

# "THE TRAILWALKER"

## NO.3 NOVEMBER 1986



### NEWSLETTER OF THE

### FRIENDS OF THE HEYSEN & OTHER TRAILS

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear Member,

How time flies - It only seems like yesterday since we decided to form an Association, now known as the Friends of the Heyesen and Other Walking Trails. Your committee has had its ninth meeting and we now have a draft Constitution which is currently being studied very closely by the Committee. It is anticipated that the final draft will be available very early in the New Year after it has had the approval of the Department of Corporate Affairs. We have to thank both Peter Kellett and Ted Shields for their valiant efforts in producing the Draft. We are also fortunate to have the expertise of Ted Shields, who has been involved with many Constitutions, to assist and guide us.

Our first 'Get-together' on the trail was not a success. Apart from the Committee only four other members turned up. I admit I am to blame! I chose a Saturday instead of a Sunday and forgot that some members still work this day. Many of those with children are also involved in taking them to their sports. In addition I chose a Saturday when the football semi-finals were on. Heavens forbid! Worst of all, some came, but couldn't find the valley north of the Devil's Nose in the Para Wirra Park. I hope that they had a pleasant day in the park. Next time we will have to give Grid References!!!

I am pleased to inform you that the Director of the Department of Recreation and Sport has kindly made available to the Friends, an office on the 3rd Floor of the Grenfell Centre, 25 Grenfell Street. We took occupation of this office on the 22nd of October and our Management and Organisation Sub-Committee is setting into motion our recording and management techniques. We hope to call for volunteers in due course to man the Office.

There is another project for which the Committee would like your support. As you may be aware, the D.C. of Willunga, as a Jubilee 150 project, has built a Recreational Trail between McLaren Vale and the town of Willunga (7kms) on the old disbanded railway line reserve. This trail is for the exclusive use of cyclists, walkers, and horse riders with the centre section bitumenised for the first two user groups. The trail passes through vineyards and almond trees and is very attractive in the Spring.

This same disbanded railway track extends back towards the City through Pedlars Creek and Reynella to Hallett Cove. A cursory survey shows that the track is complete, except for railway lines and sleepers, for most of the 30kms through the City of Noarlunga's area.

This track, if reserved as a Recreational Trail, would create an asset for the State and Noarlunga Council which would gain a tourist attraction; the envy of the other States. All the major infrastructures exist, in the way of underpasses across the Main South Road and the railway ballast would form the basis of the track with the addition of scalplings. The area is somewhat devoid of trees, but judicious plantings along the reserve, could enhance the Trail and adjacent area.

The main object now is to get the dis-banded line recognised as a Recreational Trail for development in the future as monies can be made available. To this end I have written to the Director of Recreation and Sport to ask whether a feasibility study can be undertaken. I have been advised that his Officers have inspected the line and they agree, that this area of public land should be retained for recreation. They are unable, at the present stage to take any positive action other than to write to the owners of the line (the South Australian Railways) expressing support for its retention as public land.

First of all, I would like Members to have a look at the railway line and to advise your Committee whether you think this is a good project in which the Friends could be involved. If so, a Sub-Committee could be set up to investigate the promotion and development of the trail in conjunction with the Government agencies and, perhaps, sponsors! - particularly for the Bicentennial year ahead. Please make your views known.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a Very Happy Xmas and a Prosperous New Year and I hope to see you all at our next meetings in the New Year.

Jim Crinion,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE.

## ORIENTEERING

There are seven orienteering clubs in South Australia, five in the Adelaide area and two on Eyre Peninsula. The clubs take it in turn to organise events most of which are held on Sunday during the winter months. In summer there are shorter courses, often in the parklands, and a few evening events. It is not necessary to be a club member to enter an event. Simply arrive at the venue usually somewhere in the Mount Lofty Ranges, and register for the chosen course between 10.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. The fee is minimal.

There is a wide range of standards in the courses. The highest, D and E, being suitable for beginners and families.

The "controls" are marked on a very large-scale, detailed map and are locations such as creek junctions, native cherry trees, pits, cliffs, termite mounds, boulders, man-made objects, fallen logs, etc. The orienteer has to find the controls in correct sequence.

Using a compass and studying the features and contours on the map, he plans and navigates his own route through the bush.

The controls are identified by white and orange small fabric boxes with a code number and punch attached. The particular pattern the punch makes on the map testifies that the orienteer has found the correct control. The time taken to complete the course depends on whether it is run, jogged or sauntered.

Variously described at the "Thought-sport" "An adult's treasure hunt", a "car rally on foot". Orienteering can be enjoyed as a competitive sport or as a rewarding recreation.

JEAN COOK.

# WALK BRITAIN 1987

In July - August, 1987, I will be taking a four week walking trip to some of the best walking country in England and Wales.

After a couple of free days in London, we will be heading into the country to walk along two of Britain's most rewarding long-distance walking paths; the Cotswolds Way and the historic Offa's Dyke Path.

