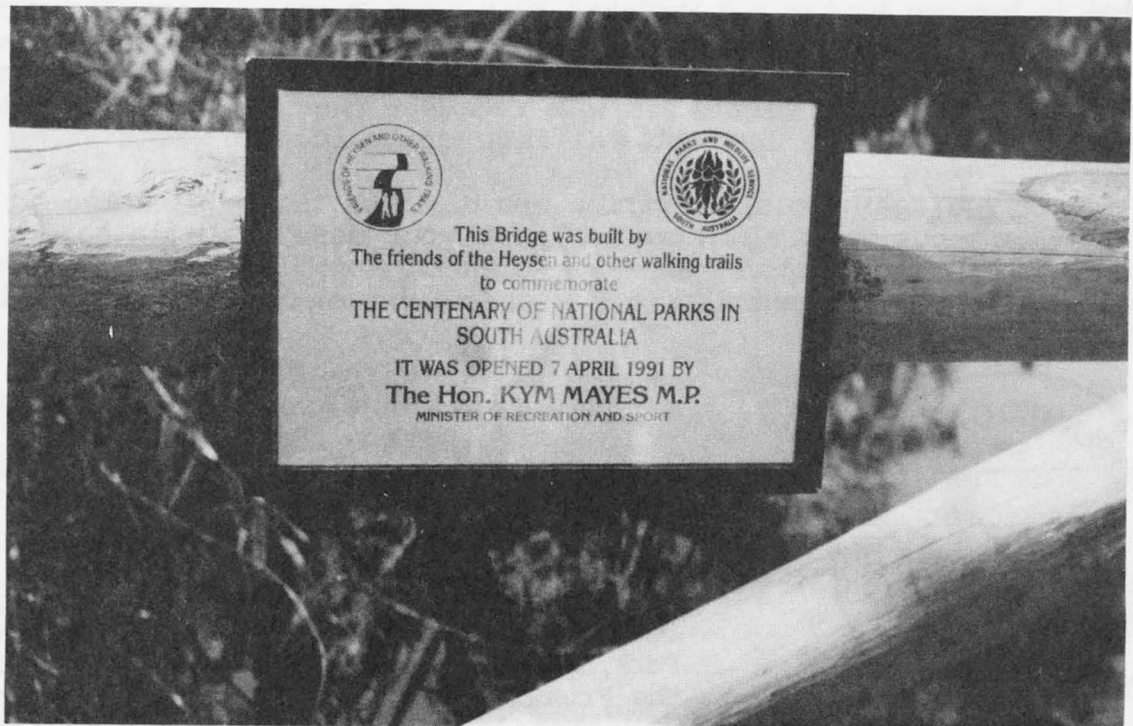


THE TRAILWALKER

ISSUE No. 28

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF
THE HEYSEN TRAIL AND OTHER WALKING TRAILS INC.

APRIL 1991



The Trail Walker

MEMBERSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A hearty welcome is extended by the President, Neville Southgate, and members of Council to the following new members who have joined the Friends' since February, 1991.

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------|
| J.H. & W.M. Tilley (family) | Mrs. M.S. Butler-Bowdon | Raylee Bessell |
| Mr. & Mrs. C. Raptis (family) | Brian Jones | David Cawte |
| Van Ruth Family (Family) | Rosemary Clarke | Jacqueline Hanna |
| Stephanie & Philip Thomas (family) | Sue Wong | Ken Bailey (family) |
| Tony Miller & Janet Perkins (family) | Ms Prowse | John Field |
| Margaret & Andrew Gosling (family) | Jill Moshos | Heather Gough |
| R.E. & G.B. Wilson (family) | Ray Ford | G. Martin |
| Susannah Henschke | Les Thorpe | Gwen Porter |
| Cate Everett | Margaret Baldwin | Jim Miller |
| Derek & Tamara Conroy (family) | Kevin Falland | K.F. Bradley |
| Mr. & Mrs. D.H. Smith (family) | Connie Mahoney | K.G. Retallack |
| Dirk Spaan | Peter Kenny | Ann Doolette |
| Vicki Wakefield | | |
| (Anthony Hall (family) | A.C. Collier (family) | |
| Alf & Sheila Turner (family) & Don Shepherd - foundation members of Fleurieu Branch.) | | |

April has finally brought to us an end to the interminably long, hot summer, with some pleasant light April showers to wash the dust and grime from the bush and to settle the dust on the walking trails for the greater enjoyment of our favourite pastime.

Although Government funding is in short supply to provide sufficient materials to match the energy and enthusiasm of volunteers keen to maintain our walking trails to a high standard of safety, other avenues are being explored and co-operation is expected to be forthcoming from the private sector to carry us through to the end of the financial year. South Australia's Heysen Trail now has only one significant section to be completed - that is between Hawker and Woolshed Flat near Quorn, a mere distance of approximately 90 kilometres! Trail Managers of the Recreation Institute are currently planning the route and the necessary negotiations with landowners. The ardent zeal of our volunteers will complete the task, giving to South Australia one of the longest walking trails in the world.

Thank you again to all contributors of items for publication in the "Trailwalker", but it is now time to "push your pens" a little harder and share your walking adventures experienced during South Australia's hot summer with our readers. All contributions - prose, verse, cartoons, etc. will be gratefully received.



"THE TRAILWALKER"

IS PUBLISHED BY "THE FRIENDS OF THE HEYSEN TRAIL
AND OTHER WALKING TRAILS INC."

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT
THROUGH THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RECREATION INSTITUTE
EDITOR : DOUG PAICE

Cover photo is the pedestrian bridge over the South Para River in the Warren Conservation Park, built by Kym Rohrlach of Angaston for the Friends', to commemorate the Centenary of National Parks in South Australia.

The Trail Walker

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A second Branch is added to the Friends' Family!

Place:- Victor Harbour

Date:- Wednesday, 20 March, 1991

Time:- 8.00 p.m.

Name:- Fleurieu Branch of the Friends of the Heysen Trail and Other Walking Trails.

Fleurieu now joins the Leigh Creek Branch as part of the Friends' Family.

Don Shepherd is the Chairman of the new Committee and I am sure that you join with me in wishing the new Branch every success for the future.

A new committee has been set up, to be involved in TREE PLANTING (GREENING). It will operate under the watchful eye of Jim Crinion and will be addressed by a speaker from "Trees for Life" at its first meeting at 304 Henley Beach Road, Underdale on Tuesday, 16 April, 1991 at 6.00 p.m.

A special walking group for BEGINNERS has been started by the Friends'. It will be known as -

WALKING S.A.

The walks will take place on the second Sunday of each month.

Our first aid course of two nights' duration was a great success and with your support we plan more in the future!

While it is obvious that your Council is striving to create more interesting and safer trails for the members, I would remind you again that it is -

WE NOT ME!

so give your support to the Council in its efforts to give better walking to our members and to the public.

PRESIDENT NEV.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find enclosed my cheque for \$10 to renew my membership.

I particularly found the February issue of the "Trailwalker" most interesting reading, with the article called "In Place of Strife" and to find out that 1991 is the Centenary of National Parks.

I have been an inactive member since joining a couple of years ago. However, if any more volunteers are required for monitor collectors, I would not mind helping in this regard.

You are giving a great service to the walkers of South Australia.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) J.E. Barclay, Moana

[We humbly accept the praise and appreciate and note the offer of assistance. Ed.]



LEIGH CREEK BRANCH



FRIENDS OF HEYSEN & OTHER WALKING TRAILS.

The Leigh Creek Branch of the Friends, formed last September, has made a flying start to activities for 1991. Cheerfully accepting responsibility for maintaining the section of Heysen Trail between Wilpena and Parachilna, Branch Chairman, Alan Thomas, has advised the following details about the programme.

A Trail Maintenance Workshop (theory session) was held for the local Scouts on 14 March, 1991 and 19 enthusiastic Scouts and their leaders attended. The practical workshop and test will be on 11 April, 1991.

Other aspects of the programme include -

April 6 - Local "Opening of Walking Season" Display, brochures, etc. at Town Shopping Centre from 10.00 a.m. to approximately 12.00 p.m. Members are asked to spend some time at display.

April 6 - Introductory "Night Walk" open to public. Meeting at the car park at Aroona Dam, walks commence at 7.00 p.m. to be followed by Billy tea or coffee and damper, prepared by local Scouts. Branch members were asked to assist in setting up a temporary marked trail on Saturday afternoon at 4.00 p.m. and walkers were asked to take a torch and go along to enjoy nature under the stars.

April 11 Trail Workshop (Practical) [Scouts] to start promptly at 6.00 p.m. at Scout Hall.

April 13 Scouts' first walk along the Heysen Trail from Aroona Ruins to Parachilna Gorge - 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

What a wonderful start to the 1991 Walking Season and to the Branch as well. Unfortunately, issue of this publication is generally not available until the second or third week of the month, by which time most of the above events will have taken place. However, best wishes to the group for the above and future activities throughout the season.

The Leigh Creek Branch held its inaugural Annual General Meeting on 18 February, 1991 at the Leigh Creek Scout Hall. The elected committee is as follows:-

Branch Chairman - Alan Thomas Deputy Chairman - Gary Creber
Secretary/Treasurer - Yvonne Thomas
Committee - Shayne Reschke, Ann Reschke, Richard O'Brien, Byron Stephenson

Items being discussed by the group include a walking programme, map reading course and a proposal for a network of local walking trails around Leigh Creek with perhaps an offshoot to Mt. Aroona. Involvement is being sought from local school and scouts, service clubs, E.T.S.A. and other organisations.

Arrangements will be made for the Branch to become an agent for the sale of Heysen Trail maps, badges, etc.

Interest was expressed in the extension of the Heysen Trail from Parachilna to Mount Babbage. A suggestion was put forward regarding the possibility of the Trail being extended in the short term to Arkaroola Road.

