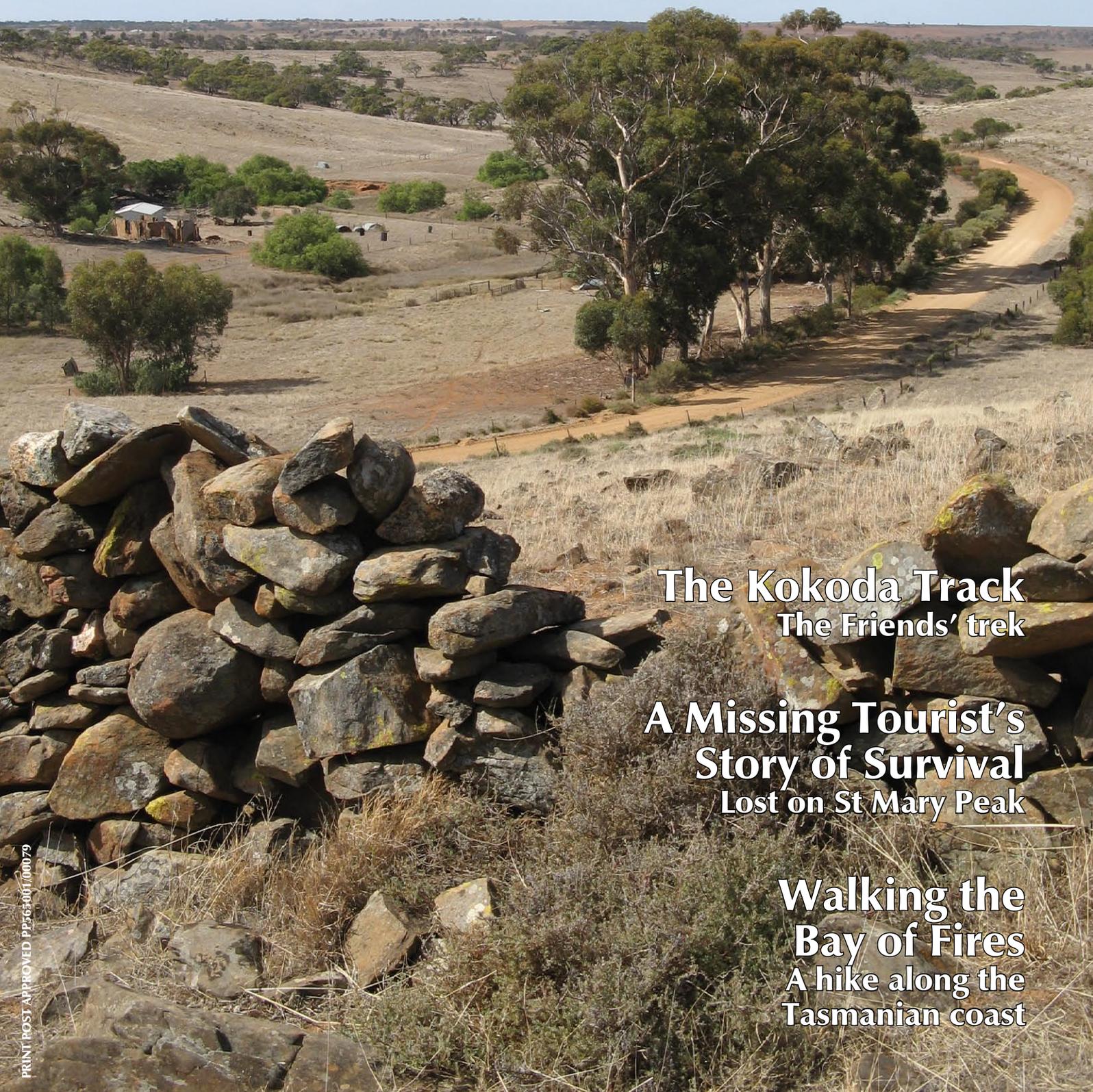




# The Trailwalker

Magazine of the Friends of the Heysen Trail

Issue 108 Winter 2008



**The Kokoda Track**  
The Friends' trek

**A Missing Tourist's  
Story of Survival**  
Lost on St Mary Peak

**Walking the  
Bay of Fires**  
A hike along the  
Tasmanian coast



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Burra Branch

Phone (08) 8843 8115

Email [hugreenh@activ8.net.au](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:trailwalker@heysentrail.asn.au)

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

### Advertising Rates

1/8 page vertical \$40 per issue

1/4 page horizontal \$60 per issue

1/4 page vertical \$60 per issue

1/3 page vertical \$70 per issue

1/2 page \$100 per issue

Full Page \$150 per issue

Flyer (supplied for insertion)  
\$180 per issue

A commitment for 12 months advertising, ie 4 issues, would attract 10% saving

Advertising specifications and article submission guidelines are available upon request or by visiting [www.heysentrail.asn.au/trailwalker](http://www.heysentrail.asn.au/trailwalker)

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The Friends' trek

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A hike along the Tasmanian coast

### Mt Misery Loop Walk

A loop walk involving the Heysen Trail

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*vacant*  
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### Council Meeting Dates

Wed 18 June, 2008  
Wed 16 July, 2008  
Wed 20 August, 2008

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### Office Coordinator

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### Maintenance Coordinator

Gavin Campbell

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Wen Gu  
Xun Wang (Michael)  
Jeanette Clarke

## Shop/Office Hours & Volunteers

### Monday 10.30 - 2.30

Mike Parsons, Beverley Blanch,  
Robyn Quinn, David Beaton,  
Elizabeth Rogers

### Tuesday 10.30 - 2.30

David Rattray, Dawn Bon,  
Chris Porter

### Wednesday 10.30 - 2.30

Jack Marcelis, Wendy Fox,  
Gilbert Downs, Allan Wadham

### Thursday 10.30 - 2.30

Chris Casper, Chris Hanna,  
Jim Alvey, Elfi Driscoll

### Friday 10.30 - 4.30

Sandy Melbourne, Colin Edwards,  
Jamie Shephard

### Saturday & Sunday Closed

### Relief Staff

Jim Alvey, David Beaton, Jack  
Marcelis

# President's Report

*Simon Cameron*

The last three months has be a mixture of review and renew.

At the AGM we reviewed the 2007 activities. Easy to point out the positives with more members, maintenance supervisors allocated to every section of the trail, and more walkers than ever before. Another financially positive year adding to the funds we have been squirrelling away while awaiting the Department of Environment and heritage strategic planning to be completed. Another big positive is the number of volunteers nearly one hundred in the maintenance sections, manning the office, and leading the walks. However it was salient to note that we were unable to re-establish our Greening committee because no one was willing to lead it and we lost our last female member on council without replacement. These two events are reminders that Friends is stretching its manpower resources and the current hectic level of activity is dependent on a small number of willing organisers.

There are always plenty of suggestions of what the Friends of Heysen Trail should be doing but Council will be mindful of what we can do and for all the supporters of the Trail please come and do it with us. Joining the council is the best place to be a friend of the Trail.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter we have established our goals for 2008, promoting Heysen friendly towns, remarking the trail, and establishing water tanks at suitable intervals.

The walk season has renewed itself with a grand opening at Stirling on the 6th April, with a cheerful, community sponsored event that brought the walking clubs together. This coincided with the announcement that the realigned trail in Deep Creek was officially opened. And while the season may have officially started many haven't stopped walking with convivial numbers gathering for the Twilight walks and the Kokoda groups steadily gearing up their

fitness. We will have bon voyaged the first group along the Track by the time this newsletter arrives.

As President I still like to meet members walking the trail and lead as many walks as I can, including the weekend in the Grampians. We celebrated Anzac day and Greek Easter as only the Friends can, while fitting in some spectacular walking. The recent weekend reminded me of why I enjoy walking in groups. Walking can be singular, solitary activity but in a group it can be a social event, coupled with the excitement of shared challenges.

So take advantage of the other group activities on offer and particularly the trips away to Tasmania and New Zealand. If you have ever wanted to visit either of these iconic walk regions the best way to do it will be with a like minded group of walkers!

See you on the Trail.



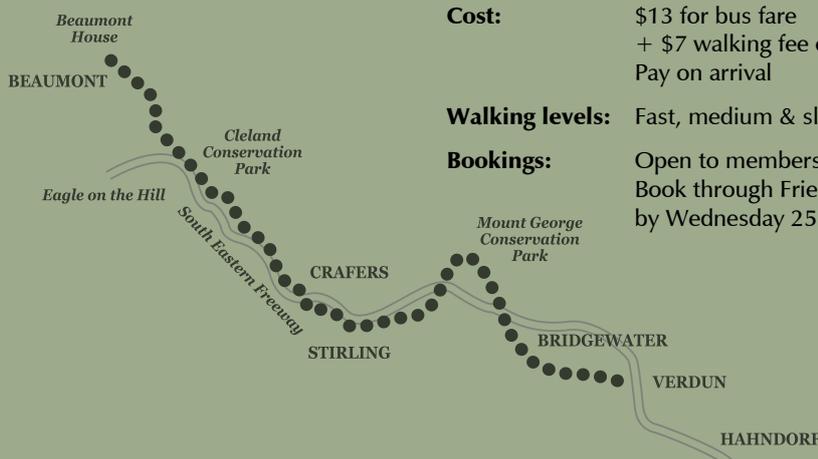
## Sunday 29 June Pioneer Women's Walk 30 km from Handhorf to Burnside

**Meet at:** 8am at the Feathers Hotel, Glynburn Rd, Burnside (UBD 119 N16)  
Parking available off John Street at rear of bottle shop  
Bus for Handhorf will leave at 8.15am

**Cost:** \$13 for bus fare  
+ \$7 walking fee or Golden Boots & Multipass equivalent  
Pay on arrival

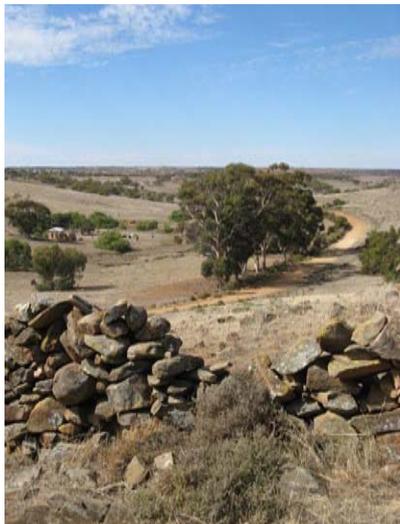
**Walking levels:** Fast, medium & slow

**Bookings:** Open to members & their friends  
Book through Friends' office - phone 8212 6299  
by Wednesday 25 June



Front cover

# The Lavender Federation Trail



Bondleigh Road, Rockleigh

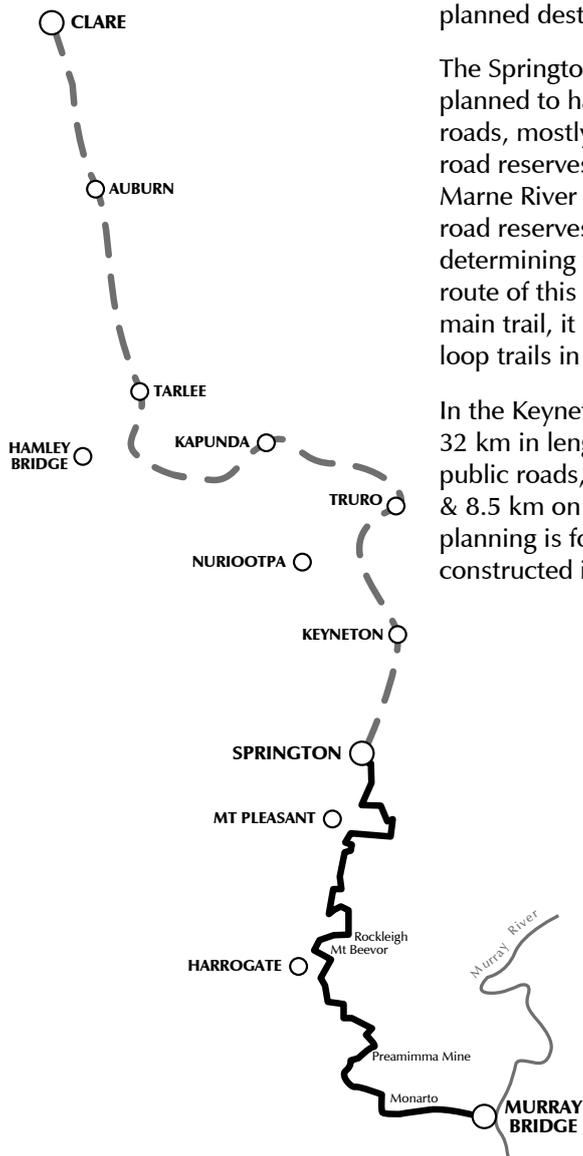
This quarter our cover feature is a photograph of Bondleigh Road, Rockleigh, on the Lavender Federation Trail. The Friends walked this section, lead by George Adams, on 4 May, and will walk the next section over Mt Beevor on 1 June.

Planning is underway by South Australian Recreation Trails Incorporated (SARTI) for the next 55km section of the trail to be constructed from its current finishing point at Springton to Truro via Keyneton and built over several years.

Many hundreds of hours have so far been expended on planning, undertaking exploratory walks, talking to landowners and commencing work on a funding submission for the expansion of the Lavender Federation Trail towards its planned destination of Clare.

