Bush Walkers of the South Australian German Association

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David and Sally Henery  
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Email: alpana2@bigpond.com.au  
Website: www.alpana-station.netfirms.com

**Bookings Essential**

Seeking Photo Submissions  
2011 Heysen Trail Calendar

Entries close October 1

Keep your camera handy, during the 2010 walk season we are seeking member’s photos for our 2011 calendar showcasing the Heysen Trail.

Photos need to landscape shaped and meet minimum technical specifications, generally a 7 Mega Pixel camera will suffice if on the highest image quality settings.

You can submit any photos now, simply email them to heysentrail@gmail.com (up to 10MB attachment), alternatively photos can be left on disk at the Heysen office.
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Email heysentrail@heysentrail.asn.au

Burra Branch
Phone (08) 8843 8115
Email hugreenh@activ8.net.au

Membership Information
Joining Fee $10
Single $20 per year
Family $30 per year
Organisations $50 per year

Membership is valid from the date of payment until the end of the corresponding month in the following year.

Trailwalker Magazine
Views expressed in contributed articles are those of the authors, and not necessarily those of the Friends of the Heysen Trail.

The Trailwalker magazine is available by subscription or online at www.heysentrail.asn.au/trailwalker

The Trailwalker magazine is published quarterly:
- Autumn (March)
- Winter (June)
- Spring (September)
- Summer (December)

The Trailwalker magazine has a distribution of 1200, and an estimated readership of approximately twice that number.

Articles, reports and other submissions by members and other interested parties are welcome and should be emailed to the Trailwalker Editor at trailwalker@heysentrail.asn.au

The submission deadline is usually the first Friday of the month prior to the month of publication.

Advertising Rates
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$60 per issue
$60 per issue
$70 per issue
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Advertising specifications and article submission guidelines are available upon request or by visiting www.heysentrail.asn.au/trailwalker

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You can submit any photos now, simply email them to heysentrail@gmail.com (up to 10MB attachment), alternatively photos can be left on disk at the Heysen office.

Seeking Photo Submissions
2011 Heysen Trail Calendar
Entries close October 1

Trailwalker Spring 2010 3
Patron
C. Warren Bonython AO

Council Members 2010
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Simon Cameron
Gavin Campbell
Jeanette Clarke
Jerry Foster
Bob Gentle
Nick Langsford
Julian Monfries
Chris Porter
David Rattray
Cliff Walsh
John Wilson
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Arrienne Wynen
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Burra Branch Chairmen
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Vice President
Kate Greenhill
Secretary
Sally Fieldhouse
Maintenance
Hugh Greenhill
Goyder Tourism Working Party Rep
Hugh Greenhill

Council Meeting Dates 2010
Wed 15th September
Wed 20th October
Wed 17th November
Wed 15th December

Honorary Members
Terry Lavender*
Jim Crinion
Neville Southgate
Doug Leane*
Fred Brooks*
Sadie Leupold
Thelma Anderson
Kath Palyga
Richard Schmitz
Arthur Smith
Colin Edwards
Hugh Greenhill
Jamie Shephard
Glen Dow
Barry Finn
Dean Killmier
John Wilson
David Beaton
Jack Marcelis
Julian Monfries
Terry & Frances Gasson
* (deceased)

Trailwalker Editor
Hilary Gillette

Membership Secretary
David Rattray

Office Coordinator
David Rattray

Maintenance Coordinator
Gavin Campbell

Bookkeepers
Jeanette Clarke
Xun Wang (Michael)
Hao Zheng
Jixin Li (Lucinda)
Zhaolong Huang (Isabella)

About The Friends

Shop/Office Hours & Volunteers

Monday 10.30 - 2.30
Trevor Gaunt, Mike Parsons,
Robyn Quinn, Elizabeth Rogers,

Tuesday 10.30 - 2.30
Dawn Bon, Chris Caspar,
Chris Porter, David Rattray,
David Roberts

Wednesday 10.30 - 2.30
Myra Betschild, Gilbert Downs,
Wendy Fox, Jack Marcelis

Thursday 10.30 - 2.30
Bob Gentle, Julian Monfries
Trevor Barns

Friday 10.30 - 2.30
Colin Edwards, Sandy Melbourne,
Jamie Shephard

Saturday & Sunday Closed

Relief Staff
Jim Alvey, David Beaton,
Jack Marcelis

Phone 8212 6299
President’s Report

By Simon Cameron

Boots and shoes have definitely been wet more than once this season, and the Heysen Trail is looking lush everywhere I go. The creeks are flowing around Melrose and the crops are growing around Burra.

Next stop will be Quorn and nearby Mt Brown. From the summit I should be able to see all of the southern Flinders Ranges, northward to Mt Arden, west to Pt Augusta and east to Orroroo. For many walkers the Flinders Ranges are a highlight. The trail starts its traverse of the Flinders Ranges from Crystal Brook, finishing at Parachilna Gorge. Originally mooted to go all the way to Mt Babbage or Mt Hopeless a compromise was made to accommodate safety and accessibility and the trailhead terminates in Parachilna, but it is still a work in progress with strategic plans to move it to Blinman. It doesn’t matter where the Heysen trailhead is placed because walking it never ends. No matter how many times you walk its sections it always changes. Changes in season, changes in mood and changes in direction always make it interesting. In the next year one group of the Friends, the End to End 3 group, are due to reach the trailhead at Parachilna and already plans are afoot to walk back to Cape Jervis.

The Trail has always been a community endeavour, linking South Australia’s walking clubs and associations. We are fortunate in having all our maintenance sections along the trail currently being supervised with the assistance of community groups, such as Project Flinders and walking clubs such ARPA, and the German Bushwalkers. The Friends of the Heysen Trail actively support community involvement, assisting volunteer groups to run events and supporting country community groups when we traverse regional South Australia. When 80 walkers descend on a mid northern town for a weekend of walking we make quite a splash and some of the most memorable moments of End to End 3 have come from the hard working local service clubs which have opened their community halls to cater for us. The salient point is that walking trails only develop and prosper if they serve a community purpose and an important purpose of the Heysen Trail is to link a diverse range of regional towns.

There are other changes worth noting. The Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH), which manages the trail, has changed name to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) from July 1. Bronte Leake has been the long term trail manager and he continues his valuable role. Early this year Bronte’s team completed the new route from Beetaloo to Wirrabarra, continuing along the ridgeline from the Bluff. It is a beautifully made scrub trail, just below the crest. This highlights the fact that the trail is always improving and with improvements the horizon is the limit.

See you on the Trail!
Office Report

By David Rattray
Office Coordinator

Greetings All
Once again the office has been busy. In July the office handled over 520 inquiries of which just over 50% were emails.

New Staff
Welcome to Trevor Barns, an End 2 End 3 walker, who now assists on a Thursday. Welcome also to David Weinel who recently reported on the office computer system. The recommendations are being considered by the Office Committee. David walks with the End 2 End 4 group.

Membership
Members of the Friends are reminded to renew their membership promptly.

Walking Registrations
Almost 440 walkers have registered to walk with the Friends this year and about a quarter of them are not members. Over 1500 registrations for walks have been entered onto the walk web page. Most of these have been done by members using the on-line booking and payment system. Considering End 2 End 3 walkers walk on both Saturday and Sunday the Friends, collectively have completed 2000 days walking this calendar year so far.

Approximately one third of our members are walkers and the most number of walks undertaken by a member this year, at time of writing is nineteen. Twenty seven people have undertaken at least ten walks so far this year.

Walking Committee

By Arrienne Wynen
Walking Committee Chairperson

Well here we are, nearly at the end of another walking season.

