I enjoyed was a little expensive but still yummy. After lunch we ventured to the local garage to enquire about the road to Umberatana and if we had listened to this bloke we should have turned around and gone home. The impression given was it was not possible even by four-wheel drive. We asked a few more people, in both Copley and Leigh Creek, and those who knew suggested we could make it if we drove slowly.

After this encouragement we went to book into the Copley "Leigh Creek" pub. I had some trepidation but was happy with what turned out to be the best SA country pub I have stayed in, and I have stayed in quite a few. After settling in, we went for a walk around town, a walk that was interrupted by a little Aboriginal kid flicking stones at an old car with the aid of a hand-made contraption, and a long talk over the fence with a bloke who was sitting with his family around a pit fire in his back yard. My wife doesn't think this is a good idea for our back yard.

It was this chap who said the drive to Umberatana was OK if taken slowly, and his advice was correct. The third highlight of the walk around town was a fellow in his front yard with a rifle looking for the hawk which was scaring his canaries. Three things you don't usually see in the city.

During a delightful meal at the pub, a bloke's wife apologised for him turning up in thongs; my suggestion that he buy us a beer as compensation wasn't followed up. After this we watched a bit of television and went off to bed.

Next morning we were up early, leaving at nine after advising the hotel proprietor of our intentions, and suggesting that if we weren't back by the following morning we would need rescuing. The morning was clear and sunny with the road from Copley to Angepena Station turnoff good except for a few water hazards. The road to Umberatana goes past Mount Searle Station which is now an Aboriginal settlement. Nearly to the station we met an aboriginal kid in a white Commodore, with his front tooth knocked out, who advised us of a bit of mud not far along the road. He was right, but the mud wasn't too bad, considering they had had 40mm of rain in the past three days. The kid also advised us that a grader had recently been along the road which meant it would probably be in good condition all the way to Umberatana, which it was except for several water and mud obstacles. The heavy rain was unusual for this area. Last year all they had was 200mm and that was mostly in summer.

The scenery in the North Flinders is beautiful and this trip was no exception as we headed to Oweindana Station. In one of my previous walks in this area we walked this road only to turn right at this point and walk up the Arcoona creek. On this trip, however, we continued along the road to Yankanina Station. The chap in Copley warned us that the hills out here were like a moonscape and he was right, for Yankanina has been over-grazed and there is little, if any, vegetation. The Yankanina Homestead has been left to fall down, which is a shame because it is still quite a nice building. All in all, Yankanina is quite a disaster area of neglect. Soon we were passing through the gate to Umberatana Station and the condition of the landscape immediately improved.

Umberatana Homestead is a very pretty collection of stone buildings, some of them painted white. Manager Fred Stone came out to meet us. Fred is about 35 and was the only person we saw on the station. After a long talk we headed off to the airstrip and to Mount Thomas. This short trip was almost too much for the Magna and so, fearing I might rip the bottom out, I called the drive off at the airstrip, and my climbing of Mount Thomas was put on hold. At the airstrip there were some eagles feeding on a kangaroo carcass. This reminded me of the road trip up here, where we were able to get up close and personal to other eagles feeding on road kill. An interesting observation with the eagles is how many different shades of brown they have amongst their feathers, from dark brown to almost yellow on their breast. This kangaroo however may have been

brought down by a dingo for there was the body of a dead dingo nearby. It was interesting to note that the tail was left untouched. This animal behaviour may be responsible for the delicacy, Kangaroo Tail Soup.

After taking a few photographs of the airstrip and surrounding hills, especially Mount Thomas (with its obligatory radio mast) in the distance, we headed back to the homestead to take more photographs of the view the Thomas boys would have enjoyed 150 years ago. Fred came to see us off and get a few details about our history. He also said we could stay out there next time if we gave him fair warning, which, if I am to climb Mt Thomas, is a must. The trip back was a little faster, a highlight being the sighting of a very healthy dingo on the road. He should be healthy because he has good food laid on with all those sheep running around. He only has to stay off the road and not get too greedy to enjoy a long life.

We were soon onto the Arkaroola road but had to stop because we were heading into the setting sun and visibility was almost nil. I went to investigate a dead kangaroo. His skeleton indicated that he had probably died of a broken foot after getting caught on the top wire of the nearby fence. This just indicates how fragile life in the wild is.

After sundown we continued on to Copley and after thanking the chap with the fire pit, (he was doing the same again), we retired to the pub for another lovely meal and bed.