Congratulations to Yvonne and Alan Thomas (and to baby Ryan - born on 27 November, 1990) whose untiring energy and organisational prowess have given to the Friends a new dimension through the establishment of this important Branch.

The Trail Walker

FLEURIEU BRANCH OF THE FRIENDS

On Wednesday, 20 March, 1991, a small but enthusiastic group of walkers from the Fleurieu region met at the Victor Harbour Community Recreation Hall to discuss a proposal to form a Branch of the Friends in that area. (Apologies to Terry Lavender for use of the word "Branch" - his preference is for the word "Chapter" - but the Friends' Constitution provides for the establishment of Branches so I regret that I must recourse to the legally documented title.)

Finding firstly the location of the Hall, secondly the entrance and thirdly the key was decidedly a feat of endurance, perserverance and outstanding navigational skill by Martin Foster, Southern Manager of Recreational Trails, lamely supported by your A.O. However, all this activity took place before the appointed time of commencement of the meeting, so at 7.30 p.m. all that was needed was the President.

Warren and Bunty Bonython, Neville Southgate and Thelma Anderson represented the Friends and Martin Foster represented the S.A. Recreation Institute to provide a background of the role and function of Branches.

A committee comprising Don Shepherd (Chairman), Tim Stokes (Vice-Chairman), Fiona Haselgrove (Secretary) and David Brown (Treasurer) with Committee members Sheila Turner, Alf Turner, Mary Crawford and Maxine Hammill, was formed and business commenced immediately.

Dick Sampson, from Strathalbyn, has agreed to co-ordinate the Trails Committee of the Branch. Dick has had a long association with voluntary work on the Heysen Trail. As Outdoor Education Teacher at Strathalbyn High School, he assisted in the initial construction of sections of the Trail and, in fact, wrote the first Trail Construction Manual for volunteers. Plans are already in hand for the placement of erosion barriers on Sugarloaf Hill at Inman Valley as soon as weather conditions are suitable.

Other areas of support for the group may come from Victor Harbour High School students who have already marked the Aaron Creek Trail in the Deep Creek Conservation Park under the leadership of teacher Chris Woodhouse. Support, encouragement and co-operation is also indicated from officers of the Fleurieu Region of National Parks and Wildlife Service at Victor Harbour.

Normanville Walkers is an established walking club within the area so success of the Fleurieu Branch of the Friends of the Heysen Trail and Other Walking Trails seems assured.

The next meeting of the newly elected committee will be held on Sunday, 7 April, 1991, at 11.00 a.m.

ADVENTURER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Information has been elicited from a close source that Warren Bonython, the Friends' Vice-President, will be visiting Sydney in April to receive a gold medal from the National Geographic Society to honour him with the Adventurer of the Year Award. The epic walk around the inside of the "horshshoe" forming Lakes Frome, Gregory and Eyre, completed in 1990 and reported in the December issue of the "Trailwalker", was undertaken by Warren to pay homage to the great explorer Edward John Eyre and his classic expeditions of 150 years ago.

Congratulations are extended to Warren on behalf of the President, members of Council and all Friends for this well-earned recognition.

Congratulations are also extended to Bunty and Warren Bonython who will celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 9 April, 1991. Best wishes for many more years of future happiness to you both.

The Trail Walker

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Welcome to Eric Rowatt who has been appointed to the South Terrace Workshop position vacated by Norm Taylor. Eric will normally be working on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for an initial six-month period.

Thank you to the members, over 30 in number at this stage, who have volunteered for trail work groups in the northern district in response to the call in the last issue. The first job there is relatively small - completion of the trail between Spalding and Crystal Brook. It is planned for this to be done in April.

Recent work closer to Adelaide has included two re-routes on parts of the Heysen Trail covered by map No. 2. They are shown on diagrams below. The first is north of Norton Summit. Instead of, as in recent years, following Colonial Drive along its full length from Norton Summit to Moores Road, the new route leaves the road about half a kilometre beyond the original trail turn-off into Morialta Conservation Park. It does a U-turn by crossing stiles and a creek before joining a fire trail and proceeding south to link with the original route. This has been re-marked through the Park and onto Moores Road.

The second re-route is just south of the peak of Mount Crawford. The trail has been diverted around a recently excavated gravel quarry on the lower slope just north of the South Para River. It joins Centennial Road and follows the earlier re-route, west to Mount Road and back along the opposite southern bank, made necessary by destruction of the old suspension bridge.

Other maintenance jobs carried out by volunteers recently have included -

- (1) Preparation of the approaches to the newly-constructed bridge over the South Para River to connect the Hale and Warren Conservation Parks via Mount Lofty Network trails.
- (2) Erosion control, Tweedie Gully Network Trail.
- (3) General trail maintenance, Montacute Heights.
- (4) Clearing of heavy vegetation growth around the Jupiter Creek bridge crossing south of the old diggings.
- (5) Vegetation trimming along the trail west of Newland Hill.

Allan Colgrave,
TRAILS CO-ORDINATOR



The Trail Walker

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Friends' Annual General Meeting for 1991 was combined with the first Social Meeting for the year. An excellent attendance of approximately 140 members and Friends gathered at the Girl Guides Association Hall on Friday, 22 February, 1991 to hear the Guest Speaker, Mark Parnell of the Wilderness Society. An audio-visual presentation entitled "South Australia. Let's Save What's Left." clearly demonstrated the fragility of South Australia's remaining wilderness areas and the urgency for introducing protective legislation at State level to ensure its preservation. Members were urged to support the introduction of this legislation by writing to the Minister of Environment and Planning expressing the importance of these valuable areas which are slowly moving towards destruction.

Following presentation of the President's report and audited financial statements, the new Council was appointed.

Nev. Southgate commences the second year of his two-year term as President. Jim Crinion's valuable contribution to the organisation as the first President followed by subsequent terms as Vice-President was acknowledged by the Chairman.

Vice-President, Warren Bonython remains for the second year of his current term and Bob Curtis was also elected as a Vice-President.

Thelma Anderson was nominated and elected as Secretary and Glen Dow continues as Treasurer. Council members are:

Maureen Morris (Minute Secretary)

Colin Malcolm

Allan Colgrave

Barbara Mattsson

Dave Orr

Shirley Rumball

Jamie Shephard

Alan Beaumont

Sadie Leupold

Peter Ranford (representing Adelaide Bushwalkers)

Judith Avery (representing St. Agnes Natural History & Bushwalking Club)

George Driscoll (representing Scout Outdoor Centre)

Doug Paice ("Trailwalker" editor and Publicity Officer)

Maureen Vale

Great interest was shown by members during question time which followed Mark Parnell's address. Supper was then served to conclude another very successful evening.

SOCIAL MEETING - MAY, 1991

The next Social Meeting will be held on Friday, 10 May, 1991 at the Girl Guides Association Hall, 278 South Terrace, Adelaide, at 7.30 p.m.

Cathy Cox, of Trees For Life, will be one of two guest speakers at this meeting. The other speaker will be Andrew Eastick of Penola - a member of the Friends - who will discuss the viability of walking the northern section of the Heysen Trail between Parachilna and Mount Babbage by providing a commercial guided wilderness service. Andrew's discussion will feature photographic slides of this isolated and unique wilderness area. Over a period of time, Andrew successfully led groups of walkers along the Heysen Trail from Cape Jervis to Mount Babbage to celebrate South Australia's Jubilee 150. His articles about the journey have provided interesting reading for members in the "Trailwalker" over recent months, including this issue.

Terry Lavender, State Manager of Recreation Trails, will also be present at the meeting.



The Trail Walker

OFFICIAL OPENING OF 1991 WALKING SEASON AND FRIENDS' SOUTH PARA BRIDGE

A co-operative effort between the South Australian Recreation Institute and the Friends of the Heysen Trail and Other Walking Trails culminated on Sunday, 7 April, 1991 in a highly successfully executed event when the 1991 Walking Season was launched and the pedestrian bridge over the South Para River was officially opened by Mr. Kevin Hamilton, M.P., State Member for Albert Park.

Over 150 members, invited guests and staff of the Recreation Institute gathered at the bridge site in the Warren Conservation Park for the occasion. The bridge was built for the Friends by Kym Rohrlach of Angaston to commemorate the Centenary of National Parks in South Australia.

Terry Lavender, State Manager of Recreation Trails, introduced Kevin Hamilton who expressed delight at the opportunity to officiate at a function in such pleasant surroundings and supported by such a large number of members. Lou Ewins, Ranger in Charge of the area, accepted and acknowledged the Friends' contribution to the Centenary on behalf of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Lou referred to the great spirit of co-operation which had developed between her staff and members of the Friends' group in carrying out this project and other projects on the Mount Lofty Network Walking Trails in the Warren and Hale Conservation Parks. Nev. Southgate thanked Kevin Hamilton, Terry and Lou for their comments on behalf of the Friends following the unveiling of a plaque erected on the bridge to mark the occasion.

A delightful lunch, graciously hosted by Di Forgan and Judy Roden of the Recreation Institute and catered by Mr. and Mrs. David Whittington of the Kiosk at Para Wirra Recreation Park, was enjoyed by the official party and invited guests.

Although the Park is located in an isolated area between Kersbrook and Williamstown, limiting easy access, the Friends are grateful for the co-operation of the Engineering and Water Supply Department in permitting entry through Water Supply Reserve to enable guests to attend the ceremony. Members will be aware, of course, that this entrance to the bridge is now prohibited and everyone is urged to respect the privilege granted for the special occasion.

More than 150 people attended - over 60 using the E. & W.S. entrance, and smaller parties arrived from Watts Gully Road through the Warren and from the Warren Road through the Hale Conservation Park. Many walkers chose to continue the walk to the opposite end where a bus met them and transported them to the start.

