

❖ WALKING SA News ❖

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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

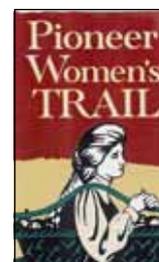
Opening of the Walking Season and promotion of the Pioneer Women's Trail



John Eaton

Walkers in the grounds of
Beaumont House

*Mayor of Burnside Wendy Greiner receiving
Certificate of Appreciation to Burnside Council
from Walking SA's President Chris Bushell*



Featured in this edition of Walking SA News :-

- ◇ Words from the President
- ◇ History of the Pioneer Women's Trail
- ◇ Walking Access Report
- ◇ Report on the Opening of the Walking Season 2007

be active. Find 30

President's words

I am honoured to be the new President of Walking SA. For those of you who don't know me, I have been Coordinator of the ARPA Bushwalkers for the past three years. My hope for the Federation is to raise our profile as we have been doing of recent years and to help continue the work of my predecessors.

The Opening of the Walking Season was particularly successful and a credit to all those who helped organise it. The attendance was considerably above what I expected.

Combining the season opening with the official opening of the Pioneer Women's Trail added to the attraction of the day. Annie Luur Fox and her colleagues from the Hahndorf Chapter of the National Trust reminded us that we had only recently become involved and that they had been working on the project for a mere 28 years. All comments about the map have been most favourable. It is a great credit to all those who worked on it.

We were delighted that Wendy Greiner, Mayor of Burnside, came to declare the Season and the Trail open. As you may know we presented the Burnside and Adelaide Hills Councils with framed certificates of appreciation to acknowledge their assistance in the establishment of the Pioneer Women's Trail.

We hope that we can continue the Trail from Verdun to Hahndorf. That requires a footbridge over the Onkaparinga River. The road bridge between the Hahndorf exit from the freeway and Hahndorf was a danger to pedestrians and has become worse with the addition of crash rails. We were pleased to see Ann Ferguson, Mayor of the District Council of Mt Barker, at the opening and we understand the council recognises the need for this footbridge. It is somewhat beyond our capabilities.

We will continue to undertake trail analysis and development programmes. Our problem is that there are a limited number of volunteers currently available on and around the committee. We need to expand the number of volunteers and develop a structure to enable the work to be completed. You will see a request for helpers from John Eaton elsewhere in this newsletter. If you have the time and inclination to help in any of our activities please contact the office or a member of the committee.

*Chris Bushell
April 2007*



*Walking SA Volunteers at the Opening of the Walking Season
(Chris Bushell (WSA President), Mary Denton, Myra Betschild,
June Boscence, Liz O'Shea, Peter Beer)*

**The history of the
HAHNDORF PIONEER WOMEN'S TRAIL:
25th Anniversary of the first National Trust Walk
from Hahndorf to Beaumont House.**

by Anni Luur FOX, Hahndorf Branch, National Trust of SA.

January 2005

If life truly is “a pudding full of plums” as Sir W.S. Gilbert once opined, the saga of the Hahndorf Pioneer Women’s Trail fits into both plum and pudding categories as the following overview of our efforts will reveal. On the 20 April 1980 when the first public National Trust re-enactment took place, the Hahndorf Branch was almost four years old and overloaded with seemingly endless battles with developers, lawyers and government authorities. Gordon Young’s Hahndorf Survey (1979-81) was gathering information that later substantiated our claims for the town as a heritage site. We had played a major role in stopping demolition of a group of three 19th Century buildings a developer wanted to replace with a shopping centre and we were trying to ensure that conservation principles were upheld in Neill Wallman’s new Supplementary Development Plan for Hahndorf..... as well as trying to fix the windmill.

Mrs Elizabeth Simpson’s enthusiasm to develop a re-enactment along an early supply trail from the Mt. Barker region to Adelaide resulted in the Beaumont House committee’s invitation to join them in organising this event to mark the Silver Jubilee of the S.A. National Trust in 1980. It seemed like fun! They even supplied us with a copy of Frederick Nixon’s map of 1841 showing trails in the region which would help us determine the route from Hahndorf to Crafers while they would work on the shorter section via Eagle on the Hill to Beaumont.

