
❖ WALKING SA News ❖

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Winter 2008



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

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Tuesdays & Thursdays
9.30am to 3.30pm

*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 2008 - Stirling Library Lawns AHC

*Rosie Vostatek (ARPA Bushwalkers), Bill Gehling(Walking SA),
Adelaide Hills Council -Mayor Cooksley,
Gwen Baker (ARPA Bushwalkers),
Walking SA President - Chris Bushell,
Valda Vostatek (ARPA Bushwalkers) (Standing L to R)
Lorri Ragless and Rachel Busford (Seated L to R)*

Featured in this edition of Walking SA News :-

- ◇ Words from the President
- ◇ Introducing Walking SA's New Administration Officer
- ◇ Opening of the Kidman Trail (Multi-use)
- ◇ Trakers being used by Walking SA
- ◇ Great Australian Bushwalk - Sunday 14 September 2008

be active.30 Find

President's words

The Opening of the Walking Season went very well. A large number of people attended and our displays were much appreciated. Thanks to all of you who took part. Lorri Ragless and the Stirling traders and friends groups were a great help. Thanks to Rosie Vostatek and her army of ARPA Bushwalker helpers for their organisation and help in running extra walks on the day. Mayor Cooksley was impressed by the turn out and wanted to hold the Opening for 2009 in his Council area. We will bear it in mind for 2010.

We have already arranged with SARTI to hold the Opening of the Walking Season for 2009 at Eden Valley on Sunday 5th April. Put it in your diary. SARTI have the route finalised for the next section of the Lavender Federation Trail from Springton to Keyneton and it passes close to Eden Valley from which there will be a spur loop trail. They hope at least to have the loop trail marked but the main trail requires lots of stiles and may have to await more funds. At all levels of the political spectrum, everyone is on the band wagon of healthy walking. It seems a great shame that despite this, getting funding from Government is so difficult. This is despite SARTI's proven track record and the huge amount of volunteer effort they have put in. (I suppose I should declare my vested interest, being Chair of the SARTI Board.)

The SA Trails Coordinating Committee (SATCC) has decided to concentrate on two projects for the coming year. These are an Annual Trails Forum and Rail Corridors. I am excited by the prospect that the latter might result in agreement to open as trails those disused rail corridors which have not been sold. It seems an easy way of rapidly increasing the walkability of the State.

Chris Bushell



Displays at the Opening of the Walking Season

Future Development of Walking SA

This is an appeal to you to consider helping the continuing development of the functions of the Walking Federation. It's time to put something back. We want to expand the activities of the Federation. The Federation is not a single committee, but has associated helpers and workers who undertake all manner of projects for you, the walkers. John Eaton leads a group which surveys the state of trails on behalf of the Federation for government. Another group developed the Pioneer Women's Trail. The existing Committee and the tireless workers have been at it for a long time. We need new blood. Well actually, we'll settle for middle aged or elderly blood.

The ideas for projects come from individuals or groups. John Eaton's group only became possible because he developed the idea, the strategy and the techniques. The results clearly are valued by our clients. John assembled a team to help him and they do valuable work as well as having a lot of fun.

The Pioneer Women's Trail was redeveloped by people in the Federation who believed it was a worthwhile project. Completion gives great satisfaction in a job well done and the knowledge that we have provided an asset which will long outlive us.

So, come to us with a project and we'll support and help. If you haven't a project come and help with some of the ideas that we are supporting.

There is one person we desperately need. A treasurer. Arthur Ward has been our treasurer for 13 years. He needs a break. Please help.

Sustainable Recreational Trail Development

The Federation has a library located at the office. The latest addition is entitled "Sustainable Recreational Trails" and consists of guidelines for the planning, design, construction and maintenance of recreational trails in South Australia. This was produced by the SA Trails Coordinating Committee with input from the Walking SA.

Trail Safety

Walking SA has raised a number of safety issues with Transport SA and these have been sympathetically received.

