
❖ WALKING SA News ❖

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Winter 2013



Newsletter of the
Walking Federation of
South Australia Inc
Greening Australia Bldg
5 Fitzgerald Rd
PASADENA

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The Goannas use any excuse to hold hands!

*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

Featured in this edition of Walking SA News :

Pages 2/3— Annual General Meeting

Page 4— Trails and Walking SA

Page 5— Book review—"The Old Ways"
Putting a Bit Back

Page 6—"Fed Up Charlie"

Page 7—The Bonython page!

Page 8— Safety in Remote Areas



Government of South Australia
Office for Recreation and Sport

be active.

Walking SA Interim Committee

Chairman	Alan Bundy <i>(Keep Walking)</i>
Hon. Treasurer	Corina Mielenz <i>(Adelaide Bushwalkers))</i>
Committee Members	Dallas Clark <i>(Friends of Heysen Trail)</i> Kate Corner <i>(Adelaide Bushwalkers)</i> John Eaton <i>(Retired Teachers)</i> Jean Foster <i>(ARPA)</i> Liz O'Shea <i>(WEA Ramblers)</i> Bill Gehling <i>(Adelaide Bushwalkers)</i> Eleanor Martin <i>(Women in the Bush)</i>
	Walking Access Committee <i>To be appointed</i>
	Trails Technical Unit <i>To be appointed</i>
	Administration Officer Brian Goodhind

**Newsletter advertising 2013
Rates (incl. GST)**

1/8 Page Vertical	\$33
1/4 Page	\$55
1/3 Page Vertical	\$66
½ Page	\$99
Full Page	\$154

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

Editorial deadlines

Spring	1 September
Summer	1 December

All enquiries to Walking SA 8276 5090

office@walkingsa.org.au

IS THIS YOU?

WSA will receive state government funding in 2013/14 towards the implementation of the major recommendations of its 2013 Review.

Our next, and critical, step is the establishment of a broad Transitional Board to build on the good work of the current small Interim Committee.

Nominations for the Board from anyone wishing to contribute to the promotion and practice of walking at all levels in SA are now sought.

Interested? Nomination forms are in this issue of WSA News, on the website www.walkingsa.org.au, on request to the WSA Office at PO Box 1094 Pasadena SA 5042, phone 82765090 or email office@walkingsa.org.au.

**WALKING SA ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

**The WSA 2013 Annual General Meeting will be held at the Unley Community Centre, Arthur Street, Unley on
Thursday 15 August 2013 at
7.30p.m.**

WALKING SA

Self nomination for membership of a transition Board for Walking SA for 2013/14 is invited from *anyone* concerned to improve walking awareness and opportunities for all in South Australia

The independent review of Walking SA this year found that South Australia does need a strong organisation to promote, advocate for, and facilitate walking awareness and opportunities for all. Despite recent difficulty in attracting office bearers and committee members, Walking SA was assessed as well managed and well placed to assume this role. In response to the report's recommendations and suggestions, Walking SA is receiving funding in 2013/14 from the State Government to commence their implementation. This includes the replacement of the Walking SA executive committee by a broadly based Board electing its own chairperson, and with a number of small working groups to focus on individual aspects of its mission, strategic plan and operations.

This is the reason why nominations are now sought from *anyone* concerned to improve walking awareness and opportunities in SA, and to raise the profile of walking to the much higher level its participation rate and potential justifies. *Walking SA is now at a critical juncture* - the aim is to establish a transitional Board for 2013/14, as large and as representative of all walking interests as possible, to enable it to move forward.

Can you help during 2013/14? Please call me on **8278 4363** day, evening or weekend for further Information. If you know someone who could be approached to also nominate do let me know.

Thank you
Alan Bundy, Chairman, Walking SA Interim Committee

NOMINATION FORM

Surname _____ First name _____

Postal address _____

Tel _____ Email _____

Signature _____

The new Board will need to elect a chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary and treasurer at its first meeting. Please **tick** if you would like to be considered for any of these positions.