Our Chairman John Storey, a veteran of the Kokoda Trail during World War 2, declared it “a cinch”. He rushed off to the Woodside Army camp where he and Major Ian Ferguson converted the map to the same scale as a recent one from the Department of Lands for comparison. They found that the Onkapinga and Old Mt Barker roads were part of the original rough track but at least the route also traversed bushland where it could be possible to imagine the first group of women setting off for Adelaide at midnight with their eggs and radishes for sale soon after Hahndorf was settled in March 1839. It must have been a frightening prospect for them, given the awful tales of fierce Tiersmen, some of them outlaws living rough along the way at Crafers.

The Hahndorf Pioneer Women’s Trail commemorates these first efforts to supply Adelaide with fresh farm produce from the Mt Barker region which later became the “breadbasket” of the colony. In 1839 Hahndorf had been the first village established east of Mt Lofty. Its impoverished settlers immediately cleared ground and planted seed and like their countrymen at Klemzig, were quick to take advantage of the lack of fresh food in Adelaide. Because Colonel Light’s rural surveys had stalled, most immigrants had been stuck in the city speculating on town acres and patronising the many pubs. The little food grown locally had to be supplemented through importation. According to an early newspaper report flour was often contaminated with seawater and other undesirables such as whiting, bonemeal or Plaster of Paris added to the casks by unscrupulous merchants. No wonder Mrs Watts complained in her diary about bread being as hard as bricks. Fresh produce from Hahndorf’s rich soil in those very early days of the colony must have been a special treat.

The women and older girls feature in early accounts of transportation of Hahndorf’s produce to market, probably because the men were away working for landholders clearing the bush and fencing. The women tended the animals and the gardens, made the butter and cheese and other items they carried on their backs for sale in Adelaide to pay off their ship and land debts. Some of them are recorded as carrying 35 kilograms of farm produce before works on the Great Eastern Road had improved conditions for wheeled traffic by 1854. As more villages were developed at Grunthal (now Verdun), Mt Barker, Lobethal, Echunga and Balhannah more people joined Hahndorf’s women on the produce trail to Adelaide.

To check the route which may also have been a means of communication between the Peramangk Aboriginal people of the hills region and the Kaurna on the plain, I joined John Storey, Clare Ferguson, Lyndell Davidge and Rodney Allen on 29 March 1980 for the first hike to Beaumont House. After six hours we stumbled scratched, footsore and weary despite our “You Beaut” modern sneakers and lightweight backpacks, into the gorgeous dining room where the Committee had prepared afternoon tea for us in elegant style.

Hahndorf Pioneer Women's Trail cont

A creek near the Beaumont House site had been the place where pioneer women, barefoot to save shoe leather, had stopped to rest and tidy themselves before the last stretch to Adelaide's markets. What a contrast! For us, a sumptuous spread of cucumber sandwiches and Queen Mother's Cake awaited, as well as motor cars to transport us up the hills to Hahndorf in comfort where a hot bath filled by turning a tap would ease the effects of such unaccustomed exertions. They didn't remain unaccustomed for long!

Fully expecting no more than three men and a dog to turn up at the Pioneer Park on 20 April to register and actually pay money for the privilege of following members of the Hahndorf Branch along the Trail to Beaumont, we had marked the route on the previous day but had organised few drink stops. How embarrassing! About 150 adventurous souls made the journey including a seventy year old woman and C. Warren Bonython. (On subsequent walks in 1983 and 1986 Warren walked with a 45 pound load of vegetables, including a huge marrow, celery and other greens in a rucksack. This same weight was carried by the Hahndorf women in the early days of the colony.) Along the way two of our walkers had somehow ended up on the South Eastern Freeway median strip where a passing police patrol insisted they climb back over the high cyclone fence, which they did. Having waited a while they scaled the fence again, dashed over four lanes of traffic and jumped another high fence in search of the Old Mt. Barker Road they knew had to be there somewhere.

On reaching the "Eagle" our numbers were swelled again for the descent to Beaumont but at least the pub had a good supply of drinks. Historian Reg Butler flanked by other direct descendents of the Hahndorf women in period dress, led the throng with a flag sent him by citizens of Westerland, the birthplace of Captain Hahn who had been so influential in the founding of Hahndorf. St Michael's Lutheran Church choir entertained us with Paul Gerhardt's hymn which the first settlers had managed to sing at the top of the Beaumont spur after two days of lugging their belongings up its steep slope on the way to establish Hahndorf in the heat of summer 1839, "O sun where art thou vanished?" And we soon vanished too, for the comforts of home after gladly abandoning plans to search for two missing walkers whose encounter with the police had made them late for afternoon tea in the lush gardens of Beaumont House.