The Springton to Keyneton section is planned to have around 50% on made roads, mostly minor roads and 50% on road reserves & tracks. Crossing the Marne River plus the lack of north-south road reserves further east was a major determining factor in planning of the route of this section. In addition to the main trail, it is planned to construct two loop trails in this area.

In the Keyneton & Truro section totalling 32 km in length, 13.5 km is on made/public roads, 10 km along a rail corridor & 8.5 km on road reserves. Current planning is for three loop trails to be constructed in the second section.



Walking a section of the proposed trail extension

Adjoining property owners along the length of proposed trail between Springton & Keyneton have been notified by the respective Councils and negotiations are proceeding with several property owners to overcome any concerns they may have. This is a normal procedure but it is fair to say that the reputation of the trail and consideration and care by most walkers to the countryside and local people have made the work much easier as the reputation of the users of Lavender Federation Trail has spread.

It should be emphasised that planning is still in early stages and may change. It is also very much dependent on funding with the total cost of the Springton to Truro section and loop trails costing up to \$40,000 with volunteer labour needed to construct the trails.

Their *Footsteps* newsletter is available by email subscription: [asta@lm.net.au](mailto:asta@lm.net.au).



Walking a section of the proposed trail extension

# Walking Committee

**By Arrienne Wynen**  
Walking Committee  
Chairperson

As I write this I am relaxing after returning from the Friends walk in the Grampians. It is a wonderful place to walk, especially with a group of old and new friends, refer to page 23 for a report. It is also just 2 weeks away from the Friends first overseas walk on the Kokoda Track. As a committee we are trying to provide choices for our members in both type, degree of challenge and area to walk in. On the inside of the back cover you will find ads for walks in Tasmania later this year and New Zealand in early 2009. Having just returned from the Grampians and also having spent summer training with the Kokoda group I know I would prefer to do these walks with people I know, than to take "pot luck" in my companions. If you have an area or walk that you would like the Friends to put in the program lets us know.

We had our first walk leaders training day in march with about 25 interested people. Some of these will be leading or tail-ending walks during the coming months with help from experienced leaders. There is always a place for new leaders as our program grows and help is available and happily given. During the year we plan to run a GPS training day as well as further Walk Leader training and a First Aid course. Dates will be advertised in the Trailwalker.

Apart from all that it is great to just be out walking again so I will see you on the trail somewhere.

## Next Issue Deadline

Submissions for the Spring edition of the Trailwalker will close on 25 July.

# Brief News

## New Toilets

At Grays Hut, near Mt Remarkable, and Mayo Hut, near Hawker, new toilets have been commissioned.



*The new toilet at Grays Hut*

The toilets are prototypes for future toilets along the Heysen Trail and were designed by Shannon Architects. They are one of the first trail facilities developed from the Draft Facilities and Infrastructure Specifications Manual. The toilet is a sealed pit design which is suitable in most areas with low volumes of use.

The toilet at Grays Hut was part of the plan for the campsite, and the toilet at Mayo Hut was to replace the toilet lost in recent floods.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear editor, just wanted to thank you for printing my article in the magazine, and for providing me with a complimentary copy. I've never written anything for another bushwalking publication (plenty for our own club newsletter), so I'm rather chuffed. And it doesn't read too badly either... Our next walk along the Heysen Trail is already planned - a repeat of the Hawker to Parachilna section. Havnig a long love affair with the Flinders Ranges.

Yours sincerely,  
John Lindner  
Huntly, Victoria

*John's article on walking the northern section of the Heysen Trail appeared in the last issue of the Trailwalker. Contributions from other people walking the Heysen Trail are always appreciated.*

Dear editor, I don't appreciate being called "obsessional" because I have the pile of Trailwalkers since I joined. Since my membership number is 73, I wonder who before me is still a member? Anyway it can be interesting looking back, especially my own contributions.

I remember the hassle. Trail Walker? Or Trailwalker? As for the entry in the phone book *The Friends of the Heysen Trail* or Friends of the Heysen Trail?

Noteworthy is the change in production. Many of you will not have heard of or used the Gestetner wax sheets and messy black means of duplication back then. The small editions to save money and print too small to read. The professionalism now is wonderful yet always the previous was the best that volunteers could manage at the time.

Anyway, I do have copies of issues 45 and 47. I'd rather keep them if you have another offer. I do not have issue 2. They weren't numbered then as you well know. Mine start at December 1987. And, I have kept them in case the office or our archives had not them. A worthy reason and healthy obsessional.

Cheers,  
Jennifer Dow

*Thank you for your offer to contribute previous lost magazines that can be copied (the last issue of Trailwalker contained a plea to fill in a few gaps in the office archives)*

## Re-Routes

Following an audit of published re-routes, a number of minor re-routes have been included on the website.

## Member Discounts

In addition to current retailers, Columbia Sports Company and Watty Paint Centres are now offering discounts to members. For details, refer to the list on page 9, or visit [www.heysentrail.asn.au/friends](http://www.heysentrail.asn.au/friends)

# Burra Branch

*Hugh Greenhill*

The Burra Branch held its 17th AGM on 6th April at Arthur Simpson's home in Burra with 15 people attending and a few apologies. Following this the planning of nine walks for this year was undertaken, which took lot of discussion as to where we wanted to go walking.

The elected office bearers for the Burra Branch 2008:

- President: Arthur Simpson
- Vice President: Kate Greenhill
- Secretary: Sally Fieldhouse
- Maintenance: Hugh Greenhill

## October Long Weekend Away at Burra (4th to 6th Oct)

Due to difficulty obtaining suitable accommodation and other events on during the year, we have decided to defer the weekend away at Burra until next year, possibly the June long weekend.

## Burra Branch Maintenance

*Hugh Greenhill*  
*Maintenance Section 13*

The Heysen Trail along the Brown Hill Range has been remarked and stiles repaired. On top of Mount Bryan the Heysen Trail has been re-marked. The area west of Wandallah has also been re-marked (the hilly part of the Trail). I have noticed a lot of the directional

## Burra Branch 2008 Walking Programme

Please contact the leader the week before the walk for meeting time and place. Refer to the list on page 17 for what to bring and what to wear.

Date	Location	Leader
Sat 7th June	Mystery walk	Hugh Greenhill 8843 8115
Sat 21st June	Civilisation Gate Road Full Moon walk	Arthur Simpson 8894 2113
Thur 3rd July	Caroona Creek to Touralie Gorge	Heather Bryant 8843 0188
Sat 26th July	Dares Hill to Wilkins cottage	Ken Farmer 8892 2125
Sun 17th Aug	Reilly's Gap to the Flagstaff, Farrell Flat	Jennie Abbott 8843 8056
Sat 19th - Sun 20th Sept	Bendleby Station camp	Sally Fieldhouse 8843 8028
Thu 4th Sept	Burra Gorge	Hugh Greenhill 8843 8115
Thu 23rd Oct	Peters Hill	Hugh Greenhill 8843 8115
Sat 8th Nov	Break-up	Sally Fieldhouse 8843 8028
<i>In lieu of any cancellation</i>	<i>West of Hallett</i>	<i>Ken Farmer 8894 2125</i>

arrows faded in lots of places and it was interesting to see a few perfect arrows, nearly as good as when they were placed, amongst these faded directional arrows. It is another job to fix these markers.

At Huppertz Hut the northern rainwater tank is very low in water, but the southern rainwater tank has plenty. The rainwater tank at Blackjack shelter is full of water. I still have to visit other shelters in next week or two to see how the rainwater supply is.

The Brown Hill Range wind turbines are all operational now and two of the towers are very close to the Heysen Trail. The next wind turbine farm to be built is along the Hallett Hill Range, west side of Mount Bryan township. A 30-metre tower is been built on top of Mt Bryan for communication between the wind farms and the power station at Port Augusta.

## Article Submission Guidelines

Articles on the Heysen Trail or other trails within Australia or overseas are welcomed from members. Articles from non-members who have hiked parts of the Heysen Trail are also welcomed.

If you are planning to write an article it is suggested you contact the editor with your idea. Unexpected articles may be delayed in being published.

**Deadlines:** the Trailwalker is published quarterly - March, June, September and December. The deadline for articles is normally on the first Friday of the month one month prior to the month of publication.

**Contact:** the editor can be contacted by email on [trailwalker@heysentrail.asn.au](mailto:trailwalker@heysentrail.asn.au) or via the Friends office.

**Article Lengths:** as a guide, a large article, of 3 to 4 pages should be no more than 2,500 words. An average size article, of 2 to 3 pages should be around 1,500 words. A 1 page article should be between 500 and 750 words. Articles should be typed, preferably in Microsoft Word, and emailed. Printed or hand written articles are not generally accepted.

**Photos:** to provide visual interest photos should be supplied to supplement the article. A photo which includes the author is encouraged. Photos should have captions,

and be emailed. They should no more smaller than 10cm wide at 300dpi (or 1280 pixels wide). Alternatively, photos could be left on cd or dvd at the Friends office. Printed photos are not generally accepted. If photos are not your own or from a friend, you may need to acknowledge the source.

**Maps:** for articles about multi-day hikes maps are encouraged. Maps copied from websites may be too small to be reproducible in print form - they should no more smaller than 10cm wide at 300dpi (or 1280 pixels wide). Assistance can be provided in finding or drawing suitable maps. Map sources may need to be acknowledged.

# Office Report

*By Jack Marcelis*  
Office Coordinator

## New Staff Members

Thank you to those members who answered our plea for more staff volunteers. We consequently welcome as trainee Gilbert Downs in the general sales-office area. We also welcome back Jeanette Clarke to her old job of accounting at the office as a welcome assistant for our treasurer John Wilson.

## Thank You Frances

With sadness and a touch of nostalgia we accepted the 'resignation' of Frances Gasson who generously gave some 8 years of quite and dedicated service to The Friends and the walking community of South Australia. Frances introduced many procedural systems and 'her' Thursdays were always well organised with no 'leftovers' for the next day.

## New Members

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.

Patricia Austin	Julie Johnstone
Don & Sue Barrett	John & Heather
Belinda Bayne	Maddern
Jenny Benn	John McBeath
Met-Fung	Robert McCudden
(Michelle) Chung	Bill & Cherrie
Russell Creed	Morrison
Rick & Jan Daley	Maxine Mount
Gary & Kathleen	Claire Munyard
Dawes	Roger Nunn
Craig & Jocelyn	Peter Petruzzelle
Deane	Lynda Plummer
John Denley	Neil Rossiter
Ian & Shiela	Peter Rudko
Dickenson	Stephen Salib-
Allan Dutton	Brown
Judith Ellis	Graeme Shields
Stephen Gage	Aaron Stanfield
Leo Hazebroek	Susan Telfer
Peggy Irving	Bill & Vicki Walker
James Janetzki	S G Widdison

We also thank Bozu Zhang one of our Chinese student bookkeepers. His Uni studies and John Wilson must have trained him well because he was recently offered a position as assistant accountant with a well know two dollar chain. We wish him and his family well for their Australian future.

## Communication Problems

We are still having some problems with inward emails not being answered timely or not at all. We hope to resolve some of this with the introduction, in the near future, of more automated systems. We are also spending more time on training our dedicated office vollies, but sometimes our age demographics and the constantly changing technology don't mix!

## Trail Maintenance Sections

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. 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

Gavin Campbell	8296 8613 (H)
Arthur Smith	8261 6746 (H)

### Maintenance Committee

#### Chairman

John Wilson	8356 9264 (H)
-------------	---------------

Details of maintenance sections and their contacts is available on the website at [www.heysentrail.asn.au/heysen\\_trail/maintenance.htm](http://www.heysentrail.asn.au/heysen_trail/maintenance.htm)

## Discounts Available to Members

The following discounts are available to members. Your membership card must be shown to receive the discount, some exclusions apply.

### Friends of the Heysen Trail

10 Pitt St, Adelaide 8212 6299  
10% discount on all maps and books

### Adelaide Hatters

36 Adelaide Arcade, Adelaide 8224 0131  
10% discount

### Annapura Outdoor Shop

210 Rundle St, Adelaide 8223 4633  
10% discount (excluding sale items)

### Aussie Disposals

42 Pulteney St, Adelaide 8224 0388  
Elizabeth City Centre 8287 3008  
Colonnades, Noarlunga 8326 3186  
327 Main North Rd, Enfield 8342 4844  
Up to 10% discount

### Boots Great Outdoors Centre

1277 South Road, St Marys 8277 7789  
Up to 10% discount (excluding sale items and fridges)

### Columbia Sportswear Company

208 Rundle St, Adelaide 8232 0690  
10% discount off recommended retail price

### Flinders Camping

187 Rundle St, Adelaide 8223 1913  
10% discount (excluding sale items)

### Mitchell's Adventure

Westfield Marion 8296 7700  
Westfield Tea Tree Plaza 8395 9555  
10% discount (excluding sale items and portable fridges)

### Mountain Designs

187 Rundle St, Adelaide 8232 1351  
10% discount (excluding sale items)

### Paddy Pallin

228 Rundle St, Adelaide 8232 3155  
10% discount (excluding sale items)

### SA Camping World

109 Jetty Road, Glenelg 8376 1330  
10% to 15% discount

### Scout Outdoor Centre

192 Rundle St, Adelaide 8223 5544  
10% discount on outdoor gear (excluding sale items)

### Snowy's Outdoors

92 Richmond Road, Keswick 8351 2111  
Up to 10% discount

### Trims

322 King William St, Adelaide 8212 5099  
Westfield Marion 8298 9777  
5% discount

### Wattyl Paints centres

Refer to page 52 of the 2008 White Pages for your nearest outlet.

