❖WALKING SA News❖

Volume 17 Issue 2 Winter 2009

Newsletter of the
Walking Federation of South Australia Inc
14a Stuart Road, Dulwich

All correspondence to
Post Office Box 6067
Linden Park SA 5065

Phone (08) 8361 2491

Webpage:
www.walkingsa.org.au
Email:
office@walkingsa.org.au

Office Hours
Tuesdays & Thursdays
9.00am to 3.30pm

Uniting all people actively concerned with bushwalking.

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

Opening of the Walking Season at Eden Valley - Sunday 5th April 2009
The sun shone, the colourful umbrellas gave a carnival atmosphere, the food (and wine!) was eagerly tasted and the walkers trod the local tracks and trails !!

Featured in this edition of Walking SA News:

- President's Words
- Snapshots of the 2009 Opening Event
- On Safari with the Eastwood Walking Group
- Progress at Sturt Gorge … … … and more!

be active. Find 30

Next General Meeting of Walking SA

will be held at Burnside Community Centre, cnr Greenhill and Portrush Roads, Tusmore

on

Thurs 20th August 2009 -7.30pm

to be immediately followed by the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Speaker: *To be announced*

All Club delegates, interested club members and friends are encouraged to come along.

More details from Walking SA 8361 2491

Walking SA's Committee 2008/2009

Chris Bushell (President)
Bill Gehling (Vice President)
Liz O'Shea (Hon. Secretary)
Jayne Jennifer (Hon. Treasurer)
Chris Moad (IT Support)
Mary Denton (Ind.Members'Rep)
Myra Betschild
Ron Jackson
Joan Mooney
Thelma Anderson
Fran Lucas

Walking Access Committee

John Eaton
Arthur Ward
Mary Denton
Joan Mooney
Thelma Anderson
Fran Lucas

Trails Technical Unit

Ron Jackson
John Eaton
Rob Marshall

Administration Officer

Eleanor Martin

President's words

The Opening of the Walking Season at Eden valley was a great success. My thanks to all those who helped organise the event including SARTI and to all other contributors.

A local was heard to remark that it was a long time since Eden Valley had seen so many people. It was difficult to keep track of how many people were there, but I estimate over three hundred. (Photos next page.)

The volunteer caterers made a profit of over $500 for the local branch of the Red Cross and they were very happy with the result. Considering the modest prices they charged for such excellent fare, I am amazed they made a profit at all. Our thanks to the Murray Recreation Park Committee, people from the local community and the Barossa Council for their co-operation in staging the event.

We are going to lose our office premises in the not too distant future and are searching for somewhere else to set up shop. If you have any ideas please let us know. We cannot afford much in the way of rent and basically need a location where the owners of the property see value in having a volunteer organization like ours on their premises.

In early April, Walking SA had a presence in Rundle Mall where we were able to explain our purpose to many interested passers-by. We are grateful to Horse SA who organised and funded the activity and then invited Bicycle SA and ourselves to participate.

We are now well into the 2009 walking season and hopefully everyone has their boots on and enjoying their walking to the full!

Chris Bushell

Postscript

I am very pleased to announce that in 2010, the Opening of the Walking Season annual event will be held in Mylor on Sunday 11th April in conjunction with the Mylor Autumn Fair.

(Further details as they become available.)

CB

OPENING OF THE WALKING SEASON at EDEN VALLEY

Walkers came to celebrate both the opening of the season and also the Eden Valley Loop of the Lavender Federation Trail. Anaconda, Cartographics, Paddy Pallin, Scout Outdoor Shop, SA Water and Nippy's gave their support; the Heart Foundation, Conservation Volunteers and Orienteering SA came on board; ARPA, Friends of Heysen Trail, SARTI, Skyline Walkers and Eastwood Walking Group along with Walking SA staged displays; the food, Fernfield Wines and Bush Band were awesome! A great day!

IS THIS YOU ?

Do you have one or more of the following:-

- ◊ a love of bushwalking ?
- ◊ a wish for great trails and places to walk ?
- ◊ a willingness to be involved in making it happen ?
- ◊ a desire to *'make a difference'* in the bushwalking scene ?

