
❖ WALKING SA News ❖

Volume 19 Issue 3

Spring 2011



Newsletter of the
Walking Federation of
South Australia Inc
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PASADENA

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Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday
9am- 3pm

*Uniting all
people actively
concerned with
bushwalking for
the protection &
advancement of
their mutual
interests*

Walking SA is
supported through the
Office for
Recreation & Sport
and the Government
of South Australia



WALKING TRAILS SUPPORT GROUP VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION
ALONG THE *WILKAWILLINA TRAIL*, FLINDERS RANGES — AUGUST 2011
www.walkingtrailssupportgroup.org.au/

Featured in this edition of Walking SA News :

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 - ❖ Marne View Walk
 - ❖ A walk through the Blue Mountains
 - ❖ iCare cares
 - ❖ Bushwalking Australia
- and more ..*



Government of South Australia
Office for Recreation and Sport

be active.

Walking SA Exec. Committee

President	Ron Jackson (<i>Keep Walking</i>)
Vice President	Bill Gehling (<i>Adelaide Bushwalkers</i>)
Hon. Secretary	Liz O'Shea (<i>WEA Ramblers</i>)
Hon. Treasurer	Jayne Jennifer (<i>Women in the Bush</i>)
Principal IT	Chris Moad (<i>Chris's Walking Group</i>)
Principal WAC	Fran Lucas (<i>WEA Ramblers</i>)
Principal TTU	John Eaton (<i>Retired Teachers Wlknng Grp</i>)
C'ttee Member	Thelma Anderson (<i>Noarlunga Bushwalkers</i>)
C'ttee Member	Myra Betschild (<i>Women in the Bush</i>)
C'ttee Member	Alan Bundy (<i>Keep Walking</i>)

Walking Access Committee

Fran Lucas	(<i>WEA Ramblers</i>)
Arthur Ward	(<i>Adelaide Bushwalkers</i>)
Mary Denton	(<i>WEA Ramblers</i>)
Thelma Anderson	(<i>Noarlunga Bushwalkers</i>)

Trails Technical Unit

John Eaton	(<i>Retired Teachers Wlknng Grp</i>)
Secondees on call	

Administration Officer

Brian Goodhind

Next General Meeting (AGM)

Tuesday 23 August 2011
7:00 for 7-30pm

Unley Citizens Centre, 18 Arthur St, Unley
(near the Unley shopping centre)

Our Guest Speaker is **The Hon Tom Kenyon**,
Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing.

Drinks 'n' nibbles at 7pm followed by the Minister's presentation: then a pause for coffee leading into the AGM.

This is a rare opportunity to hear the Minister speak on matters relating to our great pastime. By gathering together a good crowd of walkers we will demonstrate our collective desire for the extension of walking opportunities.

DON'T MISS IT!

Welcome Brian!



We welcome Brian Goodhind who has recently commenced as our administration officer to replace Ruth who was only able to be with us for a short time.

Brian is a regular walker with the *Keep Walking* Friday group, and has a healthy interest in the great outdoors. He sees the position as an opportunity to expand his knowledge on walking matters and is sure to provide new ideas into the office using knowledge developed in recent years as a tutor with the 'Seniors on Line' programme.

He is good communicator and will be pleased to assist with your enquiries at the office.

Just a reminder—office hours are 9-am to 3-pm Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Gold Coin Walks

Olave & The Park, the second in our planned series of Gold Coin Walks (written walk description together with a simple map, all in a tri-fold brochure) is now being published. A gold coin to cover costs for these is appreciated.

These and other walk related materials will be available at the AGM. Don't miss it!!!

Newsletter advertising 2011

Rates (incl. GST)

1/8 Page Vertical	\$33
1/4 Page	\$55
1/3 Page Vertical	\$66
1/2 Page	\$99
Full Page	\$154

Flyer (plus printing and insertion costs p/a) - \$176

Editorial deadlines

Summer	25 October
Autumn	26 January

All enquiries to Walking SA 8276 5090

office@walkingsa.org.au

President's Words



I thank the Walking SA (WSA) committee for their efforts during the year in furthering our mutually enjoyed recreational activity, with a special thanks to Skyline Walkers for their continuing financial donations. Thanks also to Friends of Sturt Gorge for their efforts in trail development along the top end of the Sturt River, even though outside of their park boundaries.