Next morning we were up bright and early to get an early start. As we were loading up the car, a cold front went through with its rolling clouds but there was no rain. I later learned that this cold front went as far north as Mount Isa. On the way back we stopped at the road house in Hawker to find that the red-headed bloke who had fixed my tyre on the Anzac Day trip remembered our previous encounter. I told him I had written about him and would get a copy of that particular Trailwalker sent to him.

The trip back included a stop off at Ororoo to visit my cousin Wendy and her husband Warren. After inspecting their son Bronte's WW11 jeep that he is restoring, and listening to their daughter Annika play the piano, it was back to the big smoke. Near Clare we had a tour of Skilloogallee Creek, an area that the Thomas boy's father had owned after he came back from the Victorian Goldfields.

**Gavin Campbell**

## Walking the Heysen Trail

(Due to space limitations, this article will be published in two sections. Ed)



In 2002 David Beaton and I decided to walk the entire Heysen Trail – and to walk it from north to south. Our choice to start in the north had to do with the fact that David was already walking the trail from south to north with the Millennium Walkers – obviously they had

started their walk in 2000. We decided to walk one week per winter month, Monday to Friday. We commenced this venture in April 2003, spending our first night at Alpana Station. It was good to meet up again with John Henery of Alpana who, early next morning, drove us to Parachilna. During the week he very kindly drove David's car to Hawker, ready for us to pick up at the end of the week. Our odyssey had started.

The first part was easy as we knew exactly where we were going, having already been there with Dean, Bob and Trevor the previous winter, marking the trail as far as Aroona. From there it was up some very steep hills to Red Hill lookout. The trail has since been re-routed along the contours which bypass Red Hill, which makes for easier walking. About 1km further on we made our first camp. We didn't go far the first day as we were still stretching our legs ... at least I know I was!

Up and on, along fire tracks which don't make particularly interesting walking but we could do 5-6km per hour. On our second night we slept in Yanyanna hut, which had nothing to recommend it except a stone floor, a fireplace, a plank, and four bricks! At least we didn't have to pitch our tents! There was some interesting walking next morning for the first hour or two along deep creek gullies, then along fire tracks to Wilpena Pound, our next camp. The following day it rained – and rained! By the afternoon we had had enough so we camped and spent the next 15 hours in our respective tents. Fortunately the rain stopped overnight so that our tents were dry enough to pack away. Mayo, our next stop is, I think, the best hut on the trail. It has a nice friendly feel about it. To get there we had to walk through grass - or a type of bamboo - way above our

heads ... a time when one does tend to think about snakes!

From Mayo we walked the old trail along the road, which was quite uninteresting, so much so that we decided to suggest a re-route along the creek, which makes for a much more interesting walk. The creek has a natural spring but take it cautiously. Don't drink the water - it is VERY salty. We eventually came to Yourambulla Ridge, sparsely marked and overgrown, with a **Trail Closed** sign at the *other* end ... where most signs of that nature often are! (Jarvis Hill Lookout) We went back later with the usual crew and, after a few days work, were able to remove the sign. We walked back to Hawker, collected David's car, and drove home. **End of week one.**

A month later my wife, Ann, drove us back to Jarvis Hill and off we went again. Calabrinnda water tank took a bit of finding in the gathering gloom but eventually we found it and made our camp nearby. Next morning we carried on down Calabrinnda Creek, then the road to Simmonston where the trail turns west towards the beautiful white chalk cliffs of Willochra Creek. Buckaringa Gorge, with its unusual rock formation, was interesting. The trail was well marked even though its relationship to the map was like chalk and cheese! That part of the trail has now been re-routed and re-marked so the relationship is much closer. Up and over Mount Arden. The approach from the north varies between undulating and corrugated. About 5km from Mount Arden the height difference is about 250m yet, walking through the many undulations, the actual climbing height is closer to 500m.

There is a Heysen Trail myth that some walkers approach the local Mount Arden station owner - who runs 4WD tours – paying to be driven to the top of Mount Arden, they then walk down one side. Next day they pay to be driven up the same way again, walk down the other side, then continue "walking the Heysen Trail." I feel sure that must be a MYTH!

The southern side of Mount Arden to Eyre Depot must be in the top five sections of the HT for beautiful and interesting walking. From Eyre Depot to the start of the scrub around Dutchmans Stern must be about the worst, with small moving rocks and rusty fences. We were hoping to camp at the old ranger station that night but lost the track and camped



in a creek bed – dry, of course. The next day, Friday, we were in Quorn where Liz, David's partner, found us and drove us home. **End of week two.**

A year or so before David and I started walking the complete HT it had been necessary to shift the trail off Saltia Ridge to Pichi Richi Ridge. As David and I, with Dean and the usual crew, had already covered this part of the trail – walking Pichi Richi Ridge at least twice in both directions, – we counted this part of the HT as definitely "done" and consequently started our next walk at Woolshed Flat.