VOLUNTEERS WANTED !!

WALKING SA has an ongoing need for people who have bushwalking at heart, who will consider involvement in any of a number of walker support tasks within the walking community!

It needs volunteers from the walking clubs to help in the many activities it undertakes. If you feel you have benefited from the existence of a walking club and from the Walking Federation, perhaps now is the time to put something back. Here are some ways you can assist.

The Technical Trails Unit of Walking SA needs people who are interested in trail analysis and development. The Unit undertakes surveys of existing trails to analyse their safety and sustainability. They also plan routes for trails. This is not only really interesting work, but also the chance to learn from experts!

The Walking Access Committee concerns itself with protecting the rights of walkers. This group has regular meetings with local councils to discuss possible trail development. One of its major activities is processing proposals for road closures. The major asset for walkers and for future trail development in South Australia is the network of road reserves surveyed long ago for possible use as roads. These can be walked by anyone.

To find the road reserves you need maps showing cadastral overlays. However, even armed with the appropriate maps, it still can be difficult to identify the road reserves. But we often walk them without us knowing what they are and many need to be kept open. This committee requires diplomacy and negotiating skills to carry out its work.

Walking SA supports existing trails wherever it can. Our major responsibility in this area is the Women's Pioneer Trail. This trail, along with others, has a maintenance team which requires and welcomes new helpers.

The Federation itself is run by a committee of volunteers and undertakes, amongst others, tasks of publicity and promotion. It needs people with fresh energy and varied skills to take the Walking Federation forward!

If you have some time to spare, and you are eager and willing to *'make a difference'* in the area of our chosen pastime, express your interest by contacting Eleanor Martin at the office on Tuesday or Thursday (8361 2491) or email her on office@walkingsa.org.au - she will put you in touch with the right person or give you more information if needed.

Chris Bushell

Aims of the Walking Federation of SA Inc. are:

To serve the interests of the walking community, to encourage walkers to preserve the environment, and to support track management and legislation to protect and extend the track network.

Eastwood Walking Group - Flinders Ranges Safari (2nd to 7th October 2008)

Thirteen participants (nine in the Eastwood Community Centre bus, another four in a 4WD) travelled up via Pt Augusta where we lunched at the Arid Lands Botanic Gardens. We stayed in two rented cottages in the Central Flinders at Willow Springs. Accommodation was comfortable and catering made easy within well-equipped kitchen, large sheltered BBQ and companionable campfire.

The weather was perfect with the exception of one hot day and a cold and gusty final evening, when we abandoned our farewell champagne sunset at Stokes Lookout for the large comfortable lounge with wood-fire.

A variety of walks was organised to cater for a range of abilities. Nine of us found the St Mary's Peak trek quite a challenge as the temperature reached 30degreesC. However, even Ron, our octogenarian, nearly made it to Tanderra Saddle, before wisdom was deemed the better part of valour!

The Blinman Pools walk was scenically stunning. I remember this walk from some years ago as a little seepage below Angorachina, then dry up Blinman Creek until the first pool. This time the usually dry creek bed twisting between high rock walls was unexpectedly (given the drought) fed by springs creating a string of rock pools (some with yabbies and frogs), running water and little cascades over a five km length from Angorachina Village to first pool. Must have resulted from the August rains!

River red gums lined the creek and honeyeaters were attracted to flowering eremophilias - we identified them from the wonderful display we saw at the Pt Augusta Botanic Gardens! But the-first and second pools were surprisingly dry.

Blinman was staging its annual "cook-out". We sampled the camp oven delights with Red Ned, ate quondong pie and ice cream, and visited art exhibitions.

Within Wilpena Pound some other walks included a group climbing Mt Ohlssen Bragges to be rewarded with stunning views of the Pound and surrounding area while another group walked to Wangarra Lookout. Five people climaxed this day with a thirty minute fly-over in two Cesnas.