Like giving birth, the pain of it all soon passed in the euphoria of a successful event. Our Branch repeated the scenario, minus police, in 1983, 1985 and 1986 in partnership with the Beaumont House Committee. The success of these events had spawned increasing requests for more. Each time, John Storey and I virtually had to walk the route thrice to hammer in the markers, lead the walk/ensure no one got lost, remove the markers. The Branch began supplying maps. Lyndell Davidge led the biennial walks by Hahndorf Primary School. Our persistent requests for official marking by the SA Department of Sport and Recreation came to naught until the Centenary of Women's Suffrage in 1994 when Terry Lavender must have got sick of my nagging while following him along the Trail during WomenTrek. This marvellous event had seen women walking thousands of kilometres along the trails of South Australia, culminating in the Hahndorf Pioneer Women's Trail. It was the first time we had to walk back up the hills again (some took a bus), to take part in the closing ceremony in Mt. Lofty Gardens. "Whew!

These were definitely "plum" events followed by what I prefer to term a "pudding" whose public dissection won't do our cause any good at all. The project to officially mark the Trail has lurched on since 1994. Various project officers have worked on it, including planner Rod Worthington who had the unenviable task of ensuring our Trail fitted departmental Trails Policy. As expected, the section from the Eagle to Hahndorf is proving difficult and the official Trail will have to stop at the road bridge over the Onkaparinga River at South Verdun where increasing pressure for more commercial development on the floodplain has sent us to the Environment Court yet again.

The road bridge, in these litigious times marked by insurance industry catastrophes, has been officially deemed too dangerous for foot traffic. We did try to improve matters by forming a partnership with the Hahndorf Community Association, Business and Tourism Association and Country Arts SA. We were successful in gaining funds for a Concept Plan for the Hahndorf Entranceway and Pioneer Women's Trail and were even short listed for funds by the Regional Tourism Program. Until the financial and political problems of building a footbridge over the Onkaparinga River are solved, we remain thankful for the plums that have befallen us and, as the poet W.H. Auden once put it, "stagger on rejoicing" just as Hahndorf's pioneer women first did in 1839.

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.

Map for "The Lavender Federation Trail" Mt Beevor to Springton



This map is available from outdoor stores

RRP \$10.00



Scott Creek Conservation Park

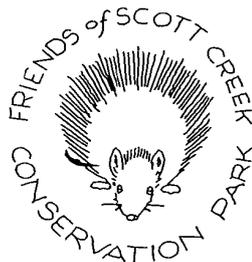
Detailed coloured contour maps showing features of interest, creek names, tracks and grid lines.

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.



TRACK SUSTAINABILITY SURVEY 2007 CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Walking SA is being contracted by DEH to carry out a sustainability survey of selected tracks in Belair NP and Morialta CP that were damaged or suffered infrastructure damage as a result of the heavy rains of October 2005.

Walking SA would like to hear from members of affiliated clubs who have some knowledge of the use of GPS and OziExplorer software and who would be willing to form a team that would be able to participate in this project. Team members would also use a pocket clinometer to measure track gradients and enter track data onto a field sheet for later entry into the Walking SA's *TrackInfo/TracksData* database that has been developed on Microsoft Access. The data will then be used to advise DEH of track sustainability issues and to advise on the direction of possible re-routes and track closures in these parks.

If you are a keen walker, have experience in the use of GPS and map reading skills, and are interested in participating in this project as a Walking SA volunteer, you are asked to contact June Boscence at the Walking SA Office (Mondays and Thursdays) or contact John Eaton directly. He would be pleased to hear from you. John's contact details are:

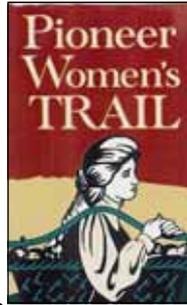
Tel. (08) 8431 5460

M. 0419 176 713

Email: joneaton@bigpond.net.au.

Opening of the Walking Season 2007 and launch of the Pioneer Women's Trail.