Chairperson Deputy Chairperson Treasurer Secretary

Please indicate here any particular walking interest you have or contribution you would like to make to the Board

The first meeting of the Board is proposed to be held at 7pm on **Thursday 22 August 2013** at the Walking SA office, first floor in the Greening Australia Building, 5 Fitzgerald Rd, Pasadena. Please **tick** if you will be able to come.

Please send your completed nomination form to Dr Alan Bundy PO Box 622 Blackwood SA 5051 fax 82784000 email alan.bundy@auslib.com.au, by Friday 9 August.

Late nominations may be given to me at the Walking SA AGM Thursday 15 August at 7pm for 7.30pm at the Unley Community Centre, 18 Arthur Street Unley.

TRAILS AND WALKING SA

Many of our walking trails, including our *Heysen Trail*, would never have been possible had it not been for URRs. You and I have *common law* right to walk on them – a right of access if you like to public land – land we own as citizens. Land owners adjacent to these reserves often deny walkers access to them for reasons of privacy or commercial gain, such as the grape grower who decided that his trellis posts can be placed on publicly-owned land. (He had to remove them.)

Nearby land-owners put up gates, fences and signs to warn us off land that they don't own. They've *even* been known to fire shot guns in our direction to scare us off what they consider to be *their* land. However, "possession is *not* 9/10ths of the law" and councils will support us when we enforce our common-law right to access this land (they would be acting unlawfully if they didn't). However we lose our right of access to road reserves once they are leased or sold – unless an easement can be negotiated by Council and ORS.

If councils want to sell off URRs or lease them, they first have to publish their intention by a notice in the Government Gazette required under Section 10 of the *Roads (Opening and Closing) Act 1991*, – click on the link at <http://www.governmentgazette.sa.gov.au/>. The notice invites submissions from nearby land owners and stakeholders like *The Walking Federation* (WSA) or the *Office for Recreation and Sport* to give reasons to council why the land should remain in public ownership. If the council decides to sell off the land anyway, an appeal can be lodged to the Surveyor General. Should the Surveyor General decide that the reserve can be sold off, a Section 24 notice is published in the Government Gazette and the road will be transferred to the person who sought to buy it, usually an adjacent land-owner or a developer. Recently one council sold off a strategic URR but insisted on an easement for walkers should it be required for a walking trail. As it turned out – it is needed and walking access is secured.

Please keep me posted (at joneaton@bigpond.net.au) regarding any attempts by landowners to prevent access to road or other public reserves. You can initially check whether a road reserve is still likely to be in public ownership by referring to the **Property Locator Browser** at the following link: <http://www.sa.gov.au/subject/Housing%2C+property+and+land/Customer+entry+points+and+contacts/Land+services+industry+entry+point/Online+services/Property+Location+Browser>.

Just point at the location of the reserve on the map of South Australia. And keep clicking until you get to the right scale. The Unmade Road reserves are the ones marked with fuzzy edges. They are being sold off at an alarming rate. If they are near existing trails or possible future trails, we let them go at our recreational peril.

Fortunately local government organizations like the District Council of Elliston and the Yalata Community (see last issue) have realized that road and public reserves encourage tourism, infrastructure development and keep the population fit and healthy. They can even assist in caring for sensitive environments such as the spectacular cliffs of the western Eyre Peninsula.

We'll keep you posted on these and other promising trail developments that have the potential to energise whole communities.

John Eaton, Convenor, WSA Technical Trails Unit and Access Committee

The Old Ways – a book review

Robert Macfarlane, The Old Ways: A Journey on Foot (New York: Viking, 2012), 433 pp, including Glossary, Notes, Select Bibliography of 225 titles, and Index of Selected Topics.

This is a wonderful account of hiking and of the Ways—the trails that is—that Macfarlane has hiked along, mostly in Britain, but also in Israel, Spain, and Tibet. He especially loves to discover and walk along ancient trails, some of them many millennia old, even dating from the Mesolithic. He includes journeying along ancient sea ways in old boats in the Outer Hebrides too.