The early cloud and very light rain, which later cleared, provided perfect conditions to match the enthusiasm of a very receptive and appreciative audience of a successful launch and bridge opening. Thank you to all Friends for your tremendous support.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Ian Martin who is now at home and making excellent progress after a lengthy stay in hospital.

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The Trail Walker

WALKING PROGRAMME

A new Walking Committee has been formed under the leadership of Bob Curtis. Other members of the committee are Ros Durand, Sadie Leupold, Maureen Vale, Jamie Shephard, George Driscoll, Helen Fry and Isabella Rawnsley.

The 1991 Walking Season will be officially launched on Sunday, 7 April, 1991 at a combined ceremony to open the Friends' pedestrian bridge over the South Para River in the Warren Conservation Park commemorating the Centenary of National Parks. Details of walks through the Warren and Hale Conservation Parks to celebrate this event were announced in the February "Trailwalker".

A group of Friends met at Arbury Park on Sunday, 3 March, 1991 to discuss walking in 1991. Due to public demand, it was decided to hold a series of introductory walks for persons who have had little group walking experience. It is intended that these walks will be promoted as

WALKING S.A.

and of half day duration - between two and three hours - and will be held in relatively close proximity to the City. They will be held on the second Sunday of each month with the exception of the June walk which will be put forward by one week due to the Queen's Birthday week-end. The first walks in this series will take place on Sunday, 14 April, 1991 as follows:-

10.00 a.m. - Linear Pathway - Meet at Adelaide University footbridge.
Leaders - Neville Southgate and Liz Barry.

10.00 a.m. - Belair Recreation Park - Meet inside main entrance - Leader -
Thelma Anderson.

Advice of these two walks appeared under the Friends' heading in "Spotlight on Recreation" in the Getting Out supplement of the "Advertiser" on Friday, 5 April, 1991. Details of introductory walks on 12 May, 16 June and 14 July appear at the end of this item.

A mid-week walk, to be held on Wednesdays, was also discussed and agreed to be trialled with Neville Southgate leading the initial walks.

1991 FRIENDS' WALKS - The Committee decided to continue the programme "The Friends Go Walking on the Fourth Sunday of the Month" and to restrict advertising to the "Trailwalker".

The programme for Sunday, 28 April, 1991 is

9.30 a.m. - Onkaparinga Gorge - Short, hard - Bob Curtis - 382-1501

10.00 a.m. - Black Hill - Long, medium - Liz Barry/Jill McPherson - 364-2191

Sunday, 26 May, 1991

Newland Head - Ros Durand - 383-6239

Deep Creek (Long, hard) - Ann Calvert - 322-1684

Sunday, 23 June, 1991

Myponga Conservation Park - Jennifer Dow - 276-6184 (after 4.00 p.m.)

Para Wirra Conservation Park - Mark Darter - 263-3082 (6.00 - 9.00 p.m.)

Intending walkers should ring the respective leaders to obtain details of the meeting place.

WALKING S.A. - INTRODUCTORY WALKS - (Second Sunday of the month)

14 April, 1991 - Nev. Southgate and Liz Barry - Linear Park - Meet at Adelaide University Footbridge - 10.00 a.m.

Thelma Anderson - Belair Recreation Park - Meet at Western Gate 10.00 a.m.

The Trail Walker

WALKING PROGRAMME (Cont'd.)

WALKING S.A.

12 May, 1991 - Humbug Scrub - Maureen Vale - 251-1413

Waterfall Gully - Bob Curtis - 382-1501

16 June, 1991 - Cleland Park - Shirley Rumball - 45-7034

Black Hill - Isabella Rawnsley - 337-3777

Introductory Walking (WALKING S.A.) - Second Wednesday of the month.

8 May, 1991 - Linear Pathway - (Meet 10.00 a.m. - University Footbridge -
Nev. Southgate - 364-2191.

12 June, 1991 - Cleland Park - Joan Beer - 344-6287.

All walking programmes for the remainder of the walking season will be published in the June issue of the "Trailwalker".

DIARY DATES

APRIL 1 Easter Monday

- 7 Official Opening of Walking Season and Friends' Bridge, South Para River, Warren Conservation Park
- 10 Walking Committee Meeting, S.A.R.I. - 6.00 p.m.
- 12 Executive Committee Meeting, S.A.R.I., 12.00 p.m.
Trails Committee Meeting, S.A.R.I., 4.00 p.m.
- 14 Walking S.A. - Two walks - see Walking Programme item herein.
- 16 Greening Committee Meeting, S.A.R.I., 6.00 p.m.
- 24 Friends' Council Meeting, S.A.R.I. - 6.00 p.m.
- 28 Friends' Go Walking Today - see Walking Programme item herein.

MAY 1 Map Craft, S.A.R.I. - 7.30 p.m. Prior booking essential.

- 8 Walking S.A. - see Walking Programme item herein.
- 8 Walking Committee Meeting, S.A.R.I. - 6.00 p.m.
- 12 Walking S.A. - see Walking Programme item herein.
- 10 Executive Committee Meeting, S.A.R.I. 12.00 p.m.
- 10 Trails Committee Meeting, S.A.R.I. - 4.00 p.m.
- 10 Friends' SOCIAL MEETING, Girl Guides Association Hall, 7.30 p.m.
- 22 Friends' Council Meeting, S.A.R.I. - 6.00 p.m.
- 26 Friends Go Walking Today - see Walking Programme item herein.
- 31 Closing date of copy for "Trailwalker".

JUNE 12 Walking Committee, S.A.R.I. - 6.00 p.m.

- Walking S.A. - see Walking Programme item herein for details.
- 14 Executive Committee Meeting, S.A.R.I. - 12.00 p.m.
- 14 Trails Committee Meeting, S.A.R.I. - 4.00 p.m.
- 16 Walking S.A. - see Walking Programme item herein for details.
- 23 Friends Go Walking Today - see Walking Programme item herein.
- 26 Friends' Council Meeting, S.A.R.I. - 6.00 p.m.

NOTE:- S.A.R.I. is the South Australian Recreation Institute, situated at 304 Henley Beach Road, Underdale.

The Trail Walker

TRAIL MONITOR COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone for the tremendous response to the plea for assistance with trail monitor collection. It has been most supportive.

All monitors have been provided with new Friends' front sheet, several information sheets, plastic bag, pencil and string and a few leaflets for the box.

The first collection will be required on or near the first day of May (i.e. ideally within the first week). By that time, supplies of replacement material will be forwarded to collectors in case it is required at the time of collection. All items should be checked - new sheets (including front sheet if necessary), plastic bag (to ensure it is not torn and is weatherproof), string and pencil (I suggest taking a pencil sharpener or pocket knife). Collectors are asked to advise me (Tel.234-0844, Mondays, Thursdays or Fridays) of any irregularity or damage to the trail monitors so that necessary action can be taken to repair or restore it as soon as possible.

The following list shows the location of trail monitors and the names of the collectors.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Newland Hill | Jim and Mary Lombard |
| 2. Myponga Conservation Park | Shirley Rumball |
| 3. Mt. Cone | Pat Bruun |
| 4. Kyeema Conservation Park | Heather and Malcolm Todd |
| 5. Glen Bold | Mike Parsons |
| 6. Mount Lofty | Don Gobbett |
| 7. Norton Summit | Shirley Elliott |
| 8. Mount Gould | Janice & Richard Garnham |
| 9. Mount Crawford | Janice & Richard Garnham |
| 10. Warren Cconservation Park | Janice & Richard Garnham |
| 11. Pewsey Vale (formerly located at Tweedie Gully) | Ian Curren, Nuriootpa High School |

When collected, monitor sheets may be posted to the Friends' official collator, Peter Hammond, 66 Dunbar Terrace, GLENELG EAST, 5045, or delivered to the Recreation Institute (for the attention of Thelma Anderson), 304 Henley Beach Road, Underdale for forwarding on to Peter. The assistance of all volunteer Friends for this activity is indeed valuable and your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

METAL BADGES

Metal Badges, displaying the Friends' logo, with safety pin fitting, are now available for purchase by members. Measuring 25mm in diameter, these badges provide attractive adornment for hats, jackets, shirts, jumpers and back backs and are priced at only \$4.00 each.

The Trail Walker

MAP CRAFT

Interest expressed by members at the Annual General Meeting indicate a continuing need for Map Craft Sessions. Friends are indebted to Bob Lake for his willingness to conduct these valuable sessions for members of the Friends. All participants will agree that they are of immense interest and of tremendous value to walkers.

The last session was held on Wednesday, 6 March, 1991. The course planned for 3 April has been postponed and will now be held on Wednesday, 1 May, 1991. Vacancies still remain for this session which will be held in the Conference Room at the S.A. Recreation Institute, 304 Henley Beach Road, Underdale at 7.30 p.m. If you wish to be included in this course, will you please contact the Administrative Officer, Thelma Anderson, on 234-0844 on Mondays, Thursdays or Fridays.

It has been decided to delete the field experience session for future courses. This was scheduled for the Sunday morning following the theory session. However, it is possible that a practical field trip catering for participants of previous courses may be held at a later date. Details will be advised in the "Trailwalker", following negotiations.

FIRST AID COURSE

The Friends' first First Aid course was conducted by Gloria Curtis, of St. John's Ambulance at the Recreation Institute, Underdale, on Tuesday 12 and 19 March, 1991. The two-session course was attended by Neville Southgate, Warren Bonython, Bill White, Shirley Rumball, Malcolm Tavender, Judith O'Hara, Betty and Paul Franche, Doug Paice, Rex Edwards, George Driscoll, Ros Durand and Thelma Anderson.

The course was full of interest and enlightenment and expertly highlighted areas of application of first aid which walk leaders may expect to encounter. Also included was a recommended list of items to comprise a first aid kit for leaders and walkers.

A high degree of professionalism was displayed in the presentation of the specialised course and sincere thanks are extended to Gloria for her important contribution to the Friends'.

