
❖ WALKING SA News ❖

Volume 20 Issue 2

Winter 2012



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

All correspondence to:
Post Office Box 1094
PASADENA SA 5042

Phone (08) 8276 5090

Webpage:
www.walkingsa.org.au

Email:
office@walkingsa.org.au

Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday
9am- 3pm

*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



A little colour to assist us through Autumn / Winter

MT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDENS

Featured in this edition of Walking SA News :

- ◇ President's Words
- ◇ Trails update
- ◇ Trail planning volunteers needed!!
- ◇ Apollo Bay & Normanville walks
- ◇ Bushwalking Australia

and more...



Walking SA Exec. Committee

President	Bill Gehling <i>(Adelaide Bushwalkers)</i>
Vice President	Ron Jackson <i>(Keep Walking)</i>
Hon. Secretary	
Hon. Treasurer	Jayne Jennifer <i>(Women in the Bush)</i>
Principal IT	Chris Moad <i>(Chris's Walking Group)</i>
Principal WAC	Fran Lucas (acting) <i>(WEA Ramblers)</i>
Principal TTU	John Eaton <i>(Retired Teachers Wlkg Grp)</i>
C'tee member	Liz O'Shea <i>(WEA Ramblers)</i>
C'ttee Member	Peter Larsen <i>(Friends of Heysen Trail)</i>
C'tee Member	Dallas Clark <i>(Friends of Heysen Trail)</i>

Walking Access Committee

John Eaton	<i>(Retired Teachers Wlkg Grp)</i>
Mary Denton	<i>(WEA Ramblers)</i>
Arthur Ward	<i>(Adelaide Bushwalkers)</i>
Alan Bundy	<i>(Keep Walking)</i>
Thelma Anderson	<i>(Noarlunga Bushwalkers)</i>

Trails Technical Unit

John Eaton	<i>(Retired Teachers Wlkg Grp)</i>
Secondees on call...	

Administration Officer

Brian Goodhind

Next General Meeting***Thursday 17 May***

**Office of Walking SA
Greening Australia building
5 Fitzgerald Rd Pasadena**

Coffee / tea and nibbles will be available from 7pm, with the pre-meeting guest speaker commencing at 7-30pm—meeting starts immediately afterwards.

Guest speaker is Nic Jacobson, Regional Director of the SE Asia and Pacific secretariat of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP). He is a senior engineer and will speak on the topic of **renewable energy generation**.

This speaker knows this extremely interesting topic backwards and is acclaimed wherever he speaks - he is a 'must hear' - **all welcome!**

Walks on Forestry SA land

Individuals and groups intending to walk on Forestry SA land are advised to visit one of the Forest Information Centres, either Mount Crawford or Kuitpo, to check local up to date information before they visit the forest.

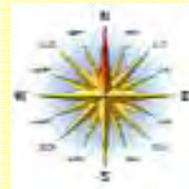
Further on the forests may be found at <http://www.forestry.sa.gov.au/Recreation/MtCrawfordKuitpo.aspx>

CALLING ALL TRAIL DESIGNERS!

Up to 5 separate trail networks are to be identified and mapped on Forestry SA land near Kersbrook.

We are looking for walkers / leaders who have the skills / knowledge to join us in this challenging exercise.

See Mt Lofty Trails article on page 5.

**Newsletter advertising 2012****Rates (incl. GST)**

1/8 Page Vertical	\$33
1/4 Page	\$55
1/3 Page Vertical	\$66
1/2 Page	\$99
Full Page	\$154

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

Editorial deadlines

Spring	26 July
Summer	25 October

All enquiries to Walking SA 8276 5090

office@walkingsa.org.au

From the President

The past few weeks have seen the passing of Warren Bonython, the man who probably did more than anyone else to put bushwalking into the minds of South Australians. When he started his trips to the Flinders after WW2, nobody walked long distances through the SA landscape. He deliberately chose the most rugged and beautiful country. Even the early explorers kept to the flat country, using pack animals and carts wherever they could. Warren carried everything on his back. His book “Walking the Flinders Ranges” showed what the ranges were like to experience on foot and from the inside, and not simply as a backdrop.

