
❖ WALKING SA News ❖

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Newsletter of the
**Walking Federation of
South Australia Inc**
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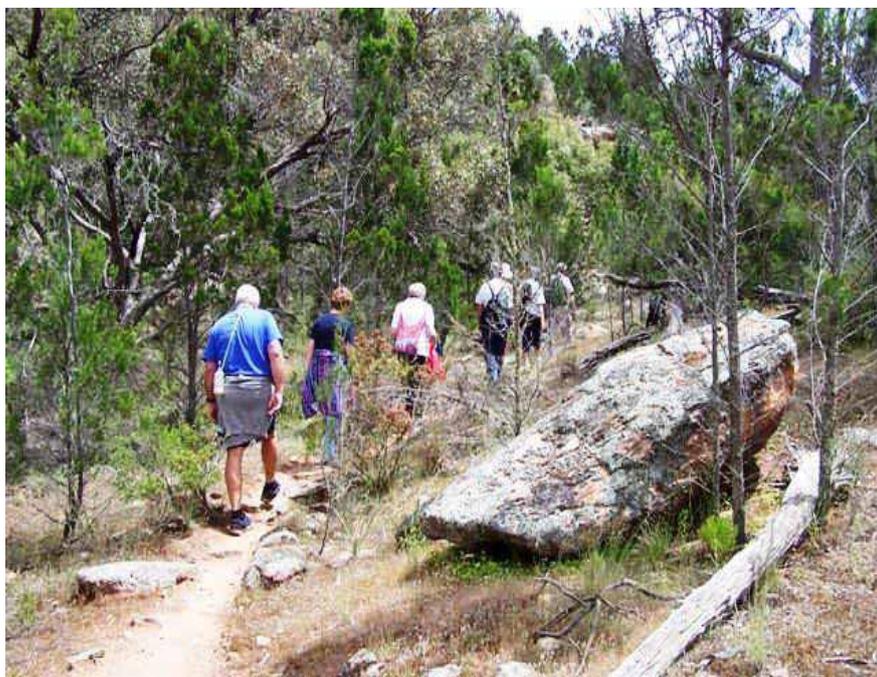
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*Uniting all
people actively
concerned with
bushwalking.*

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



Graham Halland

The Lavender Federation Trail - Walkers in Rocky Gully

Featured in this edition of Walking SA News :-

- ❖ Words from the President
- ❖ The Lavender Federation Trail

be active. ^{Find}30

**Opening of the Walking Season 2008
Sunday 6 April 2008
Library lawns at Stirling
Celebrating parks and trails in the Stirling area**

President's words

The Caravan and Camping Show combined with the Outdoor Adventure Show offered us a stand at the Show this year. We mounted a display being a joint effort of Walking SA, The Friends of The Heysen Trail and other walking trails, SARTI, ARPA Bushwalkers, Keep Walking and WEA Ramblers. We all brought our bits and pieces along and when it was all put together it was a rather splendid display. There was lots to give away thanks to the Office for Recreation and Sport, Great Walks outdoor magazine and the Walking SA stock of handouts and brochures. I was touched by the response to my request for people to help staff the stand. Most of the time we had six or more helpers.

The weather was foul. I am sure that the numbers at the Show were down because of the temperature. When the mid afternoon sun shone into our tent, it became most unpleasant. Our location was sub-optimal on the outskirts of the displays but since we were invited guests it would be churlish to complain.

Nevertheless apart from early morning and late afternoon there was a steady stream of people coming through. The size of some visitors made one doubt the advisability of bushwalking – mouth firmly buttoned. Contrariwise maybe walking could be the start of something smaller. Some walking must be good for everyone. I noticed one helper making sure that a particularly large lady got the handout from the Heart Foundation.

My thanks to all of you who helped. I thought it was great fun, good exposure and I will certainly accept any offer next year.

