

"THE TRAILWALKER"



NO.2

SEPTEMBER

1986

NEWSLETTER OF THE
FRIENDS OF THE HEYSEN TRAIL

and other South Australian Walking Trails

Dear Member,

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Since the last issue of the Trailwalker, I am pleased to report that the Steering Committee has met on three more occasions and in the process a considerable amount of work has been achieved.

Thanks must go to the Sub-committee who have worked hard on compiling and studying the matters which will form the basis of the final report to be taken before all members later this year for ratification, prior to its submission to the Department of Recreation and Sport.

In particular I would like to thank Peter Kellett for the work he has achieved in producing this newsletter so expertly and efficiently. How he managed to give his time to this and also to producing a draft constitution for the Committee's deliberation - on top of his responsibilities towards Jubilee Youth Trek - I will never know. There must have been some burning of midnight oil!!!

The Steering Committee has now framed the aims and objects of the association. The Committee is strongly of the opinion that the aims and objects should be broadly based and that no attempt should be made to include any of the roles of existing Clubs or Societies which have specialist nature. The Friends role will hopefully be complementary to these

organisations and to work with them in any submissions which may be put to the Government or the public for change.

Below are the aims and objects and I shall be interested to hear from members whether these are acceptable.

1. To promote public awareness and usage of the Heyesen and other walking trails in South Australia.
2. To assist in the development and maintenance of the walking trails in South Australia.
3. To preserve the rights and interests of recreational walkers by protecting access to walking trails and other walking areas.
4. To promote an awareness of environmental responsibilities on and adjacent to walking trails.

On the management side there is still more work necessary to determine the best organisation for the association including the staff necessary to co-ordinate all our proposed activities. We will have to look at our financing, since it is unlikely that our overall costs will continue to be provided by the Department of Recreation and Sport. We obviously

NEW DAY WALK ROUTE GUIDE

Recently released is Volume I of Jim Crinion's "Adelaide and Country Walks", a selection of thirty walks in and around Adelaide and the Southern Mount Lofty Ranges.

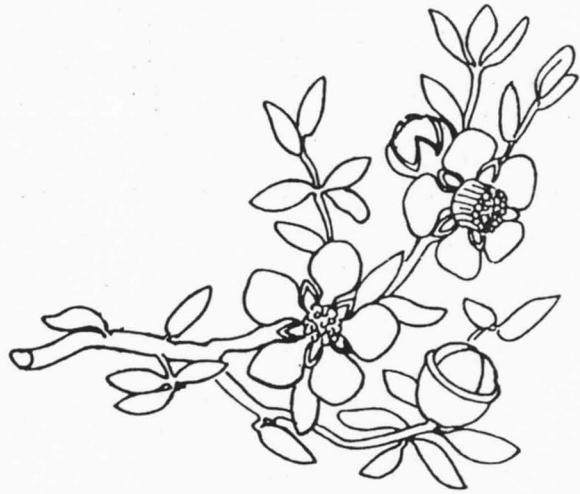
These trips are all day or part day walks and are graded to give an indication of their difficulty.

Each walk has a very detailed map and on the adjoining page, details of walk distance, estimated time and the nearest town. Also included is a brief description of the walk and some notes on flora, fauna and points of interest. The size and format of the book are excellent - being designed to slip neatly into a parka pocket.

Jim's walks are well chosen and include many of my old favourites as well as some I will try on my next free Sunday. There are two within the city itself and the rest stretch between Victor Harbor and the Barossa.

At around \$15.00 from the outdoor shops it is a bargain.

Peter Kellett.



WALKING IN THE MT. CRAWFORD FOREST AREA AT MT. PLEASANT.

This north-easterly section of the Mt. Crawford forest is off the Glendowang Road, west of Mt. Pleasant.

The walk is very challenging as it meanders through pine forest and areas of native vegetation, skirts farmland and thickets, crosses swamps and marshland and ascends rocky hillsides to the summit of Mt. Pleasant.

Three species of pine trees have been planted in the area. The dominant species is Pinus Radiata. These trees are pyramid-shaped - they have needles in clusters of three and short plump cones. The candle-shaped Pinus Pinaster trees are found where the soil is less fertile. Their needles are longer and coarser with only two to a cluster. Their cones are also longer, each "scale" of a cone protruding to a point. They grow more slowly and yield less timber than the Pinus radiata trees. The most aesthetically pleasing species is Pinus canariensis which has been planted along the edges of the forest adjacent to roads.

