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# ❖ WALKING SA News ❖

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Volume 21 Issue 1

Autumn 2013



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

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Skyline Walkers—Living up to their name in Spring Gully Conservation Park—  
viewed from Blue Gum Lookout.

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

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

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**Featured in this edition of Walking SA News :**

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**Government of South Australia**  
Office for Recreation and Sport



**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>
<b>Walking Access Committee</b>	<i>To be appointed</i>
<b>Trails Technical Unit</b>	<i>To be appointed</i>
<b>Administration Officer</b>	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**

Autumn	28 March
Winter	28 May

All enquiries to Walking SA 8276 5090

[office@walkingsa.org.au](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:office@walkingsa.org.au).**

**PRELIMINARY NOTICE  
WALKING SA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

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

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## COASTAL TRAILS

### Proposed Elliston Coastal Trail

Most local governments are increasingly aware of the community health and recreational benefits of walking trails. In 2012, the District Council of Elliston, western Eyre Peninsula, commissioned [Aspect Studios](#) to prepare a Detailed Coastal Concept Plan.

After 4 days of local community consultation in November, 2012, including extensive on-site consultation with local community groups and local businesses over several days, an appraisal of the walking potential of the coastal resources and local amenities was made by Aspect Studios.

What has resulted is a concept plan that provides a benchmark for local governments that will encourage locals and visitors to enjoy the amenity of the spectacular cliff-top topography and coastline to the North East and South West of Elliston. The plan also encompasses the beaches and headlands fringing Waterloo Bay with Elliston and its famous jetty on its eastern shore.

As well as delivering improved safety and community recreational facilities along the foreshore, there is an environmental spin-off. [The Elliston Coastal Trail Project](#) will provide improved visitor management strategies, and upgraded facilities to better-protect and manage the fragile coast environment.

Dr Alan Bundy, who chairs the Interim Committee of The Walking Federation of SA has recently written to the District Council of Elliston to express the Walking Federation's support for the concept plan.

### Proposed Yalata Whale Trail

In a similar vein, the Yalata community on the Far West Coast of SA are also planning an 80 km. *Yalata Whale Trail*, extending from the Yalata community to the whale watching area of the Head of the Bight. Greg Franks, CEO of the Yalata Community, and other representatives of the Yalata community spoke discussed the project at a meeting with WSA trail experts held at the Greening Australia Building in early February.

Walking SA has offered practical technical support, publicity and advice in the development of both these trails.

### A Coastal Trail to Fleurieu Peninsula?

Talking about Coastal trails, whatever happened to our own concept of a coastal trail extending from metropolitan beaches to Fleurieu Peninsula *and beyond*? There are bits of it and there is still the potential to extend it to Cape Jervis to link to the Kangaroo Island coastal trails. One day we might be able to walk – instead of drive ☑ the Kangaroo Island Maritime Heritage Trail! Brothers Tom & Jake Giles trekked over 500km in four weeks to become the first to circumnavigate the island in 2009. They followed the KI coast for most of this, but unfortunately found much of it was on private property.

Access has been blocked for many years at the precinct of the old Port Stanvac Oil Refinery because of an indenture agreement between Mobil and the Playford Government in 1958 to give ownership of land from the unloading jetty to the refinery. Since we no longer have our own oil refinery and have discovered that the rest of Australia would quite happily leave us to die in the desert by denying us potable water from the River Murray, we are now the proud possessors of an expensive and potentially gulf-destroying desalination plant. While it is working to a small fraction of its capacity, it is insurance against Adelaide running out of drinking water. The environmental

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desert by denying us potable water from the River Murray, we are now the proud possessors of an expensive and potentially gulf-destroying desalination plant. While it is working to a small fraction of its capacity, it is insurance against Adelaide running out of drinking water. The environmental impact on Gulf St Vincent of the desalination plant running it to its full capacity is unknown. I suspect that Murphy's *law of inevitability* applies ("What *can* go wrong – in the fullness of time *will* go wrong!") And Murphy was an optimist!

Perhaps it is now time for us to apply political pressure to re-open access to the coastal trail through the old Pt. Stanvac Refinery (desalination plant) to link with sections beyond such as the Cooeelunga coastal walking trails of Myponga Beach – itself currently under threat!

The viability of a coastal trail depends on access to the coast. In this case it is a matter for us to take to the State Government so that the Coastal Trails can be progressed along remaining unformed or unmade road reserves (URRs) on the cliffs above or URRs adjacent to beaches. We will work with the *Office for Recreation and Sport (ORS)* as a significant stakeholder to bring this about.

This work is contingent upon the Walking Federation surviving so that its Access Committee can continue to monitor the sale of these reserves and object to their sale if they are considered to have strategic advantage for our walking trail network.

The survival of the Walking Federation is – in turn – contingent upon finding walkers with passion who are prepared to spend some of their walking time volunteering to work in some capacity for the Walking Federation. This – in itself – can involve volunteers in quite a bit of purposeful walking to ensure that trails are audited regularly, missing signs and decals replaced and track surfaces and infrastructure maintained. There is no "*track fairy*" out there to repair and maintain trails. Someone has to do it and, nowadays, fewer people are stepping forward to help out. And there might be an occasional committee meeting to attend so that we can make a funding application for new or replacement infrastructure or trail maintenance.