## The Walking Federation of South Australia, Inc.

# Walking SA

*By Thelma Anderson*  
*Walking Access Committee*

## **Proposed closure and sale of undeveloped road reserve - part of the Heysen Trail**

The most recent development in the on-going saga of protection for the Heysen Trail through Glen Bold Cattle Station relates to Mount Barker Council conducting a public consultation process to gauge the wider community attitude to the closure and sale of Long Gully Road to the adjoining landowner. With a change of ownership in the year 2000 a temporary detour around the eastern boundary was installed by a new management team at the Office for Recreation and Sport with no consultation with the walking community being considered either necessary or appropriate. The detour through private property directed walkers through cow paddocks containing bulls, cows and calves, over stiles and along electric fences. Throughout its entire route access for the Heysen Trail, when it is available, follows undeveloped road reserves for reasons of both public ownership and personal safety. In this case the undeveloped public road reserve containing protected native vegetation became a cow paddock with cattle decimating rare and endangered plant species, destructing the bog ladder installed by volunteers to negotiate the swampy terrain, and contaminated the environment. The opportunity now exists to restore the situation in the interests of both the landowner and the walking community and in particular the environment.

The general thrust of an alternative proposal by Walking SA is for access to the developed northern section of Long Gully Road to be relinquished by the walking community in exchange for access along a three-metre wide fenced walkway. The walkway would extend from Todd Road at the car park south to a stile on the southern section of Long Gully Road beyond view of the homestead. Walkers would then cross the stile to enter and follow the Trail along Long Gully Road, via a bog ladder, to join the existing alignment of the Heysen Trail as it continues towards Jupiter Creek. This proposal will be submitted to Mount

Barker Council for negotiation with the landowner to enable Council to comply with health and safety requirements for the walking community, their own environmental standards, and to meet the privacy needs of the landowner.

## **Saunders Gorge**

Recently, members of the Walking Access Committee travelled to Saunders Gorge to make an on-site inspection of options available for an exchange of access to an undeveloped road reserve, being a continuation of Woolford Road through the tourism property of Brenton Newman. Brenton Newman had submitted an application to Council to close the section along the creek-line within his property and exchange that location for an alternative route along a ridge with spectacular views of the surrounding ranges. During an earlier visit by representatives of SARTI and the Walking Access Committee the ridge trail was confirmed as the preferred route. However, the Office for Recreation and Sport requested more details of the potential for extension of this trail to other undeveloped road reserves in adjacent areas before withdrawing their objection to the proposal. Further research will now be carried out with Mid Murray Council to maximise the walking potential of this historic area thereby ensuring an excellent outcome for both recreational users and landowners.

## **Official Opening of the 2008 Walking Season**

Another memorable occasion took place on Sunday, 6 April, 2008 to launch the current walking season at Stirling in the Adelaide Hills. The ceremony took place on the expansive area of lawn outside the recently completed Council Library. The various stalls were well patronised and the walks organised by the Australian Retired Persons Association Bushwalking Club were well attended and enjoyed by the many visitors to delightful nearby scenic locations. In officially launching the 2008 Walking Season, Mayor Bill Cooksley congratulated the various groups involved, including the many member clubs of Walking SA, the Hut, and Friends of Stirling Linear Park. The

dulcet tones of the Celtic band added to the delightful ambience of another perfect occasion.

## **Woodcutters Road**

A group of local residents has joined forces to oppose the clearance of native vegetation to allow access to bushland by horse-riders on Woodcutters Road between Ackland Hill Road and Pole Road at Iron Bank. Onkaparinga Council advised Horse SA to submit a plan showing details for the construction of a sustainable trail for consideration by Council at its June, 2008 meeting. A recent Messenger newspaper report advised that Horse SA has submitted a report to Council but has not indicated details of the content. At the present time access remains available to walkers provided the alignment of the undeveloped public road reserve is identifiable. Walking SA has offered to assist with the establishment of a Bush Care Site on Woodcutters Road, with co-operation of the environmental management of Onkaparinga Council, but to date no response has been received.

## **Onkaparinga Council**

An excellent rapport has been firmly established with this local government authority with joint on-site inspection of various undeveloped road reserves and potential for expansion of our network of walking trails. In particular an interesting connection is available between Clarendon and Wilfred Taylor Reserve, near South Road, that provides a safe and interesting walking experience. Our volunteers continue to negotiate a section adjacent to Piggott Range Road to avoid vehicular traffic hazards on this road.

## **Mount Osmond Reserve**

Members of Walking SA Committee recently assisted publicity through the Messenger Eastern Courier for a Crown Reserve to be taken over by Burnside Council. Council has given in principal support to taking control of the 100ha Mount Osmond Reserve which connects to Cleland Conservation Park following an offer from Planning SA earlier this year.

The first of two Friends' treks on the infamous track

# The Kokoda Track

*By Julian Monfries*

I have always been interested in things military. As a boy I made all the models, WW2 planes, tanks and battleships. I dressed up as soldiers and made the toy guns and did I have fun on cracker night, BANG. We made mortars out of tubes and tried to shoot each other. I even joined the navy and had nine years as a serving officer in the RAN. Yet when I had an opportunity to walk the Kokoda Track with a bushwalking friend, in the mid-nineties, I declined.

Up to the time he stepped onto the plane he expected me to leap from the throng and joining him. I never did.

Then for some unknown reason, when the Friends Walking Committee, under the chair of Simon, came up with the plan to organise overseas walks, with Kokoda being the lead walk, I couldn't get my name down fast enough!

There was no particular attachment to Kokoda or New Guinea. I had one relative a Coast watcher and my father served in the desert battles of Benghazi and Bardia.

Since signing up, now over a year ago, I have read more books on the subject, devoured any articles, seen all the TV doco's pertaining to Kokoda that I could devour. In fact I have read more in the last 12 months than in have read in the past 12 years (I am not a great reader).

So there I was on May 1st 2007 starting my training programme. In all fairness, I have been pretty good persisting

with is now for over a year. I have successfully blown the circuit board in one expensive treadmill, and blown about 6 kg off my frame. With Simon and the Kokoda team we have found every steep hill in the Mount Lofty Ranges including one very hairy slope in the Onkaparinga Gorge.

We have discussed food and the perils of dehydrating. Did you know that bacon pieces will dehydrate from 250g to about 60g, or more remarkably that Ginger Nuts (the Arnott's variety) will dehydrate from 500g to 520g!! Boy do they taste good and yes, they can now break your teeth again. That mud cake dehydrates to mud cake biscuit.

We discovered light weight everything, that you can have porters and that there is a thing called a Travelmate that allows the women to pee standing up (now that I've got to see).

So at last we are on the plane, the whole group together for the first time including Jim our guide.

***At Kokoda we go through the humiliating experience of being chosen by our porter. ... He grabs my pack and doesn't talk to me for 3 days.***

## Day 1

The flight to Kokoda was spectacular and gave us an idea of just what we had got ourselves into. Think Mount Lofty steep, think Mount Arden steep - you ain't seen nothing yet. And green with water flowing like there's no tomorrow or no drought either. But then in PNG they don't have a word for drought.

At Kokoda we go through the humiliating experience of being chosen by our porter. Humiliating as it turns out my doe eyed young man is as young as he looks, 14, and paints his fingernails. He grabs my pack and doesn't talk to me for 3 days.

Quite easy really with a slight incline to a place called Hoi. The humidity was simply overpowering, with no relief from a breeze. Great camp site, cold creek - and I mean cold - and sit down dunnies. First chance at our dehydrated food and for some, a rather nice Cab Merlot, thank you very much. Not much sleep that night wrestling with the overpowering heat and humidity.

## Day 2

Hoi to Alola with our first significant climb, like 450 metres or so, then on



*The group at the start of the Kokoda Track*

to Isurava and the stunning, simple monument to the soldiers and porters who carried out the campaign. And nearby Kingsbury's Rock - near where the first VC on Australian soil was awarded to Bruce Kingsbury.

The night was spent at Alola with stunning views down to the Kokoda Valley.

**Day 3**

The start of the day saw the dance of the Campbell's as Gavin tried to launch himself off the plateau from the watering point, even before we had left.

Then not two hours into the walk catastrophe! Nic fell awkwardly, twisting her right ankle so badly she then needed to be carried to the nearest possible resting point - Eora Creek - but that's her story and I will leave it to her, other than to say, the porters were truly as the wartime stories depict.

We made camp that night with Nic at Eora Creek as we had difficulty getting the UHF and sat phone to work.

This became our short day, so we could be with Nic who was set up like the Queen of Sheba albeit with a nasty leg. She had her own personal physician and the royal visitors. Though let's not make light of her predicament.

Some of us took the opportunity to back-track and visit a Japanese fort that had been set up to repel the Australian advance which looked right onto our campsite - the old Aussie wartime camp.

**Day 4**

Contact was made the night before with civilisation, and a chopper ordered for the morning we set off leaving Nic to her fate with a porter in support



*Crossing Eora Creek*

and plenty of pain killers. Two hours into our walk we heard, then saw the chopper heading back to Port Moresby.

Today was to be a hard catch-up day with a 500m start followed by some interesting creek crossings, then a 350m climb, more creeks then a 350m again to the highest point on the range, Mount Bellamy. This is also the famous Kokoda Gap, which like Thermopylae, could be defended by 500 men. It's 10km wide!!!

Then on to Diggers Camp, past a few very inviting camps that we all hoped would be ours, to a very thankful rest.

**Day 5**

Off at first light, much rested, with a short day planned. On the 600m descent to Naduri, my trek came to slipping sliding end, with a very badly twisted ankle. I was able to hobble the kilometre or so to the village and there my story stops, to be taken over by those who finished the trek.

**Casualties:** 2 fractured ankles, 1 compound ●

**Awards and Decorations**

Tool of the Day (for the silliest thing or most spectacular fall NOT resulting in injury)

Day 1: Colin Edwards for putting his malaria tablet in his water as the purifying tablet

Day 2: Peter Rivett for cleaning his boots, then wondering why as they became mud covered

Day 3: Gavin for falling off the hill at camp

Day 4: Jim Drapes (our trek leader) for hearing Neil's whistle chink and saying "That sounds like a Bell Bird" when full knowing there are no Bell Birds in PNG

Day 5: Graham for taking an electric razor to shave with

Day 6: Shane for looking for the owner of a cup left out to discover it was his

Day 7: Gavin for dropping the last piece of fresh pineapple (fruit was scarce) and a spirited attempt to place blame elsewhere

Day 8: Arrienne for asking where Ben was and he was standing next to her

Day 9: Peter Rivett for demagnetizing his hotel room card thereby creating chaos for his room mate

And the Grand Tool goes to Gavin for his fall and habit of forgetting his pole and leaving other bits of gear behind. His often spirited and verbose defense usually making his offense worse.



*The Friends at Isurava Memorial*

Nine days on the track with the Friends

# The Kokoda Track

*By Gavin Campbell*

Firstly I must say I am a gentleman walker, a walker who has a definite aversion to mud, sweat and any other similar discomfort. If I could sum up the Kokoda walk in as few words as possible I would have to say it consists of mud, sweat and more mud.

From almost the first steps our boots were covered in mud and that condition remained for the entire walk from Kokoda to Ower's Corner, the exception being when we stood in a creek and the mud was temporarily washed off. I sweated so much that on the first couple of days the water literally dripped from my saturated shirt. The other constant was the tree roots which made the walk, in many cases, a climb either up or down on a type of staircase.

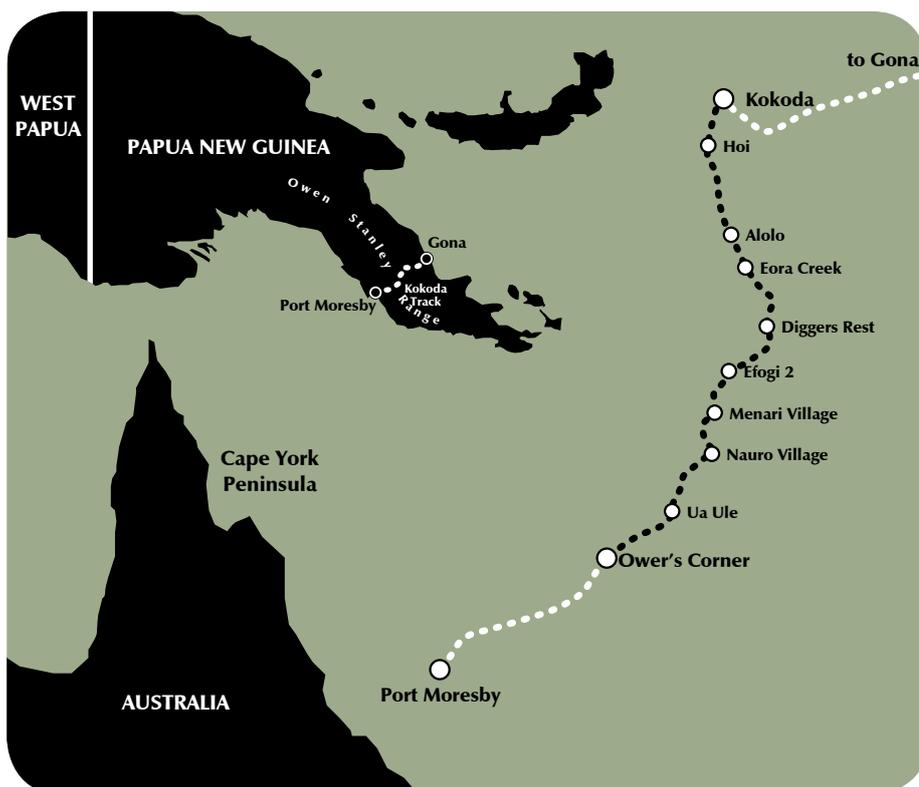
The walk was hard and I think I was prepared for that, although some of the climbs and descents were exceptionally long and steep. What I wasn't prepared for was the treachery of the walk. Except for possibly a

kilometre, we had to watch every step to make sure we didn't slip. This was brought home to us on many occasions, especially when Nicky and Julian broke bones in their ankles and had to be airlifted out. The walking stick I found on the first day became my best companion and saved me so many times as it supported me or when I put it in front of where my boot was going so as not to slip. The reality was if we wanted to look around we had to stop to do so, when walking, we had to concentrate on every step and where we were putting that foot.