It is possible that negotiations may be made for the conduct of future courses, but it is also likely that a fee will be applicable. Further information will be made available to those members who have indicated an interest in participating in future first aid courses when arrangements have been finalised.

GREENING THE TRAILS

On Sunday, 10 March, 1991, a group of interested Friends met at Arbury Park (near the recently constructed pedestrian bridge over Cox's Creek on the Heysen Trail). For the interest of readers this area is now under the control of the National Parks and Wildlife Service and is known as the Mount George Conservation Park.

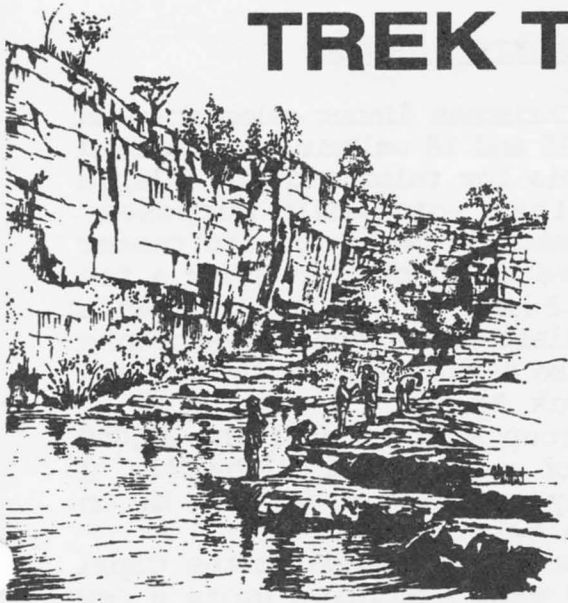
Following the previous week's meeting of the walking group at the same location, two Friends, independently of each other, had approached two volunteers from "Trees for Life" who were collecting seeds in the area during the course of the meeting and invited them to return for the Friends "Greening the Trails" meeting on Sunday, 10 March.

Paul Farmer and Maureen Redfern gladly accepted the invitation from the Friends and attended the meeting to steer our group in the right direction.

A committee, led by Jim Crinion, will be formed at the next meeting to be held on Tuesday, 16 April, 1991 at the Conference Room at the S.A. Recreation Institute, 304 Henley Beach Road, Underdale, at 6.00 when Maureen Redfern and Paul Farmer, from Trees for Life will be present to speak to the meeting.

Future developments of this committee will be detailed in later issues of the "Trailwalker".

TREK THE TROPICS



Light packs
Magnificent scenery
Beautiful swimming pools
Ancient Aboriginal art
Good food

The perfect holiday

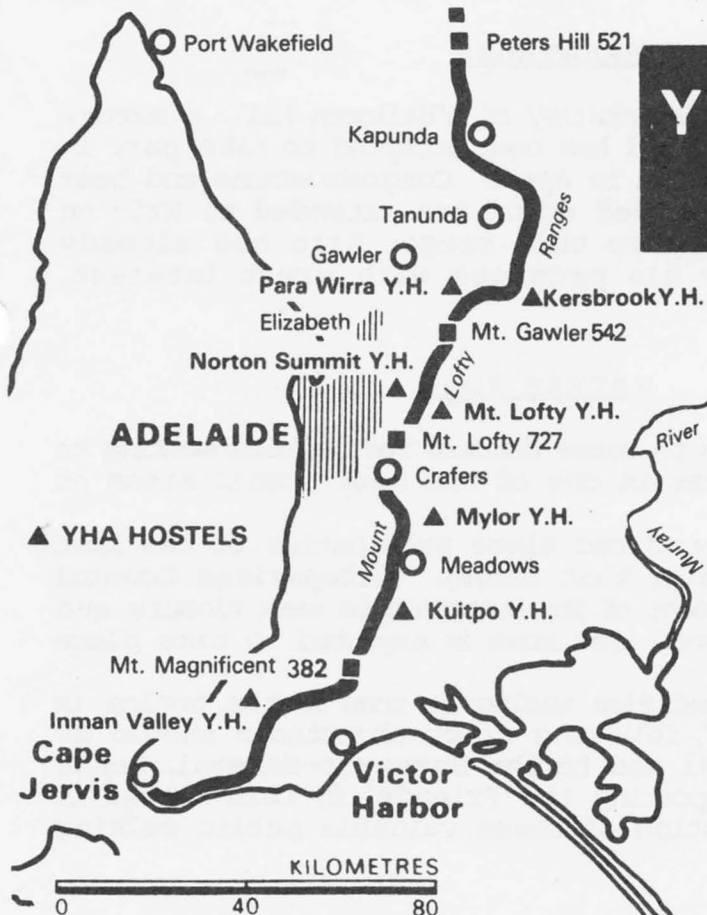


For details of our complete bushwalking program in Kakadu, the Kimberley and central Australia, write to:

Willis's Walkabouts

12 Carrington Street
Millner NT 0810
Ph: (089) 85 2134
Fax: (089) 85 2355

YHA HOSTELS on the HEYSEN TRAIL



- Comfortable accommodation for overnight stops on the Heysen Trail:—
- Fully equipped kitchens
 - Comfortable beds with all bedding (you provide the bed linen)
 - Bathroom Facilities
 - Pleasant Situations

Bookings and Enquiries:
YHA of S.A. Inc.,
38 Sturt Street,
ADELAIDE 5000 Tel: (08) 231 5583 Fax: (08) 231 4219



The Trail Walker

THE HACKHAM WALKING GROUP

The Hackham Walking Group held its fourth Christmas dinner celebration on 18 December, 1990. The small group of between 15 and 18 walkers has branched out into other activities and has been responsible for raising quite a large sum of money for medical research and other worthwhile purposes.

On each walk every member of the group donates 50 cents for the cancer research appeal. Some members of the group have taken part in quite a few "Walkathons". One walk was a full marathon (42.2 km)! By asking our friends to sponsor us we have raised hundreds of dollars for Muscular Dystrophy research, some have done the Walk for Want; also a Walkathon for a canteen, and not forgetting the "Cancer Door Knock Appeal".

I estimate that the amount raised by the group must be near the \$2,000 mark. The group members are very supportive of anyone with ill health. I cannot do their long walks but there is always someone to go with me on slower walks or stay back with me on Walkathons.

One member sings in a choir and at a special afternoon at the Capri Theatre to raise money for the choir to go to West Australia, quite a few members of the group turned up to support him. The afternoon was a huge financial success and our group member was delighted with our support.

The afternoon was extremely entertaining and enjoyable and made more so by the knowledge that we were helping one of our members.

At the Christmas dinner the cards and presents I received made me further realise what a beautiful bunch of people they are and I am so pleased to still be regarded as a member.

Laurel Green
Hackham Walking Group

SPEAKING OF MARATHONS

News has been received that Eric Fazackerley of O'Halloran Hill, a mature age member of the Friends, has applied and has been accepted to take part in the English Marathon to be held in London in April. Congratulations and best wishes for success in this world renowned event are extended to Eric on behalf of all Friends. In advancing to this stage, Eric has already acquitted himself. We shall follow his progress with great interest.

WATERS ROAD

The saga of Waters Road continues to cause concern for walkers seeking to protect valuable public walking access in one of the most scenic areas of our Adelaide Hills.

No further developments have occurred since publication of the last "Trailwalker" in February (see page 5 of that issue). Onkaparinga Council has not yet advised the Lands Department of its intention to seek closure and sale of portion of Waters Road. However, this move is expected to take place during April.

Members will be advised of the Road Plan number as soon as the notice is published in the "Government Gazette", following which objections should be forwarded to the Onkaparinga Council and to the Surveyor-General, Lands Department. Your co-operation in supporting the Friends' in this matter is of vital importance to the preservation of these valuable public walking routes.

The Trail Walker

WALKING IN NEW ZEALAND - THE GREENSTONE TRACK

Most of New Zealand's walking tracks are situated in National Parks, but the low level Greenstone and Caples are not. They lie within the Wakapitu Forest Recreational and Hunting Area and provide a three-day, circular tramp around the Ailsa Mountains. The effort expended is roughly the same in either direction, but views are considered marginally better when moving anti-clockwise.

Each of these tracks follows the river of its name. The Greenstone lies at the foot of the mountains and the land on the other side of the river is privately owned. It is high country, and there are a couple of privately owned huts to service the cattle pastured there during the summer. Because this area is not National Park, it has no protection from developers. Periodically, plans are promoted to build a road from South Kinlock through the valley, to provide an alternative route to Milford Sound. Construction would be easy. The scenery would be superb, but people like ourselves would lose a beautiful area.

The Caples Track has been developed and improved only in recent years, but the Greenstone is a very old trail. The west coast Maoris used it to collect the best greenstone for their adzes, gauges and weapons from near Lake Wakatipu. Miners and graziers were using it as early as 1881 and, when Jamestown was settled, it became part of a land link to Martin's Bay. In addition, before the road to Milford was constructed in the late 1930's, trampers coming off the Routeburn had to continue down the Greenstone to get back to Queenstown, or to retrace their steps completely.

The Greenstone Track is 35 kilometres long and lies between Lake Howden and Elfin Bay. It can be tramped all the year through and is described as "the alpine track that never closes". Indeed, it is said to be incredibly beautiful after snow.

It is simple to start this track from the Milford Road at the Divide and to follow the wide, well-graded track to Lake Howden, detouring to Key Summit as described by Doug Paice, page 18, "The Trailwalker", August, 1988. From here the Greenstone Track goes gently downhill beside the length of Lake Howden, crosses the Greenstone Saddle, and follows the shore of Lake McKellar with its shale beaches. The track is narrow and drops gradually, while the walker enjoys dense beech forest, and lake and mountain views at clearings. There is an open swampy area where the Caples joins the Greenstone, and at McKellar the track leaves Fiordland National Park. Now the track becomes even easier and wide as the snow-capped Livingstone Mountains tower on one side and the Ailsa's the other. All is quiet and peaceful, except for the sound of the birds and the rushing of the Greenstone river, fast flowing here at its source. There are several one-at-a-time swing bridges. Perhaps the highest anywhere crosses Steele Creek. Eventually, the track leaves the wide open valley, but continues to follow the river as it narrows and surges angrily through narrow gorges, before widening into still pools.