A fire damaged large tracts of Pinus radiata forest in 1955. Some new trees regenerated from cone seeds after the fire and developed haphazardly in contrast to the straight rows elsewhere in the forest. Along Telephone Road, timber cutters have cut down every sixth row as an extract line to allow access for removing timber from selected trees in the gullet of five rows left behind. As the slash and trash rots down the outrows eventually become rides. The waste logs



is inspiring and of particular interest to bushwalkers who have hiked around areas which can be distinguished from the Trig Point. On a compass bearing of 300° and 7.5 km. away is Mt. Crawford (610m.), a dome-shaped hill with a pine tree on top. Stretching southwards from Mt. Crawford is Jenkin's Scrub, a long ridge. At 254° is a cleared area in the Gumeracha Goldfields. The source of the name Mt. Pleasant can not be traced, but it is certainly apt to describe the refreshing and lovely landscape.

JEAN COOK

PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

Right of way across private land in Great Britain is a matter of history. Over centuries of time, the public has had access to the use of certain tracks which interlace the country to permit intercourse between villages. In days gone by, such movement was by way of horseback and as a consequence these tracks became known as bridle-paths. Eventually the tracks became roads as the motor vehicle replaced the horse.

Over the country at large however, many bridlepaths remained which still traversed private property. As the population increased and usage of the tracks grew, owners of the land through which the tracks passed, started to object, particularly when the farming became more intensive and abuse of the privilege to use the track occurred.

As a result the landowners started to erect signs indicating that 'Trespassers would be prosecuted' and either locked the gates or installed fences across the tracks. Many of these closures were challenged or justified in the courts.

Although no Act prescribed the exact position regarding the set tracks, it was generally upheld that, because the public had used these tracks for a very

long time, without challenge by the landowner, then the track existed as a public right-of-way. In future years, to ensure the continuance of that right, it became necessary for the public to utilise the track on a regular basis. In fact, until the introduction of the 1949 Act, walking clubs regularly walked all the known tracks.

Likewise during the same period, landowners took to fencing off or locking gates and debarring the public to their land to establish their right of ownership. This was considered discharged if this action occurred for one day of the year.

The law became so complex with Magistrational decisions that it became necessary in 1949 for the English Government to bring in legislation to clarify the whole position.

This was done by getting the County Authorities of England and Wales, following public consultation, to draw up maps showing all the existing rights of way. Copies of these maps were then made available for public scrutiny. Once the objections were resolved and incorporated on the final map, then the rights of way became irrefutable.

This Act, known as the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, clearly defines the right of a person to pass and repass freely on these rights of way. No-one may lawfully interfere with that right - not even the landowner. Nor may the landowner erect any notices which might discourage or lead the public to believe that a right of way does not exist.

Such legislation is needed in South Australia, since it is common for landowners, who lease public road reserves from the Local Authority, to erect 'private property' or 'trespassers prosecuted' notices and even lock the gates or erect fences of barbed wire across the reserves. They have no right to take this action because under the Local Government Act 1934, as amended, Section 375 clearly sets out the condition under which Councils may let any public road. These conditions do not exclude the right of the public to travel along the road reserve. Furthermore there shall be prominently displayed on every fence erected across a road reserve which has been leased, a notice

ADVANCED OUTDOOR FIRST AID . . .

The Bush and Mountain-Walking Leadership Training Board (B.M.L.T.B.) is organising an Advanced Outdoor First Aid Course, to be conducted over two week-ends.

The Course will cost \$75.00 and will be held on 27th and 28th SEPTEMBER and 25th and 26th OCTOBER, 1986. You need a First Aid Certificate to get into the Course and will receive the Advanced Certificate if you successfully complete it.

The Instruction will be by The Red Cross.

There are limited places available so if you want one, please contact . . .

- PETER KELLETT - PHONE: 274.0261

CONTRIBUTIONS

PLEASE . . .

These first issues of 'THE TRAILWALKER' are primarily to keep you informed about the progress of the Steering Committee as it works towards formally establishing 'The Friends', but we also hope that the other short articles have been of interest to you.

We are already starting to collect material for the next issue, but need YOUR help! Urgently needed are articles on your favourite walks, coming events, good and bad walkers' equipment, books and other resources. Your line drawings and literary works are also welcome.

Please send any items or ideas to the Secretary of the Steering Committee, Betty Wise, at 2-A Mary Street, Eden Hills. S.A. 5050.

Thanking you,

Peter.



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AND WILDLIFE
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