The Kokoda track is still a living track, not just a tourist destination. There are no cars in the hills and for people to get any where they have to walk. The

***The Kokoda Track is still a living track, not just a tourist destination... it is equivalent to our Main North Road with people walking from village to village along it.***

Kokoda Track is equivalent to our Main North Road with people walking from village to village along it. We soon realised this early in our walk when two young women were taking their newborn babies home to one of the villages after giving birth in the Kokoda Hospital. On many occasions we were passed by young men carrying machetes on their way to or from Port Moresby. Near the end of our walk we met three young women who were carrying cans of beer in baskets with the handles across their foreheads so that their heads and necks took the strain. I hope Luke, our major beer craver and drinker, saw this and took note as he remembered knocking down those beers at our last camp at



*Life along the Track*

## Some Comments from the trekkers

*We are standing on a peaceful grassy knoll, Brigade Hill, with lush vegetation and magnificent views. How can it be that at this spot the noise, smoke, screams of men and guns and death took over?* Colin Edwards

*The porters were definite descendants of the fuzzy wuzzy angels, the fastest I moved on the trail was when I was on the stretcher.* Nic Waite

*I went in relative comfort - to experience their surroundings and walk in their steps; yet I struggle to comprehend the sufferings they endured - very emotional.* Peter Wynen

*Mud, roots, mud, ascents, mud, descents, mud, happy people in the villages and did I mention mud?* Peter Rivett

*Kokoda was so much more than a hiking holiday. It was a once in a lifetime experience that pushed me physically, mentally and emotionally to the core.* Ben Waite

*A wonderful mix of history, magnificent scenery, challenging hiking and mud. Well worth the training and preparation.* Arrienne Wynen

*It seems criminal that such beauty, tranquillity, and lovely people should have been violated by the evil, pain and suffering of war.* Peter Rivett

Continued from page 13...

Ua Ule Creek. I guess he didn't see them or he would have offered them 10 Kina or more, as a humanitarian gesture, to help lighten their load.

I thought the best part of this trip was the interaction with the natives. In all DVD's and videos I have seen about the walk, the track and how difficult it is, is the only thing mentioned. This walk which we did, with Backtrack Tours, was a walk from village to village where we stayed most nights in a village and met the locals. Most villages were exceptionally clean with no rubbish anywhere, which was a sharp contrast to the rubbish lying around Port Moresby. There is a keen Christian belief with most people being Seventh Day Adventists. On the Friday night we went to church and learned that this is the centennial year of their arrival among the people. Saturday is their Sabbath and as such no one was doing anything, which to my observation was little less than they did every day. Our porters were all locals and as we passed from village to village one or other would have some relatives living in that place and that gave each village a personal touch. On several occasions our porters sang hymns to us after dinner. On one occasion the village people put on a show for us with the kids singing special songs along with hand gestures. On our last night we returned the compliment, which was cause for great amusement from our audience.

Mention must be made of the Fuzzy

Wuzzy Angels. During the war they were an integral part of our success, carrying and caring for our wounded, often at great personal risk. On our walk, when Nicky had a compound fracture, our porters had a stretcher assembled in 5 minutes. They cut sticks from the tree branches for the frame work, lashed them together with strips of bark and their shirts supported Nicky's weight. They then proceeded to run along the Track three wide, including the stretcher, across a log bridge over a substantial creek, to the safety of the Eroa Creek camp site. Just as there is the ANZAC legend which came out of Gallipoli, I think there should also be the APNAC legend from the New Guinea campaign.

This walk for most people is a tribute to those young Australian men who fought along this track in late 1942. There is still a lot of evidence of the war along side the track from trenches to ammunition pits and even, on occasions, wartime ammunition. One member of our group unearthed a hand grenade with some others finding some bullets on a clip. An interesting part of the walk was to that find my father's unit; the 2nd/14th Field Regiment, had a major role in the stopping of the Japanese advance. It was their 25 pound guns placed at Ower's Corner that hurled their high explosive missiles at the Japanese positions, showing them that the show was over. It was the ridge where their shells would have hit that was the turning point of the Japanese. The shells took 30 seconds to reach their target, with their destination and

## Talyala Hills

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The Finishers

success being watched by observers on Imita Ridge and not seen by the men manning the guns. There was mention at both the Kokoda and Isurava memorials, with photographs, of his unit hauling their 25 pound guns up incredible hills. I must admit to real emotion as I entered the battle sights of Isurava and Brigade Hill with the thought of so many young lives being lost. Imagining the chaos of thousands of men shooting and killing each other in such small areas was overwhelming.

The Kokoda Campaign was more strategic than the Battle of Thermopylae. The battle of Isurava was supposed, by high command's calculation, to be our Thermopylae with all Australians present, dying (Thank goodness to Brigadier Potts and Ralph Honner for not allowing that to happen.) I think there was also a smidgen of the Battle of Marathon as well. The similarity to Marathon is the fact that the Australians continually retreated then ambushed the enemy and finally achieved victory. This method of fighting seemed too sophisticated for high command to grasp, hence their displeasure with such tactics.

As the walk progressed it became evident that both Blamey and Macarthur were even worse than first imagined. They made their judgments of cowardice from the safe confines of Brisbane, their only jungle fighting being fighting down the G'n'Ts in the jungle of other staff officers vying for promotion.

Finally I must mention the jungle. As we walked during the day there was, as with most rainforests, that eerie feeling of silence with only the occasional bird call. Having never slept in the jungle before, I was surprised at the noise at night; it was like sleeping next to a freeway. The noise of insects and rushing water, which continued all night, was incredible. The most notable noisy insect was the Buzz-saw beetle. This was our Back Track representative, Jim's favourite insect and was aptly named by him for the noise it makes. During the day, although we could hear birds, we saw none as they flitted around in the canopy. What we did see however were butterflies of which there were hundreds. They were of all sizes and all colours, the most stunning being



*Arrienne negotiates another crossing*

an iridescent blue one that flittered around with the speed of a small bird. The days were quite cool as we walked under the low cloud cover or, when the cloud disappeared, under the shade of the canopy. When we did occasionally walk in the sun it was blisteringly hot and very energy sapping. When we were on Imita Ridge it was cold, like Mount Lofty on a cold day.

It was with some amusement that we speculated Julian's role in the village where we left him. While he waited for several days to be airlifted out we wondered if he would become a latter day Albert Schweitzer on his way to beatification, dispensing good health and wisdom among the natives. Would he enjoy this role so much that he would be lost forever in the Highlands of New Guinea with his head dress, a bone through his nose and be known as the "Great White Buana"? Any one who knows Julian would know him to be a human perpetual motion machine with sitting still for more than 5 minutes causing massive withdrawals. So it was with great bitter sweet relief that his beaming face was the first thing we saw as we reached Ower's Corner. Bitter because it was he and Simon who led all of our training and without him I doubt many of us could have coped with the walk. Bitter also because for him not to be able to complete the walk was a crime. Sweet, because he was OK and hadn't seen his calling as being among the natives. ●

## My Kokoda

*By Nic Waite*

Friends of the Heysen, first  
overseas trip,  
'Kokoda' we hear people say.  
We get all excited cause that sounds  
like fun,  
But Googling it soon sets us straight.

Yet still we decide, well, we can  
do this,  
We'll do what we must, make it so.  
Deposits are paid and we start  
to focus,  
We need training and planning, o-oh!

Months and months pass and strong  
friendships are formed,  
As we trudge in the hills up and down.  
While both feeling fit, apprehension  
exists,  
But excitement soon moves the frown.

Eventually in Kokoda we are,  
And the trek is now on it's way.  
It is humid and hot but beautiful so,  
Mud and hills are home for nine days.

Bugger though, Nic only made it  
to three,  
As she slipped and heard a big crack.  
The porters were great as they  
stretchered her on,  
Now a chopper will take her back.

## Next Issue

An article from Nic Waite and Gavin Campbell's comments on the history of the track.

# 2008 Walk Programme

		April	May	June	July	August	September	
1st Week of month	Trail Starter	<b>Sun April 6</b> <b>Opening of the Walk Season at Stirling</b> Trailstarter Arrienne Wynen Trailwalker Simon Cameron	<b>Sun May 4</b> Trailstarter <b>Piccadilly</b> Steve Wilkinson	<b>Sun June 1</b> Trailstarter <b>Bridgwater/ Mt George</b> Jamie Shepherd	<b>Sun July 6</b> Trailstarter <b>TBA</b> Arrienne Wynen	July 6 to July 17 (Bookings pending) Trip Away - Kokoda Track	<b>Sun Aug 3</b> Trailstarter <b>Tanunda</b> Gavin Campbell	Father's Day <b>Sun Sep 7</b> Trailstarter <b>Black</b> David B...
	Trail Walker		<b>Sun May 4</b> Trailwalker <b>Lavender Federation Trail</b> George Adams	<b>Sun June 1</b> Trailwalker <b>Lavender Federation Trail</b> George Adams	<b>Sun July 6</b> Trailwalker <b>Lavender Federation Trail</b> George Adams		<b>Sun Aug 3</b> Trailwalker <b>Lavender Federation Trail</b> George Adams	
2nd Week of month	Trail Starter	<b>Sun April 13</b> Trailstarter <b>Cox's Scrub</b> Michelle Foster	Mother's Day <b>Sun May 11</b> Trailstarter <b>Belair</b> David Beaton	June Long Weekend <b>Sun June 8</b> Trailstarter <b>McLaren Vale-Moana Beach</b> Manuela Vida	<b>Sun July 13</b> Trailstarter <b>Hale Con Pk</b> Robyn Quinn	Sun Aug 10 Trailstarter <b>Mack Creek</b> Mike Parsons	Sun Sep 14 Trailstarter <b>Mt Ple</b> Graham...	
	Trail Walker	<b>Sun April 13</b> Trailwalker <b>Onkaparinga Gorge</b> Richard Milosh			<b>Sun May 11</b> Trailwalker <b>Mt Misery</b> Richard Milosh			<b>Sun June 8</b> Trailwalker <b>Kuitpo</b> Carol Milburn/ Colin Edwards
3rd Week of month	Trail Starter	<b>Sun April 20</b> Trailstarter <b>Brownhill Creek</b> Lyn Wood	<b>Sun May 18</b> Trailstarter <b>Mt Misery</b> Chris Caspar	May 11 to May 22 (Fully booked) Trip Away - Kokoda Track	<b>Sun June 15</b> Trailstarter <b>Mt Compass</b> Mike Parsons	Sun July 20 Trailstarter <b>Mt Torrens</b> Sue Scott/ Michelle Edwards	Sun Aug 17 Trailstarter <b>Bakers Gully</b> Nic Wait	Sun Sep 21 Trailstarter <b>Wis</b> Sandy Me... Rosie G...
	Trail Walker	<b>Sun April 20</b> Trailwalker <b>Waitpinga</b> Ray Blight	<b>Sun May 18</b> Trailwalker <b>Scott Creek</b> Simon Cameron		<b>Sun June 15</b> Trailwalker <b>Kaiser Stuhl</b> Ray Blight			
4th Week of month	Trail Starter	Anzac Day Long Weekend <b>Sun April 27</b> Trailstarter <b>Brighton</b> Richard Milosh	<b>Sun May 25</b> Trailstarter <b>Rocky Creek, Kuitpo</b> Liz Barry	<b>Sun June 22</b> Trailstarter <b>Wistow</b> Sandy Melbourne/ Rosie Gibbons	<b>Sun July 27</b> Trailstarter <b>TBA</b> Chris Caspar	<b>Sun Aug 24</b> Trailstarter <b>TBA</b> TBA	<b>Sun Sep 28</b> Trailstarter <b>Mori</b> Lyn V...	
	Trail Walker		<b>Thu April 24 to Sun Apr 27</b> Weekend Away <b>Grampians</b>	<b>Sun May 25</b> End-to-End 3 <b>Cudlee Creek to Nugget Rd</b>	<b>Sun June 22</b> End-to-End 3 <b>Nugget Rd to Mt Crawford</b>	<b>Sun July 27</b> End-to-End 3 <b>Mt Crawford to Pewsey Vale</b>	<b>Sun Aug 24</b> End-to-End 3 <b>Pewsey Vale to Tanunda</b>	<b>Sun Sep 28</b> End-to-End 3 <b>Tanu to Kap</b>
5th Week of month	Trail Starter	<b>Key to Walk Programme</b> Trail Starter walk Trail Walker walk End-to-End walk Other walk event		<b>Sun June 29</b> Trailstarter <b>Waite Cons. Park</b> Rhonda Dempster/ Ralene Shaw	Sun Aug 31 Trailstarter <b>TBA</b> Richard Milosh	Sun Aug 31 Trailwalker <b>TBA</b> Ben Wait	Sun Aug 31 Trailwalker <b>Lavender Fed Trail</b> George Adams	 This v...
	Trail Walker	An explanation of walk grades and details for each walk event are published on the website		<b>Sun June 29</b> Trailwalker <b>Pioneer Womens Walk</b> Richard Milosh				

## 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.heysentrail.asn.au](http://www.heysentrail.asn.au), or by phone the office on 8212 6299 (during the hours listed on page 3).