In recent days, I spent time with Rob and Sue Marshall (*Walking Trails Support Group*) and band of tireless workers in the *Flinders*, and was most impressed with the dedication and foresight of all concerned. This is a group which continually 'puts in' to maintain and extend the facilities which we all enjoy. Thank you all.

As president, this year has gone far too quickly for me. I had intended to visit quite a number of clubs to establish closer communications, but only managed a few. Apologies to those with whom I made initial contact but didn't manage to arrive.

Raising the WSA profile and with it the profile of recreational walking was another item on my agenda. To that end, a tri-fold brochure explaining the role and responsibilities of WSA has been despatched to your club and I trust your leaders / admin people have passed these on to you. Distribution to non-member walking groups and other organisations which have or may have walking as part of their activities, together with an invitation to discuss the possibility of membership, is also under way. The greater the number of 'countable' walking organisations, the greater our influence for maximising walking opportunities into the future—please let the office know if you have an organisation to suggest.

An offer by South Australian Recreational Trails Inc (*SARTI*) to co-host the 2012 Opening of the Walking Season event planned for Sun 3rd April has been accepted, and we look forward to again celebrating extensions to the Lavender Federation Trail project as it moves ever further north.. See item pages 4 / 5.

Rather than having me writing about trail updates, I plan to reserve a section in future newsletters for this purpose — see pages 4 & 5 this edition. If you are involved in trail maintenance or planning, or discover a trail matter of interest, please update the office regularly so we can keep members advised.

A short reminder regarding our Position Indicating Beacon (PLB) for loan to clubs. If your club plans a walk in remote areas outside of normal communication channels, consider taking this unit with you as it may well save your life. Remember: the unit was purchased with your safety in mind.

You may have noticed our modified logo presenting itself over the last few months. The additional artwork presents our organisation with a stand-alone 'icon' which needs no further interpretation. It may appear in colour as appropriate but still retains the base of the original logo.

With Vice President Bill Gehling, I met with the Minister of Recreation, Sport and Racing The Hon Tom Kenyon and during our discussions he agreed to speak at the AGM on 23rd August. Be sure and come along to represent the walking community, as Mr Kenyon in turn effectively represents the government with respect to recreational walking and funding. We also plan to have the first two *Gold Coin Walk* brochures and other walk-related material on display / sale on the night.

Finally: as indicated in earlier correspondence to our membership, the time for some 'new blood' in our committee has arrived. If I were a politician I would probably have a phrase **IT'S TIME** or similar displayed on a large banner. We really need people now who are willing to 'put in' on behalf of the walking community. Give the office a ring and express your interest.

Safe and enjoyable walking to all.



President
Walking SA





Trails update

Belair National Park

Access from the Golf Club car park has been re-established after a public outcry as to its closure.

Magpie Creek

The stated intended closure of Magpie Gully/Creek trail accessed from Clematis Ave, Blackwood, has not occurred. A lovely loop walk of perhaps 1½ hours may be undertaken downstream to the cottage ruin, then returning left uphill and back towards the Blackwood Football Club.

Mount Lofty Trails

As reported earlier, Walking SA in partnership with Adelaide Hills Council and Forestry SA was successful in obtaining trail improvement / maintenance funds via the Community Recreation and Sports Facilities Programme grant scheme. The general area to be 'actioned' was identified as Kersbrook, on Forestry SA-administered land.

A joint meeting was held on 19th July to develop an action plan, and this is to be followed by a site survey in August to identify five loop trails in the area. These will form the basis for further planning and development.

Walkers having knowledge of the area and interested in contributing to the project are encouraged to contact Liz O'Shea via the office.