The Walking Federation of SA (WSA) will know in August whether it can continue. This will require the walkers who attend our AGM to be prepared to put their hand up to volunteer. In a way we can all volunteer for WSA *now* – by being vigilant about Walking Access issues and letting our office – and me, know about it whenever you find a path previously accessible that has been blocked.

All walking trail access is threatened whenever local government attempts to sell publicly-owned land in the form of unmade road or other public reserves: land that may look like roads on a street directory but have never been made into roads. These may be one chain (i.e. 22 yards or one cricket pitch) two, or three chains (60m) wide such as in a small, marked stock route – remnants of a time when drovers brought stock to the markets rather than trucking them in.

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

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## **MOUNT LOFTY TRAILS PROJECT**

It has been a long time in coming but the good news is that the installation has commenced on the Mount Lofty Ranges Trails, with the first posts being installed in the Mary Gully section of the Kersbrook Native Forest Reserve (NFR). This work was accomplished by a Correctional Services team, under the supervision of Andrew Moylan (Forestry SA) and it is hoped that their involvement will continue with work on the loop trails in the Mount Gawler NFR. In addition the Westpac Corporate group has volunteered to

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participate and it is suggested that they might do similar work in the Bennett's section of the forest. The attachment of the appropriate directional markers / plates will be done as a 'second round ' by walkers directly involved in the project.

All the above mentioned work is within ForestrySA land but further short and long Kersbrook loops need work in the removal of old signage ( both the MLWT and the Kersbrook Horse Trail signage ) and the reinstatement of both on new posts. All the posts and signage are to the agreed Australian Standards for trail marking. An appeal to members of our walking clubs to assist with this work will be announced shortly.

The committee is now looking at the stage which involves the production of maps and this is now in progress. Hopefully our next bulletin will announce completion of the installation, so that these revamped sections of the 'old' trails can once again be enjoyed by experienced walkers or 'discovered' by a new generation of outdoor enthusiasts!

**Liz O'Shea** , Convener / Mount Lofty Ranges Trails project

### **LAVENDER FEDERATION TRAIL**

Progress slowed over the summer fire ban period on the section of the Lavender Federation Trail between Dutton and the Sturt Highway. We expect the trail to be open on Monday 10 June, when ARPA member Ian Poole, will lead an inaugural walk on this section of the Trail. It has taken some time to consult with landowners as to the best and most scenic route to proceed. This section of about 16 kms of cross country has good views, interesting stone walls, a couple of creeks, two waterfalls, a gorge and a permanent waterhole. It also contains interesting rock formations and I'm sure walkers will be delighted with this section. At Dutton a spur trail will lead walkers to the historic cemetery, church and school house, which are well worth a visit.

The 30kms section between Dutton and Eudunda has been surveyed and will have a spur trail to Leake's Lookout. Work will start on this section of the trail after final negotiations with landowners and Council. Eudunda, the home of Colin Thiele, will provide an interesting end to this section of the trail.

At Murray Bridge a 1.5km loop trail around the wetlands has been opened and a number of walkers have already used this delightful loop trail.

**George Adams**, LFT

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### **COROMANDEL VALLEY WALKING MAP**

In connection with the Coro Alive 175 Festival in 2012, celebrating the 175th year of Coromandel Valley's establishment, a walking map of Coromandel Valley was prepared, together with an interpretive document listing 66 places of historical or general interest in the Valley. The map can be found at [http://www.coroalive.org.au/downloads/2012-03-13\\_004301\\_Coro-walking-map-Nth7.pdf](http://www.coroalive.org.au/downloads/2012-03-13_004301_Coro-walking-map-Nth7.pdf) And the interpretive document at [http://www.coroalive.org.au/downloads/2012-03-12\\_232556\\_Points-of-Interest-DW-TC-Rev3.pdf](http://www.coroalive.org.au/downloads/2012-03-12_232556_Points-of-Interest-DW-TC-Rev3.pdf)

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### THE GOANNAS WALKING GROUP

The ancestor of the Goannas Walking Group came into existence in the 3<sup>rd</sup> (and final) school term of 1982. It was part of SA Women's Keep Fit. A few years later, our group leader decided that she wanted to run the walking group as a private, independent entity.

For several years, she led walks on Mondays and Thursdays during school terms. As most of us had children at school, we met at the Tollgate at 10.00 a.m. From there, we drove to the start of the walk, which could be up to an hour's drive away. Walks usually took between three and four hours so, at times, we were only just back home before our children. We walked no matter how hot or cold the day!

At some stage, the two walking groups were merged, and walks were then on Thursdays only. Eventually, our leader decided that she wanted to retire. Over the next few years, the walks were organised, first by one, and then by another, member of the group.

Some years, walking camps that lasted several days were organised. It was at one of these camps (this time in the Flinders Ranges) that members decided that the group needed a name. After much noisy discussion, it was agreed that we would be known as the Goannas.

At that time, there were only women in the group. Therefore, the female name 'Anna' was selected and then pluralised. And what did we do? We walked, so we were Annas that Go. And so we became the Goannas.