September	October	November
Sept 7 Trailer Peters Hill Beaton	October Long Weekend	Sun Oct 5 Trailstarter TBA David Beaton
Sept 7 Walker Creek Blight		Sun Oct 5 Trailwalker TBA TBA
Sept 14 Trailer Casart Parham	Sun Oct 12 Trailstarter Anstey's Hill Graham Parham	Sun Nov 9 TBA TBA Gavin Campbell
Sept 14 Walker Gate Campbell	Sun Oct 12 Trailwalker Mt Crawford Chris Caspar	
Sept 21 Trailer Creek Elbourne/ Rubbins	Sun Oct 19 Trailstarter Brownhill Creek Colin Edwards	Sun Nov 16 TBA TBA Arrienne Wynen
Sept 21 Walker TBA Wait	Sat Oct 18 – Sun Oct 19 End-to-End 3 Kapunda to Hamilton to Peters Hill Group 1	
Sept 28 Trailer Alta Wood	Sun Oct 26 Trailstarter TBA Arrienne Wynen	Sun Nov 23 TBA TBA TBA
Sept 28 End 3 Kapunda Kapunda	Sat Oct 25 – Sun Oct 26 End-to-End 3 Kapunda to Hamilton to Peters Hill Group 2	
 <p><b>The Friends of the Heysen Trail</b> 10 Pitt Street Adelaide 5000 Phone 08 8212 6299 www.heysentrail.asn.au</p>		
Version released 18 May 2008		

## Appropriate Clothing

All walks are subject to you wearing appropriate clothing. Prime considerations are warmth and weather protection. Your safety and the safety of the walking group can be jeopardised by you wearing inappropriate clothing. In an emergency situation it can take hours to evacuate a sick or injured walker. Leaders may not accept people for a walk who have not come appropriately dressed or prepared.

### What to Wear

- Good walking shoes, or boots, with grip soles. Thongs, sandals, elastic-sided boots and smooth-soled sneakers are not appropriate
- Thick socks
- Wet weather gear - a three quarter length waterproof rain jacket is ideal (showerproof spray jackets and quilted parkas are not waterproof and create a danger of hypothermia)
- A warm jumper or jacket of wool/polyester fleece. Cotton shirts and windcheaters have minimum insulation when wet and retain water
- Shorts, loose comfortable wool or synthetic pants (jeans are not suitable as they are cold when wet and dry slowly)
- Shade hat and sunscreen in warmer weather. Warm hat/beanie in cooler weather

The above list is for Twilight Walks, Trail Starter and Trail Rambler walks. For Trail Walker and End-to-End walks, in addition to the above list, please also consider bringing:

- Thermal underwear
- Waterproof over-trousers

### What to Bring

- Basic First Aid and Emergency Kit containing:
  - UV sunblock, throat lozenges, lip salve and paracetamol
  - Insect repellent
- Torch
- Lunch and snacks (include some for emergency)
- Plastic bag for rubbish
- Water in a secure container; minimum one litre, and two litres if the temperature will be over 20°C
- Gear should be carried in a day pack; one with a supporting waist belt is recommended

The above list is for Twilight Walks, Trail Starter and Trail Rambler walks. For Trail Walker and End-to-End walks, in addition to the above list, please also bring:

- Whistle
- Wide elastic bandage and triangular bandage with safety pins

## Walk Cancellations

Walks are cancelled if the broadcasted forecast is for temperatures over 32°C. For simplicity, this can be determined the night prior to the walk on the 7pm ABC evening news weather forecast, based upon the Bureau of Meteorology's routine 4pm forecast. Even if the forecast is later revised, the walk remains cancelled. End-to-End walks will be rescheduled to the following month. This doesn't apply to Summer Twilight Walks.

If unforeseen circumstances arise and you are no longer able to participate in the walk, please notify the office as soon as possible, preferably by 4pm Friday, or leave a message on the answering machine after this time.

## Further Information

For further information about each walk, walk grades, frequently asked questions or to print off a colour copy of the programme, visit ([www.heysentrail.asn.au/walks](http://www.heysentrail.asn.au/walks))

# Annual General Meeting

*By Peter Wynen*

We had 42 members in attendance and a few observers/potential members who had been made aware of it. After welcoming our Patron Warren Bonython and his wife Bunty, President Simon Cameron spoke on our vision of developing and promoting the Heysen Trail as a world class walking experience.

Simon's theme enunciated at last years AGM was fever - and from our membership of around 700 people we have been able to call on a pool of about 100 volunteers to assist in reaching that vision feverishly. Simon addressed some of the major activities that Council have been concerned.

Following the treasurers report (see report on opposite page) and the maintenance report (see the report on this page) the election of officers took place. Simon expressed his appreciation to Claire Randall, who had indicated that she was no longer able to serve on Council, for her involvement. Julian Monfries had filled the position of Vice President for the past year and Simon gave thanks to him for filling this role for the last 12 months and assisting in a smooth transition. Having served as President for 6 years, Julian did not want to be "blocking" a successor to Simon in 2009 and has chosen to continue as a council member instead. The position of Vice President remains unfilled. John Wilson continues as Treasurer and Peter Wynen continues as Secretary.

Continuing as Council members were Ray Blight, Cliff Walsh and Robert Alcock.

Renominating Council members were Bob Randall, Gavin Campbell, Jerry Foster, Jim Alvey and David Beaton. New Council members were Julian Monfries and David Rattray. *(Since the AGM, Ray Blight has indicated that he is not able to continue as a Council member. Following a request for more female representation, Dana Florea and Chris Brown have been appointed to Council and Bob Randall has stepped aside to enable this to occur)*

Following the formal part of the meeting, Simon introduced our Guest Speaker: Tim Noonan (ABC891) who gave a description of his recent experience walking the Kokoda Trail. He started by contrasting the random nature of the Kokoda trail with the more formalised structure of the Heysen trail. He had sat next to Warren Bartlett (CEO of the 4 year old Kokoda Track Authority) on the flight to Pt Moresby. On the flight home, he was seated next to a young Japanese man who knew nothing about the significance of the trail to Australia and after a brief explanation by Tim of the fighting between Japanese and Australian troops, paused for a minute and asked "So, who won?"

Tim was at the site of the Isuarava Battle with a number of veterans from the 39th battalion and 2/14th association on its 65th anniversary. He showed a brief 10 minute video of his trek, which showed some of the difficulties encountered. Tim spoke of the unexpected outpouring of emotion at the end of the trek. All in all an extremely satisfying experience which ended up being more than he thought it would.

As a number of the Friends were currently in training for this trek, a number of questions were asked from the floor regarding the amount of training done and other matters of a practical nature.

Tim kindly remained and answered various other questions during the supper that followed the meeting. ●

## Maintenance Report

*By Gavin Campbell  
Heysen Trail Maintenance  
Coordinator*

Fellow members, maintenance is a very important function of the Friends of the Heysen Trail. It must be remembered that the Friends of the Heysen Trail was originally formed for the purpose of maintaining the Heysen Trail and it was a special request by the Government of the day that "other Trails" be included in its name. To this end there has been a request for some assistance with the Terry Lavender Federation Trail and, after a formal request is received, we will consider that. We are also in the formation stage of the George Driscoll Sea to Summit Trail.

The past year has been a successful year with John Wilson and me meeting with Geoff Gardner and new section leader Michael Scott to form a small group at Victor Harbor similar to the Burra group. This group will also include Dave Evans, who couldn't be present at that meeting.

We also hope to set up another small group at Port Augusta/Port Pirie, which will include current section leaders Ian Hartley, Graham Hill, new

The minutes from the AGM are available on the website:

[www.heysentrail.asn.au/trailwalker/downloads/](http://www.heysentrail.asn.au/trailwalker/downloads/)

maintainer Michael Kerin and possibly Jenny Agnew and her friend Kerry.

During the year we formed a hut maintenance group which consisted of John Potter, Dave Curtiss, Geoff Couch and me. Mid year we made an investigative tour of all the northern huts and subsequently fixed any problems we encountered. This will become an annual activity, so in future all huts under our control will be better looked after.

John Potter and Dave Curtiss have also agreed to help both Doug Leane and Joyce Heinjus with their sections and Gavin Bowden is going to assist Kevin Liddiard as well as any one else who requires help.

My wife Marie and I are going to join the End-to-End 2 group as part of the maintenance program of our section. A lot of that section is very remote and this offers a good opportunity to cover a lot of the section that would otherwise be very difficult. Earlier in the year we remarked the Wonoka Creek Section which was washed away in the January 2007 flood. I estimate a 30 foot high flood went down the creek, washing away most of the trees and anything else in its path. This included the dunny at Mayo hut which, along with many other items, is somewhere out in the desert, west of Mayo Gorge. The old one has been, I am informed, replaced with a state of the art new one, but sadly the view enjoyed from the old one through the open door is no longer there. North of Mayo hut the creek bed has become exposed revealing a series of beautiful rock pools fed by a spring near Mayo hut. This, in my opinion, is a vast improvement on the old creek which was full of reeds that obscured this beautiful sight.

Finally I would like to thank all section leaders, for they are all volunteers and they need special recognition for the excellent job they do.

I would also like to thank the Department for Environment and Heritage, especially Bronte Leake and Chris Halstead, for their continued assistance for they provide the materials and expense reimbursement. ●

## Financial Report

*By John Wilson*  
Treasurer

During the year 2007, the Friends made a surplus of \$9,751. While less than the abnormally high profit achieved in 2006 (due to sponsorship, sales and retained stocks of Push the Bush), it is a satisfactory result, and typifies the funds we can expect to raise each year to further the objectives of our association.

Income from advertising, bank interest and walking increased by a significant margin, while that from membership subscriptions remained steady. Sales income returned to a sustainable figure of just under \$5,000.

Income from walking rose substantially (up around 30%), with increases from all areas. The strong support for the End-to-End program has been sustained, particularly as End-to-End 2 moved further north, and this has been reflected in the Golden Boots and Multi Walk ticket incomes. The three longer events (at the Coorong, Spear Creek and Great Ocean Walk) were also successful.

Administrative expenditure for 2007 rose compared with that of the previous year. The main increases were in office expenses for the purchase of new equipment, and in promotional expenses, reflecting the greater activity of our Membership and Marketing Committee.

Public Liability Insurance costs have now been split between basic insurance, and affiliation fees to Walking SA. The net result has been little change in expenditure.

The Friends spent \$2016 of our funds on trail maintenance, while a further \$6,750, spent on basic materials and expenses was reimbursed by the Department for Environment and Heritage. It should be noted that overall expenditure on the Heysen Trail by DEH in 2006/2007 was about \$400,000.

### 2007 Accounts

The Auditors Report and 2007 Accounts for the Friends were distributed at the AGM. Spare copies are available from the Friends office. Detailed accounts, prepared monthly, are also held at the office and may be inspected by members. The following is a brief summary of the 2007 Accounts.

#### Income

Membership Subscriptions	\$9,289
Income from Sale of Goods	\$4,980
Interest	\$4,102
Advertising revenue	\$2,697
Walking	\$17,353
Sundry Income	\$276

**Total Income** **\$38,697**

#### Expenditure

Administrative expenses	\$3,613
Bank fees	\$1,119
Insurance/Affiliation	\$3,830
Office expenses	\$8,268
Promotional expenses	\$5,874
Trailwalker costs	\$4,226
Trail Maintenance	\$2,016

**Total Expenditure** **\$28,946**

**Net Surplus** **\$9,751**

#### Current Assets

Bank Account	\$9,588
CPS, and Term Deposit	\$79,107
Minor Accounts/Floats	\$171
Stock on Hand	\$14,108
Trade debtors	\$4,770
Plant and Equipment	\$0

**Total Assets** **\$107,744**

**Current Liabilities** **\$7,480**

**Nett Assets** **\$100,264**

# She's Missing! A Story of Survival

*By Stella van der Krogt*

At the beginning of 1996, I decided to take time off from work as a senior manager in the Netherlands' health system; a sort of sabbatical to reflect on my job and private life. I wanted to recover physically and emotionally from some stressful years that lay behind me.

My initial wish was to go to Ireland because I had always been interested in their culture and the rough landscape but the climate was too cool! Instead, I chose Australia, because the climate was better and it is an English speaking country. This would be my first holiday travelling on my own and I felt vulnerable, I would only feel safe if people were able to understand me if something unforeseen happened! (Moreover, something did happen...).