Firstly we raised the problem we face in completing the Pioneer Women's Trail from Verdun to Hahndorf. There is no safe way to cross the Onkaparinga River. If you are driving to Hahndorf from the Freeway, you will notice that the bridge across the river has no provision for pedestrians. This is the preferred crossing point for the trail. We could not endanger trail walkers, so the trail remains incomplete. The Hahndorf Branch of the National Trust also approached Transport SA because they would also like to see the trail completed for historical reasons. They have been working on the trail idea for nearly 30 years. Transport SA have agreed to cost the addition of what we believe is called a "strap-on" pedestrian bridge. This will be added to their forward works programme. It's a good start and we hope that we won't have to wait too long.

We also raised the issue of potential danger where trails cross major highways. In WA, there are warning signs for drivers wherever the Bibbulmun Track crosses highways. Again, Transport SA have taken this issue very seriously and requested lists of places where we considered warning was required. In the case of the Lavender Federation Trail a short list was rapidly provided and Transport SA has been discussing various options with SARTI. The Heysen Trail is considerably longer so it took more time to assemble the list. John Wilson of the Friends of the Heysen Trail and other walking trails has now completed the list and passed it to Transport SA for their consideration.

Safety is an ever present consideration. If you have issues which should be raised, please let Walking SA know.

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

- ◇ **Vulkathunha—Gammon Ranges**
9 July to 19 July 2008

- ◇ **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

New Administration Officer Eleanor Martin

Introducing Eleanor Martin, who will be looking after the Admin side of things at Walking SA as June starts to take some well-earned rest. Eleanor has a lengthy work history in the fields of administration, community development and management. She also has a long-term interest in walking, which probably began as a child when she spent many hours walking with her parents along the cliff-tops and country lanes of Dorset, where she grew up. Eleanor has been a walk leader with 'Women in the Bush' walking group for many years and on their behalf, jointly shares the role of Maintenance Leader for a southern section of the Heysen Trail. She is also into her third season of walking the Heysen Trail 'End-to-End' as part of the Friends walking program.

Over the years, Eleanor has enjoyed bush-walking in many parts of South Australia and in other states, as well as in England, New Zealand and South America. She is also an active member of a conservation group which is committed to protecting and preserving the natural environment at Hallelujah Hills, south of Burra, in South Australia's mid-north.

Eleanor is looking forward to her new role with Walking SA, and is keen to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer a regular hour or two in Walking SA's office.



*Eleanor introducing grandson
Clarrie to the bush!*

The annual
FREE

Professor Cleland Memorial Walks in Belair National Park,

guided by the Friends of the park,
on **Sunday 21st September, 2008**
beginning at Government Farm Oval 1
in Belair National Park,

9.45am for the morning or full day walk
1.45pm for the afternoon only walk.

Bring your own lunch, snacks and drinks,
comfortable shoes, hat and sunscreen.

Everyone welcome

Enquiries to Shirley on 82781525,
or Jenny on 82788986.

Professor Sir John Cleland, (1878-1971), was Chairman of the Commissioners of the National Park from 1936 till 1956. During this period, he undertook the self-imposed task of inspecting the park on foot, during the period between Christmas and New Year's Day. The Commissioners visited the park twice a year to inspect the "improvements", but Cleland at this time set out to walk its boundaries. His purpose was to assess weeds, fire breaks, fencing and anything else that came to his attention, so that he could advise park staff more specifically as to how they could best discharge their duties. It is this action of his that the Friends of Belair National Park commemorate with the annual Professor Cleland Walk.

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) 8521 1700

Kuitpo Forest Phone (08) 8391 8800

Proposed closure and sale of Long Gully Road – Identified as a section of the Heysen Trail.

The concept of the Heysen Trail, proposed by the well-known environmentalist, chemical engineer, and bushwalking doyen, Warren Bonython, was adopted by the South Australian Government and built by Terry Lavender and his staff with assistance from volunteer bushwalkers over a period of more than twenty years.