We walked along Waukarie Creek following the still-visible police spray paint marks – used when searching for lost walkers – wondering how anybody could get lost there. The trail at this point is wide open and well marked. Then it was up Mount Brown with five days supply of food and five litres of water, for a camp at the top. That climb was memorable, being both slow and steep, and our load heavy.

The south side of Mount Brown has now been re-marked. It had to be. When we walked that part of the trail - about 5km - we saw only one marker! Between Mount Brown and Horrocks Memorial we walked mainly along level fire tracks along ridges, where the views were great. From Horrocks Memorial we crossed to Alligator Gorge Road and on to Stony Creek Tank in time for lunch. Topping up with water we stepped out. Uphill at first and then steeper. Not looking at our maps we trudged on. And on. Suddenly a sign post: "The Battery 2 kms". We knew where we were; deep in Mambray Creek Conservation Park. We'd gone the wrong way!! After camping on the track, next morning we returned downhill to Stony Creek Tank (in about half the time!) then onto Spring Creek. Spring Creek is a flooded mine from where thousands of litres of water is pumped, all inside pipes with not a drop to drink! Walking along more fire tracks, we climbed to the top of Mount Remarkable. After much walking, when I thought we must nearly be there, we found a sign which said "You are now half way to the top" which was almost distressing! Up, on and over the top we went, then down to Melrose and coffee and cake at the bakery. Then, sustained by our gluttony, we walked the back roads to Murray Town where I had left my car. **End of week three.**

From Murray Town to Wirrabara Forest is forgettable as it was all road walking; however, we made good time. Wirrabara Forest had just been harvested and we were looking at a sea of freshly-cut tree stumps! That was forgettable also! On to the bottom of The Bluff where we had left a 10 litre box of water to

help with the climb up! As we started off we saw a sign pointing upwards reading "allow 1.5 hours to the top". As it was already almost sunset and we were fully loaded we thought '*so much for an early night!*'. Continuing on and up, we were pleasantly surprised to reach the top of The Bluff in just over one hour. I wonder who writes the signs! At the top all there was to see was tall trees and a TV tower – no views at all. We camped in the middle of the fire track just as darkness overtook us

The nice thing about The Bluff was the downhill walk next morning, and after some back road walking we found a very nice camp site just south of Hughes Gap. Next morning we walked into Crystal Brook and the bakery to wait for Ann. The end of our first year of following fences. **End of week four.**

**Ralph Ollerenshaw** (To be continued).



**David & Ralph**  
(They maintain the Trail as well as walk it!)

## Yudnamutana Gorge to Mt. Hopeless

Having walked the Heysen Trail with Tony Budarick between July 1996 and November 2001 over a period of 55 days we decided to complete our journey to Mt. Hopeless in various stages. Like many other walkers we were inspired by Warren Bonython's book *Walking the Flinders Ranges* but thought we would walk a different route. Between September 2002 and June 2003 we walked between Parachilna (the start or end of the Heysen Trail) and The Armchair via Glass Gorge Rd, Moolooloo Station, Hannigan Gap, Patawarta Gap, Mt. Hack, Pinda Springs, Waukawoodna Creek, Italowie Gap, Grindell's Hut, Loch Ness Well, Oodnaminta Yards, Wywhyana Creek, Arkaroola, Coulthard's Lookout, Ridge Top Road and finally The Armchair, which we climbed. A small section between Yudnamutana Gorge and The Armchair had been walked in July 1993. In total we walked these sections in nine days.

After a lot of planning, 2005 became "THE YEAR". Tony's great-nephew, 16-year-old Alex Richards, a student at Pulteney Grammar School, accompanied us. Alex belongs to their Adventure Club and loves bush walking having walked Deep Creek and Mawson's Plateau during the previous two weeks of the school holidays. He also had a GPS on his wrist (new for us) as well as a satellite phone.

