



"THE TRAILWALKER"

APRIL 1988



HEADING FOR HOME



*Newsletter of the Friends of the Heysen Trail
and other South Australian Walking Trails.*

Editors Kerry Hall and Max Milne

A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

It is planned that contributions made by members of the Friends will be acknowledged by the issue of a cloth badge displaying the Heysen Trail logo.

Among those entitled to a badge are: -

Karen Beinke - typing and preparing a master copy of The Friends' Constitution.

Ann Magtengaard - assistance with office tasks - creating a card membership file.

Norm Taylor - regular attendance at Department of Recreation and Sport workshop to prepare timber for signs, etc.

Members of maintenance and trail building working parties.

Every contribution made is valuable and each one combines in assisting towards the establishment of an efficient and well-maintained walking trail system in South Australia for the benefit of the entire bushwalking community.

Front Cover: Heading for Home. Photos by Shirley Rumball

NEW MEMBERSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Heights School (secondary component)
Marion High School
Berry Bellchambers
Shelagh Boyce
Leo Schwab
Phillip Winterling
Dai Weatherald
Ronald Simms
Port Pirie High School
Ian and Berry Martin
John and Muff Godson
Prince Alfred College
Maureen Vale
D.L. Lane
David Lloyd

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE OF TRAILWALKER:

FRIDAY JUNE 3rd.

Send articles, preferably typewritten

with photographs if you have them

to THE EDITORS "TRAILWALKER"

Friends of the Heysen Trail
C/- Department of Recreation and Sport,
G.P.O. Box 1865,
ADELAIDE S.A. 5001

(RE)BLAZING THE TRAIL



Two of the Friends recently went to Deep Creek to meet Volker Scholz Assistant Head Ranger of the Conservation Park, Paul Seager, Ranger, Chris Royans, President of Friends of Deep Creek, and Martin, Andrew and Vince of the Dept. of Rec. & Sport, to examine the re-routing of the Heysen Trail at Tent Rock Creek where an erosion problem is developing.

We are awaiting formal approval so that a working party of Friends can go and re-route the trail to provide improved access.



Along the way Paul Seager displayed capable "Harry Butler" talent by removing ticks from a grateful sleepy lizard. He also identified several species of flowering plants for interested members of the party.

Many thanks to Volker, Paul and Chris for their friendly co-operation.

WOMEN'S WEEK WALK

Thank you to the following Friends who volunteered as leaders for groups of women from the Newland Electorate for the Women's Week Bushwalk on Saturday 19 March, 1988, organised by Dianne Gayler, M.P. Member for Newland.

Carlien Melrose
Jean Cook
Jennifer Dow
Betty Wise
Anne Malcolm
Gail Rees
Dai Weatherald
Maureen

Despite the warm weather conditions, approximately thirty walkers enjoyed the shaded tracks of the Heysen Trail through Mt. Crawford forest and Jenkins Scrub. The party made excellent progress arriving at the appointed lunch-time stop at chalk campsite ahead of schedule. This stop also provided an opportunity to advise the "new walkers" about the activities of the Friends and to pass around forms for membership.

A few enthusiasts extended the walk to enjoy the views and cool breezes from the Tower before returning to the bus at a pleasant picnic spot in the forest.



Stepping it out. Three of the leaders on the reconnaissance day in the Mt. Crawford-Jenkins Scrub area.



NEWLAND ELECTORATE OFFICE
1257 NORTH EAST ROAD
RIDGEHAVEN SA 5097

23rd March, 1988

Mrs Thelma Anderson
"Friends of the Heysen Trail"
C/- Department of Recreation & Sport
25 Grenfell Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Thelma,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the women from "The Friends of the Heysen Trail" for the assistance and guidance given to me and my Office for the Women's Week Bushwalk last Saturday the 19th March, 1988.

As you know, I was unable, at the last minute, to participate on the Walk due to Parliamentary commitments but I know that the section of the Heysen Trail in the Mt. Crawford Forest is a particularly lovely and varied area. All the women who participated indicated they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and I am confident some will go on to take up bushwalking, thus gaining community involvement and good, healthy exercise and relaxation.

My Electorate Assistant, Bronwyn Pederson, speaks very highly of the expertise and genuine friendliness of the women from "The Friends" and advises that without your help, the day could not have been such a success. Women from my own electorate and adjoining areas joined the Bushwalk and I was pleased to note that four women came from as far afield as Tintinara. However, I was particularly gratified to note the one interstate and two overseas tourists (one a young man) who joined in - what a great way to promote South Australia to the world!