The program that we offer to our members continues to grow and this is due to existing and new walk leaders. We welcome any walkers that are interested in expanding their role with the Friends. Those of us that lead walks know that we gain a lot in sharing our favourite walks and discovering new walks with like-minded people. As an organisation we hold a training day for new leaders each year and now have our navigation day up and running, which will also be held yearly. So if you think this might be for you, have a talk to a leader on your next walk or to the office and they will pass the information on. The planning for next year is underway and with the continued interest in E2E walks we will be starting E2E6 after the opening of the walk season.

As yet we are unsure of what extended walks we will be offering but some ideas are being considered. As a committee we try to provide a choice for our members, the challenge of the E2E’s, stand alone walks on Sundays and also the fun and challenge of an extended walk away.

As always give us suggestions and we will try to incorporate them into the program. The walk committee is small but active and always looking for new members, so if you have enthusiasm, ideas and want to be more involved with the Friends let the office know.
The President and the Council would like to extend a warm welcome to the following members, who have joined the Friends since the last edition of the Trailwalker, and urge them to become involved in the voluntary, walking and social aspects of the Association.

Katherine Anderson
Vicky Cahalan
Peter Cheung
Noel Christophersen
Mei-Fong Chung
Josephine Clark
Terry Clark
James Dantalis
Ann Doman
Thomas Doman
Graham Dunn
Michelle Elliott
Wayne Farley
Elizabeth Fielden
Christopher Fielden
Amara Foster
Candace Gibson
Rex Guthrie
Jillian Hooper
Rose Irving
Adele Irving-Guthrie
Amber Irving-Guthrie
Cloe Jolly
Bradley Jolly
Matthew Jorgensen
Alison Kindlen
Carlene Kupke
Glen Mack
Brian Marr
Richard Martin
Nadia Marzi
Trevor Millard
Sharon Millard
Christopher Miller
Pam Monk
James Pannell
David Powell
Anne-Marie Quim
Verity Remilton
Lucy Richards
Janis Richardson
Ian Richardson
Penny Shepley
Peter Sherwen
Judith Smith
Kim Smith
Peter Sommerville
Kyle Stewart
Jason Stewart
Shannon Stewart
Kennedy Stewart
Connor Stewart
David Stoddart
Katherine Stoddart
Paul Taylor
Jan Turner
Milton Turner
Jill Uellendahl
Wendy Wake-Dyster
Gregory Walker
Michelle Walker
Ian Walton
Karen Williams
Mavis Zutshi

Forestry SA Rangers have asked that clubs provide prior notification of all planned walks in forest areas. Please provide 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

Wirrabara Forest
Phone: 8668 4163

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**JENNY PRIDER**

By Jack Marcelis on behalf of The Friends of the Heysen Trail

The bush walking and running community are saddened by the tragic accidental death of one of our past members and early office volunteer.

A member of a number of bush walking groups including the Friends and Goannas Bush Walkers, she will be fondly remembered for her enthusiasm and willingness to participate in all aspects of our activities.

Jenny had a no nonsense approach to life and she will be surely missed by our walking community.

Our sincere condolences to Dennis and his family.

**VALE**

Regular Reports
Marita Bushell —
All members of ARPA Bushwalking Club have been deeply saddened by Marita’s short illness followed by her untimely death on 1 July, 2010.
Marita was in the throes of completing the Heysen Trail extension in the Flinders Ranges following an ARPA camp at Arkaroola, but after a brief illness, lost the battle she had fought so hard to overcome. One of Marita’s most outstanding achievements is the compilation of the publication entitled “Talking Walking — The Story of the ARPA Bushwalkers”. It is an exacting work, compiled and edited by Marita and providing a history of all aspects relating to walking locations, relationships, personalities, experiences. Marita’s fascination and knowledge for all things botanical was a highlight of her walking experiences that she shared with her companions. She also excelled as an artist and a musician and the associated “tools of trade” usually accompanied her on walking camps that she attended.
Marita was respected, admired and loved by all who knew her, and her unique personality will be sadly missed.
Sincere condolences are extended to Chris and all family members.

Yankalilla Council —
Advice has been received from the Chief Executive Officer of Yankalilla Council that there has been an approval from Council to the effect that Council is unlikely to impact upon recreational walking in any way.

Mount Lofty Walking Trails —
Progress is being made with plans being formulated for submission of an application to the Office for Recreation and Sport for funding to meet the costs involved in identifying and marking, then publishing coloured leaflets describing the Mount Lofty trails identified on the Onkaparinga topographical cadastral series map. This would provide continuity of the Barossa maps and ensure the preservation of the Mount Lofty Walking Trails system, together with the opportunity for its expansion to southern scenic locations. We gratefully acknowledge the valuable expertise and experience of Andrew Moylan of Forestry SA in the restoration of the former National Fitness Council walking trails. Initial plans will focus on the Kersbrook area where links are available to local undeveloped road reserves, the Heysen Trail, forest trails, Roachdale (National Trust property) and Warren Conservation Park. Volunteers will be recruited to maintain various sections of the trails, similar to the Heysen Trail maintenance volunteers system.

Drivers Road —
The Walking Access Committee continues to liaise with staff of Adelaide Hills Council in the development of the Drivers Road Circuit at Piccadilly. Developed access is available from the Tregarthen Reserve on Greenhill Road at Summertown to Drivers Road where access continues along an sealed road to a walking track through native bushland, now cleared of broom and blackberry, allowing easy walking access down the hill to a small creek. Work will continue from here with the provision of a small bridge and the trail will then follow Bonython Road up and over the hill to continue along Piccadilly Road to Piccadilly Crescent to follow in a westerly direction along a sealed road at first, then an unsealed track over a gate and along the fence-line to a stile. The direction turns north and enters Curtis Close to follow a rough track and enter the eastern end of Ross Road. The route heads west along the road to the junction with Sprigg Road and turns left towards the Mount Lofty Botanic Garden. The choice is then left to the walker to follow Lampert Road along the Heysen Trail in both directions — easterly towards Bridgewater and beyond and westerly through Mount Lofty Botanic Garden towards Cleland Park. A scenic walking experience is guaranteed in both directions.

Woodcutters Road —
Reference was also made to this location in the previous issue. The latest development in the application by Onkaparinga Council for a Heritage Agreement to be placed on a section of Woodcutters Road has not proceeded. Pedestrian access remains available to walkers but care should be taken by those walking in this area to avoid damage to all native vegetation.
Council has prohibited access to the area by all vehicles, including horses and bikes.

Walking SA Annual General Meeting —
All walkers are advised that the Annual General Meeting of the peak body for walking in South Australia, was
Trailwalker Spring 2010

held at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, 19 August, 2010 in the Parkview Room, Fullarton Park Community Centre, corner of Fisher Street and Fullarton Road. Parking is off Fullarton Road.

Caroline Path, Belair —
All walkers are advised that a Government initiative to provide safe access for cyclists between Belair and the plains as an alternative to using Old Belair Road and promoted as a “shared use trail”, is totally unsuitable for use by pedestrians due to the very steep gradients of this most recently provided bike path.

Women’s Pioneer Trail —
In an effort to reduce the exposure of walkers to vehicular traffic on the current alignment of this historic trail, a letter has been forwarded to the Premier of South Australia requesting the provision of funding to enable construction of a pedestrian bridge on Sandow Road over the Onkaparinga River at Verdun. An attempt was made more than 10 years ago to secure the crossing, but our attempts did not come to fruition. More than $1m has been provided more recently for the Amy Gillett Bicycle Trail along 5 km of the former railway line to Mount Pleasant and classified as a “shared use” trail. However, the classification is misleading as it is neither a horse trail nor a walking trail, although the sentiments inspiring its construction as the Amy Gillett Bike Trail are clearly respected. The proposed pedestrian bridge would also provide safer access for the spur trail of the Heysen Trail between Bridgewater and Hahndorf; it would also lead directly to “The Cedars”, the former home of the late Sir Hans Heysen, and now a tourism destination, both locally and for tourists from interstate and overseas.