A very interesting day was spent rock and fossil hunting (geologising) in Brachina Gorge. We found limestone with stromatolites and algal mudflakes 630 million years old (*myo*), pebbly siltstone of glacial origin 610 *myo*, rock formed with ejecta from the meteorite impact which formed the Acramen crater in the Gawler Ranges 580 *myo,* and an ancient reef of archaeocyatha limestone (sponge and coral precursor) 530 *myo.*

On the way home, we stayed at Quorn where seven people boarded the Pichi Richi train to steam through the ranges to Woolshed Flat for a pre-prepared slap-up picnic lunch. Meanwhile, others climbed Devil's Peak for a 360 degree view of the ranges. We returned to Adelaide via Mt Remarkable.

A very enjoyable and remarkable safari!

We are very conscious of our good fortune in having access to the Eastwood Community Centre bus which makes these safaris possible – particularly those of us who otherwise would not be able to participate in this activity. Our grateful thanks goes to the Co-ordinator Mairi and the Management Committee for continued support.

Rosemary Allen

South Australian Trails Coordinating Committee (SATCC)

One of the many organizations with which Walking SA is associated is SATCC. The SATCC meets about eight times each year and has representation from State and Local government, and from the peak recreational bodies.

The State Government representatives are from the Office for Recreation and Sport (ORS), Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH), Transport SA, Department for Planning and Local Government and Forestry SA. The peak recreational bodies of Bicycle SA, Horse SA, Canoe SA, Walking SA, and the Scuba Divers Federation of SA Inc are also represented on the Committee. Tourism SA has recently withdrawn (which we regard as both short sighted and regrettable).

SATCC is a forum where all concerned with trails meet to discuss matters of mutual interest. Through this forum we have developed a close relationship with Bicycle SA and Horse SA. SATCC is the "owner" of the Trails SA website which is about to be upgraded. It also is launching an electronic newsletter with contributions from all participants.

A current problem with the SATCC is that it cannot take up a lobby group role due to state government employees being present. Moves are afoot to address that issue.

Myra Betschild (Women in the Bush) and Liz O'Shea (WEA Ramblers) - both members of-WSA Committee - at the Rundle Mall stall along with Bicycle SA and Horse SA - both of SATCC. Chris Bushell and Bill Gehling also participated.

Special Notes

- ◊ **Friends of Heysen Trail** has extended a **10% discount** on all shop purchases to **all** members of **walking clubs affiliated with Walking SA** (FoHT shop is at 10 Pitt St open Mon-Thurs 10 to 2.30, Fri to 4.30).
- ◊ **Flinders Ranges Bush Walks Brochures** have been prepared and published by the Walking Trails Support Group and are available from the Walking SA office 8361 2491 (Tues and Thurs 9:00 to 3.30)
- ◊ **The Bibbulman Track Foundation** has an 8 day Highlights Tour departing 14 Sept 09' with experienced guides in the lead, and timed for the spectacular wildflower season. www.bubbulmantrack.org.au 08 9481 0551
- ◊ **FOR SALE - Women's SCARPA Boots** brown leather, in pristine condition, size 40 (8). Bought for $269 - Bargain sale for $129 Contact Walking SA 8361 2491 (Tu & Th).

More Tips for the Overseas Traveller

- ◊ Plan to buy fuel after you arrive, and dispose of it before you return
- ◊ Don't leave traces of fuel in stoves and bottles when you travel
- ◊ Don't carry camping gear in hand luggage
- ◊ Clean boots, tent pegs and groundsheets before you travel in either direction
- ◊ Remove seeds from your socks
- ◊ Do not have matches or a cigarette lighter in either your hand luggage or checked baggage

Remember, a bit of planning and a few simple precautions may save hassles, and perhaps an unwelcome entanglement with the law!

Sturt Gorge

Walking SA has a very keen interest in the future of Sturt Gorge. In 2007 it accepted a commission from the Dept. Environment and Heritage (DEH) to undertake an extensive audit of the Gorge, with specific attention to be given to the existing use of it by walkers and cyclists, its current state in terms of erosion of the terrain, and some recommendations as to how to best preserve the Gorge into the future.