He says in an Author's note that 'it is the third book in a loose trilogy about landscape and the human heart, [but] it need not be read after or in the company of its predecessors.'

Hiking for him is much more than putting one foot in front of another. It is a passionate and profound physical, emotional, and spiritual engagement with a living land, a historical, geographical, geological, botanical, zoological, psychological, and religious engagement. He says that 'Landscape and nature are not there simply to be gazed at; no, they press hard upon and into our bodies and minds, complexly affect our moods, our sensibilities', p.341. A walker whom he admires and refers to often is the English poet, Edward Thomas (1878–1917); he discusses Thomas's 'ongoing exploration of his interior landscapes, told by means of the traverse of particular places and the following of certain paths', p.310–11. That could be said about his own journeying too.

But not only is his book about his journey through landscape, it is also his journey through other extraordinary walkers' lives—and through language, and through books about walking as well.

Each journey he describes—or rather lets the reader experience with him—is different. He names chapters in a way that seems to burrow into the landscape of each one: 'Chalk', 'Silt', 'Peat', 'Gneiss', 'Granite', etc. 'Silt' is about his walk along 'the Broomway, allegedly "the deadliest" path in Britain and certainly the unearthliest path I have ever walked. The Broomway is thought to have killed more than a hundred people over the centuries', p.59–60. It's a trail across a tidal estuary where you might be sucked down by quicksand, trapped by the tide coming in faster than you can run from it, or disoriented by mist and walk out to sea and drown.

I found Macfarlane's journey through language and books as delightful as his journey through landscape. He invents a valuable word that I'm delighted to acquire, 'xenotopia', p.78, for the strange countries, the other worlds, the 'far side of the moon' that his kind of intense walkers discover hidden in the physical landscapes they traverse, a word to describe such 'out-of-place places'.

He chooses words with meticulous care. 'Ahead of me lay more days on foot, and the path insinuating eastwards—in the old and innocent sense of the verb, from the Latin *insinuare*, meaning "to bend in subtle windings, to curve"', p.308.

And he delights in unusual words. 'Pilgrim paths, green roads, drove roads, corpse roads, trods, leys, dykes, drongs, sarns, snickets—say the names of paths out loud and at speed and they become a poem or rite—holloways, bostles, shutes, driftways, lichways, ridings, halterpaths, cartways, carneys, causeways, herepaths', p.13. However, I wished that his Glossary of the most unusual words he used was far more extensive.

Each chapter begins with a black-and-white photograph. Unfortunately in this US Penguin Viking edition many of them have been reproduced poorly, a disservice to such a remarkable book.

This is one of those books that you don't merely read, but that you experience in multitudinous ways. Macfarlane's sometimes walking bare-footed in his search for an even more intimate connection with landscape, appeals to me as a metaphor for how deeply his book engaged me.

RAY SINCLAIR-WOOD

Putting a bit back

Not my words but those of participants in trail development and maintenance - And of course many do Participate—We all benefit and use the trails established by earlier generations—The combination of a relatively large state and a small population means that if we are to enjoy access to areas of interest there needs to be strong and effective volunteer input—Given budget constraints government agencies are increasingly reliant on volunteers—Regular maintenance of trails, the 'stitch in time', ensures that sustainability is manageable and allcomers can enjoy their walking experience—Maintenance is best achieved with small teams addressing targeted objectives—The Walking Trails Support Group works in peri urban Adelaide, the Barossa and Flinders Ranges—If you have an interest in participating please make contact, particular arrangements can often be made to suit your program.

Rob Marshall for the Walking Trails Support Group, 71 Osmond Terrace NORWOOD SA 5067.