Saunders Gorge

A public walking trail traversing the Saunders Gorge Sanctuary property was checked out recently by Walking Access Committee members. It lends itself to a loop walk between the lower eastern end and the stone wall western boundary of Saunders Gorge Sanctuary with a total distance of about 9km. An anti-clockwise approach is recommended, and further details will soon be available from the office.

Willunga trails network

Our contacts in the area, The Friends of Willunga Basin, have had to temporarily suspend activities towards this project and direct their energies towards protecting the area from urban sprawl. It is hoped that work on the planning phase will recommence soon.

Morialta

Additional walking trails are being constructed in a new section of Morialta Conservation Park. Grant funding (Better Region) was received from the Commonwealth Government to construct a walking trail in this area in accordance with the Black Hill/Morialta Trails Plan. This plan is on hold while the overall plan for the Adelaide Environs is revised, but it was decided to go ahead with the construction of a Class 3 walking trail from the main car park to Deep View lookout. The present Banksia Trail is very steep in sections and is seen as being in need of repair and as possibly unsustainable. Under the plan it will remain open as a more challenging track for experienced walkers or keep fit groups or individuals but it may eventually be closed.

The new trail is being developed in 2 stages. Stage 1 is just about completed and offers an easier alternative to the steepest section of the present track. Stage 2 will hopefully go ahead in the next few months and will provide a link to the Yurebilla/Heysen Trail above Deep View Lookout.

Apparently there is a very tight timeline with the funding being carried over from last financial year only until the end of October. The idea is to construct a new trail section to link with an existing Fire Track and then construct a section within the old Park boundaries either through a section of native scrub or using an existing very steep, rocky track. This last option would require significant engineering work but would minimise the impact on native vegetation. All the consultation has to be done and the construction has to have started by mid-September if the deadline is to be met.

[Thanks to Kerry Doyle for this update – Ed]

Lavender Federation Trail

The next section of the Lavender Federation Trail between Springton and the outskirts of Truro has been marked and stiles installed. This 50 km section has been made possible with the generous assistance of the Barossa Council, the Mid Murray Council and the Office of Recreation and Sport. The Board of SA Recreation Trails Inc (SARTI) is appreciative of those bodies and the volunteers who build and maintain the trail for their continued assistance. This brings the total trail length to 150 km.

Trails update (cont)

SARTI is currently working with the Truro Residents Association to work out the best way through the town. The next destination is Eudunda and the residents there are very enthusiastic and the Goyder Tourism Working Group is supportive.

The trail will be officially opened at the Opening of the Walking Season in April next year at Truro. In the meantime, it should be possible to walk the trail as the trail signage appears adequate. Feedback from walkers would be appreciated. This section of the trail can be accessed easily at the main towns along the trail, Springton, Keyneton, Mocolta and Truro.

As can be seen, SARTI has been very active and encourages those interested in the trail development to become associate members. This only costs \$10 per annum. Contact the organisation on:- www.lavenderfederationtrail.org.au/

Woodcutters Road

Our Trails Technical Unit has inspected the area and formed the opinion that any development to the unmade road reserve through this severely undulating countryside be left for a future time. Walkers may still use the area.

.Walk the Yorke

The concept is to develop a 500 kilometre continuous coastal trail around Yorke Peninsula to cater for walking and cycling enthusiasts. The route is a combination of cliff, beach and some road walking – classified as “B” Grade with no hills or serious climbing.

The concept plan nominates starting from Pt. Wakefield and walking along the abandoned rail track corridor to Wallaroo, however the Council have stated that because of legal issues this section is not available at the moment. The section from the rail corridor to Port Clinton, at the head of the Gulf, cannot be walked until a track is formed

Walking trails exist around several coastal towns and the object is to link these into the WTY. At this stage there are no trail markers or trail maps.

ARPA walkers are enthusiastically pursuing trail development in consultation with an equally enthusiastic District Council of Yorke Peninsula. Much work is yet to be undertaken, but the final outcome will be widely acclaimed by the walking fraternity.

Marne view walk

Day walkers wanting an easy 16 km fine weather walk with views may be interested in the following :-

An undeveloped former road reserve follows the bald ridges east of Springton to reach the plain between the Marne River Gorge and Saunders Gorge. The Mid Murray Council has given the road reserve, which is nearly 9 km in length, the status of a walking trail. It offers superb views on a fine day but is exposed and should be avoided on hot or windy days.