I shall, over the next week or so, write to all the South Australian participants, and providing they have no objections (which I am sure will be the case), I will give you a complete list of the women who participated so that any other bushwalks or events organised by "The Friends" can be circulated directly.

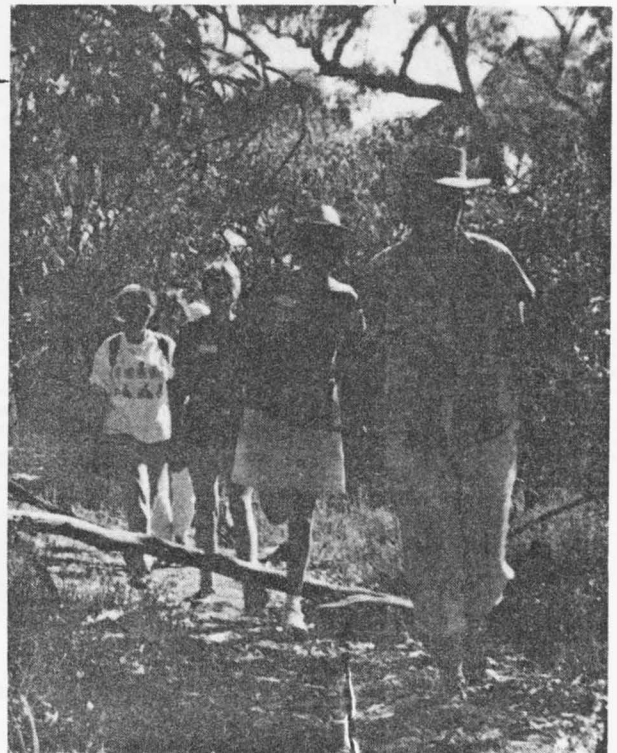
Once again, my sincere thanks for all the help given before and during Women's Week.

Yours sincerely,

Dianne Gayler

DIANNE GAYLER, M.P.
MEMBER FOR NEWLAND.

Walking and resting in Jenkin's Scrub



ARBURY PARK UPDATED

The Hon. Kym Mayes, M.P., Minister of Recreation and Sport, met representatives of the Friends' Council on Monday, 21 March, 1988 to discuss our concern for the future of walking trails in the Arbury Park - Mt. George area.

Our deputation received a sympathetic hearing from the Minister together with an assurance that the integrity of the Heysen Trail through Arbury Park would be maintained.

Representatives emphasised that in order to do this, the native vegetation surrounding the Trail must be retained in its entirety as the retention merely of a corridor to contain the Trail would completely destroy its concept in this unique area.

The Minister has agreed to meet our representatives for an on-site inspection of the walking trails at Arbury Park and a date has been arranged in early May. He suggested that the invitation be extended to Government Ministers and Members with an environmental interest. Officers of the Department of Environment and Planning and Department of Recreation and Sport have also been invited to attend.

Whilst appreciating the co-operation of the Minister we must not relax our vigilance in ensuring that the paramount importance of Arbury Park and Mt. George to, not only the entire bushwalking community, but to the thousands of recreational users of this unique area, is constantly brought to the attention of those charged with the responsibility for its retention as a public amenity under an appropriate Ministerial portfolio.



A section of the Trail under threat near Arbury Park

TRAIL MONITORING

Thank you to those Friends who volunteered to collect the Trail monitor sheets. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

However, there is still one gap for

Tweedie Gully (near Lyndoch) - from 1 June

If you are able to collect the monitor sheets ON or as soon as possible AFTER (but not before) the 1st day of each month from 1st June at the Tweedie Gully monitor, will you please contact Thelma Anderson (Administrative Officer) 213 0524 on Thursday and Fridays and 278 4420 on other days and all evenings. Collection, if only on a one-off basis, would be gratefully accepted. Perhaps a collection could be combined with a planned walk in the area by a bush-walking club, a school, or small group.