These days, we operate without a leader. Each quarter, a group member takes on the responsibility of making sure that there is a walk for each week. The organiser usually does only one or two walks per quarter. Most group members are happy to contribute and lead.

A decade or more ago, assembly times were changed. We now meet, for most of the year, at 9.30 a.m. and at the start of the week's walk which, these days, is usually two to three hours long. We have a picnic lunch during – but near to the end of - the walk. Back at the cars, tea and coffee – and sometimes cake – is available.

Over summer (January – March), most walks are in the suburbs. We begin at 8.00 a.m., and we usually walk for up to two hours. After all, we are all a bit older now. The walk is expected to end at a coffee shop! On hot days, we skip the walk and just have the coffee. There is another difference in the group, in that numbers of males and females are often almost equal.

We feel that we belong to a rather special walking group. At a maximum, we've had about 30 members on our list. Our membership includes a few women who joined the group back in the early 1980s, so some friendships within the group are of long standing. All of us feel that we are members of a socially strong and supportive group. Thursday mornings are sacred to the Goannas... almost.

**Eleanor Handreck**

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### 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.

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## ITEMS FROM PAST NEWSLETTERS

### Words from A Bushwalker's Dictionary

**map**, n. printed sheet used by walkers to determine their location, usually showing they are not where they think they are, not where they should be and not where they want to be, v. process of symbolising topography, structures and tracks in a geographical area to give a picture subtly different from that perceived by a walker.

**Trekking poles**, n. device used singly or in pairs to assist the progress of the user, usually by tripping nearby walkers or stabbing them in the calf and knee.

*Source: ABW "Tandanya" Winter 2003*

Extract from Spring 2003 Newsletter

### Congratulations Thelma.

Thelma Anderson was awarded an OAM at the recent Australia Day Honours *"For service to the environment and to natural heritage preservation through the establishment and maintenance of walking trails and conservation areas."*

In 1986 Thelma attended a meeting at the Dom Polski Centre called by Terry Lavender to learn more about the development of the Heysen Trail and went on to join and become an enthusiastic member of the Friends. She also worked as their Administrative Officer for a number of years. Thelma is now an Honorary Member of the Friends of the Heysen Trail and shares responsibility for the maintenance of a section of the Heysen Trail.

She is a keen walker and a long time member of various bushwalking groups, including the ARPA Bushwalking Group, Noarlunga Bushwalking Club, WEA Ramblers, Four Seasons and occasionally with Bushlanders.

As an active committee member of the Walking SA, Thelma has continued to promote the retention of road reserves for conservation and recreational and use.

Many thanks Thelma for all the work you do for walkers and the community.

Extract from the Autumn 2006 Newsletter

## SING AUSTRALIA

Sing Australia shared their joy of singing with us at the 2013 Opening of the Walking Season event at Elder Park. A member of Sing Australia who is also a member of a WSA affiliated walking club saw the opportunity for the group to make a unique contribution to our event. Sing Australia is very different from formal choirs as there are no auditions and no expectations and you don't even have to be able to read music. If you like singing but are put off by the demands/expectations of formal choirs you can find more information about Sing Australia at [www.singaustralia.com.au](http://www.singaustralia.com.au)

## PROFESSOR SIR JOHN CLELAND MEMORIAL WALKS

Friends of Belair National Park invite you to free guided walks led by Birds SA in Belair National Park on Sunday 22 September starting at 10am and 2pm from the Volunteer Centre, Long Gully. Free entry to the Park for participants and free tea and coffee from the volunteers. BYO lunch, snacks and water. Enquiries to FoBNP on 8278 6736.

## 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](http://www.walkingsa.org.au)





### **Bushwalking Australia Report**

Two matters being currently addressed by Bushwalking Australia follow:-

#### **Shooting in National Parks**

As mentioned in a previous edition of Walking SA news, the NSW Government have introduced legislation to allow recreational shooting in their national parks. Information received advises the legislation was to take effect from Australia day 2013, but has been delayed until a review of the NSW Game Council (the NSW Government's body tasked to carry out feral animal control) has been completed: this may be finalised sometime in June.

Logic suggests that if such legislation is successfully implemented in NSW, the 'system' could flow on to other states at some time in the future.

A NSW environmental body, National Parks Association, has commenced a campaign against such shooting and has a website containing the latest information ( <http://nohunting.wildwalks.com/> ). This includes an important on-line method by which you may register your views / vote against such shooting practices, even though not a resident of that state.

Bushwalking Australia continues to monitor the situation and its policy in relation to the topic may be found at [www.bushwalkingaustralia.org/](http://www.bushwalkingaustralia.org/) About / Policies.

#### **Minimum Impact Policy**

Bushwalking Australia is in the process of drafting a national policy on this subject which will hopefully cover all relevant points and include matters contained in the various state policies.

Headings will include issues relating to campsites, fires and stoves; sanitation; rubbish; tracks and routes; flora and fauna / exotic disease; and noise. As per normal, the various state delegates will provide input and the final product will appear on the Bushwalking Australia in due course.

Ron Jackson

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