Come and see your President boogie to the tune of the famous Jump Daddies at the beautiful Paxton Winery in McLaren Vale.

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Regular Reports

Smith’s Farmstay
Accommodation ~ Laura
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2 Bathrooms – plenty of hot water
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BURRA BRANCH ACTIVITIES

By Jenny Reid and Hugh Greenhill
Burra Branch Members

Our season began in late May with a maintenance day at the Black Jack shelter where the tank stand was in such a bad state, it would no longer support the rainwater tank. A call for volunteers resulted in a hardy crew of 6 led by Hugh, the main job on hand being to repair the tank stand to an up-right position.

First though, the tank water needed to be drained into portable water containers, for refilling the tank when repairs were completed. Eventually when the tank stand was finally dug up, the support posts were so rotten that new posts were needed. President Arthur Simpson came to the rescue here, providing old telephone posts which then needed to be cut and shaped to fit the rainwater tank.

While this was being completed, others were giving the toilet residents (redbacks and friends) their eviction notices and cleaning around this area. Just as the rain set in at the end of the day, the tank was finally repositioned onto its new stand and refilled with the water from the plastic containers, leaving the precipitation to complete the refill.

Thanks to Arthur, Christina and Warwick, Heather, Kate, and Jenny. Without volunteer support such as that given freely on this day and the flexibility shown to achieve the end result, Heysen Trail walkers would not get the full benefit of these facilities that are available.

Sally Fieldhouse let the first walk during a weekday in May in the Paradise area, followed by the first weekend walk in June led by Arthur Simpson. He described this as a moderate undulating walk heading through the Dare Hill Ranges with magnificent views of the Caroona Conservation Park to the east and always another hill to climb in front. Several members found unique ways to combat this challenge notably Penny with her backpack of oranges but she got there in the end!!!! It was a good turnout on this day with 22 in the group, including new walkers of various ages. And thanks to an ever vigilant Heather who spotted possible funnel-web relatives and others who found little lizards?

Arthur was also the organiser and leader of the full moon walk late in June. Again it was a good turnout of walkers, with over 20 turning up to the Mt Bryan East School for a meal prior to heading out to Civilisation Road in perfectly clear conditions for walking. The full moon rose on schedule providing good light for walking, with the added bonus of a partial eclipse thrown in. This triggered much discussion of the position of the earth in relation to the sun and the moon.

Back at the school, the bonfire was lit; marshmallows and music mellowed us into a state of sleepiness, much needed as we awoke to the heaviest frost for the season. Of course we were fortified by Arthur’s speciality, egg and bacon breakfast, providing some with enough energy to spend the morning walking up and down the eastern slopes of Mt Bryan.

During July, Hugh led another good turnout of walkers in the Touralie Gorge section of the Caroona Creek Conservation Park. This walk was a little different, rather than climbing up hills and down again, he had the group climbing a waterfall and walking through the rapids! Well of course there wasn’t any water flowing, but there was plenty of evidence of water erosion of the rocks in times
gone by. And in one area the group came across a hole resembling an anthill, where recent rain had exposed some green-blue azurite (copper).

Heather led our latest walk, a mid-week walk, which was changed to the Spring Gully Conservation Park, where she promised any takers a walk with a difference. She reports that amidst lots of moaning and groaning, a small group followed the fire tracks in the east and northern sections of the park, ending up in Iron Pot Creek. Although strenuous in places there was enough to hold the interest of the hardy walkers present, and she also reported that areas burnt by fires last year are thankfully beginning to regenerate, albeit an over-abundance of weeds in places.

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We offer 10% Discount to all Friends of the Heysen Trail Members.
The preparations for the final two camps to hike the remaining 100 kilometres between Melrose and Spalding are in full swing. “So far, the most remarkable experience was the walking tour we made in a group of five of Mount Remarkable which rises to a height of 995 metres”, hiking guide Hermann Schmidt says with a smile. Shortening the 22 kilometre length of the tour was not an option for the group. The forecast was for a change in the weather in the evening. Yet, the change came at noon, surprising the bush walkers who had only covered half of the tough terrain by that time. Temperatures fell rapidly from a warm 30 to a cool 15 degrees centigrade. The ascent was made arduous first by storm, then a cold spell, finally rain and even hail. The group made the summit with great difficulty, only to be pelted by water on the way down. Reaching the camp in Melrose all soaking wet and hoping for a quick warm-up, the group discovered that a power failure had paralysed everything there.

Hermann and his wife Hannelore have many a bush walking story to tell. For example, stories of dust storms, kangaroos, emus, snakes, and ‘yakka as sweet as honey’ that can be licked in its early blossom. Hundreds of photos evidence the beauty of the landscape, and detailed hiking maps are the result of their meticulous

It is the dream of every bush walker in South Australia to walk the full 1,200 kilometre length of the Heysen Trail with its great hiking variety. With eleven years of walking persistence and perseverance put in, the bush walkers of the South Australian German Association (SAADV) will soon fulfil the dream of completing the tour of the Heysen Trail.

Story by Olaf Konstantin Krueger & Jorg Valentin, Photos by Christa Jarm & Hermann Schmidt
The Heysen Trail leads through some remote parts of the country and is not made up in some sections. The idea for the bush walkers of the SAADV to walk the whole of the Trail surfaced after the group’s hiking from Williamstown to Chain of Ponds in 1998. In fact, it was Hermann who had immigrated from Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, to Australia in 1957 that hit upon the idea at the time. In 1999, the bush walkers engaged in the repair work of an 18 kilometre stretch of the Trail in Myponga. It was then that the project was put in concrete terms, with Hermann and his deputy Fred De Ceukelaire organising sectional walks of the Trail, at which groups of 50 enthusiasts on average participated. For the realisation of the project, Hermann and Hannelore used maps to arrange sections of 10 to 15 kilometres length. Ahead of the group tour, they both scouted out the terrain in four-wheel drives, where necessary sought hiking permission from owners of private plots, and identified suitable resting areas or shelter.

The first walk took place in Mount Crawford Forest. At that stage, trips from Adelaide to the assembly points could still be made by car or shuttle bus. However, as access routes became longer, it was necessary to stay in hotels or organise 3 to 5 day caravan camps.

The first of the 9 camps made so far was set up in Kapunda (Burra) in May 2002. Initially, it was one or two hikes per year that led the bush walkers up the Heysen Trail. After 2006, up to 3 camps were pitched every year with on average 4 hiking days. ‘The best time to walk the Heysen Trail is in winter’, says Hermann, ‘because in summer it is simply too hot.’

So far, the bush walkers have ticked off the route from Parachilna Gorge to Melrose in the north and from Bundaleer (Spalding) to Cape Jervis in the south. The next camp will be pitched in Melrose. The last one in Jamestown or Laura is now being organised, with a big celebration planned at the end of September. The next focus of the Bushwalkers will be their 20th anniversary in 2011 and the 600th walk. But first, there is the prospect of a certificate and a medal from the ‘Friends of the Heysen Trail and Other Walking Trails’. Both will be given a place of honour in the Adelaide clubhouse of the SAADV.
The Heysen Trail is graciously maintained by volunteers. If you discover a problem on the Heysen Trail, please contact the Friends of the Heysen Trail office, or the Maintenance Co-ordinator or relevant Maintenance Section Leader listed. We welcome feedback on the condition of the Heysen Trail, constructive suggestions on improvements that could be made, and general comments or enquiries about the Trail.