And always, the river is green, deep glorious, greenstone green.

Trout thrive in the pools, their size being a fisherman's dream. Where the Caples River joins the Greenstone, the tracks also join with a tremendously long swing bridge to cross the Greenstone which is now meandering sluggishly to enter Lake Wakatipu. Launch and bus travel is occasionally available to walkers here, while the track stops at the car park.

The delights of the Greenstone Track are not confined to those able to carry everything on their backs. Throughout the year, Elaine and Richard Bryant provide well-organised, three or four day guided walks of the Greenstone Track and, from November to late April, a combined seven day Routeburn-Greenstone and, in conjunction with Jules Tapper, a ten day Routeburn-Hollyford-Greenstone, since Howden and the Divide proved the start and/or finish for all three. The last package seems an easy way to 15

The Trail Walker

experience three very different tracks but it is physically demanding. Seemingly fit walkers finish with a limp or with knees or ankles strapped and on the tenth day, they move more with determination than pleasure, and volunteer that their endurance has been sorely tested.

Glen and I thoroughly enjoyed the seven day Routeburn-Greenstone Guided Walk from January 6-12, 1990. The exciting Routeburn terminated at Key Summit (see "Trailwalker, June, 1990). Here, we sadly farewelled our two guides and six New Zealand companions. They were returning by bus to Queenstown. Here, we met our new guides. Meg was an old hand but Jan was learning the ropes to take over when the others returned to University study. The two Adelaide and United Kingdom girls, whom we had met on the Routeburn, also continued on the Greenstone. Thus, for three days our party consisted of four walkers and two guides. We found this time very special, because we could savour the beauty of the area in greater peace and quiet. For the last night and day, we were joined by several three-day Greenstone Guided Walkers, and a group of ten-day adventurers. We four did not take kindly to the now unaccustomed noise and bustle. We had been spoiled!

Because the Greenstone is not heavily tramped, we did enjoy chatting with those people we did meet. One was an absolute phenomenon! And an Australian! We scarcely believed our eyes when, coming towards us on the narrow, rough track, we saw him wheeling a bicycle! He and his Swiss companion had looked at the map, thought the road to Milford a long way round, and decided to take a "short cut" via the Greenstone Valley. Once started, it was as easy to continue through as to return, whatever the difficulties. NEVER AGAIN! They pushed or carried their bikes most of the way and with their enormous backpacks, we could not begin to imagine how they coped on the narrow swing bridges. These were enough, without a bike!

The lodges provided for the Greenstone Guided Walkers at Lake McKellar and Mid-Greenstone were quite luxurious. Recently erected, they could hold up to forty people. Their ground plans and fittings were identical and both were sited for beautiful views.

There were three sleeping rooms with bunks wider and sturdier than those we experienced on any other track. The sleeping bags were of superior down and the mattresses firm and comfortable. The tiled bathrooms had hot showers and flush toilets. Pretty gas lights decked the walls. The store, radio and guides' rooms were set apart from walkers' quarters by an enormous kitchen-dining-living area. Food was plentiful, varied and well-prepared. We really admired all our guides. While we read, chatted, played or relaxed at the end of a day's walking, they would set to with meals and their other duties to make us comfortable. All we were expected to do was prepare our lunch from the wide variety set before us. All other chores were theirs, although we cheerfully did dishes or swept floors to start the day's walking that much earlier.

The Guided Walkers just starting the Greenstone had had a pre-walk briefing in Queenstown, as we had done earlier. They also, had been issued with their waterproof jacket and trousers, pillow case, sleeping sheet, towel and day-pack in which to carry these as well as their own personal gear. We, of course, carried ours on from the Routeburn.

Incidentally, the day packs were splendid - Fairydown Red Frog. We tried to purchase these for ourselves in Queenstown. The same brand and name existed but they were not as good, and we were told Fairydown made them especially for Guided Walk proprietors. A pity!

Our four-day Greenstone included two nights in the second lodge. The guides offered various suggestions for the "spare" day and we chose, in the morning, to wander up Steele Creek through the dense beech forest to Tongue Spur, to look down into the Caples Valley. It is possible, with difficulty, to pick up the Caples Track here. The Steele Creek Trail is lightly blazed and must be followed carefully. Scroggin time saw us lazing in the very warm sun, beside the musically rushing stream, without a care in the world.



The Trail Walker

We looked up the mountain side and saw a fallow deer grazing and a fawn playing.

In the afternoon, we wandered through the tussock grass to watch the freedom walkers washing themselves and their clothes in the icy stream. The Department of Conservation huts provided necessary, if smelly, shelter for freedom walkers, along with cramped bunks, limited cooking facilities and pit toilets for some \$8NZ per night. In the glorious weather we experienced, it was not unusual by day to see groups using the river as above.

At lunch stops, guided walkers were always given mugs of hot tea or coffee. Gas stoves and ingredients were stored in small sheds strategically hidden in the bush near beautiful views. In the warm sunshine, we lazed and dreamed at these breaks.

The guides, however, ensured that we did not delay unnecessarily on the final day. Although we detoured to a waterfall and enjoyed our usual lunch and scroggin breaks, we were aware that, at a given time, we would be picked up by helicopter at the end of the track. Actually, we watched it fly over as it took stores and gas cylinders to the two lodges before it returned to lift us across Lake Wakatipu to meet the Glenorchy bus for our return to Queenstown. Glen and I had not ridden in a helicopter before and this new adventure was the icing on the cake of our Greenstone Walk. We looked down on the lake and its islands and up to Mt. Earnslaw at its head. Thus, our seven day Routeburn-Greenstone began and finished with the view of that magnificent peak towering over the surrounding mountains.

On our return to Queenstown, our guides presented us with Greenstone Valley Walk Certificates, a valuable reminder, with our photos and memories, of another delightful guided walk in New Zealand. We rated it C+ over all because of an hour or two through the gorges. The rest was really easy. We can thoroughly recommend the Greenstone Track to regular walkers and to those reasonably fit persons looking for a different holiday with beautiful scenery.

Jennifer Dow

Further information

Reading - "Mount Aspiring National Park" National Park Board, Dunedin

Booking - Direct - Richard and Elaine Bryant, Greenstone Valley Walk, P.O. Box 568, Queenstown. 'Phone (0294) 29572 or 23666. Telex NZ 5604. Fax (0294) 29653

In Adelaide - we used and were pleased with Living Adventure, 258A Rundle Street.

*****MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS*****

If you wish to continue receiving future issues of the "Trailwalker", it is essential that overdue membership renewals are forwarded IMMEDIATELY to the Membership Secretary, Friends of the Heysen Trail and Other Walking Trails, Inc., C/o S.A.R.I., 304 Henley Beach Road, Underdale, 5032.

Members are reminded that escalating costs prohibit postage and despatch of our official publication to unfinancial members. Financial membership is also a qualification for participating in Friends' walks on the fourth Sunday of each month.

PLEASE CO-OPERATE AND FORWARD YOUR OUTSTANDING SUBSCRIPTION NOW!



The Trail Walker

THE HEYSEN TRAIL - CAPE JERVIS TO CUDLEE CREEK

At 12.30 p.m. on Anzac Day, Tuesday, 25 April, 1983, a diverse and heavily laden group of eleven bushwalkers set off from the Cape Jervis jetty. Our immediate destination was Cudlee Creek, ten walking days away. Ultimately, however, we were bound for Mount Babbage at the northern tip of the Flinders Ranges. After twelve months of planning, the Jubilee 150 Heysen Trail Walking Project was underway.

Eleven was a large group for an extended bushwalk, especially given the wide range of people who had been attracted to join the project. The group comprised males and females, aged from 20 to 60 years plus, and people with extensive bushwalking experience to those fit but with limited walking experience. Amongst others our group comprised a minister of religion, several farmers, a motor mechanic and several retired people - a diverse group indeed.

In planning the walk my policy had been to accept allcomers - within reason - but to stress that each individual had to accept the need to preserve the project and schedule and would have to take responsibility for their own performance and ability to stay within the group. No-one would be asked to drop out - that decision was to be left up to each individual. Although I had met each of the walkers in the weeks leading up to the commencement of the walk, most of the walkers were strangers to one another. As a consequence each person was fully self-contained with regard to their food and equipment. In the circumstances this was the best arrangement. I reasoned that if retirements were necessary the effect on other group members would be minimal.

Following introductions, the mandatory photograph session with our Jubilee 150 flag and farewells to the friends and family members who had gathered with us, we headed off.

Walking near a number of shacks we proceeded south adjacent to the coast through thin scrub. Passing Lands End we took our first break at Fishery Beach. The Heysen Trail in this area was not yet built. The route we were following had been carefully selected after consultation with Trail Builder, Terry Lavender. Permission had been obtained from the property owners whose land we needed to cross and a number of key road reserves had been identified.

The extensive Ash Wednesday fires, just two months earlier, had resulted in uncertainty about some parts of the route, although an early break to the season had alleviated our concerns about water.

Leaving Fishery Beach we continued following the coastline, making use of occasional tracks leading in the appropriate direction. The numerous south-flowing creeks, cutting deeply across our path slowed our progress. Late in the afternoon we reached Blowhole Beach. After a short break we commenced a steep 250 metre climb over Cobbler Hill, establishing our first camp soon after in the headwaters of Aaron Creek, just inside Deep Creek Conservation Park. The rigours of the first day (half day actually) had taken their toll and everyone had retired by 8.00 p.m.

