
❖ WALKING SA News ❖

Volume 15 Issue 1

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Newsletter of the
**Walking Federation of
South Australia Inc**
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Dulwich

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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



Roger Kempson

*Walkers on The Bluff,
Southern Flinders Ranges*

Featured in this edition of Walking SA News :-

- ◇ Acting Presidents Report
- ◇ A visit to Kangaroo Island
- ◇ Pioneer Women's Trail update
- ◇ Walking Access Committee Report

be active. Find 30

President's Report January 2007

2006 ended with a rush of activity, principally in finalising the many details that required attention for the completion of Pioneer Women's Trail. The report later in the Newsletter gives details of the range of activities, and the walking community can look forward to another major walking trail, close to home, joining existing trails such as the Heysen Trail and the Yurrebilla Trail. June Boscence has ably coordinated the multitude of tasks involved and we are grateful for her sterling efforts throughout, despite moving house in December.

I encourage all clubs to participate in the Opening of the Walking Season to be held at Beaumont House on the 15th April as a major focus will be the formal opening of the Pioneer Women's trail. A good turn-up by walkers will demonstrate to the Government agencies the extent of support for walking in SA, and provide leverage for future developments. Access to funding for walking is difficult when budgets are being cut, and a high level of support needs to be apparent when seeking funding for walking facilities such as the Pioneer Women's Trail.

The office will continue to operate at Dulwich as we have been able to renew the lease at favourable terms with the landlord. Don't forget to come in and see us if you are in the area on a Monday or Thursday.

The Adventure Activity standards and their effect on walkers are still under discussion. At a planning day to be held by Walking SA in January this will be a major topic of discussion, and it is hoped that some guidelines for clubs can be developed which will help them in making operational decisions for undertaking walks.

SLIP - SLOP - SLAP!
Your skin never forgets a dose
of sunburn even if you do.

The Walking Access Committee is continuing its determined efforts to preserve walking access and responding to Draft Management Plans such as Sturt Gorge. Walkers are largely unaware of the work that this group does on behalf of them, and it is only when access is denied that the importance of their efforts becomes widely apparent. This is another example of the work that the Federation does on behalf of the walking community.

In this regard an important decision has been made at a recent General Meeting to charge membership on a per-capita basis beginning in July 2007. The extra revenue can go a long way towards providing more walking opportunities and support. This was highlighted recently when some funds were made available to the City of Burnside Council by Walking SA to develop a safe walking track from Mt Osmond Golf Course to Beaumont. The Council not only organised, and supervised, labour but provided extra funds to extend walking opportunities in the area. Had we had no money, this would not have happened. An independent source of funds is vital to furthering the cause of walking.

I wish you all happy walking in 2007.

Peter Beer. (Acting President)

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

Sea to Summit

Would you like a gently graded sea to summit walking trail from Glenelg to Mt Lofty? Recommendations in two reports to the State Government make such a trail foreseeable.

A January 2006 consultant's report proposes extending the Sturt Creek Linear Trail through the Sturt Gorge Recreation Park and along Minno Creek to Belair National Park. The trail could then be continued, mostly along existing tracks, to the eastern boundary of Belair Park from where it could climb Saddle Hill to Sheoak Road and thence to Mt Lofty.

Until now the biggest obstacle for such a trail has been access into the Sturt Gorge, particularly at the Bedford Park end and around the Flood Control Dam. Access through private property needs State Government and/or Local Government funds, and it is not surprising that no significant extension in the Hills has been completed since 1993 in Coromandel Valley. Currently, a Draft Sturt Gorge Recreation Park Management Plan, prepared in conjunction with the Sturt Creek Linear Trail report, recommends similar walking trail development. This Draft Plan, which also covers the former Craighburn Open Space land being added to the park, is now open for public comment.

Assuming that there is general agreement with the Sturt Gorge Draft and that the envisaged trail is given high priority, the next step is to obtain the necessary funding.. It is suggested that this will only happen if the walking community adequately supports and promotes the project and offers voluntary assistance. The Onkaparinga and Mitcham Councils are closely involved and have already purchased some land to facilitate trail extensions.