**Maintenance Co-ordinators**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maintenance Committee Chairman</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Wilson</td>
<td>8356 9264 (H)</td>
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**Section Map Section Leader Contact**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Map</th>
<th>Section Leader</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Cape Jervis to Tapanappa</td>
<td>Southern Guidebook, Maps 1.1-1.3</td>
<td>Tim James &amp; Friends</td>
<td>8556 7015 (H)</td>
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<td>2A. Tapanappa to Waitpinga Campground</td>
<td>Southern Guidebook, Maps 1.3-1.5</td>
<td>Roger Dunn &amp; Friends</td>
<td>8260 2146 (H)</td>
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<td>2B. Waitpinga Campground to Back Valley Rd</td>
<td>Southern Guidebook, Maps 1.5-2.2</td>
<td>Geoffrey &amp; Pamela Gardner</td>
<td>8552 5213 (H)</td>
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<td>3. Back Valley Road to Moon Hill</td>
<td>Southern Guidebook, Maps 3 2.2-2.3</td>
<td>Michael Scott</td>
<td>0400 293 132</td>
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<td>4. Moon Hill to Hindmarsh Tiers Road</td>
<td>Southern Guidebook, Maps 2.3-2.5</td>
<td>Hermann Schmidt (Wandergruppe Bushwalkers, German Association)</td>
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<td>5. Hindmarsh Tiers Road to Blackfellows Creek Road</td>
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<td>Eleanor Martin Myra Betschild (Women in the Bush)</td>
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<td>6. Blackfellows Creek Road to Glen Bold</td>
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<td>Richard Webb</td>
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<td>7. Glen Bold to Piccadilly</td>
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<td>Thelma Anderson Trevor Lee</td>
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<td>8. Piccadilly to Norton Summit</td>
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<td>9. Norton Summit to Cudlee Creek</td>
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<td>11. Bethany to Hamilton</td>
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<td>18. Wilpena to Parachilna</td>
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<td>David Henery (Alpana Station) Operation Flinders</td>
<td>8648 4626 (H) 8242 3233</td>
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From the dolphins of Noosa ...

...... to the crocs of Kakadu

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Plus lots more for 2011
## 2010 Walk Season Programme for the Friends of the Heysen Trail

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### Key to Walk Programme
- **Trail Starter walk**
- **Trail Walker walk**
- **End-to-end walk**
- **Other walk event**

An explanation of walk grades and details for each walk event are published on the website.

---

For further information about each walk, walk grades, frequently asked questions or to print off a copy of the programme (www.heyentrail.asn.au/walks)

### Walk Grades

There are five different grades of walk on the Friends of the Heysen Trail walk programme. Four of these operate during the walk season, generally from April to November when it is not Fire Ban Season:
- **Trail Starter**
- **Trail Walker**
- **Trail Rambler**
- **End-to-End**

When it is not walk season, generally during the summer Fire Ban Season, a fifth walk grade, Summer Twilight Walks, operate.

Details of each walk grade are provided on the website.

### Registering for Walks

You must register for a walk, either online or over the phone.

Register online (by Wed prior please) at www.heyentrail.asn.au, or by phone the office on 8212 6299 (during the hours listed on page 3).
2010 Walk Season Programme for the Friends of the Heysen Trail

Opening of Walk Season
Onkaparinga/Chapel Hill
Fri/Sun April 23-25
Richard Milosh

Sleep’s Gully Trail
Sun April 18
Neil Rivett

Aldgate Autumn
Sun May 30
Arrienne Wynen

End-To-End 5
Sun May 23
Richard Milosh

Locks Ruin to Belair
Sun May 9
David Beaton

Vixen/Devils Gully Trail
Sat-Mon June 12-14
Rhonda Dempster

Begin Cape Jervis
Sun June 20
Arrienne Wynen

End-To-End 3
Sun June 6
Jamie Shephard

Anstey’s Hill Trail
Sun July 4
Lynn Wood

Kuipto to Mt Compass Trail
Sun July 11
Ray Blight

Kyeema to Dashwood Gully Trail
Sun July 18
John Potter

End-To-End 4
Sun July 25
Steve Wilkinson

Cleland to Montacute Heights Trail
Sun August 1
Dean Mortimer

Para Wirra Trail
Sun August 8
Barry Brown

Inman Valley Trail
Sun August 15
Steve Wilkinson

Waitpinga to Dutchman’s Stern Trail
Sun August 22
David Carter

Belair Trail
Sun August 29
Ray Blight

Scott Creek Trail
Sun September 5
Barry Brown

Scott Creek Trail
Sun September 12
Barry Brown

Sun September 19
Robyn Quinn

Sun September 26
Barry Brown

Sun October 3
Barry Brown

Sun October 10
Rhonda Dempster

Sun October 17
Richard Milosh

Sun October 24
Richard Milosh

Sun November 7
Richard Milosh

November 12-15
Kangaroo Island Weekend

**Recommended Clothing and Equipment**

Walkers joining our groups need to be appropriately equipped. Prime consideration is your safety, comfort and weather protection. Your safety and the safety of the walking group can be jeopardised by those walkers wearing inappropriate footwear or clothing. Evacuation of a sick or injured walker from an inaccessible area can take many hours. A Walk Leader may decide not to accept people for a walk who are not appropriately dressed or prepared for the local conditions.

What to Wear for Trail Starter and Trail Rambler walks.
- Good walking shoes, or boots with grip soles. Not appropriate for bush walking are: thongs; sandals; elastic sided boots; and smooth-soled shoes or sneakers.

Socks suitable to the footwear worn.
- Wet weather gear. A three quarter length waterproof rain jacket is ideal (shower proof spray jackets and quilted parkas are not waterproof and may lead to hypothermia). In summer a poncho style waterproof may be sufficient.
- A warm jumper or jacket of wool or polyester. Cotton shirts and wind-cheaters provide little insulation when wet, and retain water which quickly cools.
- Shorts, or loose comfortable wool or synthetic pants (jeans are not recommended as they become cold when wet and dry slowly)
- Shade hat and sunscreen in sunny weather. Warm hat/beanie in cooler weather.

For Trail Walker and End-to-End walks, in addition to the above list, depending on walk location and the weather, please also consider
- Thermal underwear
- Waterproof over-trousers
- Gaiters.

What to Bring for Trail Starter and Trail Rambler walks.
- Personal medication requirements, Basic First Aid and Emergency Kit
- UV Sunblock
- Insect Repellent
- Torch
- Lunch and snacks (include some for emergency)
- Plastic bag for rubbish
- Water in secure container; minimum 1 litre, and two litre if temperature will be over 25°C (even more if temperature is forecast to be higher)
- Gear should be carried in a day pack. One with a supporting waist band is recommended.

For Trail Walker and End-to-End walks, in addition to the above list, please bring
- Whistle
- Wide elastic bandage and Triangular bandage with safety pins.

Twilight walks are of shorter duration and generally in more accessible areas. The above recommendations can be modified to suit the walk and weather conditions. The minimum requirements are to dress for the weather conditions and sun protection, wear comfortable walking shoes, a sun hat, sunscreen, and bring 1 litre of water. If unsure, please check with the Walk Leader.

The clothing and gear outlined above are our recommendations. Note that the Walk Leader may not accept you for a walk if you are not suitably equipped for the local conditions. If unsure, always check with the walk leader.

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The Friends of the Heysen Trail
10 Pitt Street Adelaide 5000
Phone 08 8212 6299
www.heysentrail.asn.au

This version released 26 March 2010
Just before leaving for Africa, I found a small paperback book that had been lost during a recent house move. “Upon that Mountain” by Eric Shipton, published in the 1950s, describes his ascents of Mt Kenya in 1929-1930. Shipton made the first recorded ascent of Nelion (5188m) and the first traverse over Nelion and Batian (5199m), the twin summits of Mt Kenya.

Story and Photos by Luke Adams, Paddy Pallin

He was a truly amazing pioneer of unexplored areas of the world. Thus, I set off inspired.