On 13 September 1996 I arrived in Perth with only a backpack, a tent and camping gear. From the moment I touched Ozzie-soil I felt good. I encountered kind, helpful people and this would be the case during my whole trip.

I bought a 10000-kilometre pass to travel on the Greyhound bus and after a couple of days in Perth I took off to Kalbarri National Park with Greyhound.



*Stella van der Krogt*

However, the first 3 months, after Kalbarri, I didn't have to use any kilometres of my pass because there were people I met on the camping ground who offered a lift to travel with them up north. There was always an Ozzie who would ask "where are you going" and as I didn't care where I was going, (everything was beautiful for me) I accepted their kind offers. From Kalbarri I travelled to Monkey Mia (Exmouth), Broome, Katherine, Kununurra, Uluru, The Olga's, Flinders Ranges, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Longreach.....

However, the visit to the Flinders Ranges north of Adelaide would change my life forever. Finding my way down from Uluru I travelled with a Danish couple to Adelaide.

In all the places I had visited in Australia my biggest passion was to go bushwalking in the national parks. Many travellers had told me that I should visit the Flinders, one of the most ancient parks in the world. Whilst I was based in Adelaide for a couple of weeks I decided to go to Wilpena Pound and arrived on 17 November 1996 where I pitched my tent on the camping ground and enquired at the rangers' office about the walks. The camping ground was then an unspoilt area and the rangers' office was just a shed. These days Wilpena Pound has turned into a touristy resort.

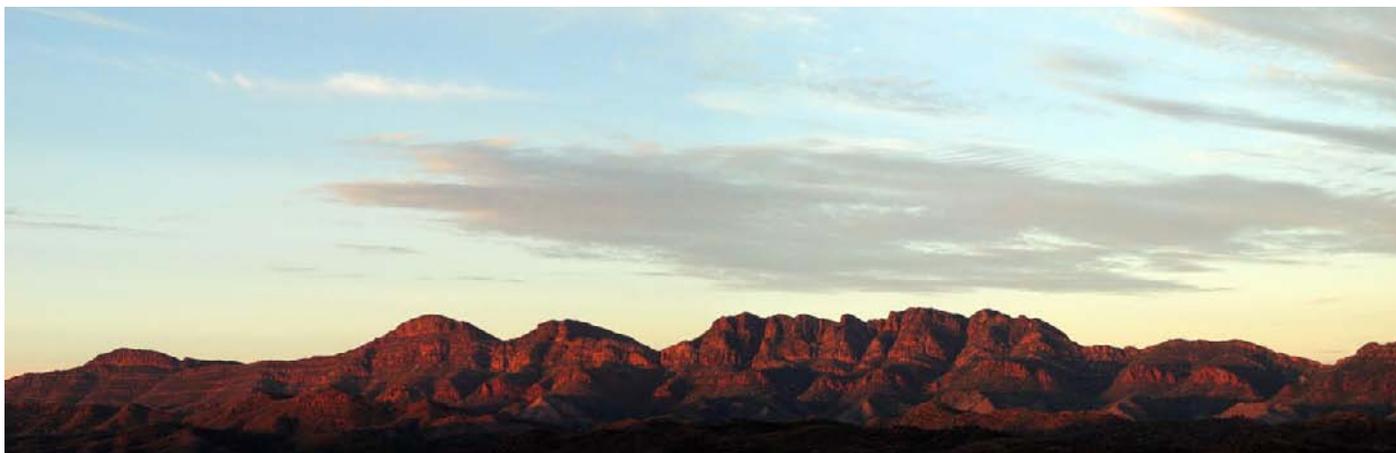
I decided to do the St Mary Peak walk the day after arrival and that night the weather turned; we had had days of 39C and that night there was an enormous thunder and lightening storm and heavy rainfall. The edges of my tent got wet and the box of matches was soaked. The morning after was glorious and a temperature

of 39C was predicted but I enquired at the rangers' office about the weather report for that day. I had a long talk to Florence, the rangers' wife, and she advised that a hailstorm was predicted. She suggested I go to the saddle of the mountain and reassess the situation. If the weather was still clear, I could go on to St. St Mary Peak. Florence also assessed my outfit and gear and said I would be fine. I assured Florence that I would come back to her to check in (I had logged out in the walkers check in book) and share my adventure with her.

I had already noticed that the walks were not very well signposted in Wilpena Pound and I found this to be true of the St Mary Peak walk. There were faded blue triangles painted on rocks and the path was studded with small and big boulders all the way up. The entire walk was spectacular; I encountered kangaroos, emus, and hardly any people. The views were breathtaking and I felt very happy and 'grounded'.

When I arrived at the saddle the weather was still gorgeous and after a lunch break I decided to go to the peak. This is only a walk of 80 metres but the climb is so steep that it takes time and concentration to reach the top.

As I reached the top all "hell broke loose" and hailstones as big as ping-pong balls were raining down. The sky turned grey, I became frightened and immediately started my descent. The markings were poor and soon I lost my way, even before I re-reached the saddle. For a short while I tried to find my way back to the 'path' but to no avail and still in panic mode I decided to descend on my compass. Soon the



St Mary Peak, Wilpena Pound

weather cleared and it was hot and sunny again; following my compass I was now descending on the east side of the mountain instead of the marked path on the west.

I became tired and careless and as I clambered over two big boulders I slid over the side of them, "heading east". When I slid over the second (overhanging) boulder, I dropped onto a small ledge of 1 metre wide and 4 metres long staring into a ravine below (with a depth of approx 100 metres)! I realized that I was in deep trouble and that I had to get back over the boulders onto the mountain. How stupid to end up on an edge of a vertical rock that dropped hundreds of feet into a creek...

### ***How stupid to end up on an edge of a vertical rock that dropped hundreds of feet into a creek...***

When I tried to climb back, I slipped because there were no hand grips on the big smooth boulder. I fell and hit my head on the edge of the ledge and for a short while I was unconscious. When I woke up I had a hole in my head and was bleeding. With toilet paper I staunched the blood and pulled the cap of my rain jacket tight over my head. After a while the bleeding stopped. I knew that I could not climb back, next time I would not be so lucky and could fall into the ravine. It was also growing dark and the best option was to wait for a search party to find

me, I was counting on Florence (from the rangers' office)!!

I prepared a 'bed' of a few branches and leaves, put on my rain jacket and lay down on the small ledge; the blowflies annoyed me and were attracted to the blood and sweat. The night was freezing cold, it was pitch-black and I was scared that if I moved I would fall off the ledge so I talked aloud to myself to control the panic and to prevent myself making a wrong move. I didn't have any water left, my teeth were chattering and I decided then and there that if I survived this ordeal that I would resign from my work in the Netherlands and come back to Australia to find work. I was angry with myself that I had made a number of mistakes which could have cost me my life.

With memories of my childhood and close friends, the night passed and the most spectacular sunrise I have ever seen started the day with hope that a search would begin and find me.

I was not disappointed because at the first break of light I heard the sound of helicopters and small planes and a bit later I saw them: 2 helicopters and 2 small planes! In the meantime

I had prepared myself and streamers of white toilet paper were blowing in the wind and wrapped around my head. I waved the bright blue jacket in the air and the 'choppers' were so close that I was convinced that somebody would spot me. But, hours later I realized that they didn't see me. I was hidden under the overhanging rock and was devastated. I had tried with a magnifying glass to give a light signal and to start a smoky fire but to no avail. I had left the matches in the tent because they got wet during the rainfall.

The dehydration made me weak and hopeless and I realized that I would die on this ledge because they would never find me. I had to get back on the mountain and at around 4 pm I decided to try to climb back. If I slipped again I decided to let myself drop into the ravine. I felt too weak and hopeless and could not control the panic any longer; I didn't know if I could survive another night. The dehydration would have made me too weak to be able to climb the mountain; I knew this was my one and only chance!

I said a little prayer and asked to be protected from a horrible death. I



View from St Mary Peak, Heysen Range on the left and ABC range on the right



View over Wilpena Pound, from St Mary Peak

clung to the first boulder and then something extraordinary happened: somebody or something was pushing my butt up and before I knew it I was standing on top of the 2nd boulder, on the mountain! I called this experience my "Aboriginal spirit" who guided me through this ordeal and who made the impossible possible. My bra and T-shirt were torn but I screamed with joy knowing I could walk and would be alright.

With my binoculars I saw that there was a creek in the valley and my first priority was to get water.

The descent was the most beautiful experience of my life because I saw wonderful images (in retrospect I know that I was hallucinating, due to the dehydration). First I saw a red kangaroo sleeping and whilst I was talking to the animal and getting closer I realized it was a rock. Then I saw a man, a shepherd, tending his sheep and I talked to him about my joy of survival, but when I touched the image I realize it was a rock. And so it went on until I reached the creek where the real kangaroos and wild goats were drinking. I let myself fall into the creek and drink the most delicious water feeling that I had entered paradise.

Under a gum tree I made a bed of grass and branches, preparing myself for the night while it was still dusk. I heard the engines of a helicopter but I decided to let it go, the place where I was too beautiful to leave. Soon after I heard a second helicopter and this time my mind reasoned and won: I walked to an open spot in the thicket and waved with my blue jacket to draw attention. I knew this helicopter spotted me because it circled low above me and I realized the helicopter was not able to land. They lowered a windlass and somebody was tied to it. There was such a strong wind that

it took a long time before the person (Steve) was lowered. When Steve (a doctor at the Royal Adelaide Hospital) hung in front of me he asked "are you Stella" and I said yes (afterwards this question seemed hysterical and friends and I had lots of laughs about it; suppose I would have said no, I am Sally...) and Steve put his arms around me and asked me to put my arms and legs around him so we could both be winched up into the helicopter. We swayed in the strong wind and it was a dangerous manoeuvre to get us in but after a few attempts the pilot had us both in the helicopter. After 52 hours I was on my way to safety.

Steve took me in his arms and the

***When Steve hung in front of me he asked "are you Stella?" and I said yes. Afterwards this question seemed hysterical; suppose I would have said "no, I am Sally?"***

other three men said how happy they were that I had been found, they had almost given up hope of finding me. That was the moment when I released all my emotions and sobbed in Steve's arms. We flew to Wilpena Pound that had become an emergency centre and I was welcomed by a crying Florence (who became my Florence Nightingale). On a bed in the motel I was examined by Steve and he put a brace around my neck and had me transported by ambulance to Port Augusta. This transport and my 3-day stay in Port Augusta hospital is a story on its own.....When I arrived Paul Makin from Chanel 10 was there and

I was interviewed. He told me that my next of kin had been notified of my 'missing person' status and that the outcome had looked serious. I learned that the helicopters and planes were making their last search as they had given up hope of finding me alive.

When I was released from hospital I went back to Wilpena Pound to thank everybody for their help. My travel insurance was happy to pay the \$30,000 search costs but searches in Australia are paid by the government and there were no costs charged to me!

In Wilpena I was welcomed by Florence and Dean and I stayed a week with them. I thanked the rangers by working hard with a volunteer group clearing paths and making the tracks better. The rangers offered me a flight over the pound to show me that without smoke signals it is impossible to find somebody. We tried to find the spot where I was stuck on the ledge but it was never sighted.

When I did go back to the Netherlands in February 1997 I resigned from my job to take effect in December 1997 and prepared myself to come back to Australia. I submitted CV's and was confident that I would find a job and on 28 December 1997 I was back in Australia and started work for the Dutch government on 1 June 1998.

Until this day I am still friends with Florence and Dean and the other rangers.

Since 18 November 1996 my soul and part of me will always be in the Flinders Ranges. For the past 11 years I have lived, worked and enjoyed this beautiful country becoming a proud Australian citizen in 2007! ●

*Editor's note: the trail is now well marked with signs on steel posts every 200 metres.*

# Grampians Long Weekend

*By Manuela Vida*

The Grampians weekend, started early for some keen walkers, those who could escape work early, so that by late evening, on Thursday 24th, the majority of the expected 29, had arrived.

Our accommodation was at the Baptist Camp and Conference Centre, at Halls Gap, in a very central part of the town, set out in simple but clean cabins, with spacious kitchen and main hall facilities.

There was a flurry of greetings amongst old mates, new intro's for a few "Virginal" Friends, and the usual fun and games sorting out one's bunk room, or cabins, for the couples attending. A hurried meal of sorts was put together, individually, sharing by some, and the ice was broken soon enough.

Our walk leaders. Simon Cameron for the Trailwalkers, and Lyn Wood for the Trailstarters, introduced themselves, gave a concise briefing on Friday's walks, and that's when we also were told by Simon that we had to observe a certain code of ethics: no nudity, no excessive partying, restrained drinking. There were certainly some

worried looks exchanged amongst the prospective walkers, time would tell how it was to be!

Friday began with an early start, 'real' coffee for the ones needing a kickstart, hearty breakfast, and frenetic lunch preparations! A quick briefing to one and all gathered, and off we went, on foot, to begin our walk to The Pinnacle.

We were lucky with the weather, a cool, clear day, as we began our gentle trail on through Venus Baths, the Grand Canyon, lovely vegetation, great rock formations all around us, and a gradual climb. It became more challenging as we approached Silence Street steps, with some huffing and puffing, and a slow pace, due to the numerous walkers, including a fair number of young children.