### Day 1: Yudnamutana Gorge to Greenhill Hut - 17 July 2005 (16 kms):

We were taken to Yudnamutana Gorge by our contact from Mt. Freeling Station and walked along the Gleeson Creek track looking for the "hole in the hill with an amazing view". As we were carrying packs of 30 - 40lbs we left them and climbed up a steep hill to our right to find the spectacular formation with its beautiful view that Warren Bonython had likened to James Hilton's Shangri La in *Lost Horizon*. After retrieving our packs we continued down the spectacular Yudnamutana Gorge that looked fantastic after recent rains. After 2-3 kms we turned north up Balancing Rock Creek and found the waterhole was a bit difficult to negotiate. We had sufficient water for two days but hoped to find more. Coming out of the creek, walking was very pleasant up a steep track past Daly mine, Daly

Bluff and following Mc Donnell Creek. We arrived at Greenhill Hut about 4.30pm so decided to stay in the hut instead of putting up tents. An old trough by the abandoned, basic "galvo" hut with dirt floor was full of water. After our first tiring day we enjoyed a delicious stew-type meal under a clear starry sky.

### Day 2: Greenhill Hut to Hamilton Creek waterhole - 18 July 2005 (23 kms):

We were on the track by 0815 after a cold night. The country was very rugged but a green tinge already after rains. After walking about 7 kms we decided to leave the track and walk down into the creek (unnamed), which fortunately ran into Hamilton Creek. Walking was much harder with lots of rocky water holes. After checking our position with the GPS we found that we were in Hamilton Creek by accident as about four creeks converge into it. Hamilton Creek is much wider but still hard going, so we took lots of short cuts across the bends and eventually found a reasonable campsite near a big water hole. We were now just off the Yudnamutana map and going blind for about 10kms until on Callabonna map. As our legs and feet were very sore we enjoyed the rest around the campfire – another perfect night.

### Day 3: Hamilton Creek waterhole to Terrapinna Waterhole - 19 July 2005 (25 kms):

We were walking by 0815 along the creek which widened as it flows NE. Walking downstream we found it hard to pick the best place to walk as lots of scrubby melaleuca bush. We arrived at Brindana Gap with lots of water holes and a yellow-footed rock wallaby observation hut high up on the east side cliff – but no wallabies to be seen. We were walking in mud as we approached Terrapinna water hole. Climbing over smooth rocks at a small gap we observed the erosion caused by millions of years flooding; hard to imagine a huge river flowing through the small gap. The area was spoiled by a failed pump-type arrangement attempted some time ago. We left our packs and climbed high up on the left side to see Terrapinna water hole, the biggest water hole in the Flinders. Back to camp near a water hole in the amphitheatre area about 1km from Terrapinna waterhole.



Day 4: Terrapinna Waterhole to Mt. Hopeless - 20 July 2005 (30 kms):

THE BIG DAY! After filling everything up with water from the waterhole in the Hamilton we headed north over a rugged range. After sighting our next objective, Mt. Babbage, a small flat-top peak high on the range, we headed down into a valley. Across the Mt. Freeling to Moolawatana road, rugged climbs over lots of hills and up a creek to find some beautiful clean water just below the summit of Mt. Babbage. We topped up our water supply and had a big drink. Decided to leave unnecessary gear under rocks to lighten the load for the push to Mt. Hopeless as it was now about 10am, and 23-24 kms to go. From the top of Mt. Babbage, we had spectacular views all round with Yudnamutana's, Freeling Heights and Mawson Plateau to south and southeast and our small Mt. Hopeless almost due north. Down onto the plain and hard going at first negotiating many creeks and small gorges, stopping for lunch in small sandy creek. We had lost sight of Mt. Hopeless soon after leaving Mt. Babbage and not seen again until the last 3-4 kms.

The walking conditions varied, some flat, some hilly, with the gibber plains made softer by recent rains. Had to cross the electric dog-proof fence near the wide flat Mundawatana creek. Then past the flat-top Mt. Yerila to the east. We were getting excited as we pushed onto our destination, feeling quite tired as we negotiated a small range of hills. Some of these were very colourful and reminded us of the "Breakaways" near Coober Pedy. Lots of quartz rocks and others coloured red and black. Not until going around last hill did we see the small conical shaped Mt. Hopeless, the foreground covered with green grass and surface water in places. We finally arrived at 5.20pm very excited and emotional as we group-hugged. Took the usual photos by the rock cairn and young Alex eventually found the small container with messages inside; the first being Warren Bonython's in 1968 and the last the "Darter" group in 2001. Our long day was made very special by a beautiful sunset in the west with an almost full moon in the east and the long shadow of "our mountain" under it.