The Heysen Trail started as his idea, and he used his connections and political skills to make it happen. It took over 10 years before even the first red triangle marker was nailed to a tree in the Cleland National Park. Warren’s alliance with the late Terry Lavender in the newly formed Department of Recreation and Sport really got it off the ground.

Warren was born in 1916, when cars were almost unheard of, and most people walked every day. Walking for its own sake was not necessary, and the bush was something to be conquered. Thanks to his generation and those that followed, walking became a worthwhile activity in itself, particularly in a natural environment. There are few pleasures that compare with bushwalking, being self-sufficient and leaving behind no trace of our presence in a pristine wilderness.

Our challenge in 2012 is somewhat different. Most people today have little experience of the bush. Bushwalking as Warren knew it is practiced by less than one per cent of the population. Yet inspired by Warren and others of his generation, some six per cent of the population regard themselves as bushwalkers and walk at least once per year. Many of these walks are very short, and unless they live very close to attractive bushland, they are unlikely to walk often enough for walking to make a real benefit to their lives.

What we need to do is make the places near where we live attractive to walk in as well. There is little point in spending an hour or more in your car just to get to a trail that takes only 20 minutes to walk.

In training for his epic walks, Warren would often walk the track from Waterfall Gully to Mt Lofty which in his heyday he could do in some 40 minutes, often carrying a heavy pack. Waterfall Gully was no more than 20 minutes by car from his house at Magill, and one of the most attractive walks around. In those days the track was a “real bushwalk” through Wilsons Bog. Today the route has been rerouted and hardened to carry the many thousands of people who make the trek every year. Even though the track is no longer the muddy foot-pad it once was, the climb to the top is still just as steep and requires the same fitness.

The Waterfall Gully track tells us that a good quality, physically challenging walking track in an attractive area within easy reach of a large population will attract a large number of walkers. With a million people within a one hour catchment, the popularity of the Waterfall Gully track is hardly surprising.

Having large numbers of people walk a trail, is one thing, but insisting that they all drive to the trail-head is just plain wrong. The car-park at Waterfall Gully is often full, having taken over the tennis courts and picnic grounds that used to be there. At Mt Lofty, the car-park would also be over-run, if it weren’t for the ticket machines to keep down the demand for parking.

One thing we need to do is improve the connexion between trails, and between trails and public transport. There is no bus service to Waterfall Gully, and Mt Lofty only has two busses a day. There is no continuous footpath along Waterfall Gully Road, and in places, council has allowed adjoining landowners to build right up to the bitumen, forcing walkers onto the roadway itself.

Cont.....

From the President (cont)

Better connection with public transport and more connections between trails allow people to do through-walks without having to resort to car shuffles, and enables people to do circular walks without retracing their steps.

Connecting with public transport should not be hard. After all, the bus and train routes that thread their way out of Adelaide do cross many of our important trails. Just having signs and bus stops at those places would be a great help. There is simply no excuse for those roads like Waterfall Gully Road not to have useable footpaths.

For many of us, the Waterfall Gully – Mt Lofty track is now too popular and too civilised. The answer is to provide more and better walking closer to people's homes, and not to try and concentrate our facilities in one or two iconic locations.

Warren Bonython's vision brought us the Heysen Trail and inspired many South Australians to explore our own state through long distance walking. Our challenge is to make recreational walking accessible to all. My vision is that a bushwalk should start at home, and that our bushwalking trails should integrate seamlessly with both our urban trail and footpath networks, and with the public transport system.

Bill Gehling

TRAILS UPDATE



Pioneer Women's Trail

The Walking Federation has received a \$33,000 grant from the Office of Recreation and Sport for a study into the feasibility of building a pedestrian bridge across the Onkaparinga at Sandow Road, Verdun.