We woke to a cold and misty morning. Soon after 8.00 a.m. we headed out, walking east through thick, wet scrub, crossing Aaron Creek and Tent Rock Creek on the way. The weather improved as we passed near Tent Hill and we commenced down the walking track to Deep Creek where we had lunch. Despite the large numbers in the walking party we were making good progress and keeping to our planned schedule. Immediately after lunch we walked upstream along scrub-choked Deep Creek, eventually crossing the creek after considerable difficulty. Climbing out of the valley we found and followed a suitable track to the east.

The Trail Walker

Passing an abandoned house we moved inland, past Tapanappa Rocks before again heading east and crossing Tapanappa Creek. Most of the surrounding scrub in this area had been burnt during Ash Wednesday. The creek bed, in particular, exhibited considerable erosion from the heavy opening rains which followed only weeks after the fire. Late in the afternoon we followed a steeply descending track, soon arriving at our campsite on Boat Harbour Beach. Some of the walkers had developed problems during the afternoon. Monica Osborne and Graham Duke had aggravated old knee injuries and Rob West had severe foot problems. Could we be facing the first withdrawals within days of starting?

John Dunn and I had an early morning swim in the sea before leaving camp the next morning. After skirting the cliff tops for several kilometres we reached the sandy Tunkalilla Beach. Monica was now having severe problems with her knees. As we passed Tunkalilla Downs homestead she decided to withdraw. By the time arrangements had been made for Monica's return to Adelaide the group was well strung out along the beach. After crossing Tunkalilla creek at the eastern end of the extraordinary five-kilometre long beach we again walked inland onto the the Balquhidder property.

We had arranged to have lunch on the front lawn of the Manager's residence. Whilst preparing lunch Rob West and Graham Duke decided to retire because of their respective fitness problems. Also whilst having lunch, our doctor, John Dunn caused a stir when, whilst boiling water for tea, his metho. cooker, nested at the base of an ornamental shrub to avoid the wind, ignited the shrub. Fortunately, the situation was able to be quickly controlled.

Following lunch our smaller group walked along the gravel road past the Balquhidder Shearing Shed before crossing Ballaparudda Creek. Soon after crossing the creek we diverted along a convenient road reserve and back to the coast. For the remainder of the afternoon we followed the coast passing over Coolawang Creek, then onto Parsons Beach and Waitpinga Beach where we camped in the sandhills adjacent to the estuary.

Early the next morning fishermen were already dotted at intervals along the beach as we walked through the sand to the eastern end of the beach and up onto Newland Head. The next few hours provided excellent entertainment as we continued east along the top of 100 metre high coastal cliffs. An interesting find along the way was several groves of Barb Wire Bush (*Daviesia lectinata*). This fearsome bush evoked considerable interest and its true identity was not revealed until after we had concluded the walk. Mid morning we diverted inland across farmland.

Lunch was at the commencement of the built Heysen Trail at the base of Newland Hill. Reaching this point was an important milestone and after lunch we set off along a road reserve in high spirits. after negotiating a small swingbridge over Hall Creek we walked through cleared forest reserve land before joining Tugwell Road which lead over Sheoak Hill and down into Back Valley. After crossing Back Valley Road we walked for about a kilometre up Keen Road, establishing our camp on the road reserve adjacent to a large dam. There had been no further retirements and the remainder of the group appeared fit and well. The group was co-operating well together. Despite the ultimate goal of Mount Babbage being so distant, there was already great confidence that we would succeed.

Several of us made use of a nearby overhead fire-water outlet for a cold shower that night and early next morning John Dunn swam in the nearby dam as the early morning mist hovered just above the water. We proceeded along Keen Road, soon reaching its junction with Hancock Road which we followed west for a kilometre before heading north again through a large area of young Woods and Forests Department pines. we reached the Inman Valley Road soon after, arriving at Inman Valley in the mid morning.



The Trail Walker

After a series of telephone calls at the public telephone advising friends and relatives of our progress, we followed the trail north out of the valley, over Sugarloaf Hill onto our pre-arranged lunchtime rendezvous with Graham Duke's wife, Margaret, at Moon Hill. This was to be our only food re-supply point for the ten days.

After lunch, extended by the need to sort out and re-pack our equipment and supplies, we headed off along a little used track before diverting along a picturesque walking trail through the Myponga Conservation Park. Emerging on the western side of the Conservation Park the remainder of the afternoon was spent walking through farmland and then tree-lined gravel roads. Late in the afternoon we reached the sealed Inman Valley-Myponga Road where permission to camp in a nearby paddock was obtained from a local dairy farmer.

For the second successive night fresh milk was brought direct from the dairy and excellent milk coffees were a feature as we camped adjacent to a large farm dam. A bird alighting on the water soon after we retired brought several quick questions as to whether John Dunn was having yet another swim!

Our route was now east and soon we were walking along the northern edge of the Yulte Conservation Park. Soon after passing the Conservation Park, as we reached a high ridge overlooking Myponga, we had another withdrawal. Carlien Melrose had found the steep going the previous day difficult and with four days still to go felt it was best to retire as we passed close to Myponga. We had been walking together for five days and it was a sad occasion as we watched Carlien walk off towards Myponga to arrange transport back to Adelaide.

We continued east reaching the Myponga-Victor Harbour Road which we followed south for several kilometres. Diverting east again we walked along a rough track, following a high ridge to Mount Cone where we stopped briefly. Several kilometres on from Mount Cone we stopped for lunch.

Soon after lunch we reached Haskett Road which we followed to the Mount Compass Butter Factory and then crossed the main Adelaide-Victor Harbour Road. The trail continued east through farmland to Nangkita where we turned north, reaching our campsite on the banks of the Finniss River in the late afternoon.

We woke next morning to damp, foggy conditions. The meandering of the trail over the last few days now changed as it adopted a distinct northerly trend. Passing through the burnt-out Mount Magnificent Conservation Park the thick fog easily persuaded us to pass up climbing nearby Mount Magnificent. Emerging from the Conservation Park we walked north along Blackfellows Creek Road, then diverted through scrub and onto Kyeema Conservation Park. Just prior to lunch we entered extensive Woods and Forests Department pine plantations. Lunch was taken in a convenient clearing.

The steady northward progress of the morning was very satisfying. Much of the afternoon was spent meandering along fire breaks and amongst pine plantations, crossing the Meadows-Mount Compass Road and Meadows Creek in the process. We had arranged earlier to meet Graham Duke where we crossed the Meadows-Mount Compass Road. Through his wife we had received a message that he believed he had recovered sufficiently to enable him to complete the remainder of the walk. As he had not yet arrived we left a conspicuous note advising him of our proposed campsite and moved on. We left the pines behind as we walked along first Mallawa Road and then Claren Road. Just north of the Claren Park property we established camp on the roadside. Graham arrived soon after camp had been established.

We re-entered pine plantations soon after leaving our campsite the next morning. Several hours later we emerged from the pine plantation passing the Police Training Reserve on our left. Soon after walking through the Glen Bold property we crossed the Onkaparinga River via a substantial suspension bridge, then followed a gravel road into Mylor.



The Trail Walker

A late lunch was taken adjacent to a Mylor deli. The shop sold a greater number of milkshakes than usual that day! Walking for the remainder of the day was varied, ranging from rough bush tracks in Mylor Reserve and in the National Trust Engelbrook Reserve where we crossed Cox's Creek, the verge of busy roads, and through quiet suburban streets. After passing through the centre of Bridgewater we passed John Dunn's former Bridgewater Flour Mill (a distant forebear of our John Dunn) and followed the mill race upstream to Cox's Creek. We walked upstream along the banks of Cox's Creek passing under the South Eastern Freeway. Traversing parts of the Mount Lofty Golf Course we reached our campsite at Woodhouse Scout Centre. Although we erected and prepared our tents, hurried arrangements were later made to sleep overnight in a nearby shed when, whilst finishing tea, our radio reported a storm warning for the Adelaide Hills later that night.

Although the rain had stopped by morning, conditions were very wet and low cloud enveloped the area. Passing through the vegetable fields around Piccadilly we followed a series of bitumen roads, arriving at the burnt-out summit of Mount Lofty in the mid morning.

There was a large group to greet us. Carlien Melrose and her husband Ron, Kym Bonython and John Mitchell from the Jubilee 150 Board, Virginia Balmain from the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and a reporter and cameraman from Channel Seven's State Affair programme. Nearly an hour and a half later the formalities, and filming, had been completed and we left the summit.

Lunch was taken adjacent to the trail in the Cleland Conservation Park. Like the previous day, our afternoon walk was a mixture of bush tracks through Cleland, Horsnell Gully and Morialta Conservation Parks, busy bitumen roads and quiet country tracks. Early in the afternoon we passed over Rockdale Hill, providing extensive views over Adelaide and out onto Saint Vincent Gulf. Walking past the Norton Summit Hotel in mid-afternoon proved too great a temptation and an enjoyable fifteen minutes was spent in the front bar. Struggling up the last steep slope of the day, as we left Morialta Conservation Park heading for our campsite in the grounds of the Norton Summit Youth Hostel, we readily concluded that this had been the most difficult day of the walk. We had left the Mount Lofty ridge three times since leaving Mount Lofty that morning, having to regain several hundred metres' height on each occasion.

The excellent weather of the first seven days of the walk had not been sustained and more rain was threatening. Some rain again fell during the night and it was overcast but fine when we left the Youth Hostel next morning. Walking first along a gravel road and then a bitumen road we passed through Montacute Heights before entering scrub. We followed a long ridge as it gradually dropped down to Deep Creek, losing 350 metres in the process. After following Deep Creek downstream for a kilometre we headed up a gravel road adjacent to a major tributary. Soon after, we left the road, entering yet another conservation park, the Montacute Conservation Park. We walked up a long ridge, regaining all of the height we had lost earlier that morning. As we left Montacute Conservation Park it commenced raining, gradually becoming heavier. We followed a gravel road east and entered more Woods and Forests Department pine plantations.