The four of us arrived in Nairobi on a Sunday afternoon after 30 hours of travelling via Kuala Lumpur and Qatar. On the recommendation of a travel agent, I had arranged some cheap accommodation over the net prior to leaving. But two places in the same street in Upperhill had similar names and we ended up staying not in the campground as intended but in a backpackers called the Bush House & Camp! This turned out to be a happy mistake because our host Zipporah was extremely well-connected and could arrange anything by making a call or two. The Bush House (www.bush-house.com) was our base in Nairobi for the next 3 weeks of adventures. We spent the Monday exploring the city, buying food, and booking transport and porters.

Mt Kenya was the first objective and we decided to get to the climbing from the north via the Sirimon track. The bus ride to Nanyuki was exciting as the rural road network is in disrepair (not that the streets in Nairobi were much better). We met the porters in Nanyuki and continued on to where a dirt road headed into the hills. There, at 2000 metres we left the transport and walked 9 kilometres to the park gate at 2700 metres. This gave us an extra day to get acclimatized and used to walking with packs.

The next morning, we each handed over US$90.00 entry fee at the gate and headed up through a forest to Old Moses Camp at 3300 metres. We saw baboons, Colobus monkeys, water buck and a zebra. And we wondered why the porters hadn’t clipped the waist belts of the packs. They explained that when an elephant comes charging out, you need to get rid of the pack.
quickly. As there was clear evidence of elephants and cape buffalo in the area, we quietly unclipped the buckles on our day packs! It had been easy walking, so we pitched camp and then headed up a hill to a meteorological station at 3700 metres to further acclimatize.

Leaving early the next day, we walked 6 hours to Shipton’s Camp at 4200 metres. The path took us up Mackinder Valley into an Afro-alpine zone of unique flora and fauna. The giant groundsel (*Senecio keniodendron*) and what we referred to as “Cousin It” plants (*Telek’s giant lobelias*) were particularly impressive. We saw a number of rock hyraces. The porters pushed us quite hard as they wanted to get up, dump our packs, and go back down to solicit more business. We paid them $15 per day plus a $20 tip, about the going rate.

Shipton’s Camp was our base for the ascent of Batian. The afternoon we arrived, Mike, Adam and I were still feeling OK and wanted to find the start of the technical climbing. Paul was complaining of bronchitis, gastro, an allergy, altitude sickness and anything else he could think of so he opted out. We set out about 3.30 and climbed a scree slope for an hour till we found the start of the North Face Standard Route (IV+). Just near the tongue of the Kranf Glacier, the start was marked with a chipped cross and blue paint. Back at camp by 5:30, we were excited to be in position to start the climb.

Tim McCartney-Snape had recommended to bivi in the Amphitheatre, about 300 metres up the route, and then head for the summit the next day. With this in mind, we left Shipton’s at 10 am with biggish packs containing sleeping bags, bivi bags, stoves, food, fuel, and climbing gear. Slogging up the scree for the second time in less that 24 hours was tiring but, once at the start of the route, all else was forgotten. Rock climbing with big packs was a different experience; I found I had to adjust my technique and rely on footwork a lot more. We climbed in teams of 2 to keep the climbing interesting and to minimize waiting at belays. After 8 pitches and some moving together we arrived at a spacious ledge in the Amphitheatre where we could wander around unroped. We spent a comfortable evening at about 4700 metres under the stars in the bright night sky.

The next day began with some easy scrambling and then 2 pitches to access Firmin’s Tower. We climbed the Tower in 4 pitches, the crux pitch being about grade 17. A short abseil was followed by 3 more pitches to join the northwest ridge. The rock was alpine granite with ample cracks for jams and protection, nice edges for crimps, and great friction for smearing. Ice appeared in the cracks and then icicles as we moved higher.

At about 5100 metres, on gaining the summit ridge, we found a small bivi site. Time was getting on (it was 2.30 by then) and we had to decide whether to go for the summit or abseil back to our gear in the Amphitheatre. The decision was to continue, hoping that it would only take an hour or so to get to the top. But soon the sky clouded over and it began to snow which slowed progress a little more. We traversed just below the ridge top for 120 metres to Shipton’s Notch which was negotiated with a short pitch of grade 14. A bit more traversing got us to the final vertical pitch. Adam and I topped out first, Mike and Paul arriving a few minutes later. The summit was somewhat anticlimactic: we shook hands and sat in the snow, happy to have finally made it but a little fearful of what the night would bring.

We soon descended back along the ridge to the little high bivi, reaching it at 6 pm. We would be somewhat protected by a ½ metre-high stone wall, but 4 guys had to fit into a space where perhaps 2 would have been comfortable. We spread the ropes out onto the floor to give a little insulation. We had 2 space blankets, minimal chocolate, and just a little water which froze anyway. It was a case of snuggling up, coping with the discomfort and leg cramps, and counting down the hours until dawn. First light was much anticipated and sunrise was a beautiful sight. Once we’d warmed up, it was 7 abseils back to the Amphitheatre for a very welcome brunch.

After a rest, we packed the gear and descended to the start of 6 more abseils. This lower gully was a shooting gallery, full of loose blocks of all sizes. Mike was hit on the wrist and foot when pulling a rope and was lucky it wasn’t more serious. We
I got to the base of the route at about 4 pm and headed back down the scree to our welcoming tents. Everyone was feeling hungry and exhausted: a quick soup then straight to sleep. Waking the next morning, we realized how lucky we’d been with the weather. It had snowed most of the night and the mountain was plastered.

Keen to get back to Nairobi, we hired 2 porters to help carry the gear and walked the 23 km to the park gate in a day. I arranged a 4WD and driver to take us to Nanyuki where we hopped on a mini-bus. The equator lies a little south of Nanyuki so we stopped for a photo. Spying a likely looking shop, Mike disappeared and emerged with a 25 kg wooden rhino that the vendor had assured him was solid ebony. Things then became squeezy in the back seat but, nevertheless, we made it back to the Bush House that evening. Four large pizzas washed down with Tusker beer was a great celebration.

The next objective was Kilimanjaro (5895 metres). We packed away the climbing hardware, tents and stoves as the only practical way to climb Kilimanjaro is to pay a tour company to run the trek. Again, Zipporah arranged everything ($996 Nairobi-to-Nairobi). A slow day’s bus trip to Arusha, interrupted by formalities at the Tanzania border, then 2 hours travelling along the southern flank of the mountain got us to the Marangu Gate.

We met our guide Fredrick, his assistant John, the cook and 6 porters. We were to ascend the so-called “Coca Cola” route which is the fastest way up Kilimanjaro. Three days trekking, beginning in rainforest and finishing in high alpine desert, got us up to Kibo Hut at 4700 metres. Highlights along the way included the gardens of proteas and giant groundsel, this time the Kilimanjaro variety *Senecio jonstonii*. We left Kibo at midnight to avoid the usual cloudy afternoon weather and, hopefully, to greet dawn from the top of Africa. It’s fair to say that the ascent was tougher than we were expecting considering we’d done the hard yards on Mt Kenya. While only a walk, the dark hours trudging up the endless scree slope were tiring and very cold. The water in our packs froze and we all complained of cold feet. It was about -10°C.

We reached the rim of the volcano (about 5600 metres) at about 4.30, and marched on for another couple of hours to reach the high point. It was Adam’s turn to feel the altitude and he celebrated topping out with an impressive vomit. Africa’s highest mountain is now a little higher. The sunrise on a crisp August morning made all the hard work worthwhile; Kilimanjaro’s shadow is surely the biggest on the planet. We returned to Kibo for a rest and some lunch before continuing on to Horombo Hut at 3700 metres. We were shattered from being on the go for 16 hours but happy to have ticked the second mountain of the trip. One more day saw us back in Arusha for a good feed and Kilimanjaro beer.