The Adelaide Hills and Onkaparinga Councils have endorsed the feasibility study and will provide additional financial support although they are yet to endorse the construction of the bridge

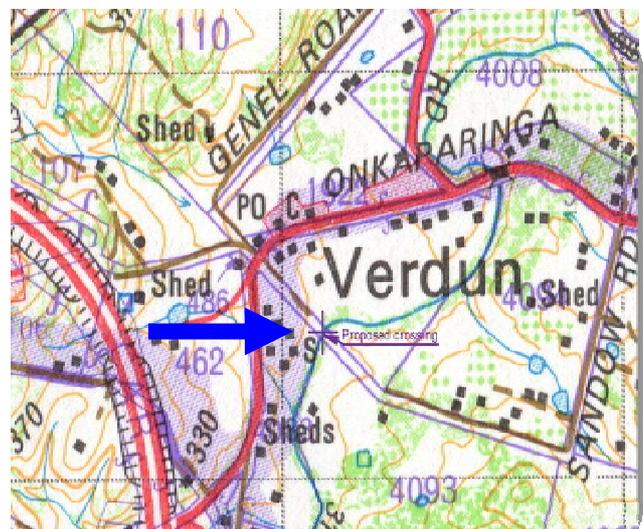
While the Sandow Road Reserve intersect with the Onkaparinga River is the Federation's preferred crossing, it being in public ownership, the study is still at an early stage. Engineers may well consider the proposed site to be unsatisfactory.

The feasibility study will assess a bridge and the location eventually selected for it, addressing the following criteria:-

- ◇ "walkability"
- ◇ connection with other trails
- ◇ authenticity - (not totally achievable)
- ◇ usage - walkers and cyclists
- ◇ cost - (possibly \$800k to over \$1,000,000)
- ◇ environmental impact
- ◇ health & safety benefit - no safe crossing now
- ◇ acceptability to traditional owners
- ◇ economic benefits to the community

Further advice as the matter progresses.

John Eaton,
Trails Technical Unit



Mount Lofty Trails Project

In connection with the Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Program grant, awarded to our organisation in collaboration with Forestry SA and Adelaide Hills Council (AHC), Walking SA is embarking on a major field survey of the old Mt. Lofty Trails Network in the Kersbrook area in an effort to establish at least 5 loop trails which will be surveyed, mapped and 'signed' to the appropriate Australian Standard AS 2165.

In recent weeks, members of Walking SA have inspected areas which may be appropriate for the loops, but additional walkers with knowledge of suitable trails in the area and / or appropriate navigational experience will be necessary to ensure the best possible outcome.

To this end, an information session will be held on Tuesday 19 June commencing 10am, in the Walking SA board room, 5 Fitzgerald Rd Pasadena. Andrew Moylan from Forestry SA and John Eaton (Trails Technical Unit) will address the technical needs of data collection recording. Survey areas will then be assigned to participants present, thus sharing the load and utilising the skills of fellow walkers.

A light lunch will be provided for attendees at the conclusion of the meeting. RSVP to the Walking SA office by 14 June for catering purposes please.

The project must be completed by March 2013 and, although this seems quite a distance away, we must act promptly to see that 'all bases are covered'.

Liz O'Shea

Mt Lofty Trails sub committee



RON JACKSON, LIZ O'SHEA & JOHN EATON
(WALKING SA) UNDERTAKING AN INITIAL INSPECTION OF AN AREA UNDER CONSIDERATION

Hardy Road (upper)

Initial information on the condition of this unmade road reserve at Crafers suggested that it is now ready for general use. However, an on site inspection late April revealed that only two short sections had been treated and several bike-jump platforms had been erected. The 'Track Closed' signs are still in place. More later.

Swan Reach Conservation Park

(Cactus eradication and fauna survey)

Commencing Mon 28 May and continuing until Friday 1 June, this survey is being undertaken to:-

- ◇ find & drill / fill or remove Mexican Wheel Cactus & identify other feral plants in the area
- ◇ Count wild goats & any other feral animals - photograph for identification
- ◇ Carry out Mallee Fowl Mound survey and Stone Curlew count
- ◇ Survey Wombats - particularly identify if losing fur

Volunteers are sought to participate, with accommodation provided. Contact Don Wood at: woodon33a@live.com.au or SMS 0410 399 273



In Memorium

C Warren Bonython AO
11 Sept 1916 – 2 April 2012

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of C (Charles) Warren Bonython, a person who advocated for bushwalkers and bushwalking in SA over much of his 95 years.