Chris Bushell
February 2008

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



Walking SA's website
www.walkingsa.org.au

Consolidating walking opportunities



- ◇ The effectiveness of this generation of walkers in securing access to attractive destinations will have a real impact on the opportunities available in the future.
- ◇ Simply, if more access had been identified and secured twenty years ago it would make things simpler today. Obviously, effort today, can achieve objectives that might be unattainable in twenty years time.
- ◇ All contributions to our trail system are welcome from monitoring use to promotion of new destinations.
- ◇ Perhaps you would like to share your perspectives or understand ours.
- ◇ No better way than to join us on some trail maintenance in 2008
- ◇ **Flinders Ranges** 09 May to 19 May
20 June to 30 June
- ◇ **Barossa and Burnside**
By arrangement when the daily maximum does not exceed 25 degrees C!.
- ◇ If you have an interest please make contact, phone 08 8362 1595
email, suerob2@bigpond.com
- ◇ Check out our web page,
www.walkingtrailssupportgroup.org.au

Walking SA's Committee 2007/2008

Chris Bushell (President)
Bill Gehling (Vice President)
Liz O'Shea (Hon. Secretary)
Chris Moad
Myra Betschild
Merilyn Browne
Ron Jackson
Joan Moody

Walking Access Committee

Arthur Ward
Thelma Anderson
Mary Denton
John Eaton
Fran Lucas

Walking SA
&
ARPA Bushwalkers



Invite you to celebrate the

**OPENING OF THE
WALKING SEASON**

Sunday 6 April 2008

10.00am to 3.00pm

at

Grounds of the New Library
Stirling Township

This is an opportunity for walkers to support
the activity they love.

Clubs are invited to take the opportunity to organise a walk in and around
Stirling, parks in the area

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE SEASON

at 1.00pm

Lunch from 12.00 NOON

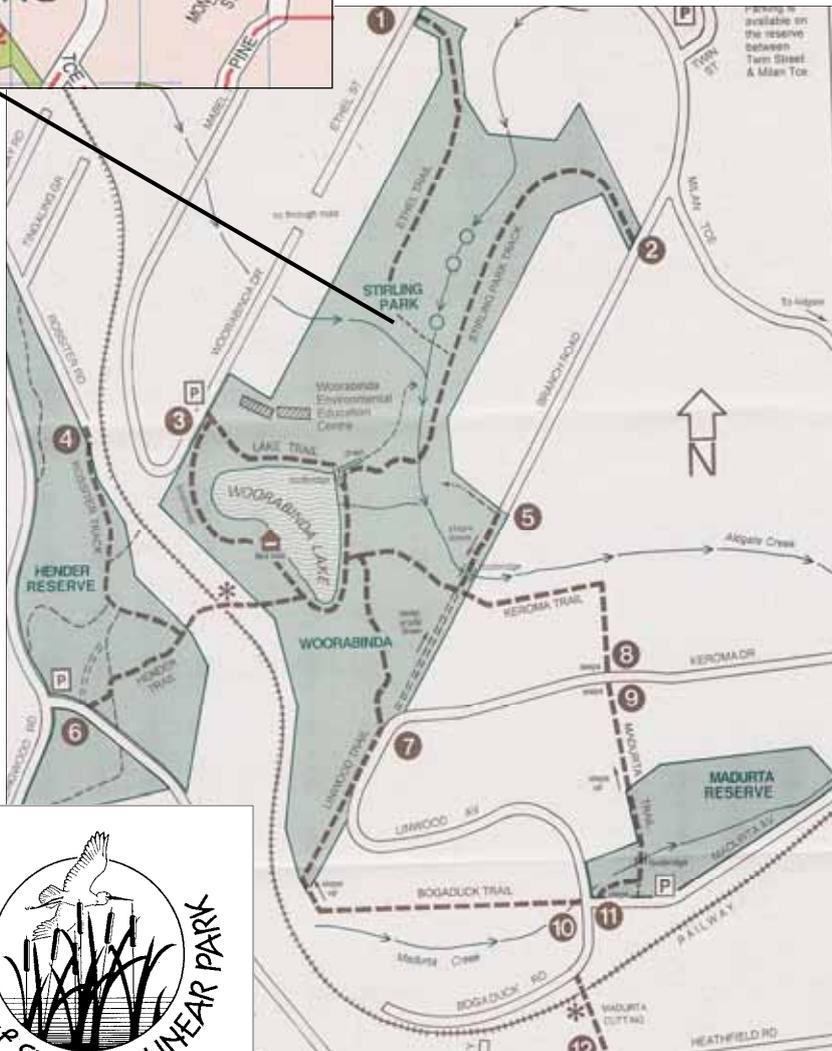
Mt Lofty Scouts will be
organising the Sausage Sizzle.