FED-UP CHARLIE

The history of Britain's Holiday Fellowship contains the following letter, known as "The Fed-up Charlie" letter, (allegedly) written by Charlie in the 1920's

Dear Alf

Your letter came along this morning asking me to try and book you up for next week if I thought this show was any good. Well, my advice is - keep out of it. There's about 80 people here and they're all mad except me. I'm not trying to be funny old sport, I'm dead serious. Bar Sunday, it's nothing but hard work from the moment you've cleaned your boots in the morning and made your bed, until 10.30p.m., when they sing something they call "No. 95". Then the men go outside for a last smoke and the girls are shoo'd off to their dormitories like chickens.

These people are always singing, or trying to. They have sing-songs in the Common Room, and they sing on the hills when decent people want to have a nap. And when they're not singing in the evenings they do rotten plays by outsiders like G.B. Shore (I think that's the blighter's name) or else have round games or dances. They all seem to enjoy it! That's what licks me. But the limit came yesterday after an outdoor lunch of sandwiches mixed with grass and insects when some literary bloke started reading poetry aloud. Poetry! I'd pack up tomorrow only the Secretary collars your dibs on Monday night! That's where they have you.

And that's only half the story. What really gets over me is this passion for walking, wet or fine. As you know, I walked to the office twice last year during the railway strike without turning a hair, but that was on decent pavements and level roads, with plenty to look at. Here they walk up bally mountains and scramble through bogs and over slimy rocks. And when you get to the top there's nothing to see. Absolutely nothing but more bally mountains. Not a house in sight nor a human creature to speak to except your own crowd whom you're tired of.

What makes it worse is that the men are expected to carry the lunch bags, although many of the girls are as strong as horses. It's a good wheeze to leave your rucksack behind after a 'rest'. I brought it off yesterday. Then there's no billiard table in the house. You can't get a glass of beer without walking half a mile, and as for decent reading there's nothing but books about the open air. How I hate the words! Haven't seen the 'Daily Mail' since I came.

Well they say live and learn. I've learnt alright, but I'm half dead already. Anyway it's Ramsgate again next year if I'm spared. Some lunatic has just shouted to me to join a party at the bathing pool at 6.30 tomorrow morning! I haven't answered so I hope he thinks I'm asleep.

Your friend

Charlie

SARTI NEWSLETTER (LAVENDER FEDERATION TRAIL NEWS AND UPDATES)

To receive the SARTI newsletter direct go to the SARTI web page "CONTACT US" section, at www.lavenderfederationtrail.org.au. Under "SUBJECT" state Footsteps and in the "message" section request to be put on direct distribution of the newsletter. Don't forget to tell SARTI if you change your email address. "Footsteps" Newsletter is free.

THE WARREN BONYTHON MEMORIAL WALK

October Long Weekend, Sunday 6th October 2013

In tribute to Warren Bonython, members of the Friends of the Heysen Trail invite you to join members of the Friends in walking the 1,200 kms long Heysen Trail in a single day. The Heysen Trail passes through some of South Australia's most diverse and breathtaking landscapes, traversing coastal areas, native bushland, rugged gorges, pine forests and vineyards, as well as rich farmland and historic towns.

The trail has been divided into 60 sections, between 16 and 30km long, with organisers from South Australia's bushwalking community leading people in each section. 24 of these sections have already been booked by clubs or other groups, so 36 are still available for selection. Go to 'The Heysen in a Day' section on the Friends webpage and use the Selector Tool to see which sections are still available.

THE WARREN BONYTHON BEQUEST SOCIETY

The Conservation Council has launched their bequest society, named after Warren Bonython, a committed environmentalist and first president of the Conservation Council.

Under the arrangements for the Bequest Society 20% of all bequests can be used straight away for current projects and campaigns, so donations have a strong and positive impact from the beginning. The remaining 80% will be put into a special fund that will grow over time and provide a substantial nest egg to tackle environmental problems in the future.

For further information about the bequest program call 08 8223 5155 or email general@conservationsa.org.au.

WARREN BONYTHON HEYSEN TRAIL FOUNDATION PTY. LTD.