Warren's attendance at each of the annual Opening of the Walking Season events was one his regular undertakings, and the 2012 event was the first of these missed. The above image was taken at the 2011 Opening.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Cynthia (Bundy) and extended family.

Further information on the life and 'happenings' of this man of action may be found at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warren_Bonython

Apollo Bay and Normanville walks

Skyline Walkers Inc consists of 79 registered walkers of varying degrees of walking fitness. Each year we have a weekend away and a week away, staying at caravan parks. In 2011, a small group also spent 10 days walking the Heysen Trail from Melrose.

Twenty five walkers stayed at the Beachside Caravan park on the last weekend of July. We have stayed at this park before. It has an excellent camp kitchen. Camp kitchens are important gathering places for walkers. We meet at 6.00 p.m. each evening for nibbles and drinks, and get the information for the next day's walking. Many nights, this is followed by a shared meal.

On Friday afternoon, we did a beach walk to Lady Bay and return and had a shared BBQ meal that night. On Saturday, we drove to Deep Creek Conservation Park. We walked variations of the Aaron Creek walk. It had been wet, and we knew the track would be very slippery in a couple of places.

We offered 3 levels of walk. Our "golden oldies" did a "Y" walk, so avoiding the difficult part. They had plenty of time to admire the hundreds of kangaroos, and supervise a couple of fights! The weather was clear, so they enjoyed the superb views to Kangaroo Island. The middle group walked the loop, again enjoying the views and wildlife. The A group walked to the beach and returned to the "loop". Dinner that night was at the Lady Bay Hotel. There was a wide choice of excellent food.

After packing up on Sunday morning, we did a linear walk at Aldinga beach. The walk started from Clarrie Eatts Reserve. We walked and looped through the lovely Aldinga scrub, and finished at Saltbush Bistro for lunch. Again, we had an excellent meal. It was a happy weekend, with different walks to what we had done before.

In September, the club spent 8 days in Apollo Bay. Again there were 25 of us. Most took 2 days to drive there, and many spent 2 days driving back. We stayed at Pisces Caravan Park. This park has a good camp kitchen, and the proprietors looked after us very well. None of the walks were pre walked, we relied on the book produced by the Geelong Bushwalking Club, "Walking the Otways" We offered 2 levels of walk, and some rotated between the groups. Apollo Bay offers wonderful walks of varying degrees of difficulty in beautiful countryside. The A group, walked several sections of the Great Ocean Walk., from 14-17 kms The B group did a variety of shorter walks, usually in the same area as the B group.

We took our rest day a little earlier than usual, because of storms. As a group we drove to Colac and the Red Rocks Lookout, only a short distance from Colac. I had driven through this area before, but never stopped to see the local attractions. Standing on the lookouts, we watched the storm clouds pass around us, while we clutched the rails in the high wind. The views across the volcanic plain were amazing. From this vantage point, you get some idea of the size of the volcanic area. If anyone is passing through Colac, I'd strongly recommend, allowing enough time to take this short detour.

Apart from some great walking, we enjoyed a mixed bag of weather from sunshine to storms. Several nights, we had spectacular thunderstorms, but the days were OK – almost like Camelot, especially as the heaviest rain fell at night.

Most afternoons, a competitive group played petanque on the boggy grass. At times the jack got buried in the mud.

The Apollo Bay camp finished on a sad note. Annemarie, one of our older walkers, fell in the main street of Naracoorte on the return journey. She hit her head, sustained major brain damage, and died a few days later, without regaining consciousness. Annemarie loved her walking, and had been walking for years. I don't know that she ever missed a trip away. She joined in everything, and loved us all. Her last words to me, on the final night was "thank you, I've had a the best time – the very best time"

Our trips away allow us to appreciate the variety of Australian countryside. The unexpected death of Annemarie, makes us value our friendships and life itself.

Kathy Hennessy
President, Skyline Walkers Inc.