Arthur Ward

A visit to Kangaroo Island Research & Wildlife Centre.

In late October 2006 we had a very enjoyable and educational two day stay at the Pelican Lagoon Research and Wildlife Centre on Kangaroo Island. Dr Peggy Rismiller has been studying echidnas there for over sixteen years and is a world authority on these monotremes.

The centre is delightfully situated amongst mallees and is run on an ecologically sustainable basis with solar lighting, compostable toilet and bucket shower. A large window overlooks a small pond and while eating it was fascinating to watch the procession of birds and animals coming to drink (and they to look at us). Sleeping accommodation is comfortable in large tents or a hut, and very good meals were provided.

We successfully tracked a Rosenberg goanna and three were captured by an associate and we watched them being weighed, measured, micro-chipped and entered in the logbook. We could hold one 1m long animal. Echidnas were more elusive, but we watched a video produced over three years by a German team. David Attenborough also spent time filming there.

Whilst it is known that echidnas are widely distributed in Australia, their numbers are not known. So Peggy would like your help in reporting any sighting.

Forms are online at
www.echidna.edu.au

or for more information write to

Echidna Watch Survey
Post Office
Penneshaw SA 5222

*Harry Greet and Pauline Curnow
Adelaide Bushwalkers*

MAPS & BOOKS FOR WALKERS

Onkaparinga River National Park

Detailed coloured, contour maps showing features of interest, tracks and gridlines of the Park have just been released.

Double sided A3 Maps feature
The Upper and Lower Gorge Scale 1:15,000
Onkaparinga River Recreation
Park and Hardy's Scrub Scale 1:10,000

Cost: **\$15.00 for the set.**

Contacts:

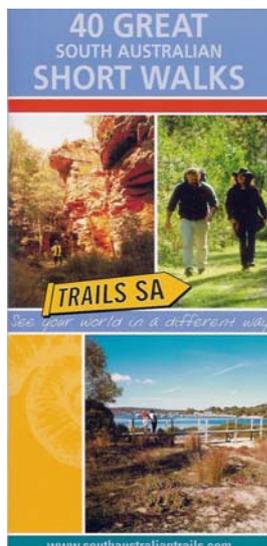
Rick Williams 8384 7812
Malcolm Kirkham 8382 0929

Proceeds will be used by the Friends Group to further protect the biodiversity of the Park.



Free Publication

“40 Great South Australian Short Walks”



In this handy pocket guide there are 40 short walks that vary in difficulty and length from a 45-minute gentle ramble to a 5 hour physical challenge.

Each page features a different walk, with photographs of the area, a basic map, short description and information about location, distance, walk classification and facilities available.

Scott Creek Conservation Park

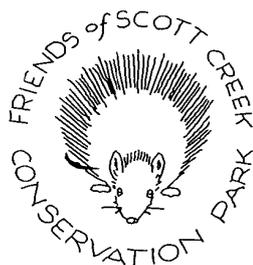
Detailed coloured contour maps showing features of interest, creek names, tracks and grid lines.

Double sided A3 1:10,000 scale \$10.00
Double sided A4 1:15,000 scale \$8.00

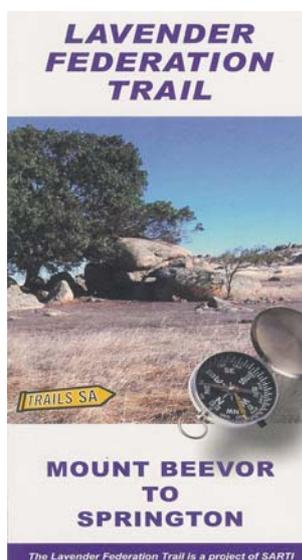
Contact:

John Butler 8278 2773
Tom Hands 8388 2150 Walking SA 8361 2491

Proceeds will be used by the Friends Group to further protect the biodiversity of the Park.