We eventually made camp in a small creek to the east and had a late and well-earned meal washed down with a cup of tea. No surprise packages in the bottom of our packs as did Warren Bonython in

1963 with two bottles of vintage claret. That came a couple of days later! After ringing our families on the satellite phone Tony called Warren Bonython to tell of our arrival and to thank him for his inspiration and his wonderful book that has given many of us enjoyment and direction. What would he have thought, remembering 37 years ago when he arrived at Mt. Hopeless, being able to make a phone call from the middle of nowhere! How things have changed.

Day 5: Return to Mt. Babbage - 21 July 2005 (26 kms):

After a long cold windy night we left our note in the small container in the cairn, said goodbye to Mt. Hopeless and headed south back to Mt. Babbage. It was another perfect warm day and with our packs now lighter we enjoyed the walk with Mt. Babbage easily seen in the distance. The only drama for the day was when Tony and Alex almost stepped on an enormous sleepy lizard. After crossing the electric fence my cap blew off the post and in trying to retrieve it with a walking stick I got a nice little shock! We approached Mt. Babbage further to the west to avoid the deep creeks and gorges, arriving at our stash about 4pm and filled up with water as we camped in a sandy creek near Mt. Freeling and Moolawatana road. Another perfect night as we enjoyed our last meal out bush under a huge full moon, chatting around the campfire reflecting on our fantastic, but at times, hard walk for a total of 120 kms over the past five days. We were very lucky with perfect weather and plenty of water.

So where to now? Cameron's Corner perhaps? We have walked Cape Jervis to Mt. Hopeless in 68 days. It has been a great journey over our beautiful SA countryside with, at times, our wives, family and in particular, Alex Richards, who should be very proud of his achievement of our walk to Mt. Hopeless. In closing I would like to thank our families, friends and many other people who have assisted us on our journey.

**Malcolm Blight**

**Malcolm was accompanied on his journey by Tony Budarick and Alex Richards.**

*(Thanks are also due to Keneatha Pick who typed this article.)*

## End to End 1 “What was the best bit of the Trail?”



I loved the whole Trail, but there were some days and sections that were special and stay in your mind. This was a very long love affair for me because we commenced walking the Trail in the May long weekend in 1998.

With a group of sixteen friends we went to Victor Harbor to start walking the great Heysen Trail. This was the start of a great journey and adventure for me. I had very little experience in leading a group of walkers and I had to learn very quickly.

We stayed together as a group until we had reached Kapunda, but it all changed after that

because of the travelling time to drive to the Trail.

This was the start of a whole new journey for me, because I decided to join the “End to End 1” group. What a decision to make! This was one of the best things I have ever done. What a great group of people! I stayed with them for the rest of the journey.

The day that I will never forget is Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2005. You may ask why is that day so special; well it was special for two reasons. One, it was my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday and also the day I completed the Trail. Many thanks to all who made this such a special day for me

**“Ollie Jim”  
(Oliver James Freak)**







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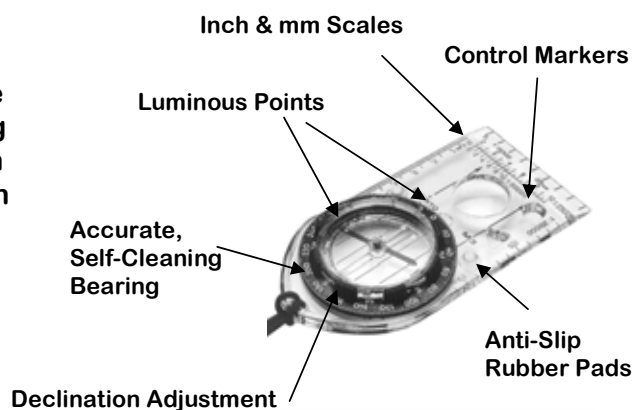
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## Huts Along The Heysen Trail



### Rossiter Hut

Map #	Location	Grid Reference	Management Authority/Landowner	Facilities
HT Bk 1 Map 4.3 (Old Map 9)	Rossiter Hut	162 705 (316197 / 6170473) (Zone 54 WGS 84)	Forestry S. A. ph 8524 6004	Hut, bunks, water, toilet, fireplace, table, seating. Camping fee/permit..

### WALKING IN SA FORESTS

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

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

Contacts:

**Mt Crawford Forest**  
Phone: (08) 8524 6004

**Kuitpo Forest**  
(08) 8391 8800

Or write to:

The Forest Ranger  
Mt Crawford Forest  
Private Bag  
Williamstown SA 5351

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



**Rossiter Hut,  
before restoration by the Friends  
(Doug Leane's team, 1997)**