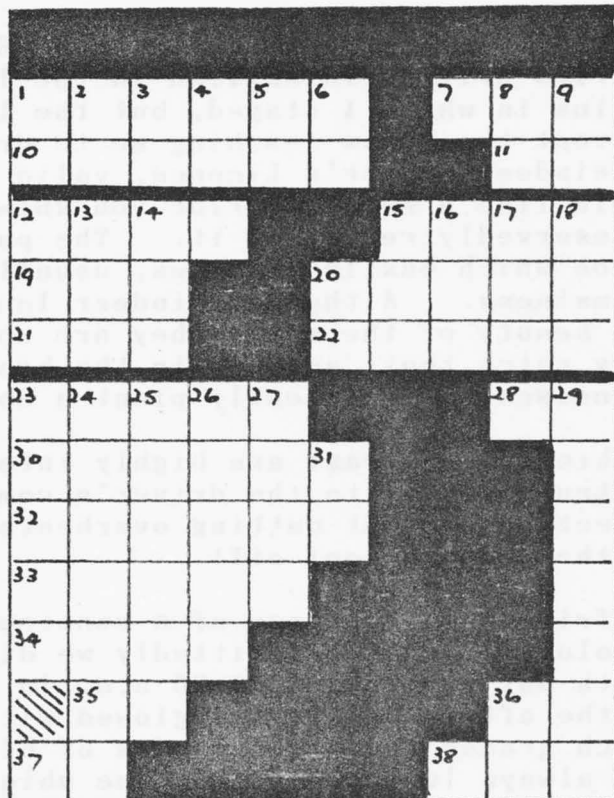
FOR THE ARMCHAIR WALKER

ACROSS

1. Gap
- 7 + 11. Ready
10. Lure
12. Insect
15. Their equipment spoils the view
19. Elevation (abbrev)
20. Not large
21. As a fox
22. Of the character
23. After the fire
28. Afternoon
30. Trail named after him
32. Festival Season
33. Donkeys
34. Entrance
35. National Park (abbrev)
36. Alternatively
37. You and me
38. ... and downs

DOWN

- 1 + 12 + 23. The man led
- 2 + 13 + 24. At any time of year
3. Preposition
4. Dump
5. Upper case (abbrev)
6. Compass point
- 8 + 17. Such as whack
- 9 + 18 + 29. This Newsletter is sent
14. Pen
15. Australian flightless bird
16. Bitumen
20. Our state
25. Asian plant
26. Compound
27. Views
31. North Ridge (abbrev)
36. Operation (abbrev)



ARCTIC ANTICS

I have just returned from Finnish Lapland, an experience that surpassed my wildest dreams - quite contrary to the dire expectations of my friends. "What do you want to go there for?" they exclaimed in horror before my departure. "You must be bonkers. You'll freeze. No-one speaks English. There'll be no light and it'll be pitch-dark the whole time". They were way off mark - with the possible exception of the first statement regarding my state of sanity.

My aim was to get as near to the North Pole as is possible in mid-winter. A series of flights in planes of ever-decreasing size landed me 300 km north of the Arctic Circle (66°33' Lat.), and from various bases I was able to join safaris with reindeer and huskies combined with the use of snowmobiles and cross-country skis.

The temperature did plummet to -41°C but I did not "freeze" as predicted. Clad in double-strength thermal underwear (not a pretty sight but very effective), woollen socks, mittens, scarves, balaclavas, caps and pullovers made from soft husky fur, and completely encased in the type of spacesuits which have been developed for astronauts, the low temperatures presented no real problems, in fact I found the windless, dry climate exceptionally invigorating and many a Lapp BBQ of reindeer stew was enjoyed out in the heavily snow-covered forests.

It was true that few people spoke English and that there were no entries written in English in the log books of the cosy log cabins in which I stayed, but the language barrier did not prevent the Lapps teaching me to drive reindeer and granting me a Reindeer Driver's Licence, valid for 5 years! So if anyone would like a reindeer ride you know where to apply. I wouldn't unreservedly recommend it. The passenger sits in an unstable canoe which easily capsizes, usually due to the reindeer's clumsiness. Although reindeer lend a Christmas card quality to the beauty of the scene they are not well co-ordinated animals. They catch their antlers in the branches of trees, tangle their harnesses and frequently plant a hoof inside the canoe.

Huskies by contrast are highly intelligent, responding instantaneously to the driver's commands, and are very affectionate, but patting overheats them and they have to roll in the snow to cool off!

My friends forebodings of a continuous pitch-dark night were absolutely wrong. Admittedly we didn't see the sun for over a month but from about 10.30 a.m. in the morning until 2.30 p.m. in the afternoon the sky glowed with a delicate duck-egg blue which graded to deeper shades of blue tinged with pink. There was always luminosity from the ubiquitous snow and on occasions the northern lights sent flickering and somewhat eerie veils of silver, green and red veils across the sky. When artificial light was needed hundreds of honey-coloured electric lamps and oil-fuelled candles magically transmuted the snowy landscape and frozen lakes into streams of gold.