This trail could be walked as part of a 27 km circuit based on the Saunders Gorge Sanctuary where there is camping and cabin accommodation. However, driving to the higher western end of the trail and walking 8 km each way to the start of the last descent is the recommended way to explore it on a day trip from Adelaide.

The western end of the trail is about 80 km by road from Adelaide and the driving distance from there to the eastern end is about 25 km

Unlike some other undeveloped old road reserves in South Australia, this one follows the easiest alignment and avoids steep grades. However, because it is only partly fenced and the trail is not marked, you will need contour map reading skills and/or be experienced at following a route by using a GPS. Be warned too, that there are some locked gates/fences to be crossed. An A4 map with descriptions and GPS coordinates of significant way-points along the trail will be available from the office.

Arthur Ward
Walking Access Committee



A walk through the Blue Mountains



Walking in the Blue Mountains of New South Wales May 2011 was fulfilling a dream for a *Keep Walking* group of 18. Many of us drove from Adelaide, so when the mountains appeared they were a treat after the flatness of the Hay Plain.

Our leader John Butler chose a range of walks (6 in all) from open forest to deep canyon, all beautiful, interesting and challenging. Flora was similar but different (very green and lush and many more ferns) from the Mt Lofty Ranges so provided great interest and much poring over the day's photos and the flower book to identify them at the end of each day. We were lucky to see two lyrebirds, and on one walk with only a few birds calling, to suddenly have an apparently large group of birds (kookaburra, currawong, rosella, honey eater, and others) all calling very close together. Did a lyrebird think to impress with its imitations? If so, it worked a treat!

It's hard to choose favourite walks, but the Grand Canyon with its many steps, waterfalls, fungi, ferns and flowers was hard to beat. Another outstanding walk (scramble) descended to the Victoria Falls (a delicate fabric of drops falling on tumbled sandstone boulders) and thence via the Victoria Creek to the confluence with the Grose River. One walker could not resist a quick dip/slip (ouch! – a bruise or two), another thought to lose a thermos over a steep edge (that didn't work as sharp eyes retrieved the thermos on the way back). The return journey from the Giant Staircase proved a very quick and disappointing trip via the scenic railway (just as the cameras were being readied the train arrived at the top through a cutting & tunnel!!!) All the walks were rated AAA by us all.

Evenings in the 'big house' a 4 bedroom cottage, offered many an inspiring philosophic discussion. With the leaders, Baileys was a hit. Rocco's 74th birthday was celebrated with style. He and wife Nerinna with other helpers provided a sumptuous feast for all. There's nothing like a group of well fed revellers celebrating a birthday for good fellowship and enjoyment.

The accommodation proved excellent. Recently upgraded rooms with comfortable beds, good facilities and best of all, a very efficient heating system – especially appreciated first thing in the cold mornings.

At the end of the trip, everyone made their way home – some via other activities in New South Wales, and for many a long drive. Some of us broke the journey in Hay or Deniliquin and discovered that the climate of inland Australia can be extreme – cold that is. Overnight the windscreens of the cars iced over when the travellers got going early.

Marj Shephard
Keep Walking



iCare Cares!

The *iCare Communities* is an online hub for environmental action and it aims to “bring together urban and rural communities to address our most urgent environmental needs” – and this is what it did on June 5th, which was World Environment Day.

In collaboration with the River Murray Urban Users Committee volunteers from Adelaide met at the central bus station to be taken to meet our rural ‘cousins’ at Clayton Bay. Once there we were given a demo on what to do and how to do it (with a warning to be aware of snakes!) – and then we got on with the work of planting trees / shrubs around the denuded shores of Lake Alexandrina



All the plantlings were raised at the local nursery from seed native to the area and this preparatory work was done by the local people – who also organised a marvellous lunch for us all at the nearby Community Centre. Then it was back to work until mid afternoon when, having run out of stakes and tree protectors, work came to a halt.