Lunch was taken as we crammed into a small pump shed near the Cudlee Creek Forest Headquarters. Our map showed a nearby feature, Mount Misery, about one and a half kilometres to the north-west. We all agreed that nothing could have been more appropriate at that time.

Much of the pine plantations in the area had been burnt by the Ash Wednesday fires. The wet, overcast conditions created an eerie atmosphere as we walked north after lunch. We were only an hour from the end of our walk as we descended from the clouds and rain. Leaving the burnt-out forest we joined a track which followed Holland Creek downstream to its junction with the River Torrens and then onto Gorge Road at the Cudlee Creek Kiosk and camping area.

The Trail Walker

This was the end of the first of the eight proposed stages of the project. It seemed such a long time before that our much larger group had left Cape Jervis. I was pleased we had been able to maintain the pre-planned schedules without difficulty, and pathfinding, even on the unmarked sections of the trail, had been relatively straight forward.

Although a number of participants had retired, this was not entirely unexpected and I had deliberately started the trek at its southern, populated end, enabling those having to retire to do so with a minimum of difficulty. With myself, Dick Grant, Bob Nicole, Cameron Storey, Lyn Steven, Harold Woodward and John Dunn had successfully completed the first stage.

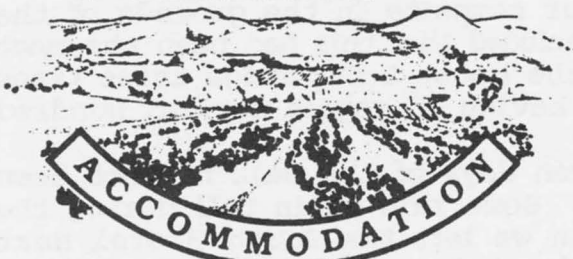
The next stage to Burra was planned to commence from Cudlee Creek in the Spring. I hoped that they could each join in that and each succeeding stage. The project was already proving to be a great adventure.

Andrew Eastick

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The Trail Walker

MY KANGAROO ISLAND HOLIDAY

While staying at the Homestead in Flinders Chase with my son Jim, daughter-in-law Yvonne, and grandson Matthew - all nature lovers like myself - I discovered a whole range of animals, birds and points of interest that I would like to share with readers.

Before we even started for the Island we had our share of drama - Matthew developed chickenpox ten days before we were due to leave, Jim had his bank card "chewed up" by the auto bank, and a fire broke out in Flinders Chase - not really an auspicious beginning. However, to compensate we had quite a smooth crossing on the Sea Road. On my previous crossing to the Island it was regarded as the roughest crossing ever made since the start of the ferry service and made the 6.00 p.m. T.V. News that night - something I do not want to repeat. After landing at Penneshaw we travelled by car to Flinders Chase. At that stage we did not know if we would be allowed into the Chase as it was closed when we left home. I believe it was opened only a few hours before we arrived at Kingscote. You've got to be lucky sometimes!

We found the Homestead very comfortable and extremely interesting. It was built nearly 100 years ago by people called "May". I believe they had a family of eight children. It has only four rooms so conditions must have been fairly crowded and the isolation rather grim. They also built a one-room cottage across the track for the mailman who came once a fortnight. This cottage is referred to as May's Cottage or Tilka Hut. These buildings are situated at Rocky River, which is now the Flinders Chase Headquarters.

Previous to this area being a National Park it was used as grazing land by Charles May. It was declared a National Wildlife Park in 1919 after many years of negotiation with the Government. Charles May was the first Ranger.

The Homestead is rather unique as it has half iron grid doors as well as the wooden doors on the outside. These grids keep the animals out when the main door is open. The doorways are only about 5ft.8ins. high. The May family must have been on the short side and, thankfully, so are we!

The animals are absolutely fascinating! We were in our element, especially Yvonne and Matthew, as every night and morning they fed as many animals and birds that cared to drop in for a meal. There were kangaroos, wallabies, possums and whole families of Cape Barren geese, magpies, and not forgetting my emu which I named Softy. He was a scruffy specimen, but I feel he felt he was beautiful. He appeared to be very conceited and bossed all the others around and it was quite a job to keep him out of the cottage.

One night I went to the bathroom and in order to do so, one had to go out of the main building. I accidentally left the door open which gave a possum the chance to sneak into the kitchen. To get her out I enticed her with biscuits and Yvonne pushed her - quite a midnight drama! Next evening this possum ended up sitting on Matthew's knee to be given her tea.

The Tamar or Dama wallaby is a sub-species which evolved from the grey kangaroo and the wallaby thousands of years ago. These animals are very tame. The true wallaby is very timid but the large grey kangaroo is very aggressive and seemed to be always fighting over something, especially over females. The Tamar wallaby is generally born in late January and within a few hours of giving birth the female mates and the new embryo lies dormant until the joey being suckled leaves the pouch at about nine months. After lactation ceases, the new embryo becomes reactivated. The female is generally mature and ready to reproduce at twelve months. The mortality rate is high, but the numbers are increasing and cause worry to the farmers. In order to survive the farmers have to destroy them so they can work their farms - one of the facts of life!

The Trail Walker

We were fortunate enough to see echidnas and platypuses. What strange creatures these mammals are! They are monotremes which means "one holed". This opening is used for reproduction and excretion. It is said that when the first platypus body was sent back to Europe for identification the scientists thought it was a fabricated animal sent to them as a joke.

We saw a lot of goanas. These reptiles were losing their skins and looked very scruffy and seemed pretty bad tempered. They were also rather slow-moving. I guess this was connected with losing their skins.

Of the bird population the Cape Barren geese were the tamest (that's not counting Lofty, the arrogant whatnot!). When we arrived there were hundreds of these beautiful birds. They were in families of Mum, Dad and up to eight goslings. These birds take their mate for life. Whole families came to be fed night and morning. These birds were gradually migrating to the other end of the Island to the "wetlands" for summer, the sad part being that the goslings that are too young to fly are left behind and die of starvation.

Around the Homestead were flocks of plovers. Their piercing calls could be heard quite frequently. I love these birds and their unusual cry.

Above the back door two pairs of swallows had built their mud nests. These cute little birds would watch us with a fierce expression in their bright eyes as much as to say "Get out, this is our territory!".

We went to Seal Bay where we were escorted on a conducted tour by the Ranger who gave us a very interesting talk. We were told 100,000 people had visited there in the last twelve months to view the different breeds of seals and sea lions. The Australian seal was almost hunted to extinction, but since becoming a protected species, they now think there are at least 10,000, if not more, in Australian waters. The Australian seal is only found in our waters and is a sub-species evolved over many thousands of years. After the female gives birth she suckles the young for at least eighteen months or until the next pup is born. If another pup is not born they have been known to suckle the same pup for over five years.

Another fascinating experience was watching the koalas, especially if they had a joey in the pouch or on their backs while climbing the gum trees. We were able to get quite close to these animals. Unfortunately, the koalas are creating a problem in that they feed on Manna gum trees all the year round. The Rangers have placed brown tin, about six feet high, around some gum trees to allow them to recover. They have also planted hundreds of new trees.

The only problem in this Garden of Eden was the magpies which continually swooped Jim and Matthew causing some very heated remarks from those two especially as Yvonne and I laughed at them.

I have learned some interesting facts that may interest readers. Cape Barren geese, koalas and the platypus are not natives of Kangaroo Island, but have been sent over from the mainland to give them a chance to survive pollution and other problems which were threatening their extinction on the mainland.

The only native of Kangaroo Island to become extinct since Matthew Flinders and Nicolas Baudin explored the coastline in 1803 is the dwarf emu. I believe there is a single specimen in a Paris museum.

I understand that Matthew described our holiday as R.A.D. I believe this is the latest terminology for anything good.

Besides some outstanding memories, I came home with a new word which I expect will soon be out of fashion.

Laurel Green, Hackham Bushwalkers

Congratulations to Laurel in winning a determined battle with cancer. She has lived life to the full throughout her ordeal and we wish her a long and happy future.



The Trail Walker

AN ADVENTURE ON THE OVERLAND TRACK IN TASMANIA

After the Himalayas, I thought the Overland Track in Tasmania could offer only a minor challenge to the serious walker. How wrong can you be?

I had trekked the Himalayas with my husband just two years ago; now, our son Roger, who has lived in Tasmania for eight years, had agreed to lead us across the Overland Track in the Cradle Mountain - Lake St. Clair National Park. For safety reasons, a minimum of four was required in our group, so we were joined by Colin Edwards, a friend my husband and I had met through our regular weekend walking expeditions.

According to "Bushwalking in Australia" by J. and M. Chapman the 73 km Overland Track is classified a 'moderate' walk, so we looked forward to 10-15 km days with short side trips to mountain tops, tarns and waterfalls. We sought out people who had walked the Track before and heard horror stories about Tasmanian mud - its depth and stickiness and how it is unavoidable regardless of season. They told us of the unpredictable weather and the rapid changes in conditions, but they also told us of the region's beauty, and we could sense their envy that they were not joining us.

Tasmania's Cradle Mountain World Heritage area is 126,000 hectares of rugged mountain peaks, wild open moorland heath, deep gorges, forested valleys, lakes and tarns, dominated at its northern end by Cradle Mountain with Dove Lake at its foot. This is a wilderness which was listed by the World Heritage Committee in 1982, thus joining 130 other geological treasures in an exclusive catalogue of the planet's most precious places.

It is an oasis of peace and calm for those who use it for exploring the rainforests, the wild icy trout-filled streams and lakes, the deep valleys and high peaks. It is a haven for reflection and the revival of spirits, and those who have been there say they will never escape its mystical value.