The Heysen Trail has been supported by successive South Australian governments and is now recognised across Australia and throughout the world as it meanders from the rugged ridges and ancient creek beds of the Flinders Ranges through the rolling pastoral countryside, to the native forests of the Adelaide Hills, and finally to its destination of the unsurpassed seascapes of the South Coast. Any threat to its integrity and continuity must be strenuously challenged in the interests of both present and future generations of South Australians.

The future of this priceless South Australian amenity is dependent upon each local government's management of the route the Trail follows through the respective district council areas. We are aware that the policy in the greater majority of council areas embraces protection from sale to adjoining landowners of undeveloped road reserves that have been identified as the Heysen Trail, and this policy is to be applauded.

When this item was presented at a recent meeting of Mount Barker Council elected councillors voted unanimously not to close and sell to the adjoining landowner the section of the Heysen Trail identified along Long Gully Road. **The councillors' vote was equally supported by letters of objection from hundreds of South Australians represented by many organisations, individuals, and a petition, leaving no doubt of strong public opposition to the sale of any part of the Heysen Trail or rare and endangered native vegetation. The support of these public-minded groups and astute individuals is sincerely and gratefully acknowledged.** The convincing result of the dispute must send a clear message to those entrusted with the care and protection of the State's valuable public assets that private ownership of the Heysen Trail is simply not an option.

*Thelma Anderson,
Walking Access Committee*

Preliminary Notice

GREAT AUSTRALIAN BUSHWALK

Sunday 14 September 2008

Black Hill Conservation Park

What is the Great Australia Bushwalk?

This annual community event offers 120 free guided bushwalks in spectacular locations around Australia - the perfect chance to try bushwalking with Australia's leading community bushwalking organisations.

What are the walks and how do I join one?

From 1 August 2008

www.greataustralianbushwalk.org.au will provide details of every walk, along with easy online registration.

For more information please

Contact **Georgina Mollison** of

The Nature Conservation Society of South Australia

via email at georgina.mollison@ncssa.asn.au or by phone on 7127 4630.

More details on the website soon. www.ncssa.asn.au

Operation Flinders Foundation

is again presenting

Advertiser Colliers International Trailblazer

Trailblazer is a team endurance event that offers distances of 18, 34, 50 and 100km.

Staged along the stunning trails of the Adelaide Hills and Plains, this year's event will take place on

18 and 19 October 2008

Telephone: (08) 8242 5033

Email: amcmanus@operationflinders.org

Web: www.operationflinders.org

Doing their bit

One of our affiliated Clubs, the WEA Ramblers, has responsibility for maintenance of the section of the Heysen Trail from Piccadilly to Norton Summit. On Sunday 20th April, eleven of their members gathered at the Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens armed with gloves, sledge hammers, post-hole diggers, crowbars, screw drivers, etc - in order to remove the 16 or so round, permapine posts and to replace them with the new white cypress posts. The usual trimming of undergrowth etc is not allowed with the gardens, but the Ranger, David Pepper and his staff will attend to this at a later date.

Walkers might have observed the recent changes in the trail markers as there is now a determined effort to 'standardise' the posts and directional markers in order to upgrade the overall appearance of the Heysen Trail - and the work in the Botanic Gardens was all part of this directive. Permapine posts are now considered a 'health hazard' and are no longer permissible on DEH land - hence the need for this working bee.

Fortunately for the group it was a warm autumn day. The gardens looked beautiful, the autumn colours were in abundance and, despite the probability of stiff muscles from the unaccustomed activity all of the group thought it was a job well done (self praise is everything!).'

Liz O'Shea

VALE

A very Special person

Wilfried "Wilf" Rueweler

6/6/1930 ~ 5/6/2008

Club: Australian Friends of Nature

Wilf was a Delegate with Walking SA for many years. He was a gentle, kind man who attended many General Meetings and other events on behalf of his club and was always very supportive of Walking SA.

Our sincere condolences to Christa and families.