Arctic Antics - reindeer and husky rides, picnics in the forest, snowmobile safaris, downhill and cross-country skiing - can be enjoyed 24 hours a "night".

MAINTAINING THE TRAIL

Now that the walking season has started our maintenance programme for walking trails is well underway. At the time of writing two projects have already been undertaken and hopefully four more will be completed by the time you read this.

A group from Adelaide Bushwalkers plus a few 'Friends' spent the weekend (9/10 April) assisting Terry and his staff repairing bushfire damage to the Heysen trail in the Mt. Remarkable National Park. This work should be fully completed with the input of a group of 'Friends' who will transfer their efforts to Wilpena on the next day of their weekend. They intend replacing droppers across Wilpena Pound and over Bridle Gap to Moralana Scenic Drive.

On April 9th fourteen 'Friends' plus Chris Royans of 'Friends of Deep Creek' cut and marked a detour on the Heysen Trail around Tent Rock Creek. The detour was surveyed by Martin & Andrew a few weeks earlier. This detour was necessary to avoid the hazards of climbing in and out of Tent Rock Creek via the chain and to eliminate future major erosion problems.

Besides carrying in (a twenty minute steep walk) the necessary tools, detour signs and droppers, over 40 wooden planks, a quantity of metal rods and two lengths of chain were carried out. By 3.00 p.m. everyone was relaxing in the sun with afternoon tea having completed the job. The teamwork, enthusiasm and effort displayed by everyone was much appreciated and augers well for future projects.

During the last few months students from Gawler High School have been working with Terry surveying the next section of the Heysen Trail from Greenock to Hamilton. This section is now taped and on Saturday (April 16th) Terry and staff with some 'Friends' will commence marking. Hopefully the work will be completed during the school holidays by Gawler High School students.

Another group of 'Friends' will undertake marking the walking trail at Mt. George during the next few weeks.

Assistance is also given at the South Terrace Workshops in preparation of materials for projects and the manufacture of signs; these signs are very time consuming to make needing a great deal of concentration and patience.

As you can see a lot is happening and a number of interested 'Friends' are becoming involved in maintenance work. All those who returned the questionnaire form enclosed in the last issue of the trail walker have had the opportunity to do work of their preference during April.

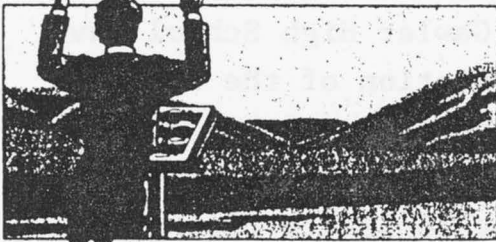
These questionnaires have proved invaluable and are now the basis of our records enabling our volunteers to be co-ordinated more effectively. No more last minute appeals for assistance. If you wish to be involved and have not yet filled in a form, please do so and return to Thelma at your earliest convenience. If you have lost it, please collect another form from Thelma at the Dept. of Recreation and Sport in Grenfell Centre.

Finally I would like to thank all those who have given their time, worked enthusiastically and hard. There are far too many to name here, however, records of all work are being kept and these will be recognised at the A.G.M. Thankyou all very much - there is still plenty to do with a number of projects being planned and of course the general maintenance of the Heysen Trail.

Articles are always needed for the "Trailwalker". Why not record your involvement in working projects for the interest of others!

QANTAS

OPERA



IN THE OUTBACK

You will notice that now it is the Qantas Opera in the Outback. Warren Bonython, who will lead a 5-day walk to this concert near Beltana has provided an update of the arrangements to the Friends. Specific dates will be 30 Aug - 3 Sept inc. over a distance of about 100 kms from near Aroona Valley to the concert venue.

Camping gear and food will be transported by vehicles between a series of campsites so that the walkers can travel light.

A cost package, Adelaide to Adelaide, will be offered, including bus transport, packaged food, cooking fuel and covering the sanitary arrangements.

Also included are the basic concert seat cost and the barbeque that follows it. The estimated cost is \$200 - \$250; bringing your own food would reduce it by some \$40.

Further details about food, cooking arrangements, etc., are available by contacting Warren at his postal address

G.P.O. Box 1249

Adelaide, S.A. 5001.