Opening of the Walking Season 2012

Despite its small population and distance from Adelaide, the opening event in the township of Truro was surprisingly well patronised. Over a hundred people signed up for the come-and-try walks, and others did their own walks on other parts of the newly opened section of the Lavender Federation Trail. Perhaps it was sunny weather that drew people out on the trail, rather than kept them at the Oval where the Bogaduck band's music wafted amongst the various stalls and displays."

Walking SA combined with SA Recreation Trails Inc. (SARTI) to celebrate the opening of the new section of the Lavender Federation Trail from Springton to Truro, with some of the Come 'n Try walks, organised by Ian Poole, covering the nearby Truro Gorge , together with an historical walk in the township area.

Bill Gehling and Chris Bushell (Presidents of WalkingSA and SARTI respectively) gave short speeches, while the official opening was proclaimed by Ivan Venning – State Member for Schubert – and his colleague Dan Van Holst Pellekaan – Shadow Minister for Sport and Recreation.

The walkers were well catered for by the combined efforts of the Truro and District Community Association and the OPAL (Obesity Prevention and Lifestyle) program of the Mid Murray Council, thus providing a delicious but healthy choice of food for their customers. The council also provided the Fun 4 Youth van to entertain the youngsters who came along, so that all ages were catered for!

Once again Walking SA thanks all the stall holders, helpers and attendees who combined to make it a fun day for all.

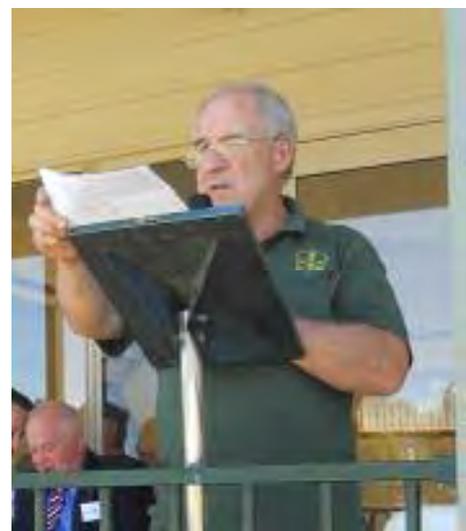
Liz O'Shea



President, Walking SA Bill Gehling (2nd from left), with left to right: Dan van Holst Pellekaan, Ann Lavender, Ivan Venning, Peter Dunn and Chris Bushell



One of two Walking SA displays



Alan Bundy: MC extraordinaire



Bushwalking *Australia*



There are a multitude of topics discussed by Bushwalking Australia delegates on a regular basis, normally by teleconferencing, and rather than choose one and write at length on it, I provide the following snippets of general interest..

Kakadu

Work is continuing on the development of a walking strategy for Kakadu National Park. Bushwalking Australia is involved at steering committee level. As discussions have taken place, it has become clear that there is a need for the consultant to rework some sections and further communicate with the traditional owners. It is hoped that the final draft will finally be considered by the Kakadu Board of Management in June after which it will be released for public comment.

What is bushwalking?

Bushwalking Australia President David Reid is preparing a discussion paper on the benefits of widening our perception of what we consider to be bushwalking. Many and varied interpretations have been suggested and used (and possibly misused) over the years and it is timely that this matter will be discussed by delegates who will present ideas from their respective states. A nationally agreed self-describing definition (generated by the bushwalking community) would be pleasing.

Peak bushwalking bodies into the 21st century

Each State level bushwalking peak body is examining / has examined their Strategic plan to meet the challenges of this century. There are many aspects in need of review and close attention in the future, including attitudes of governments, clubs and walkers, plus organisational structure and finance...to name just a few. It is comforting to have a national body such as Bushwalking Australia where such matters of concern may be addressed between State bodies with far greater expectations for positive outcomes. Walking SA members will be advised of developments in SA in other sections of this newsletter in due course.

Ron Jackson

E-Newsletters Direct

If you have an email capacity, we encourage you to receive our newsletters at the earliest time. Just forward your email address and we will ensure you receive them 'hot off the press.'

Unfortunately, budget constraints prevent us from offering the same hard copy facility.

Clubs open to new members

For information about Walking Groups open for new members, log onto Walking SA's website:-

www.walkingsa.org.au

(or phone 8276 5090)