your support would be appreciated

The Stirling Linear Park will be featured in the
Come 'n Try short walks for the public.

Opening of the Walking Season 2008

Stirling Library



Health Parks, Healthy People

Spring Back to Life! Parks Month October 2008

**October is a great time to visit parks and botanic gardens in South Australia! It's the middle of spring when birds, plants and animals are at their most active....
.....so why don't you get active too?**

The Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) and the Healthy Parks Healthy People program would like to invite you to.....

Join us in celebrating Parks Month.

Parks Month is an initiative of DEH's Healthy Parks Healthy People campaign that promotes a range of community activities available in National, Conservation and Recreation Parks during October.

In 2008 community groups and organisations are able to join us in celebrating and enjoying Australia's unique natural environment and rediscover the National Parks which are available for the community to enjoy.

In 2007 some of the activities held included: Free guided nature walks at Belair National Park, a 'Just Walk It' in the Parks health walk with the Heart Foundation at Morialta, and the World's Greatest Pram Stroll in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens.

Organise a community event in DEH managed lands during October and add your event to the Parks Month promotional campaign which will include the Parks Month calendar of events, website program and flyer and poster distribution.

For more information and to register your event:

Contact: Sharon Wachtel PH: 8124 4994
wachtel.sharon@saugov.sa.gov.au
Healthy Parks, Healthy People
Community Programs Officer
www.parks.sa.gov.au

Trip to Mt Woodroffe

An opportunity to visit and climb Mt Woodroffe South Australia's highest peak. Access to Mt Woodroffe is only possible with the permission of the traditional custodians, the Anangu Pitjantjatjara, and with an appointed guide.

South Australia's highest mountain, Ngintaka Pilpirpa (Mt Woodroffe), is situated on Anangu Pitjantjatjara Aboriginal homelands and is a feature of the creation/law story of Wati Ngintaka, the Giant Perentie Lizard man. On this unique three day tour which leaves from Yulara in the Northern Territory, heading south to a camp site at Ngarutjara situated at the foot of Ngintaka Pilpirpa, visitors not only have the opportunity to climb the mountain - a 5 hour return hike of moderate grade - but to also share in a cultural experience with the traditional custodians.

2008 Departure Tour Dates

May 1st to 3rd

June 14th to 16th

August 30th to September 1st

COST: \$1,000 per person

Tours require a minimum of 6 bookings to proceed.

This includes transport to Mt Woodroffe from Yulara (Ayers Rock Resort), permits, meals, swags and meeting the Traditional Owner of the region to learn about the significance of the Mt Woodroffe prior to the climb. Clients would need to supply their own sleeping bags, pillows and any climbing specific equipment (gaiters etc).

For further information visit

www.aboriginaltravel.com

E-mail: info@diversetravel.com.au

Telephone: (08) 8303 3422

ATTENTION WALK LEADERS

Forestry SA Rangers have asked 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 would apply to all walks throughout the year.

Contacts:

Mt Crawford Forest Phone (08) 8524 6004

Kuitpo Forest Phone (08) 8391 8800

Overview of the The Lavender Federation Trail *Past and Present*

The Lavender Federation Trail is SA's newest long-distance walking trail and is a "work in progress". The trail head is at Murray Bridge, 75 km to the SE of Adelaide on the South Eastern Freeway with the current finishing point 105 km away at Springton in the Barossa. One loop and one spur trail add to the length. The trail covers countryside to the east of the Mount Lofty Ranges that has surprised even the most dedicated walkers with its diverse scenery and sights.