The views at the top were great, clear, and allowing all to break off for small snack/drink and a catch up chat. We regrouped, with the Trailwalkers, under Simon's baton, taking off on a southerly direction, (see Alan's article overleaf), and the Trailstarters on a downward loop. This went through some interesting flora and rock formation, a small fire track, and on to Turrett Falls, where a lovely lunch break was enjoyed by all. Onward home through familiar earlier covered ground, and terminating at the Wonderland car park, with a short easy path back to our base camp.

Friday night shaped up into a jolly gathering of relaxed walkers, swapping stories, and celebrating Anzac Day, with a 'true blue' Ozzie barbecue, organised beautifully by Jenny and Simon. There were some willing male helpers, 'burning' the sausages, one seen wearing psychedelic leggings, (for the benefit of the ladies, we believe).

The surprise for the night was a lively game of '2 Up', held in the main hall, with Simon taking charge, and the keen attendance and participation of most walkers. Even though no real gambling took place, a lively exchange surely kept the crowd interested, even the non Ozzies!

***The whole exercise made jolly by the appearance & disappearance of a red/yellow umbrella, the banter and camaraderie***

Saturday off to another early start, with usual preparations, briefings, and car pooling to 2 different destinations: the Trailstarters off on a 9.5 ks loop walk to McKenzie Falls, the Trailwalkers on a 14km trek to Mt Difficult.

The highlights of the Trailstarter walk goes like this: moderate upward climb on fire trail, lots of new growth yakka trees, (after devastating fires), a lovely morning tea stop at Zumstein picnic grounds, (with walk past old Zumstein homestead and old swimming pool, fondly remembered by one, Melvin). A challenging wet, slippery trail along McKenzie River, with very beautiful scenery, culminating with a steep climb, (countless steps), up to the falls.

The whole exercise made jolly by the appearance/disappearance of a red/yellow umbrella, the banter, camaraderie, and the guidance and safety concerns shown by Lyn. An invigorating, satisfying walk!



*Was Michael colour coordinating his raincoat and umbrella - a different colour umbrella each day?*

## A Tale of Misadventure

# Greeks in the Grampians

By Alan Davis

Holy baklava, you just can't head off on a "Friends" long weekend with the theme "Greeks in the Grampians" and not be up for a good time.

But as much as the social side of these trips should be enough to make them a must in your "Friends" calendar, there is an ulterior motive to all this fun and frivolity. And that is of course the bushwalking itself. So on Anzac Friday at 9am we all set off from our camp in Halls Gap following a well graded track up past the Venus Baths and thence to the Wonderland car park. Here perhaps the most popular walk in the Grampians leads up through the Grand Canyon and Silent Street to The Pinnacle. We joined about half of Victoria on the summit and settled down for morning lunch whilst our stragglers wandered in over the next 20-30 minutes. Two separate routes back to base were proposed, with Lyn Wood leading the Trailstarters and Simon and Arrienne the Trailwalkers. I joined the latter.

Of Simon Cameron, our president and all-round good guy I need to say little. You can't be an active member of the Friends and not have met him, because like a gopher on a golf course, he keeps popping up everywhere. Of Arrienne Wynn let's just say once you've met this girl, you're not liable to forget her in a hurry. Her husband Peter is perhaps the most easy going person you'll ever meet and obviously very sensible. With Simon leading she took her position of bringing up the rear very seriously and soon let us men know she expected to be able to observe our butts at all times.

Leaving the tessellated landscape of the top behind we were soon dropping down through the regenerating forest passing many other hikers struggling up. We cheered these souls by saying yes indeed, there is a beer stall on the summit. However we didn't have the

heart to tell them they were already fresh out. At the Sundial Turntable lunch was declared. On any Friends weekend away diet and nutrition are deemed very important to the extent that no matter how strenuous the activities, you'll almost certainly arrive back home heavier than when you left.

Before we'd left camp, I tried to lift Simon's daypack and had come to the conclusion he either had rocks in his head or rocks in his pack or both, such was it's weight. But all

***I tried to lift Simon's daypack and had come to the conclusion he either had rocks in his head or rocks in his pack, or both, such was it's weight.***

was revealed at lunch when from it's interior, a multi fuel (gum leaves, twigs, bracken etc) billy appeared and in a matter of minutes we were all sipping hot tea and washing down, what else, but Anzac biscuits.

From the turntable it was back onto the Sundial track gradually dropping down to the Stoney Rises and thence the Grampians road at Lake Bellfield. On this section the old hikers saying "what goes up must come down at twice the pace" was proved correct. However, no-one could get within a Bull's roar of Victor. If he is typical of his race, Romania given proper training and facilities, could easily produce athletes to compete with



Grand Canyon

the best that Ethiopia and Kenya has to offer. A short bushbash soon had us on Bellfield Track and like horses on the last straight, everyone began to stride out. Here the men could only gaze in awe from behind at the amazing form and fitness of our young ladies Hilary and Remy as they strode to the front. After an hour we came to a tee junction and here all Simon's experience came to the fore. The less experienced members of the group just couldn't quite understand why a 2.1km track heading downhill into Halls Gap must always take longer than a 4km undulating route heading upwards. We took the high road.

Much debate raged amongst the men on this last stretch about what was more important after a long day's hike, a cold beer or a hot shower. Melvin and Jim soon showed where their priorities lay when, back in camp, they went straight for the fridge. But of course they are English and as every Aussie knows they'll choose an amber ale over a good wash every time.

Continued from page 23...

As for the Trailwalker: this adventurous lot, were given an amazing performance of 'Amazing Grace', at the top of Mt Difficult, by none other... Simon, with his bagpipes!! So many comments, so here are some choice ones: Peter=challenging, boulders, scrambling, rock-hopping. Hilary=exciting, feet-punishing, camaraderie. Robyn=amazing car size slabs of fallen rocks, 5 headed xanthorea!?, Mary=wet, windy, descent made bearable by Simon's singing!, Allan=would love to do descent on a clear day, Arienne=loved the challenge but would prefer the President to stick to singing, Victor & Dana=great boulders and stones, promise not to get stuck in wind tunnel next time, Ben=rock hopping, variety of views, great ledge walk, Jenny=slipping and scrambling, memorable, Remy and Jim=would love to revisit on a clear day.

Saturday night back at camp the stories got bigger and better by the minute, each group outdoing the injuries and scratches collected on the day! Dinner was a marvellous Greek Easter



Lunch at Turrett Falls

celebration: roast lamb with all the trimmings, followed by baklava!! What a feast. The grand finale was Greek dancing, organised by Simon, with an Italian version by Michael. A lot of fun and laughter, as the most nimble persisted, whilst the less energetic stood by, nursing their tummies.

Sunday brought a clear day, early farewells for departing walkers, and a briefing for the flagellating remainder, who drove back to Horsham and on to Natimuk, to walk Mt. Arapiles.

This area is the mecca for serious climbers, so our walk, pales in

comparison, but it was worth the effort, as the view from the top were clear and lovely. It was a leisurely ascent, with some huffing, short, with a slightly more challenging descent due to the loose rocks and uneven terrain. We were witnesses to captivating climbers, who looked like gliding birds, and added to the fascinating surroundings.

A very relaxed way to end an extremely enjoyable weekend, well organised, catered to a tee, and as usual offering walk choices, and fun people. ●

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# Walking the Bay of Fires

By *Russell O'Brien*

Since reading a magazine article about the Bay of Fires in 2001 (Australian Geographic 61), I've contemplated walking the area when the opportunity arose.

In April 2007 while travelling Tasmania and doing a variety of day walks, my wife and I visited St. Helens and the southern end of the Bay of Fires at The Gardens. It was at this time that I noticed a brochure by a local tourism operator offering to transport small groups anywhere in Tasmania's north east. It now appears that my mind was being readied for the moment when, late in 2007, two friends asked if we would like to join them in a walk of the Bay of Fires in April this year. Our hesitation was brief and the research began.

The Bay of Fires runs from Binalong Bay in the south to Eddystone Point in the north on Tasmania's north east coast. It was named by Tobias Furneaux who saw fires along the shore as his ship, the *Adventure*, sailed past in 1773. (See the historical note at the end of the article.)

Although a guided walk of the Bay of Fires is available, our choice was independent walking. However, our walk would roughly follow that of the guided walk with the exception of a more northerly starting point. As with any multi day walk, sound planning and preparation are necessary. In addition to acquiring maps, I found that aerial photographs available on Google Earth were particularly useful. Very little information in terms of track notes was found when researching the walk but the

Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania information sheet, Visiting Mt. William National Park, was essential reading. ([www.parks.tas.gov.au/factsheets/visiting/MtWilliam.pdf](http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/factsheets/visiting/MtWilliam.pdf))

To access our chosen starting point at Top Camp, just east of Musselroe Bay we sought the services of Johno's Quicky 4WD Tas Tours ([www.johnos4wdtours.com.au](http://www.johnos4wdtours.com.au)). Johno (aka Ian Johnson) is an affable character who offered us a personalised service for a very fair charge and kept us entertained throughout our time in his care. On the basis that water was not available along the walk, we decided to leave a supply at our first night's camp at Stumpys Bay on our way north.

***It was immediately obvious that our cameras were going to get a work-out.***

Although the first day's walk was only six kms and less than two hours walking time, the reduced pack weight was a small blessing. Given the mild weather forecast (8°C/18°C) for the two and half days walking (2 nights) and the walk's 'easy' rating, we decided that 2 litres of water per day per person ought to be adequate. With most of the valued water carefully concealed and its position marked by a GPS reading we felt confident that water for our hydration and cooking needs would be met throughout the walk.

As shown by the accompanying map, the majority of the walk is actually within the Mt William National Park. Furthermore, the Bay of Fires begins at Eddystone Point meaning

that the most of the walk is actually along coastline other than the Bay of Fires. Despite this fact, each bay encountered presents a spectacular sight. The combination of pristine beaches, turquoise sea, rolling surf, blue skies and preponderance of magnificent groups of granite boulders was an awesome spectacle as the walk along the coast unfolded. Many of the boulders displayed attractive colouring in the form of orange lichen that appears to have been splashed on by a passing artist. In the sun the colouring is intense. The shapes of the boulders are intriguing and very photogenic. Bird life along the coast is abundant and, in camps, the Bennetts wallabies, pademelons and wombats were frequent and welcome visitors.

Top Camp is basic but proved to be good starting point. After a quick lunch we met the beach for the first time and were instantly searching for superlatives to describe the scene that lay before us. It was immediately obvious that our cameras were going to get a work-out. Number 2 camp at



Johno



The Eddystone Lighthouse



Just one of the many bays along the walk

Stumpys Bay, our first night's camp, was close to the beach and as such the sound of crashing surf was constant. Camps on both nights offered picnic tables with seats (a rare treat for walkers) and pit toilets. Charges apply and are paid using an honour system.

**Shell middens are testimony to the lengthy habitation of this area by Aborigines. The vast number of shells must represent thousands of years of good eating.**

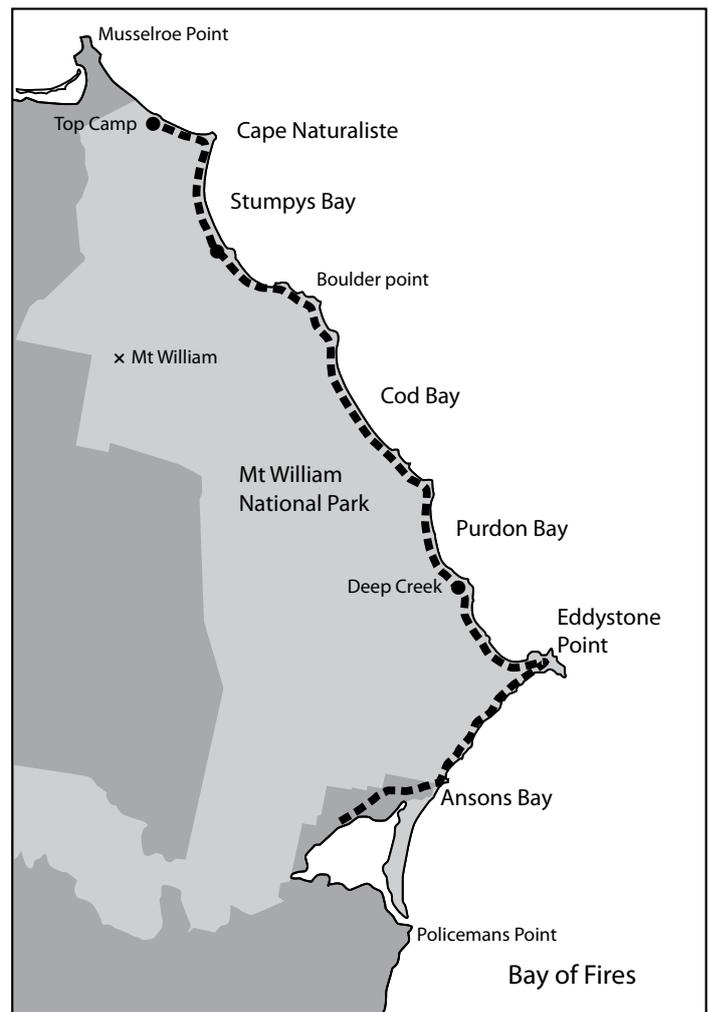
The second day's walk was long at about 15 kms (approximately six and a half hours walking time) and, of course, our extra water was now on board making the weight of backpacks greater. With Deep Creek our destination we walked out of Stumpys Bay past Boulder Point and along Cod and Purdon Bays. At the southern end of Purdon Bay the Deep Creek camp is accessed by a track between some shacks and then at the end of Deep Creek Road. The camp is sited for a peaceful night's rest, is well protected and offers many sites to pitch a tent. Tank water is available and, being cautious, we decided to purify some of this water in order to add to our now reduced supply in case an emergency arose. Bore water is also available but a notice advises that it is not suitable for human consumption. A notice on

the tank states, *Tank to be used for drinking water only - Use bore water for washing and cleaning fish.* (I'm sure that taking a fishing line could yield a dinner or two on this walk but as my companions are vegetarian I've learned not to mention the eating of animals!)