Arriving back in Nairobi, we had one day spare before flying home. Adam had run out of money so had a quiet day. I went gift shopping. Paul went to Nairobi National Park. Mike spent the morning unwrapping and rewrapping rhino at the Nairobi Post Office, and the afternoon explaining to Zipporah how he could make a million bucks through property development. The evening at Carnivore dining on ostrich, crocodile and other meats was a great way to wind up our African adventure. We agreed that carnivore is a must-do for every visitor to Nairobi (there’s a vegetarian menu as well).

Hopefully, rhino will arrive safely in Adelaide in the near future - we intend to belay off him at Norton!

Special Thanks to Paul Badenoch for editing, adding the facts to my fiction and generally making this article readable.

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**Accommodation in the Wirrabara Forest, Southern Flinders Ranges**

Adjacent to the Heysen Trail and close to the Mawson Trail

Self contained accommodation for up to 8 people

Paul & Denise Kretchmer
Phone: 08 8668 4343
Email: info@taralee.com.au
Web: www.taralee.com.au
If you ever intend tramping from the Aorere Valley Road into the Kahurangi N.P. in New Zealand’s South Island, take my advice and get an early start. I didn’t leave the little Bainham store until well after lunch and after walking 3 or 4 km, came to the beginning of the Boulder Lake Track and a sign announcing that my day’s destination was still 7 to 8 hours away.

Knowing that this also involved a climb of at least 1200 metres up to Cow Saddle, well, it was going to be a late finish.

The Kahurangi N.P. covers a huge area and is only second in size to the mighty Fiordland in New Zealand. There are a number of well established tracks here including the Heaphy, the Wangapeka and the Leslie Karamea but much of the park remains as it has always been, an area of true wilderness. And it really is a “wild” place. It’s as if Mother Nature was having a bad hair day when she formed it, thrusting up mountains violently and carving out valleys without any sense of rhyme or reason. Looking down from a vantage point high on the ranges, dense forest crawls its way up steep sided mountains leaving a jumble of stark, jagged peaks and rugged ridges thrusting skywards. And one can only imagine with horror being lost in the semi dark world of the forest far below trying to find a way out from the endless, twisting maze of rivers.

I had come here to hike south along the Douglas Range through to the Cobb Valley, a route I’d first heard about a number of years ago. But a chance meeting with a vastly experienced Kiwi tramper at Hopeless Creek Hut in Nelson Lakes who declared it his favourite trip in all New Zealand meant I just HAD to come and do it. Gaze at the map and you can appreciate the allure the place holds, with destinations like Adelaide Tarn, Boulder and Lonely Lakes and mountain peaks with strange names like Drunken Sailor, the Needle, Trident and of course the Dragons.
Teeth (this is the name often given to the walk.) It is a challenging trip but never quite excessively so. You do need good route finding skills though because after leaving Boulder Lake there are no marked tracks until the Cobb Valley is reached 3 days later (If all goes well!). That said there is the occasional rock cairn and they always seem to appear at the times when you are scratching your head thinking, “which way next?” And bring your wet weather gear. Annual rainfall averages 5600 mm on the ranges. All in all it was a good place to begin my summer of walking in New Zealand late last year.

So ... when the E2E3 group reformed for their first weekend away in early May I was keen to know what everyone else had been up to over summer. I first joined this group in late 2008 on what was their final walk of the year. As an outsider looking in the first thing I noticed was the camaraderie that had obviously built up within the walkers; the ladies were hugging and the men shaking hands. I soon discovered that having come this far (we were heading north from Kapunda), nearly everyone was absolutely determined to see the Trail through to the very end. Perhaps the most surprising thing was many had never done any serious hiking until they began this Heysen “odyssey” 3 years before. But if there were any regrets amongst the group that they hadn’t started this walking game many years earlier, well, there was dead set intent on making up for lost time. Comments like, “we did the Milford last summer and are heading back to do the Routeburn this year”, or “loved the Overland Track in Tassie .... want to do the Walls next” were common. Many had already been to Europe, hiking in northern Scandinavia, doing the pilgrim trails in Spain and of course the popular routes in Britain.

Another had climbed Kilimanjaro and then walked to the Everest base camp. Others had done the Inca Trail in Peru and a group had trained with Simon and Julian for a year before setting off to conquer Kokoda. Impressive stuff all round.

Now, what can I report have the “Friends” been up to over the summer just passed. Well a “Heysen” award would have to go to Peter Wynen. He and a mate walked for 4 weeks along the Alpine Way in Victoria only being thwarted from completing it in the end when they ran out of water (the creeks had dried up.) Quite understandably, New Zealand was a popular destination. Dallas and Carol Clark did the Rees and Dart Track (minus the keas on Cascade Saddle.) As reported in the last Trailwalker Jeremy Carter and Graham (Mr) Connor knocked off about half of that country’s designated “Great Walks” in one fell swoop and little more than 3 weeks (they are young after all). Wonderful story Jeremy. David Knowler (E2E4) loved the Travers Sabine in Nelson Lakes, (we bumped into each other in Christchurch.) He was last seen heading off to Tanzania to do Kilimanjaro, then walks in Spain and Britain. Of course we wouldn’t expect Russell O’Brien to waste his summer lying around getting a suntan. He also walked up the Sabine Valley before completing the Queen Charlotte. Yvonne Powell and Ted Davis (E2E4) bookended the summer walking in Britain, Yvonne doing the Swale Way (Yorkshire) and Kintyre Way (Scotland) and Ted the Coast to Coast. And Robyn Quinn took her youngish legs 900 metres up the Fuji like Kaimon Dake in Kyushu, Japan, sea to summit. In her spare time on a trip to Tassie she also did the “Walls”.

Perhaps the “Exotic Location” award nominee would have to be the irrepressible Hilary Dickman. On her trip to Central America, she hiked with a small group from Quetzaltenango (phew!!) to Lake Atitlan, crossing the
Quatemalan highlands to one of the world’s most beautiful lakes. Quote: “forest slopes to a grassland plateau... river valleys and remote villages only accessible by foot... reaching 3100 metres - views of multiple volcanoes etc”. Overnight they stayed with indigenous Quiche families. (No doubt they’ll long remember the “chatty” young lady from down under with the slightly strange Aussie accent.) She also trekked up the Pacayo Volcano near Antiqua. (All in all, impressive name dropping Hilary.)

The one day “Extreme” award would be a romp in for Steve Wilkinson and Krystyna Hevko. On their trip to the States and Mexico they found time to walk 38 km from snow at the top of the Grand Canyon to 37°C temperatures at the bottom. Gluttons for punishment they also hiked in Death Valley.

As could be expected our President Simon headed off in all directions completing amongst others a remote multi day walk with Jeremy and Graham in the Gammons. And David Meredith took himself to Africa, walking in Rwanda, Kenya and Botswana (David, are tinned beans available on the Dark Continent or is it necessary to bring them from Oz?).

Finally let’s not forget those who did the Great Ocean Walk in Victoria led by Simon, Julian and Ben and Nic Waite. So obviously another busy summer of walking for the “Friends”. (Apologies to those whose stories I haven’t heard and from the other E2E groups).

Well I can report also I successfully completed my tramp through the Dragons Teeth. Proving you should never leave home without making offerings to the Weather Gods, the rain stayed away all along the highly exposed Douglas Range. On reaching the Cobb Valley the heavens opened up but by then it didn’t matter. (There’s a well marked track down the Cobb and all the major creeks are bridged.) It is a fabulous walk with many highlights, but several stand out. Late on the first day I dropped from Cow Saddle down to Boulder Lake, then trudging around the eastern shoreline, pushed up through tall tussocks to the little hut at lakes head. The time was exactly 9.30 pm; a full moon well above the horizon illuminated the surrounding mountains and cast a beautiful silver glow on the lake’s near still waters. Just magic!