New Map for “The Lavender Federation Trail” Mt Beevor to Springton



This new map is now available from outdoor stores

RRP \$10.00



Friends of Parks
**Walking Trails Support
 Group**
Maps available online



Hugh Lambert and volunteers from the Walking Trails Support Group have developed a webpage which includes:

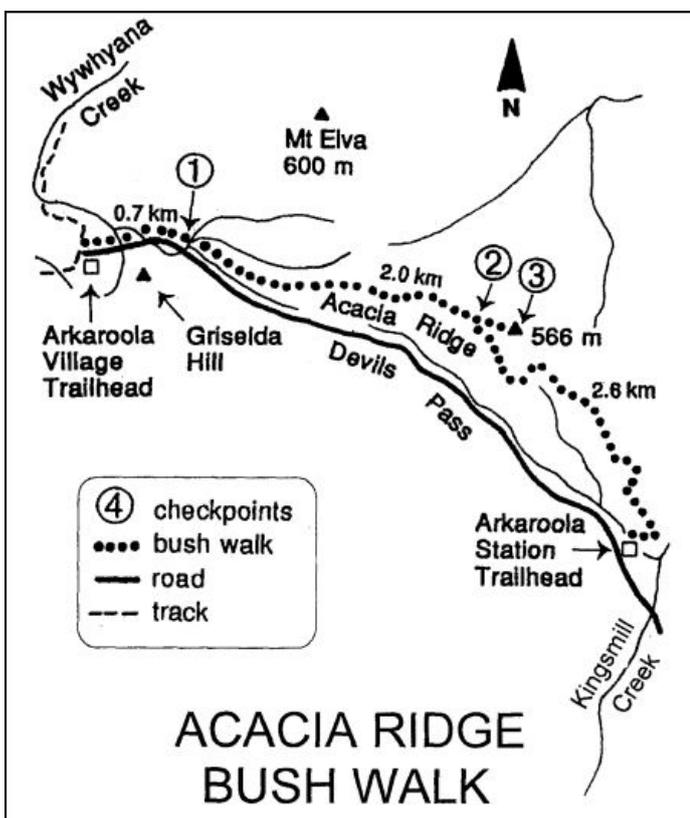
- Flinders Ranges Bush Walk Notes
- Barossa Bush and Country Walk Notes
- Walking Track Handbook
- Program of Activities

The main aim of the Walking Trails Support Group is to provide sustainable and low-risk walking access in interesting natural areas.

An example of the Acacia Ridge Bush Walk of map is shown below.

Log onto Walking SA's website

www.walkingsa.org.au
 and follow the links to the site.



Friends of Parks
Walking Trails Support Group

Opportunities for Volunteers

- **Flinders Ranges National Park** – 29 April to 11 May
- **Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park** – 27 May to 8 June
- Southern Flinders i.e. **Mount Brown and Dutchmans Stern** – 24 June to 6 July
- **Barossa** – one day a week as determined
- **Burnside Walking Trails** – as opportunity presents

Similarly from our perspective of spreading the word about *sustainable, safe and meaningful access to natural areas* we welcome interested observers, too!

Please contact:

Walking SA if you require more details
 or to register your interest
 Office Telephone 8361 2491



*Haywards Hut Hike Network May 2006
 The team having a well earned break.*

The Pioneer Women's Trail nears completion.

The Pioneer Women's Trail concept arose to honour the efforts of the women and girls who settled with their families in Hahndorf in the very early days of the settlement of South Australia. Within a short space of time from settlement they began carrying produce to the settlers of Adelaide along a route which was shown on a map of the colony by surveyor F. R. Nixon in 1841. In 1980 a small group of members of the Hahndorf Branch of the National Trust followed, as closely as they could, the route shown on this map to Beaumont where the Pioneer Women used to rest at 4.00am. before proceeding into Adelaide.