By late morning, after a relaxed start on the third day, we reached Eddystone Point. Standing tall on this headland is the Eddystone Lighthouse, built in 1889, and its recently renovated accompanying cottages. ([www.aussieheritage.com.au/listings/tas/Gladstone/EddystoneLighthouseOriginalReserve/campSurrounds/12780](http://www.aussieheritage.com.au/listings/tas/Gladstone/EddystoneLighthouseOriginalReserve/campSurrounds/12780)) It's worth taking the time to explore the area which is saturated with history and offers good photographs. It also offered a great lunch spot. A track between the cottages enabled access to the northern end of the Bay of Fires. Spotted along the coast

in sand dunes, shell middens are testimony to the lengthy habitation of this area by Aborigines. The vast number of shells (mostly molluscs) must represent thousands of years of good eating.

The meeting time prearranged with Johnno required that we abandoned the



Download or view a Google Earth map of this hike on the website: [www.heysentrail.asn.au/trailwalker/downloads/](http://www.heysentrail.asn.au/trailwalker/downloads/)



Crossing a sand dune

beach walking at the northern end of the Abbottsbury Peninsula and follow a track into Ansons Bay. This took just over an hour and provided a look at what lay beyond the coastal sand dunes. Ever-reliable Johno arrived just 5 minutes after we had dropped our packs and promptly offered cold beer or wine all round. The day's walking time was approximately five and half hours.

Our party would have liked to walk south along the Abbottsbury Peninsula and possibly beyond but, unfortunately, there are no campsites south of Eddystone Point. Furthermore, I was advised by the Parks and Wildlife Service that it is not possible to walk the entire coast from Stumpys to The Gardens as part of it is private property, and the lagoon mouth at Ansons Bay can be dangerous to cross. Nevertheless, the part that can be walked is an easy stroll along some

of the most spectacular and beautiful beaches on the planet. Generally the beach sand was compacted but soft sand was experienced in some areas making walking just that little bit harder. While the lack of available water made planning more critical and the weight of the pack heavier for much of the walk, the Bay of Fires is simply a great walking experience. For anyone who has walked Tasmania's South Coast Track, the beaches along the Bay of Fires are better and there is no Ironbound Range to cross! ●

**Daily Distances**

- Day 1: 5.7 km
- Day 2: 15.5 km
- Day 3: 14.9 km



A Bennetts wallaby visits the camp

**An historical note for interest**

From *The Discovery and Exploration of Australia*, H. J. Feekan et al, Thomas Nelson (Australia) Ltd., 1970.

In 1771 Furneaux was promoted to command the *Adventure* and accompany Captain James Cook on his second great voyage. In the Indian Ocean the two ships became separated in fog, in February 1773. The *Resolution* under Captain James Cook sailed direct to New Zealand, but Furneaux travelled more than 4,000 miles by his own navigation.

... So far, he had been sailing in waters charted by Tasman in 1642, but on 17 March when he had passed north of Schouten Island, he was penetrating into an unknown region. Furneaux recorded for that day:

The country here appears to be very thickly inhabited, as there was a continual fire along the shore as we sailed ... In the latitude 40 50' South, the land trenches away to the westward, which I believe forms a deep bay, as we saw from the deck several smokes arising a-back of the islands that lay before it, when we could not see the least signs of land from the mast head.

The captain, of course, was looking directly into Bass Strait, but its existence was not proved until 1798, when Flinders and Bass circumnavigated Tasmania.



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## Loop Walk Involving the Heysen Trail

# Mt Misery Loop Walk

This issue we feature a walk from the book *Push The Bush* - an extremely hard walk incorporating sections of the Montacute Conservation Park and the valleys and ridges south of Kangaroo Creek reservoir and the Thomas Hill forest region. It features wonderful views over the Adelaide Plains.

**Distance:** 22km

**Walk time:** approx 6-7 hours

To drive to the start, from Montacute Road take Corkscrew Road to the left until Valley Road is reached. Turn into Valley Road and proceed to the ford, Sixth Creek.

- 1 957377** Start at ford over Sixth Creek, walking along Valley Rd and enter Montacute Conservation Park
- 2 969377** Take the first track to the left (Heysen Trail goes straight on), and uphill until meeting a T-junction on the ridge (Mawson Trail)
- 3 968383** Turn right, continuing along the ridge. Further along, the track temporarily splits - take the right fork.
- 4 986377** Turn left (Heysen Trail) at the first crossroads, and down to a campsite marked "Cudlee Creek"
- 5 988382** The track bends sharp right at the campsite. 25m after the bend look for an indistinct trail on the left, which takes you down and across Kangaroo Creek. After the crossing, the trail veers left and steeply uphill becoming increasingly indistinct. Remain on the spur until a grassy knoll is reached.
- 6 988387** Descend to the saddle, but immediately at the base of the grassy knoll look for an indistinct track to the left that cross the wall of a small dam. Continue up the track to a saddle before spot height 528m - a good place for morning tea. Turn right along the track and through a gate uphill to Mt Misery trig.
- 7 993391** From Mt Misery, follow the defined track southeast, keeping the fence on your left. At the second saddle, the track forks, and a third (little used) track can be found on your right.
- 8 001389** Take the little used track, which becomes increasingly steep, until emerging at a dam. Cross the wall to join the main valley track (Heysen Trail)

**9 999384** Turn left and uphill towards Thomas Hill. The track eventually swings steeply south at a T-intersection and the Heysen Trail heads north

**10 004380** At the saddle (T-intersection), near the remains of a gate, look for an indistinct path straight ahead then a benched trail that contours around Thomas Hill Study Centre until reaching a fence line. Follow fence past old green pump house and pick up benched trail to the right, eventually entering pines. Continue to T-intersection, turn right

**11 010375** Head downhill, and just past dam take left fork through pines meeting Mawson Trail at a fork at the head of a gully. Turn right, and then contour around edge of pines until reaching the substantial track on the Gold Mine Range (following Mawson Trail)

**12 005369** Turn right (Mawson Trail) along Gold Mine Range until reaching gate marked by a bike in a ree and a yellow car on your left. Turn left through gate

**13 993370** Follow upper track past Constitution Hill, ignore first two gates. At fence corner at the bottom of a short descent, exit left through gate

**14 984372** Follow track downhill, ignore sidetracks and cross creek to head up hill to Big Range. After a long hard pull reach pines on ridgeline and old quarry. Turn sharp right through quarry and downhill

**15 986358** Follow Big Range ridge line, ignoring side tracks until reaching gate on final grassy knoll

**16 963375** Follow the fence a short distance north through blackberries, then pick up an indistinct foot pad WNW down an open spur (look for intermittent yellow markers). On reaching the fire track, descend until fire track turns a right and 50m past a small flat area is reached leave track and bush bash downhill to Valley Road (again look for foot pads and intermittent yellow markers)

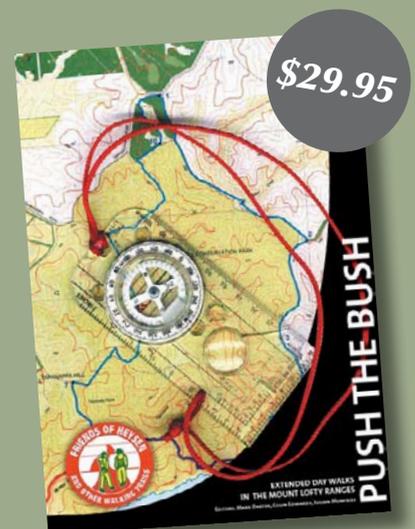
**17 960378** Turn left to return to Sixth Creek

## Push the Bush

*15 Extended Day Walks  
in the Mount Lofty Ranges*

Editors: Mark Darter, Colin Edwards,  
Julian Monfries

Available from outdoor shops and the  
Friends of the Heysen Trail shop

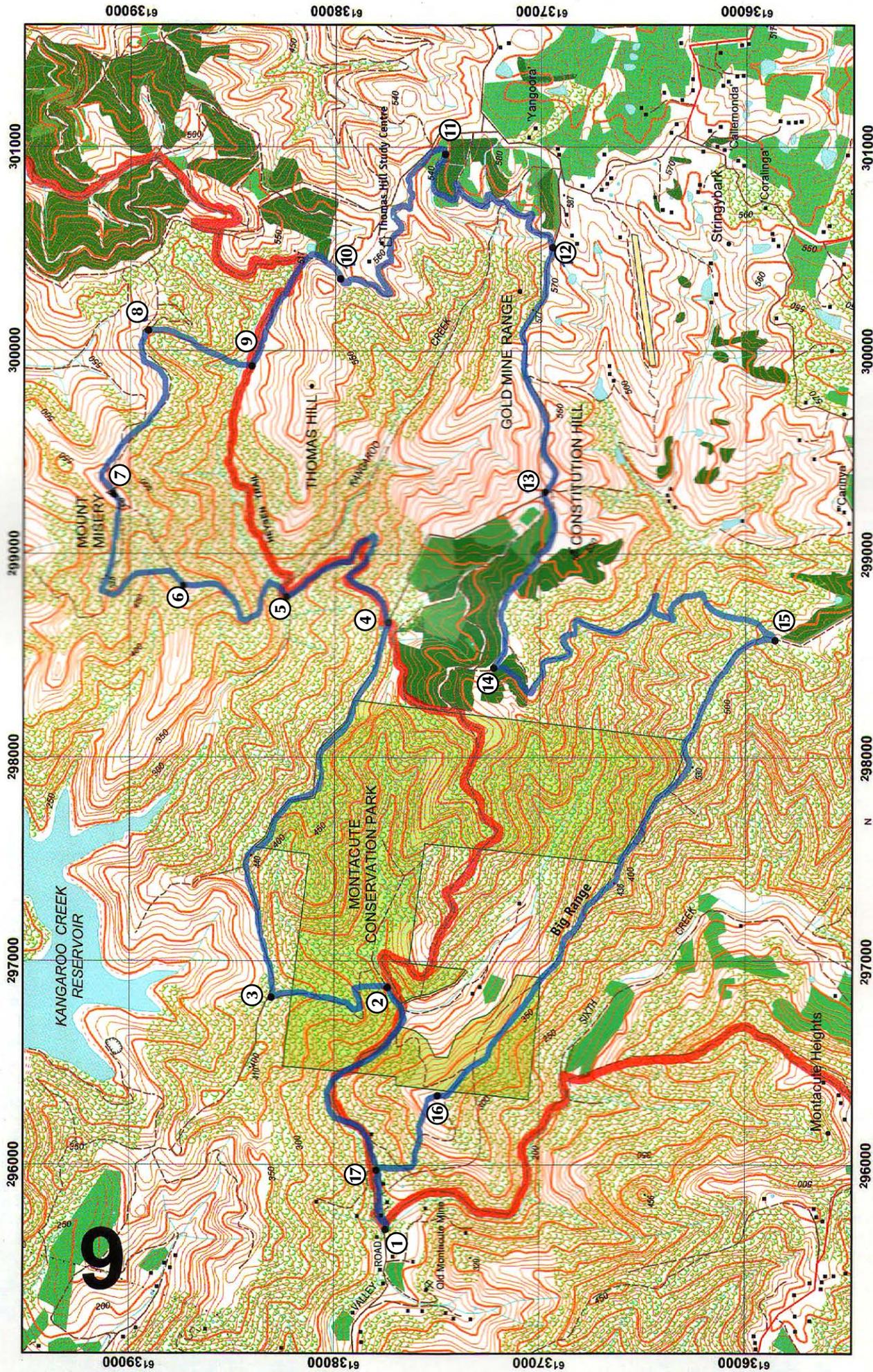


The book is A4 format, ring bound and printed on weather-resistant "plastic" sheets suitable for taking into the field.

We've all heard about the 'long lunch' the extension of time for recreation and pleasure. Now it's the 'long day-walk'. It's not a new concept, but a book of long walks around Adelaide is new, and it's exciting.

This book of fifteen long day-walks is unique. None of the walks take less than five hours to complete and some much longer. Some walks are in a figure 8 and so allow for a shorter walk too. All walks are located within an easy hour and a half distance by car from Adelaide city.

*See map overleaf*



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OR

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### Contact Details

Postal address: PO Box 11, Blinman SA 5730  
Phone or fax: 08 8648 4626  
Email: [alpana2@bigpond.com.au](mailto:alpana2@bigpond.com.au)  
Website: [www.alpana-station.netfirms.com](http://www.alpana-station.netfirms.com)

*Bookings Essential*

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For more information or to book, please contact Leonie or Monica at Peregrine Travel  
Ph: 08 8223 5905, Fax: 8223 5347 or Email: [monica@peregrinetravel.com.au](mailto:monica@peregrinetravel.com.au)