The weather gods provided our normal superb fine autumn day for this event which was held on Sunday 15th of April at Beaumont House. Why Beaumont House you say? Well Beaumont House is at the end of the newly-marked Pioneer Women's Trail which, thanks to the efforts of a large number of enthusiastic people, finally has come to fruition. I refer you to the article in the last walking SA newsletter for details of how this was achieved.



The Beaumont House grounds became a hive of activity early in the morning as tents and stalls were set up by a range of groups such as walking clubs, walking equipment suppliers, natural history organizations and health promotion bodies. During the morning several groups from members of the general public were taken on walks to introduce them to the Pioneer Women's Trail and local points of historical interest.

Around midday walkers from several walking clubs began to converge at Beaumont House having walked from a range of different starting points. The crowd swelled and provided a carnival atmosphere for the official talks which began at 1.00pm.

The president of Walking SA welcomed everybody to the event and thanked them for their support, before introducing Annie Luur Fox from the Hahndorf branch of the National Trust, who gave a brief history of the Pioneer Women's Trail concept and expressed her thanks to all involved in the development of the Trail and publication of the brochure containing background information and a detailed map.

The Mayor of Burnside Wendy Greiner then formally opened the 2007 Walking season and launched the Pioneer Women's Trail. The official party then walked to nearby Brock Reserve to view the start of the Trail and inspect the signage used to delineate and explain features of the route. The Walking SA committee was also appreciative of the presence of the Mayor of the Mount Barker Council, Ann Ferguson, who promised support for the extension of the Trail through to Hahndorf.

The organizing committee led by Myra Betschild, Mary Denton and members of Women in the Bush, with assistance from June Boscence, are to be congratulated on bringing the event to fruition. Walking SA would like to thank all organizations and walking clubs who made the day such a success.

Peter Beer

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

Vale George Driscoll

14 October 1936 - 8 May 2007

Outdoor lovers in South Australia and New South Wales will forever remember George's happy smiles and infectious enthusiasm for bushwalking.

George uncovered the best of the bush, publishing his favourite walks for us all to enjoy.

George has been a loyal and valued friend to many and will be truly missed.

Our sympathy to Elfi, Harry and Toby.

*Taken from a tribute in "The Advertiser"
Saturday 12 May 2007 from the
Friends of the Heysen Trail*

Walking Access Report

Official Opening of the 2007 Walking Season.

Another successful event, hosted jointly by Walking SA and Women in the Bush to officially set in motion various walking programmes conducted by member clubs, was held at the National Trust property, Beaumont House, on Sunday, 15 April, 2007. The occasion was well attended by many walkers who had the opportunity to take part in an interesting programme of walks organised to launch the Pioneer Women's Heritage Trail between Hahndorf and Beaumont House. Walking SA was contracted by the Office for Recreation and Sport to mark the Trail from Silver Road, Bridgewater to Beaumont with the section to Hahndorf to be marked following negotiations between Mount Barker and Adelaide Hills Councils and the Hahndorf National Trust to enable a safe crossing of Onkaparinga River in order to complete the Trail.

Wendy Greiner, Mayor of Burnside Council, performed the opening ceremony that was attended by Ann Ferguson, Mayor of Mount Barker Council and Christine Harris, representing Adelaide Hills Council. Anni Luur Fox and Lyndall Davidge, representing Hahndorf National Trust were also present. Clearance of mature hawthorn trees on the steep slopes below Mount Osmond had been carried out by Rob Marshall of the Friends of Parks Walking Trails Support Group, assisted by Ivan Weiner, to provide a sustainable and negotiable trail. Walking SA is also indebted to Andrew Crompton of Burnside Council for his advice and support. A number of clubs took the opportunity to mount a display of photographs and information about their respective clubs while the Friends of Onkaparinga Park supplied hot tea, coffee and cake, and a sausage sizzle to sustain the walkers and visitors. A tour of heritage Beaumont House was also available.