Another highlight came shortly after I’d gone to ground metres below the top of the Needles Eye (the appropriately named little pass beneath the Needle.) Winds gusting up the valley were so strong it was impossible to stand up. Waiting for a slight lull, I dashed over the summit and hurtled down the far side. A few minutes later my destination came into view and I stopped with mouth open, such was the beauty of the scene. Below was Adelaide Tarn, its blue waters streaked with white from the high winds. Tall mountains surrounded the lake and sitting at the foot of a rocky bluff at the far end was the tiny Trident Hut. And as a back drop and dwarfing all, the serrated peaks of the Dragons Teeth.

Mid afternoon the following day, I sat on a broad saddle below the Drunken Sailor with Frank and Rozy Rawlinson, a couple of expat South Africans but long time New Zealand residents with a lifetime of hiking experience behind them. (Both were amazingly fit but Rozy was simply unbelievable. In recent times she has run the Milford Track in a day and knocked off the Heaphy’s 82 km in a mere 13.5 hours. At 53 years of age.) We’d met the previous day at Trident Hut (the only others walking along the range at the time) and knowing the most difficult section of the whole route lies between Adelaide Tarn and Lonely Lake, we decided to join forces. From the hut there’s a climb to a low point below Pt.1435 before you plunge head long into the forest in the shadow of the Dragon’s Teeth. It’s then at least a 3 hour descent to the Anatoki, then a further hour or more following the river downstream. A strategically placed cairn on the river bank indicates the point where you must begin the climb back onto the range, pulling your way literally up through the thick forest, regaining the 700 metres elevation lost during the morning in one torturous 1.5 to 2 hour ascent.

Our navigation had gone well and sitting in the warm afternoon sun we were feeling chuffed. Around and below us was a lovely alpine wetland dotted with tarns; about 30 minutes away down the valley was the tiny 3 bunk Lonely Lake Hut where we were to spend New Year’s Eve together.

Somehow the thought of spending the summer doing anything but walking wouldn’t have entered our heads.
Tasmania’s Walls of Jerusalem is an area of unparalleled beauty. It offers the ultimate in walking, spectacular views and great camping. Its location east of the world renowned Overland Track makes linking the two into a single walk a very attractive proposition. The link is called The Never Never.

Story & Photos by Russell O’Brien

Early April our group of six - Marg, Chris, Geoff, Ben, Rob and me made its way from Hobart to Devonport where we then departed by shuttle bus to the Walls of Jerusalem car park. Arriving mid morning, we commenced the steady climb to Trappers Hut and beyond to the camp at Wild Dog Creek, located just outside of Herod’s Gate - one of the “gates” through which the Walls of Jerusalem can be accessed. Rain began falling as we reached the plateau that is characteristic of the Walls’ area.

Rain in its various forms was to be a companion for much of our planned seven day walk. Darkness comes early in April in Tasmania and with it cold that drives you to a welcome but early bed time. There’s nothing quite like slipping into a sleeping bag at the end of a satisfyingly tiring day.

Heavy rain fell overnight. Morning was cold and damp. Low cloud was everywhere. Today would be a light pack day and the opportunity to have a look at some of the features of the Walls’ area. It would also allow me to check that my navigation of The Never Never (where there is no marked walking track) would be accurate.

Through Herod’s Gate, passing King David’s Peak, Lake Salome, Pool of Bethesda, Solomon’s Throne and The Temple we made our way to Dixon’s Kingdom Hut, a very basic log structure in Jaffa Vale. A chat to other walkers on the track is not only a good policy but can be very rewarding. In this case a tea break at the hut yielded locally...
made chocolate coated raspberries! Our next destination was to be Mt. Jerusalem, a short but beautiful climb. The view from this high point is vast and readily yields the tarn strewn nature of Tasmania’s Central Plateau. The Walls of Jerusalem’s other gates are visually obvious as are many of its other features. Our elevated position also clearly showed part of our next day’s walk along Jaffa Vale to meet the shore of Lake Ball.

While some of the group decided to climb The Temple, others returned to camp. It was not long before the group was back at camp preparing the evening meal and for our departure in the morning. The sky was now clear and a cold night was expected.

The new day was marked by extreme cold. Everything was covered in frost. Ben reported that water had somehow entered his tent and that parts of his bedding were wet. Obviously concerned, the group set about trying to dry the bedding knowing not to do so could end our walk. Lines were hung from anything barely usable and the sun fortunately made a gradual and timely appearance. Although our departure had been delayed, we were now back on track with a good day’s walk ahead.

We returned to Dixon’s Kingdom Hut then made our way cross country to the north eastern tip of Lake Ball. At this point we joined a track which we followed along the lake’s northern shore to the northern tip of Lake Adelaide. This is where we would pick up the Junction Lake Track which would be followed to tomorrow’s destination: Junction Lake.

After erecting tents and preparing meals we settled in for a night on the shores of Lake Adelaide, almost at its southern point. This is an excellent campground with ample flat spots for a number of tents. Tomorrow we would head off for the northern end of Lake Meston.

Crossing The Never Never had established some anxiety in my mind even though this crossing would be my second. The first walk was four or five years ago and marked by very wet weather. That particular hiking group had decided to cross the Mersey River by wading across. At the time this was possible because it was mid-summer and the depth of water was about knee height. On this occasion, and in an attempt to stay as dry as possible, I was intending to locate a somewhat infamous ‘slippery log’ noted in a walker’s blog. Just how slippery can a fallen log be?

With the hike to the top of Lake Meston achieved, we followed the track along the lake’s northern shore. Mid way, Lake Meston Hut provided a location for lunch and the opportunity to discuss the location of the slippery log with another walker who was aiming to cross The Never Never the day after our group. The two GPS locations differed by only a couple of metres so I immediately began to relax.

Wherever there are tracks to follow in this area the term should be used somewhat loosely. Some are where you want to go and others will take the unwitting walker somewhere else altogether. There are no signs
or markers in The Never Never but sometimes, if you are lucky, a fallen tree branch has been placed across a T-junction by a previous walker to indicate track direction.

Arriving at Junction Lake Hut mid afternoon, our choice was to sleep in this very basic, four bunk structure or find a suitable camping area nearby. We opted for the hut (with a fire place) and the blokes drew straws for the two remaining bunks. The other two would suffer the floor in silence. Staying in the hut proved to be a good decision. Light rain was almost continuous throughout the night. Next morning, we left the hut in fair weather at approximately 8.30 am and followed a track which soon became a ‘pad’ (an ill-defined track probably initiated by animals). Our task was now simply to walk along the northern side of the Mersey River until crossing above McCoy Falls using the slippery log. Then, to walk along the river’s southern side, exiting the Never Never near Harnett Falls.

Slippery doesn’t begin to describe the log. The log’s rounded surface was as slippery as ice and although it had some reasonably located branches that could be used as hand-holds, some were awkwardly placed to inhibit passage along its length. We secured a light rope at both ends to give a measure of security. One by one, backpacks, poles and other items were handed across the log by a few of the group followed by four of the group crossing to the river’s southern side. Chris decided that the slippery log was not to her liking and opted for another smaller log just a few more metres downstream. Given that this second log had a substantial crack mid length there was concern that it may not remain intact for the crossing, however it held.

With the group now safely on the southern side of the river we made our way further west through thick scrub. Occasionally a pad appeared and we followed the Mersey River westward ensuring that we located route points previously loaded into my GPS. Although light rain fell occasionally, the weather was tolerably good, but passing through the tall, heavy scrub made us all very wet. Tall trees and an overcast sky sometimes blocked GPS reception and patience and persistence were required to ensure good navigation. Two creek crossings were necessary, each of which claimed the occasional wet boot. The group was beginning to tire and daylight was running out. Once we located the Harnett Falls track (a side track to the Overland Track), we had to join the Overland Track and then walk to the hut at Windy Ridge (Burt Nichols Hut). This would take about one and half hours.

The hut at Windy Ridge was overflowing with twice the number of walkers assembled for the intended capacity of bed spaces but who cares where you sleep when you’re exhausted. The night on the common room floor was magnificent, warmed by the log fire that burned through the night.