*Chris Bushell, President and
Walking SA's Committee*

Launch of the Kidman Trail

A celebration was held to launch the Kidman Trail on Monday 19th May at the Circulating Library on the corner of Kintore Avenue and North Terrace. The Kidman Trail was the brainchild of Horse SA, but the trail can be used by cyclists and walkers as well as horse riders. The horse, named Sampson, accompanied by two police greys, arrived at the front of the Library carrying ceremonial saddle bags containing trail maps which were later presented to guests. There it was met by State Minister, Russell Wortley, Federal Minister, Nick Champion and representatives of Horse SA. A representative cyclist and walker were also present to emphasise that the trail can be used by all.

The trail runs from Willunga to Kapunda. There are 5 maps covering sections of the trail, Willunga to Echunga, Echunga to Nairne, Nairne to Mount Crawford, Mount Crawford to Stockwell and Stockwell to Kapunda. The trail crosses many other trails such as the Heysen Trail and the Lavender Federation Trail and these are shown on the maps. The maps are thus a very useful tool for walk planners and the trail greatly enhances the walkability of the state.

Maps will be available from the Walking SA office and are priced at \$9 each, \$45 for the set.



Barry Playford

*Kidman Trail Launch in Adelaide
featuring horse riders, walkers, cyclists.*

Use of Pedestrian Counters on local trails.

The Trakers currently used by Walking SA are made in Tasmania by a company called Island Research and are on loan from DEH and the Office for Recreation and Sport.

The Traker is 165mm in length, diameter of 40mm and weights 350g and its internal battery has an expected life of 10 years. The Traker-count operates by simply sensing the natural heat energy of passers by, and the total is displayed on an LCD display.

The instrument will keep a total count of movement it detects in each direction. Therefore if walkers return on the same trail the movement will record twice.

Our main problem initially was how to set up the Traker in the field, various methods were trialled, eventually we asked Rob Marshall from the Friends of Parks - *Walking Trails Support Group* to design and build a casing. (Shown here.)



Currently there are three Trakers being monitored this year by Walking SA with data collected monthly by volunteers from the Friends of Parks - *Walking Trails Support Group*, units are in Cleland CP, Warren CP and Hale CP. (Another unit is on "The Lavender Federation Trail" with data being kept by SARTI.) Records for the other units are kept at Walking SA's Office with information sent to DEH & ORS on a regular basis.

Details of the data collection for this year are as follows:

Cleland Conservation Park Chambers Gully foot track to Long Ridge

January 2008	395
February 2008	388
March 2008	167
April 2008	733

Walker numbers are usually high on this track, and numbers increase when the main central track from Waterfall Gully car park to Mt Lofty summit is closed for repair.

Hale Conservation Park near Warren Road Trailhead

January 2008	45
February 2008	79
March 2008	69
April 2008	156

This is a loop trail, walkers should only register once.

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Warren Conservation Park (on the Heysen Trail)

January 2008	60
February 2008	174
March 2008	52
April 2008	202

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During 2007 we also had a Traker on the new section of the Pioneer Women's Trail (Beaumont to Verdun) at Mt Osmond. Initially we had some vandalism to the casing, but fortunately it is very robust so the actual 'Traker' was not damaged. The yearly count for that section of trail in 2007 was 4172. This is a linear trail, but we consider that the number reflects local people using it and returning on the same pathway.