Austrian born naturalist Gustav Weindorfer bought land in Cradle Valley in 1911 and built Waldheim, his forest home. It was due largely to the energy of this naturalist and his friends who enjoyed his hospitality that Cradle Mountain was declared a Reserve. A faithful replica of the original guest house he built was rebuilt from hand-hewn King Billy pine by the National Parks and Wildlife Service after the original was destroyed by fire.

Day 1:

Our 'leader' insisted on checking our packs before we left Launceston. We assured him we only had bare essentials as outlined in his list and had sufficient room for our share of food and equipment. However, as he went through each pack, items that we had considered absolutely necessary began to pile higher and higher in the discard heap. Personal effects were very basic, but with the distribution and packing of the essentials - food, fuel, stove, tent, sleeping bag and whistle - there was not spare room in our packs.

Departure day was the first day of Spring. We were driven from Launceston to the bunkhouses at the northern end of the Park. We donned our walking gear and checked in at the Visitor Centre of the Department of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage for weather conditions and to book our party in with the Ranger. We paid an entrance fee - \$10 per person and \$25 per family, and detailed our planned overnight stops. We were warned that no-one would be looking for us until the planned exit day had passed - we had to be self-sufficient. The weather conditions looked reasonable - a high coming in, and the Ranger told us that the huts had all been "coked up". Coke is flown in by helicopter for the pot belly heaters in the huts as the World Heritage Park is a fuel stove area. The excellent photographs, displays, videos and brochures on the Park whet our appetite for the next few days, and as it was only early afternoon we took a walk around Dove Lake and a small cirque lake - Lake Wilks. These cirque lakes are glacial and are formed by snow compressing in the valley and forming a basin. We had covered 20 kms by the time we returned to base.

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Back at the bunkhouses we cooked our tea in a huge common room on electric hot plates in front of a roaring log fire with a few possums watching from the rafters. Even the logs were already cut and stacked in an adjoining room. Quite luxurious - we felt we were eating the last meal of the condemned.

Day 2:

We repacked our backpacks but when I tried to lift mine I was stunned by the weight. How was I going to carry this for the next seven days? Where were the porters who had support us in Nepal? Roger had arranged for a hire vehicle to drive us the 10 kms to the beginning of the Track as we had walked this route the previous day. Roger showed us how to put our packs on without assistance, but I was still unable to do this at the end of the walk.

And so we set off. Across the boardwalk, over the button grass, heading for Cradle Mountain, Within an hour the weather had deteriorated and by the time we had clambered to the first high point, Marion's Lookout, the temperature was so low the electronic camera would not work. As we headed across an open plateau, ankle-deep in snow, we could see the black snow clouds gathering, and by the time we reached our lunch stop at Kitchen Hut, it was snowing.

I had walked in snow before but had never experienced falling snow, and found it quite exhilarating to brush snowflakes off my clothes and face. However, after an hour I had experienced enough snow and was looking for some sunshine and warmth! We ploughed on through ever-deepening snow - the sky darkened and the wind grabbed at our clothes and blew us off balance. There were areas of deep mud also and we sank as deeply into this as we did into the snow.

We traversed the western side of Cradle Mountain but could not see it, and the wind was now howling and the snowflakes were much bigger and thicker. When we dropped down into Waterfall Valley it was much calmer and the fresh snow on the trees and undergrowth was a beautiful sight. However, the Waterfall Valley hut was already overflowing with people and we walked on another half hour to Cirque Hut.

It was wonderful to take our soggy boots and clothes off, but no relaxing yet! There were jobs to be done. Coke to be carried in from the bunker, water to be brought from the stream tumbling through the rocks and snow a few metres from the door, food to be prepared and wet clothes to be wrung out and hung to dry. By the end of the week we were all quite adept at this 'hut arrival routine' and would be drinking hot soup and noodles in dry clothes within minutes of arrival.

Day 3:

About 30 cm of snow fell during the night and it was still snowing spasmodically when we left next morning. We made very good time initially but when we got up on the ridge the snow was knee-deep and there was a southerly gale blowing in our faces. Our lunch stop was only a brief ten minutes because the mud and melted snow had seeped in over our gaiters and when foot movement stopped our feet began to freeze.

As we headed down into the valley towards our overnight stop at Windermere Hut the heavy snow-laden trees plopped snow on us as we pushed our way through. It was truly fairyland - a glimmer of sunshine imparting a tinge of colour to the snow and the grey snow-ringed Lake Windermere lying placidly in the valley. There were three men already at the hut. They had tried to move out that day but conditions had been so bad they could not find any track markers nor could they see any landmarks to take bearings and had returned to the hut after 30 minutes. In view of this experience, and the comments in the log book from a group who had been in the area two days previously, we knew we would have a decision next morning - continue, retrace our steps or stay at Windermere until the weather improved. We were carrying three days' emergency rations and so waiting was not a problem.

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Day 4:

High winds and some rain overnight had washed some of the snow away and a bright sunrise bathing the snow with a soft golden glow gave promise of much better walking conditions. Visibility was excellent and we made an early start. Walking was easy at first but then deep snow and deep, deep bog slowed our progress. Three kilometres an hour is regarded as average for a bushwalker with backpack - we were doing a little over one! Occasionally we walked in the stony stream beds with ankle deep water and when we got on to Pine Forest Moor, about 1000 metres above sea level the tarns were all iced over. We climbed again through trees heavy with snow and then down into a valley for lunch by a river. Mt. Pelion West and Mt. Oakleigh were beautifully visible. From here the walking was much easier and we went down to 700 metres and followed the contours around through huge tree ferns and pandanus and only light snow. Another 2 km climb and we came out on to Pelion Plains and saw Mt. Oakleigh from the other side. Across the plain was New Pelion hut - our overnight stop.

Day 5:

The morning was dull and overnight rain had again melted much of the snow on the plain. However, the heater in the hut had not dried our clothes and so we donned wet clothes and boots because we were going to be very wet within a few minutes once we were outside. Surprisingly, after a very short time, the wet clothes and boots felt quite normal.

Our first task was to cross Pelion Gap at the top of a steep 1.5 km climb. As we climbed the snow became thicker and the trees smaller. Before we emerged from the trees we buttoned our jackets and put on gloves and hats. The Gap is a very open, exposed area and the log notation had said the snow was thigh-deep. In fact it was even deeper and the wind gusts were so strong that two of us were actually blown off our feet and flung down into the snow. The snow clouds were threatening again and we tried to quicken our pace, but the depth of the snow made this almost impossible and it was a very difficult passage to the other side of the Gap.

The track down was a running stream with knee-deep peat bog areas. The boardwalks over the streams were covered in slushy snow and were dangerously slippery. We were unable to appreciate the beauty of the mountains (Massif, Pelion East, Ossa and Doris) because the cloud density gave fleeting glimpses of the mountains and our eyes had to be ever watchful on the ground.

The last 150 metres to Kia Ora Hut were pure, deep bog and it was with great joy that we began our hut routine. Kia Ora was only finished in April and was very comfortable - lined and insulated with a very efficient heater.

Day 6:

Thursday dawned with clear blue skies and thick frost underfoot. The mountains were very clear and the rising sun emerged as a clear orange orb, tinting the snow caps. Gentle puffs of cloud and mist rose from the valleys as the sun warmed the ground and the frost glistened in prismatic colours on the undergrowth. The shallow water pools cracked as the ice broke and the peace and beauty of the area were totally uplifting.

We walked in sunshine for the first hour but then we dropped down into a forest of beech and myrtle which was rather gloomy. Running streams and wide tracts of peat bog, tangled surface roots and fallen trees and branches dissected and straddled the path and the growth was too dense for any views. However, the varieties of mosses and the sheer size of the trees provided much interest. The weather held fine and we were able to leave the track and visit Hartnett Falls which was well worthwhile. After viewing from the top we climbed downstream for a brief view, but the spray from the tumbling cascade was quite far-reaching and we had had quite enough of being wet.

To reach Windy Ridge Hut, our overnight stop, we descended to Narcissus Creek through more forest with massive King Billy Pines - a valuable softwood endemic to Tasmania.

This day had given us our best weather, but boots and clothing were still wet

The Trail Walker

Day 7:

Another beautiful dawning with a lighter frost. We had very easy walking down the valley and along a fairly open forest track with no snow. Mountain gums, myrtles, beeches, celery-topped pines and beautiful mosses were highlights, and quite a lot of boardwalk had been erected which kept our boots relatively dry. A new suspension bridge had been erected over the Narcissus River but it only allowed one person to cross at a time.

We followed the river bank, enjoying a superb view of Lake St. Clair with a mountain background until we reached Narcissus Hut. The afternoon was sunny and calm and the reflections on the lake were beautiful. The setting sun on snow-covered Mt. Olympus was glorious, and as dusk deepened more reflections in the river provided magnificent viewing from the hut.

Day 8:

As the last section of track around the Lake is closed in by vegetation we thought the reflections and mountain views from the water would be far nicer, so we had arranged for the boat service to pick us up and ferry us to our transport at Cynthia Bay.

Overall we were disappointed that the weather had prevented us from seeing the Cradle Mountain Track as we had envisaged, but we thoroughly enjoyed the experience and felt a great sense of achievement. Perhaps the weather would have been better later into Spring, but we deliberately chose this time because of the anticipated solitude. Anticipation of good weather later in the year would certainly mean many more people on the Track.

The complete absence of man-made rubbish and graffiti was a true indication of the enjoyment of the area by all who had traversed the Track over the years.

The absolute peace and beauty of the area, the grandeur of the mountains, the tumbling waters, the magnificent pandanus and tree ferns, the huge forest trees, and the howling gales and snow storms will remain as our memories forever.

Lesley and Max Croft



A THOUGHT FOR THE DAY - "Life, we learn too late, is in the living, in the tissue of each day and hour."-Stephen Leacock.