Proposed Closure and Sale of a Section of the Heysen Trail. Mount Barker Council continues to pursue efforts to close Long Gully Road, identified as Heysen Trail access through Glen Bold Cattle Station, south of Mylor and north of Jupiter Creek. At the request of a previous owner, the Trail was re-routed to the eastern boundary of Glen Bold prior to management of the Heysen Trail being transferred to DEH from the Office for Recreation and Sport. With no legislative protection for the Heysen Trail and more than 50% of it following road reserves that are vulnerable to being absorbed into adjoining private property, the future of the Trail is destined to be at risk of extinction. This statement is factual, not alarmist! The legislation relating to undeveloped road reserves was drafted within the Roads (Opening and Closing) Act in 1931 long before Warren Bonython put forward

the concept of a long distance walking trail to connect the Ranges. This outdated legislation is still current to this day with no protection or security for these valuable public access routes that are vital to the walking system and for adaptation as wildlife and native vegetation corridors. Fortunately, the Native Vegetation Branch of DEH is named in the regulations of the Roads (Opening and Closing) Act for consultation by the local government authority before proceeding with the closure. Walkers will be aware of various indigenous swampland plants occurring in this region that may have protection within Federal Government legislation. By some miracle, or by sheer dint of hard work and dedicated application to the task, we have the Heysen Trail stretching from Parachilna in the northern Flinders Ranges to Cape Jervis on the tip of Fleurieu Peninsula and we all have a responsibility to ensure we retain it in total. We cannot rely on succeeding generations of public servants to ensure it is protected, but we can implore our respective Local Members of Parliament to bring about legislative changes to an outdated Act of Parliament in an effort to provide some degree of security for a South Australian icon.

Proposed Road Closure and Sale at Inman Valley.

Yet another public road reserve situated in close proximity to the Myponga Conservation Park and the Heysen Trail, providing ideal distant coastal views, will possibly be sold to an adjoining landowner. Once again, this is public land, land designated for use by the public, but likely to be sold for the exclusive use of a single landowner. There is an outstanding opportunity for a scenic walking trail to link to the Conservation Park and the Heysen Trail and every effort will be made to retain the road reserve in public ownership.

Adelaide Hills Council. Negotiations are taking place with Adelaide Hills Council to provide walking access along undeveloped road reserves to link alternative areas of the Botanic Garden to the Heysen Trail and other scenic options of interest to walkers.

Lavender Federation Trail. Included in the latest issue of "Footsteps", Newsletter of S.A.R.T.I., are details of plans to apply for funding to construct a loop trail around the Rocky Gully Wetlands on the northern outskirts of Murray Bridge near the commencement of the Trail. The proposal will make an alternative route available to walkers along the Trail in addition to creating a loop trail for casual walkers. An appeal is also made for Trail Maintenance volunteers whose assistance is always greatly appreciated.

*Thelma Anderson
Walking Access Committee*



'Just Walk It' is a free community based walking program. It provides participants with the opportunity to engage in regular physical activity while developing social contacts within their community.

'Just Walk It' focuses on two risk factors for cardiovascular disease - lack of physical activity and social isolation. The program particularly targets sedentary adults in an effort to reduce their risk of cardiovascular disease. However, everyone, including existing walking groups, are invited to become part of the 'Just Walk It' network.

'Just Walk It' has incentive awards that acknowledge involvement at a range of milestones and offers walk organisers free CPR training and free Personal Accident insurance.

For more information call 8224 2888.

Walking SA's Committee 2006/2007

Committee Members

Chris Bushell (President)
 Thelma Anderson
 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)

Administration June Boscence



The National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference will be held in Fremantle, Western Australia.

6 - 10 August 2007. Sessions will be scheduled to allow delegates the opportunity to attend all presentations. Topics will cover a broad range of wildlife-related issues presented by veterinarians, specialist rehabilitators, zoologists, researchers and professionals working in various wildlife fields.

This Conference will be of interest anyone involved with wildlife.

Sunday 5 August

Pre-registration and Welcome

Monday 6 to Thursday 9 August

Conference with Conference Dinner

Friday 10 August

Following on from the Darwin Conference, we will be presenting an optional half-day Autopsy session on the Saturday morning.

Session cost will include a copy of Karrie Rose's Wildlife Health Investigation Manual and a basic autopsy kit. This session will be facilitated by veterinarians and pathologists.

Updates: nwrcperth@westnet.com.au
 National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference 2007
 PO Box 232 Kalamunda Western Australia 6926
 email ~ nwrcperth@westnet.com.au, web ~ www.nwrc.com.au
 phone - 08 9316 8526

The 2007 Conference is being held under the auspices of the Western Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Council Inc
 ABN 96 705 889 719

Walking SA is looking for a person who would be willing to represent the organisation at the

Conservation Council of SA
Meetings.

If anyone is willing to take on this task, please contact Walking SA's Office ph 8361 2491