The Friends of the Heysen Trail have established the Warren Bonython Heysen Trail Foundation Limited ("the Foundation"), to honour the late

Warren Bonython AO, founder of the Heysen Trail, and to support the Heysen Trail into the future.

The objective for the Foundation is to obtain tax deductible recipient status with the Australian Government to enable the Foundation to accept tax deductible donations and to apply the donated funds towards eligible environmental initiatives associated with either the Heysen Trail or other significant walking trails or environmental areas.

Further details from Friends of the Heysen Trail.

"There is nothing like walking to get the feel of a country. A fine landscape is like a piece of music ; it must be taken at the right tempo. Even a bicycle goes too fast."

Paul Sott Mowrer

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.

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.

This would apply to all walks throughout the year.

Clubs

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



MEETING ON SAFETY IN REMOTE AREAS - 12TH JUNE 2013.

A meeting on "Safety in Remote Areas" was held on 12 June, master minded by Maarten van de Loo, of Four Seasons Walking Group, with administrative and publicity assistance from Walking SA. This is Maarten's report on the meeting.

"What motivated me to organise this meeting? 1) Having been trapped in very dense cloud cover at high altitude of Mt Donna Buang many years ago when mobile phones and today's safety devices were not in existence; 2) awareness of some degree of indifference and "it won't happen to me" attitude in some of today's bushwalking fraternity; 3) to make members aware of their obligations, particularly in regard to the duty of care and liability which is so well described in the Bushwalking Australia Risk Management Guidelines.

To create greater awareness of the risks we take, not necessarily only in remote areas, it was thought we should seek guidance from those working at the "coal face". 66 people attended and were addressed by Trevor Arnold (SES) and Anthony Chan (Electric Bug). It was a thought provoking and lively meeting.

Trevor, being SA SES Commander North Region and Manager Technical Rescue Services, speaking from wide experience, gave many examples of rescues attended by road and air. The excellent work done by Trevor and his many regional crews was highlighted on screen. One of the main points he stressed was that lost people should always ensure they can be seen from the air, not just by waving an arm but by drawing pilot's attention in open areas, if possible. He gave an example of when travellers in the outback ran out of fuel and called the SES for help. Be very sure that no device is triggered by accident because that can be very costly to its owner since the search party cannot always communicate with the victim.

Anthony Chan, as owner of Electric Bug, detailed various devices ranging from mobile phones to "in Reach" to EPIRB and Spot trackers. The mobile phone was not rated highly due to lack of cover, even in nearby regions, in spite of claims to the contrary. He briefly described UHF (ultra high frequency) radio, satellite phone, EPIRB (emergency position indicating radio beacon), "Spot" trackers and "inREACH" (the latest 2-way satellite communicator).

I have absolutely no personal financial goal to pursue but it seemed to me that, providing there is a clear view of the sky, EPIRB has many advantages over other devices. Once activated, operating continuously for a minimum of 48 hours, it transmits a signal that is detectable by satellites, relaying the position to the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Canberra, which in turn alerts the relevant state SES. Whereas some devices indicate a search area of 5-20 square kilometers, the GPS-equipped EPIRB pinpoints a 120 square meters zone, while the continuously flashing strobe light guides the rescuer directly to the victim. "SPOT" trackers were seen as more of a social instrument i.e. to contact relatives and chat with them while leaving a trail of map waypoints in the area walked. Its distress signal, once detected by satellites, is relayed to the USA manufacturers headquarters from where it will be passed on to Australian rescuers, the time delay being unknown.

After an extensive question and answer session the meeting was wound up with a vote of thanks and presentation to the speakers by John Eaton".

(Maarten van de Loo, Four Seasons Walking Group.)

Note: SES consider "remote" anywhere where help will be difficult to contact or access and any response is likely to be delayed. In SAFE WORK SA terms "remote" is anywhere that is more than 30 minutes from an ambulance response.