Subsequent walks were organised involving much larger groups of people in the following years, the popularity of which led to a proposal to develop a marked route from Hahndorf to Beaumont. The Office for Recreation and Sport spent some time on developing the concept further looking at details of the route, designing track marking logos in discussion with members of the National Trust and installing some markers for guidance.

In mid 2005 the Office for Recreation and Sport provided funds to Walking SA to mark the route, prepare a brochure giving historical details, route information, and map. Although the original brief from O. R. and S allowed for development from Verdun to Crafers, a re-allocation of funds allowed the project to include development of the section from Crafers to Beaumont. The section from Verdun to Hahndorf requires the provision of safe walking access across the Onkaparinga River before this section will be marked. Negotiations to achieve this will take place with the appropriate authorities in the near future.

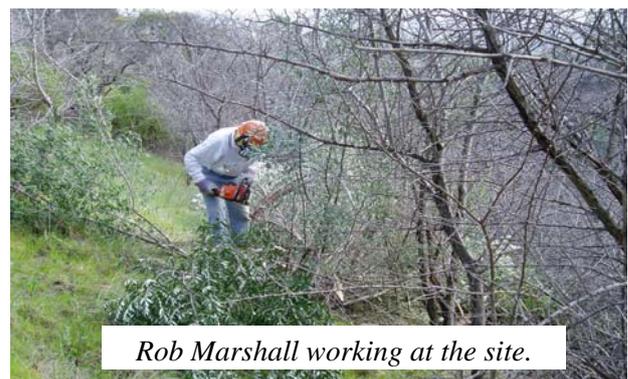
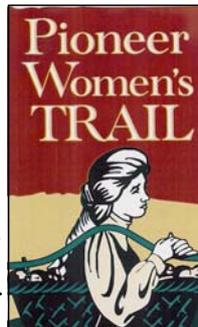
Under the leadership of June Boscence, who is acting as coordinator, the project is almost complete, and the new trail will be formally launched at the opening of the Walking Season to be held at Beaumont House on Sunday the 15th. April.

An A3 size brochure will be available containing a detailed map of the route, walking notes, history, links to other walking trails crossing the route, safety information and sources of further information.

The route passes through natural bush, historic sites and Hills townships such as Bridgewater, Stirling and Crafers which allows access to public transport, refreshment points and accommodation. There is ample opportunity to split what would be a long day walk into smaller, more leisurely sections to suit a variety of walkers looking for different experiences. Links to other trails such as the Heysen Trail, Yurrebilla Trail, and towards Beaumont on trails developed by the City of Burnside Council allow for many variations and extensions.

The project has involved many volunteers linked to Walking SA, a total of 400 hours have been contributed at this stage and have included such tasks as liaison with the various authorities who manage the land along the route, development of signage, installation of marker posts, affixing marker decals, surveying the route using GPS technology, preparation of maps and brochure, even construction of a new Class 3 walking track down the Hills Face from Mt. Osmond to Beaumont. The track avoids the steep fire track that currently exists, and was developed under the guidance of Rob Marshall from the Walking Trails Support group, the City of Burnside Council who organised labour from the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers, and provided extra funding for further extension to the route. Walking SA volunteers also provided many hours of work clearing thickets of hawthorn along the route of the track.

(cont Page 8)



Rob Marshall working at the site.

Walking Access Report

Re-routes on the Heysen Trail

The Heysen Trail seems destined to be the target for one landowner or another to secure ownership and sole right of access to one of the many undeveloped road reserves the Trail follows throughout the most scenic areas of South Australia. The current “expression of interest” in buying a road reserve identified as the Heysen Trail relates to Long Gully Road that passes through Glen Bold Cattle Station between Mylor and Jupiter Creek. Fortunately legislation exists within the Roads (Opening and Closing) Act for a requirement for consultation with officers of DEH (Native Vegetation Branch) in regard to protection of native plant species before the local government authority can proceed with this type of application. (This particular road reserve contains a swampland environment providing the habitat for the protected and endangered Southern Emu Wren known to occur there.) Reference to this particular area may be found in the publication entitled “The Heysen Trail – A Walker’s Guide” under the heading of “The Social History of the Mount Lofty Ranges” by Derek Whitelock and to comment by the late Sir Mark Oliphant as follows. “While he was Governor of South Australia, the distinguished nuclear scientist Sir Mark Oliphant lamented at a University of Adelaide seminar concerning some modern changes in the Adelaide Hills. Sir Mark had spent part of his boyhood in the hills village of Mylor and spoke of the bush and the life he remembered almost as a paradise lost. He declared:

“In the nearly three years since I assumed office as Governor, I have watched the Hills jealously. The continued desecration which I have seen has appalled me; the apathy and disinterest of the general public have discouraged me; the greed of those who owned land in the area has disillusioned me. I have not lost heart, but my early optimism has been severely battered”.

This location is also the site where an “Irish Bog Ladder” was installed by Friends of the Heysen Trail as one of the first projects of the voluntary organisation established in 1986 to assist and support completion of the Trail between Cape Jervis and Parachilna. At the request of the new landowner in 2000 the Trail was re-routed to an alternative site within the property and a significant section of the bog ladder was unfortunately removed. The property has again been sold and the current new owner wishes to withdraw the existing access within the property; to purchase the original Heysen Trail access along the undeveloped road reserve; and to re-locate the Trail to his western boundary. The issue was recently discussed at a meeting of Mount Barker Council following the November Council elections. Following lengthy discussion a motion to accept an application for the closure and sale of a section of the Heysen Trail at Glen Bold was deferred pending an on-site inspection of the undeveloped road reserve by councillors.

The above situation as outlined emphasizes the absurdity of the current legislation relating to the vulnerability of undeveloped road reserves, irrespective of their designation for community use. Efforts by Walking SA to convince our legislators of the importance and necessity to amend the relevant legislation to protect both a State icon and walking opportunities for all South Australians can no longer be ignored. The solution is both simple and essential if public access routes are to be retained in public custody for the benefit of both present and future generations of the walking community.

Terry Lavender’s grandson

Welcome to Jack Terry Lavender the bundle of joy who arrived on the 19 December 2006. Congratulations to Michele, Antony and Haley and to Grandmother, Ann Lavender on the occasion of this edition to their family.

Thelma Anderson

The Walking Federation of South Australia Inc

Invites you to the

Opening of the Walking Season

In the grounds of Beaumont House

Glynburn Road (near Dashwood Road) Beaumont

Promotion of the Pioneer Women's Trail

Sunday 15 April 2007

Between 10.00am and 4.00pm Official Opening at 1.00pm

Displays featuring walking areas, gear and clubs

Come 'n Try Walking

short guided walks

Friends of Onkaparinga are organising
tea/coffee and sausage sizzle.

Pioneer Women's Trail (Cont from Page 6)

We would like to also acknowledge the assistance that we have received from various members of the Adelaide Hills Council, particularly the maintenance employees who so skilfully dug holes and erected some of the major marker posts in their council area. In fact we should comment on the excellent support given by both the Adelaide Hills Council, and the City of Burnside Council who have wholeheartedly supported the project in the planning stages as well as 'in kind' labour which has stretched the effective money that has been spent far beyond the original grant. Also we would like to acknowledge a significant donation from the Skyline walkers which has enabled extra information signs to be erected.

Finally we must acknowledge the major financial and process management support provided by the Office for Recreation and Sport who provide the bulk of the funding. O. R. & S. liaison staff, Amanda Simon and Gary Pike, have been very supportive in a variety of ways over the last 18 months.

We look forward to seeing you all at the launch in April.

Peter Beer

Walking SA's Committee 2006/2007

Committee Members

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Peter Beer
Myra Betschild
Merilyn Browne
Brian Croft
Mary Denton
John Eaton
Bill Gehling
Fran Lucas
David Marcroft
Chris Moad
Joan Mooney
Lis O'Shea (Hon. Secretary)
Arthur Ward (Hon. Treasurer)

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