John Eaton led the Walking SA team of volunteers, and many hours were spent treading its copious tracks with camera and GPS in hand, documenting and recording both its beauty and devastation in the making.

Representatives from DEH, Walking SA and Friends of Sturt Gorge out 'in the field' in 2009.

A comprehensive report was presented to DEH in 2008 for analysis and subsequent action.

In 2009, a small expertise based group has been formed by DEH to work with parks staff, trail planners and other management bodies to provide local input into the Sturt Gorge RP Trails Plan. Ron Jackson is representing Walking SA on this group which recently spent a day out in the field with a DEH representative. This gave the opportunity for those involved to voice comment for possible final input to the Draft Sturt Gorge Recreation Park Trails Plan.

EM

(Income from the work of John Eaton and the volunteer team has assisted Walking SA's financial situation in 2008-09. Thank you all.)

Pat's Bushwalking Tips

- ◊ If taking a hammer on a through walk, make sure it's a light one as weight is a major factor.
- ◊ When using plastic bags on your feet to keep them dry, use the large ziplock bags as they are sturdier than used shopping bags and you won't trip over the handles.
- ◊ On a long walk with food drops, have a new Chux in each food drop. You could even have two new ones depending on your hygiene standards. (You can dispose of the old Chux with your rubbish (in the appropriate manner of course.)
- ◊ Juggling is a good diversion on a long walk. You can make the juggling balls from plastic zip-lock bags and rubber bands, then fill with sand. Be aware that these could be heavy in your through pack so it's a good idea to empty the sand before walking and refill when you are having another juggle!

(Courtesy of the Brisbane Bushwalker - May 2009)

One good piece of news from Bushwalking Australia's May teleconference is that our insurance premiums will not rise substantially this year, in spite of some tragic incidents and what the industry calls "an unfavourable loss-ratio" in recent years.

A Victorian bushwalker died in Tasmania last year, and a NSW bushwalker was killed as a result of a road accident in the previous year. Last year also, a Queensland bushwalker became separated from the group in rainforest. He apparently slipped, was knocked unconscious, and drowned in a rockpool.

As well as the monetary aspect, each incident has a tragic side that we can't insure against, that will always be in the memory of those involved. Then there are many minor incidents and near misses that don't involve an insurance claim.

That's why Bushwalking Australia is looking at ways of making walking safe and enjoyable. There is always the risk that governments and land managers will over-react by restricting bushwalkers, or imposing burdensome red-tape that does nothing to preserve the environment or make walking safer.

A survey of clubs conducted as part of the Bushwalking Australia insurance renewal process reveals that some 14% of clubs appear to have no risk management policies or procedures. Of course, most risk management is plain common-sense, and some of these clubs do have the skills and experience to avoid getting into problems in the first place. Nevertheless, it's scary to think of the consequences of something going seriously wrong on a trip.

The health benefits of walking far outweigh any risks or dangers, but continuing this run of losses could affect our liberties and our insurance premiums at some future time.

Bill Gehling

ATTENTION WALK LEADERS

Forestry SA Rangers continue to ask- that clubs provide prior notification of all planned walks in forest areas, giving the approximate number of participants and details of the proposed walk route.

This applies to all walks during the year.

Contacts:

Mt Crawford Forest :
Phone (08) 8521 1700

Kuitpo Forest :
Phone (08) 8391 8800

Kidman Trail - Maps

A set of five maps is still available through Walking SA of this recreational trail for horse riders, cyclists and walkers, which runs over 255 km from Willunga to Kapunda.

These five maps cover Willunga to Echunga, Echunga to Nairne, Nairne to Mt Crawford, Mt Crawford to Stockwell, Stockwell to Kapunda and feature overlays of the Heysen, Mawson, Lavender Federation and Battunga trails on the map strips.

Cost for all five maps is $45.00 (incl. GST.)
Walking SA Office is open Tues and Thurs.
Telephone 8361 2491

For information about Walking Groups open for new members, log onto …

Walking SA's website

www.walkingsa.org.au