The Lavender Federation Trail commences at Sturt Reserve on the banks of the Murray River at Murray Bridge. Initially it travels north along the banks of the Murray River, past historic buildings including the "Murray River Steamship Company" where a number of riverboats are under restoration. Continuing around a wetlands area with abundant bird life, a plan has been completed to upgrade the trail to include bike tracks and a loop section. Turning west, 5 km from the start you enter Rocky Gully Gorge. This spectacular gully boasts steep rugged gorges with rocky outcrops and an abundance of wildlife. It is planned, with the cooperation of Forestry SA land managers in the area, to upgrade this section of trail to mountain bike standard, construct a loop trail to the north of the main trail and to install interpretive signs at both ends of the gully. Follow the trail and you then glimpse exotic animals such as giraffe, bison, zebra and Mongolian wild horses at Monarto Zoo (Australia's largest zoo) as you walk along the southern boundary of the park.

Continuing west the trail reaches the rim of the Bremer Valley with views to the Mt Lofty Ranges and, to the east, the Murray River. The trail then heads north across creeks, past abandoned farm houses, copper and arsenic mines, over rocky outcrops and ridges with views over the countryside. The trail then makes its way to the summit of Mt Beavor, the most spectacular view on the trail. To the north, the bush-clad summit of the Wirra Wirra peaks and the Barossa Range break the skyline. To the east you catch glimpses of the River Murray. On the horizon to the south, the waters of Lake Alexandrina stand out against the sand hills of the Coorong National Park and the Southern Ocean. To the west, Mt Lofty, Mt Barker, Harrogate and the Bremer Valley complete the scene. An interpretive sign at the summit describes the main points of interest that can be viewed from the summit. From the summit the main trail continues to Tungkillo, 79 km from the start of the trail.

From Tungkillo, rocky outcrops and panoramas gradually give way to vines as the Barossa town of

Springton; the current termination point is reached. In this section the first of several loop trails has been constructed near Tungkillo allowing walkers to return to their start point after a 17-km walk. The eventual destination of the trail is Clare, around 320 km from Murray Bridge. In addition, several spur and loop trails are planned allowing easy access to the main trail and short day walks.

Around 80% of the trail is off made roads, using private and Government-controlled land or unmade road reserves. South Australia is fortunate in having a state-wide network of unmade road reserves still available for public access. Originally set aside for future roads, but never required, these strips of land cannot be sold by local government without extensive consultation with recreational users.

The trail is operated by a volunteer management board, South Australian Recreation Trails Incorporated (SARTI) with representatives from Walking SA, walking clubs, individual walkers and a representative of each of the local government areas through which the trail passes. Trail maintenance and future route planning are undertaken by individual board members with the assistance of volunteers from the walking community. When the route of a new section of trail is finalised, the local government authorities send out letters to land owners along the length of the planned route with details on who to contact on the SARTI Board if they have concerns. Consultation will then occur and this has sometimes resulted in a change of route, sometimes even over private land instead of a road reserve. As the trail has progressed, queries have reduced with some land owners offering their land for the trail.

The entire trail has been constructed by volunteers, and over its current length around 80 stiles each costing \$275 have been installed over fences. The route of the trail has been planned to pass near small rural towns so they may benefit economically from walkers using the trail.

Two multi-colour maps have been produced. The first map covers the 56 km from Murray Bridge to Mt Beavor and the second covers the section from Mt Beavor to Springton. A free brochure is available. A web site, www.lavenderfederationtrail.org.au, gives details of the trail, locations of map stockists, accommodation availability and a downloadable map of the Tungkillo Loop Trail. A free email newsletter, *Footsteps*, is produced four times each year giving news of the trail to interested parties.

Graham Hallandal

(Article originally printed in
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