If you are interested in joining the group early contact with Warren is advised as the numbers are definitely limited

A LITTLE FRIEND

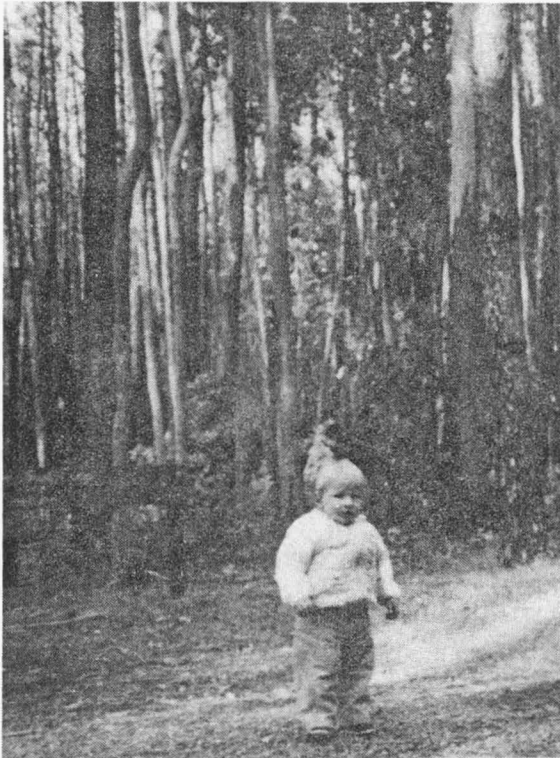
Adam was six months old when he first walked the Heysen Trail. Well, his grandmother walked - he rode in a sling on her back. As he became too heavy for Grannie's back he progressed to a pram, which later converted to a pusher. Bought secondhand for \$20, the pram has travelled some rough roads and is now in need of a retread, but Adam is learning about our lovely countryside at a much younger age than his mother or grandmother.

Now three years old he prefers to walk. He's a bit slow, of course, and his routes have to be carefully planned, but he has walked up to 8 km in a day. He sings the songs and mimics the sounds of the bush and is often the first to spot a kangaroo or hear a kookaburra.

At the time of the proposed sale of Davenport Road Adam appeared in a local newspaper photograph of a group of walkers stepping out on the Trail across the Mount Lofty golf course. He also attended a meeting with officers of the Department of Recreation and Sport, but found this rather a bore and snored through the whole of the proceedings.

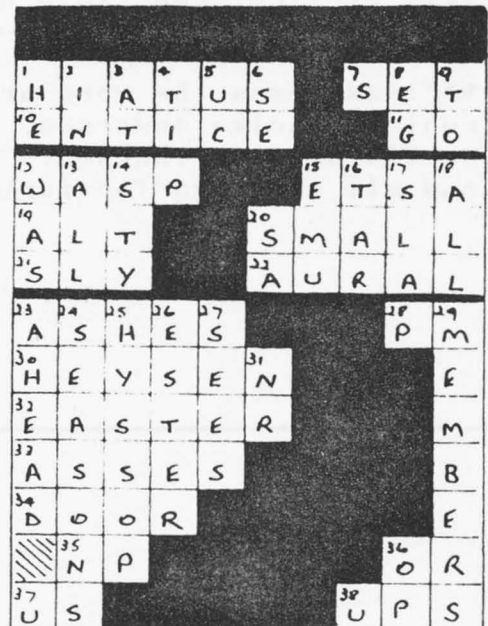
He's a great little 'Friend', my grandson.

Betty Wise



FOR THE ARMCHAIR WALKER

Thanks must go to Betty Wise for preparing this crossword for the Trailwalker. Also any queries of the answers must also go to Betty.



FRIENDS WALKING PROGRAMME

The Friends plan to expand their activities by conducting a series of walks to cater for many people - students, families, retirees - who have heard of the Heysen Trail but do not have the experience or confidence to plan a walk along its tree-lined trails.

The series is entitled "A Bi-centennial Introduction to Walking the Heysen Trail". The following Programme has been arranged:

1. Sunday 19th June,

- (1) Arbury Park
- (2) Arbury Park and Engelbrecht Reserve.

2. Saturday 16 July

Mt. Crawford Forest

3. Sunday 21 August

Montacute Conservation Park

4. Saturday 17 September

Kuitpo Forest

An introductory fee of \$10.00 per person or \$15.00 per family will provide membership of The Friends and automatic enrolment for one or more of the four walks.

**Please pass the word around and ask anyone interested to contact Thelma Anderson, Administrative Officer for The Friends on 213 0524 on Thursdays and Fridays or 278 4420 on other days and all evenings for further details.

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