The following day the group made its way to Narcissus Hut, about ten kilometres further south. A night in Narcissus would see us boarding a ferry to Cynthia Bay at the southern end of Lake St. Clair and the end of the walk.

Just a note for anyone contemplating walking in this region: leeches are ever present. Our group first experienced them at Trappers Hut and they remained problematic for the remainder of the walk. While they obviously draw blood, other than dealing with a bloody mess to clean up after they disengage, preventing the wound from infection is wise. Constantly checking for these unwelcome passengers is tiring and they can be difficult to spot. There was hardly a place on the human body that one of us didn’t find a leech. According to some post-walk research, they prefer some blood types over others and people using heart medication tend to be less tasty. Infected bites take on a nasty appearance and may need medical attention but most bites heal in a week or so.

The beautiful walks through the Walls of Jerusalem and along the Overland Track follow prepared tracks and signage is very good in both cases. The Never Never adds a different dimension and should not be included in your planning unless your group is thoroughly prepared and experienced. Although the Never Never is not a long distance to walk, the lack of tracks, the sometimes inhospitable terrain, the river and creek crossings and the chance of bad weather can combine to create challenging walking conditions. Navigation through this area needs careful planning. Good maps and compass are essential and GPS is highly recommended. Everyone walking in this area should have the ability and the preparedness to walk with minimal impact on a fragile environment.

It is my understanding that Tasmania’s Parks and Wildlife Service neither promotes walking through The Never Never nor takes any steps to stop those who wish to do so. The choice is yours. It is a fabulous walk.
A Heysen Highlight - Eyre Memorial, Crystal Brook

By Simon Cameron

Crystal Brook is a beautiful town in the mid-north, and holds special significance to the Heysen walker. Warren Bonython chose it as the start of his epic walking journey along the length of the Flinders Ranges; a journey that inspired the creation of our long distance trail. Bonython, a geologist, designated Crystal Brook as the start of the Flinders Ranges.

As a staging post, this site’s history long precedes the town which was established in the 1870s. South Australia’s early explorers were attracted by the clear flowing creek which gave the town its settler name. Edward John Eyre, who began his SA career overlanding stock from the eastern states, had a good eye for water and named the Brook in 1839. In 1840 he came back here to marshall his expedition to explore the north of the state, bringing supplies up the gulf. From this site he pushed on to Mt Arden, establishing another depot at its foot. The Heysen Trail follows in his footsteps along its Flinders traverse.

Balked by the northern salt lakes and despairing of the waterless panorama he named the vestigial hill of the range Mt Hopeless and turned his face toward the west.

The monument sits on the banks of the Crystal Brook, 100 metres from the trail, established by a centenary committee. Solid and substantial it heralds the first European assault on the mighty Flinders Ranges - an endeavour that our intrepid Heysen walkers continue to this day. Every walker should touch it in homage to the start of the next northern adventure, after the long westward journey from Burra.

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EXPLORANGES
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“It’s a tough track ya know.” The ranger was scrutinizing my walking plan for the 58 kilometre Jatbula Trail. Four days seemed reasonable to me, but the Jatbula Trail is a trail that demands that you take your time. This is what I, like many others who have walked it, have learnt on the trail.

Story & Photos by Jeremy Carter

The comments book at the kiosk at the end of the walk reads the same, again and again - “It took a couple of days before we worked it out.” Rising early - before first light, walking - preferably slowly - in the morning, swimming and relaxing in the shade of a tree in the afternoon. The terrain is not difficult, it is the tropical heat that beats you into submission. Venturing into the sun, away from the water’s edge, you suddenly realise just how hot the afternoon has become.

The Jatbula Trail starts from the Katherine River in the Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park, 30 kilometres east of Katherine, in the Northern Territory. It follows the escarpment across the park to Leliyn (Edith Falls). The campsites are ideally spread about 10 kilometres apart, each beside a picturesque waterfall, creek or rock hole.

In the queue on the first morning, waiting for the ferry to take us across the Katherine River, I met two fellow walkers, two women who had escaped their partners and children in Melbourne for a week walking. We looked around for the other 7 hikers who would be beginning on the same day, only to see none of them. How odd, we thought. The trail, or so we thought, was limited to 10 hikers starting out per day. We soon learnt though, that this was not the case. We saw no-one else on the trail until the fifth and final night, at Sweetwater Pool, where anyone can hike the 4 kilometres in from the end of the trail at Leliyn. Perhaps it was limited to 10 hikers on the trail. We had both had trouble booking a place on the trail months beforehand, it certainly seemed to be fully booked.
My 4 day hike turned into a 6 day hike. It was so relaxing just to take it easy and relax each afternoon. I spent 6 days - 6 hilarious days - with Kris and Kristen, who I had met on that first day, hiking, swimming, relaxing and playing cards on our makeshift picnic rug. We exchanged tales of our hiking adventures, all of us becoming converts to hiking in the previous 5-10 years.

Our first campsite, at Biddlecombe Cascades, was the entree of what the Jatbula Trail held in store for us. Water flowed from the escarpment over the terraces into large rock pools. Being swamp fed the water was deliciously cool, warmer than other nearby pools.

Crystal Falls is on a river, seemingly unnamed, so much water is there. Flowing over rocks creating eddies in the many rock pools. The shady trees on the bank offered numerous choices to set-up camp. Glorious riverside camping, the afternoon spent dipping ourselves in the rock pools or relaxing in the shade, as we pleased. The Crystal Falls themselves remained hidden down the valley, the following day we saw the falls plunging far off the escarpment into a narrow chasm below.

The falls weren’t hidden at our third campsite, 17 Mile Falls. Walking in, we were treated to a cliff top view of the falls, the water dropping into a large plunge pool below. The campsite was bright and overpowering in the midday sun, but relaxed into the afternoon as the shade crept across it. We spent the afternoon, once again, at the water’s edge.

The photos do no justice to Sandy Pool camp. The shaded campsite, set on the sandy banks of a large, deep pool. The Edith River enters over rocks upstream, disappearing into reeds at the other. The edge, with its lily pads, hiding the near vertical rocky sides.

It’s not all picturesque creeks and falls though. The Amphitheatre is a little oasis on the escarpment edge. A narrow track leads down into the deep, steep sided valley. The sheer cliffs on the three sides, adorned with the ancient of the Jawoyn People. A stream, seemingly emerging from nowhere, meanders through the landscape. If it were not for the tropical humidity, cool as the Amphitheatre was, one could mistake this for Tasmania - the tall myrtle trees dropping their leaves to cover the forest floor, dappled sunlight coming through the thick canopy.

The landscape is diverse: savannah, swamps, melaleuca stands, rocky escarpment outcrops. The wind whips through the trees on the turbulent escarpment edge, providing welcome relief to the tropical heat. At 17 Mile Falls, rain and lightning rolled around...
us, lighting the night sky. It did not rain on us, much to the relief of Kris and Kristen with their mosquito net, their forcefield against the night’s bugs but somewhat ineffective against rainfall.

Now, how much do you think such an exclusive hike would cost. Well, there’s the $6.00 ferry fare. Then, the $3.00 nightly camping fee. Seriously, there are limited options on how to return from the end of the trail at Leliein (Edith Falls) to Katherine, or to Katherine Gorge. The only services provided are by the several taxi services from Katherine, putting he cost at about $150.00 to Katherine. There are some rumours that as of 2010 Dysons buses are providing a service for about $100.00 but I haven’t been able to confirm this. Nitmiluk Tours, via Dysons buses, provide an affordable shuttle service between Katherine and Katherine Gorge.

The Jatbula Trail is a unique and seemingly exclusive trail. I have two pieces of advice for you. Take it easy, get up early, walk slowly — and to ensure you can enjoy what this trail offers, book early.
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