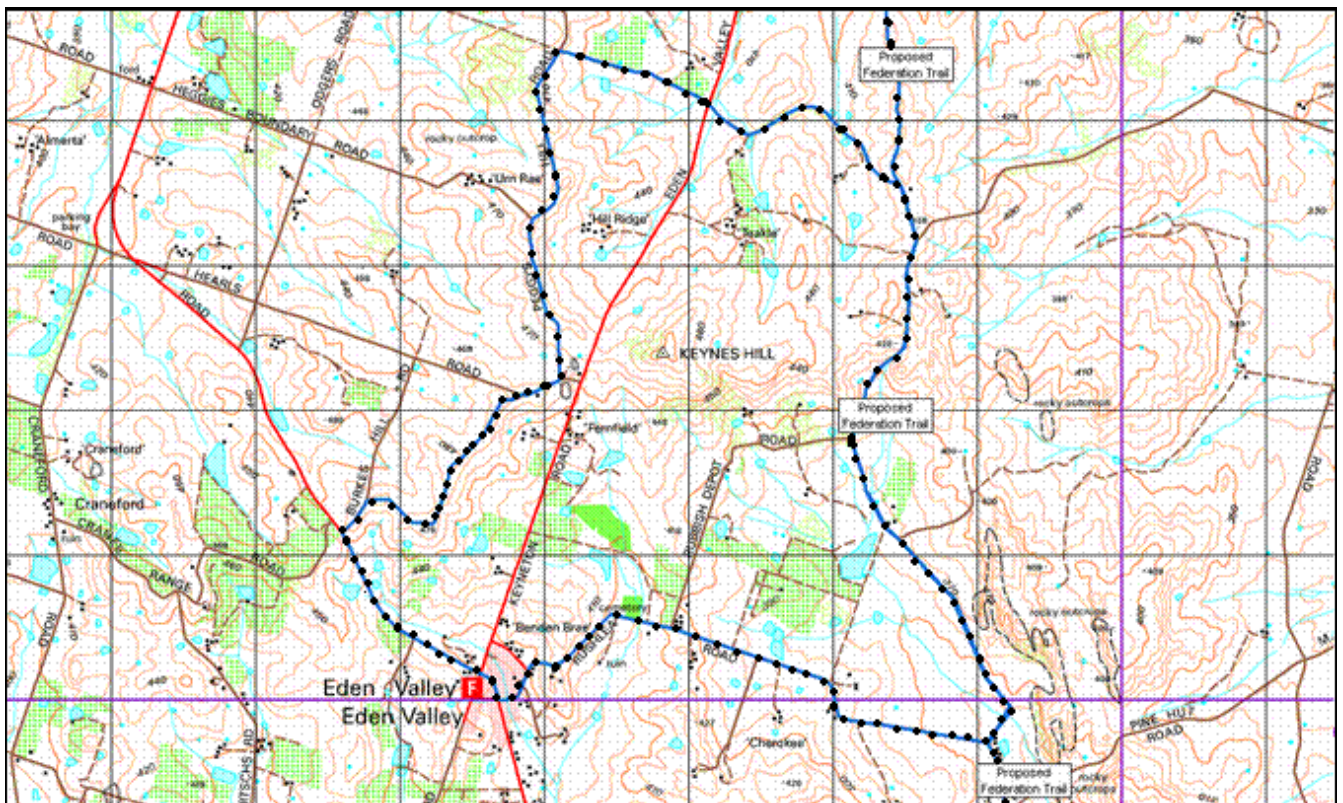
Although actual walker numbers during a particular month can be difficult to calculate due to various factors, such as, groups or individual walkers returning along the same section of trail. Over the period data has been collected a pattern has emerged which gives an overall picture of each trails use.

Our thanks to DEH and the Office for Recreation and Sport for the use of the Trakers, and special thanks must go to Rob Marshall and Ivan Weiner who go into the field each month to collect the data.

June Boscence

Lavender Federation Trail – Eden Valley Loop

The route for the next section of the Lavender Federation Trail has been agreed and will be marked when funds become available. It starts at Springton and travels roughly north, north east to Keynton. It passes Keynes Gap about 4 km east of Eden Valley. The attached map shows the route of a proposed 18 km loop trail from Eden Valley which includes about 4.5 km of the Lavender Federation Trail from Keynes Gap northwards. Members of the SARTI Board have checked the loop trail and it is a great walk. This trail will be marked before the Opening of the Walking Season on Sunday 5th April 2009. Some or all of it could be feature in walks your clubs might be planning for the event.



Diary Date for Walk Leaders

Opening of the Walking Season

Murray Recreation Park, Eden Valley
Sunday 5 April 2009

Walking SA and the SARTI “The Lavender Federation Trail”
Will be organising next year’s event.

Come along and support walking on this important day.