In thanking us for our work it was announced that 1400 trees and shrubs had been planted that day – not a bad effort! It was a tired group that bade farewell to our ‘country cousins’ but it was also with a sense of achievement that we returned to the city.

If anyone is interested in helping with this work please contact either the River Murray Urban Users Committee or check out the website – www.icarecommunities.org.au

Liz O’Shea
Walking SA

Friends of Belair National Park walk

To commemorate the annual inspection tour undertaken by the then Commissioner of the Park, Sir John Cleland, the Friends of Belair National Park invite you to take part in a FREE guided walk to be held this year in Belair National Park on Sunday October 9th.

They are only holding one morning walk which will last approximately 2 hours. Meet at the Volunteer Centre in Long Gully at 9.45am for a 10am start. You will need to have a fair level of fitness and to bring your own water, snacks, hat and sunscreen. Enjoy this lovely time of the year in the Park and learn more about its flora, fauna and history. For more details please contact Jenny on 82788986 or email jenke@slmember.on.net

- For Rent -



Cosy cottage at Encounter Bay -

- 2 minutes walk from the beach
- 3 bedrooms, 2 doubles+1 single with Trundle (BYO linen)
- open fire place – heaters also available
- fully equipped kitchen

**Perfect place to stay when
bushwalking on the Fleurieu**

\$100+ \$10 person/night

Phone Louise on 08 8361 2950: or
Prue on 0413 408 136 or 08 272 9660.

Clubs

For information about Walking Groups open for new members, log onto Walking SA’s website : www.walkingsa.org.au





Bushwalkers have always been supporters of national parks as the best way of conserving our natural heritage, while at the same time allowing people to visit and enjoy them. As bushwalkers, we are sometimes envied by people whose activities are not allowed in parks, and occasionally criticised by extreme conservationists who want bushwalking banned as well. Getting the right balance between conservation and visitation is important to us as bushwalker. It's also important to legislators and park managers who have the difficult task of deciding what where the balance should lie. This is even more important now as our iconic national parks are a drawcard for tourism, and attractive to private investors who simply want to cash in on nature.

Bushwalking Australia has drafted a set of principles to guide managers and decision makers, when deciding whether or not to allow commercial operators into parks, or permit facilities to be built for them:-

- ◇ No adverse impact on the integrity or natural state of the area
- ◇ Conforms to management plan
- ◇ Compatible with park values and natural amenities
- ◇ Strong connection with nature
- ◇ Not diminish or remove public access rights
- ◇ Able to demonstrate public benefit as well as commercial viability
- ◇ Operators to pay usage or licence fees commensurate with their commercial benefit and environmental impact
- ◇ Subject to ongoing review (at least annually)
- ◇ Built facilities should be outside the park wherever possible
- ◇ Should not diminish the wilderness experience

These principles need to be fleshed out a little more before they become *Bushwalking Australia* policy. That is the next step, and we want your help to do that, and to argue for them. Here are some things to think about:

In many ways, these principles also make economic sense as well. Major facilities (eg overnight accommodation) preferably located outside of or on edge of park, where utilities (roads, electricity, sewage) already exist and don't need to be built through the park, and any spill-over effect can be managed.

It's also important to distinguish between "big T" Tourism resorts, and the eco-aware bushwalker who takes people on guided walks. Commercialism isn't always bad, and even park authorities have occasionally built some appalling infrastructure.

These principles don't mention bushwalking specifically. They don't put bushwalkers at an unfair advantage, and we cannot be accused of feathering our own nest. If we do have an advantage its simply because bushwalking is a low-impact activity, entirely compatible with a national park. That's something we need not be afraid of. Please advise our office with any further thoughts you may have on the topic.

Bill Gehling

Walking SA

Attention Walk Leaders

Forestry SA Rangers have asked that clubs provide prior notification of all planned walks in forest areas, with number of participants and details of the proposed walk route.

E-Newsletters Direct

A reminder that if you have an email capacity and would like to receive our newsletter at the earliest time, let us have your email address and we will ensure it's emailed to you.