The Cotswolds Way starts in Bath, an old Roman spa city, which owes most of its present charm to rapid but elegant development during the Georgian period. From here the Way follows "the Edge" through delightful Heart of England country to Chipping Campden, one hundred walking miles away. It is a walk through Laurie Lee country; with farm walls and cottages of golden Cotswold Stone, thatched roofs and tiny villages.

It will be a journey of nine days. We will spend the nights in country inns and guest houses and have our baggage transferred to our next accommodation for us while we walk. We will spend a couple of nights in Gloucester and Cheltenham too.

After a couple of rest days in Worcester, we will head south to Monmouth to start our walking on Offa's Dyke Path. The Dyke - a huge earthwork along the ancient English - Welsh boundary - was built by King Offa in about 680 A.D. to keep the Welsh in their place. It did not work, but it has provided a unique walking trail, past ancient castles, through lush country.

Further north along the Dyke, we will walk in the area at Knighton, Centre of the Dyke itself before a rest day in beautiful Ludlow. North again to Chirk Castle and walking along the Dyke and the Shropshire-Union Canal to Llangollan where our trail goes over one at Thomas Telford's greatest monuments from the Industrial Revolution - the aqueduct which carries the canal over the valley.

After a rest day in Chester, another Roman town, since overlaid with Saxon,

Norman and Medieval influences, we will be off to the Lakes District.

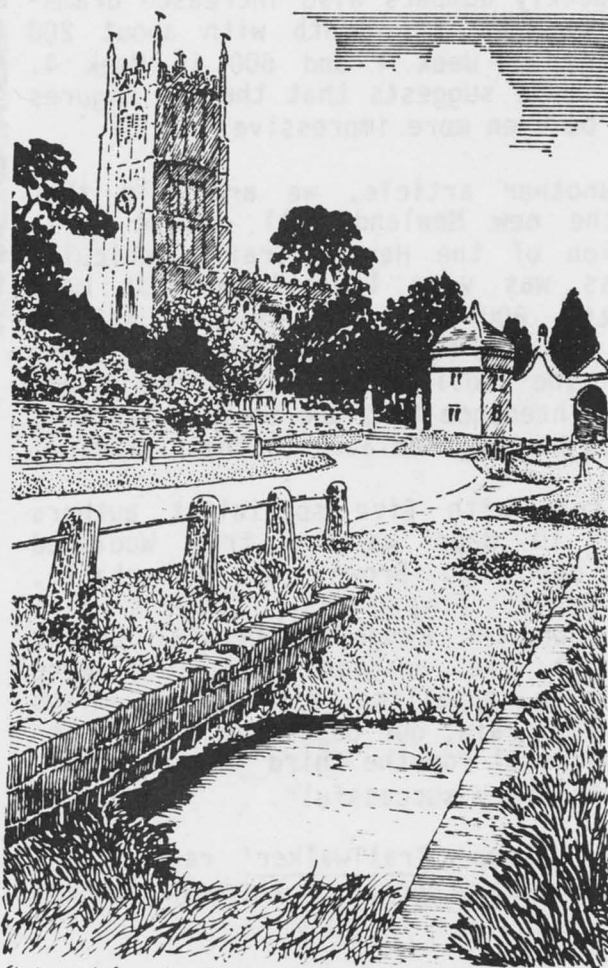
Here, we will not follow any single route, but choose from the vast maze of trails and bridle paths which intersect this wonderful area. We will be in the Lakes District for a week, dividing our time between Windermere and Keswick and walking around Buttermere, Grassmere, Easedale Tarn, Ullswater and Borrowdale.

There will only be fifteen places and we will be getting a special group fare to London. Our airline tickets can be open-dated too, to let participants independently extend their stays in Britain or Europe.

If anyone is interested in hearing more details or joining our group, please contact me on . . .

267.1442 (Home)  
274.0261 (Work)

PETER KELLETT



St James' from the Cart Wash in Church Street

*The official end of the Cotswolds Way in Chipping Campden.*



# HEYSEN TRAIL

The August 1986 issue of 'Recreation and Sport News' contains some impressive information on use of the Heysen Trail.

The figures quoted are for April, arguably not the month of heaviest use, and were taken from the checkpoint sheets at various places between Newland Hill and Tweedies Gully. Walkers on the two northern sections of the trail are therefore not included, and neither are the people who walked a short portion of trail without encountering a single checkpoint.

Bearing all that in mind, the figures are quite spectacular. There were 1,630 walkers, 699 of whom camped overnight. the weekly numbers also increased dramatically over the month with about 200 walkers in Week 1 and 600 in Week 4. This trend suggests that the May figures will be even more impressive.

In another article, we are told that in the new Newland Hill - Cape Jeris section of the Heysen Trail, vehicular access was very limited so that most of the 800 waymarks, signs, stiles, etc. had to be back packed in - along with the tools for installing them. The maintenance team and their volunteers are to be congratulated on their stamina!

The team 'with five specialist authors spent 10 days walking from Woolshed Flat over Mt. Brown, Mt. Remarkable, The Bluff, Frypan Hil, Grave's Hill and down the Range to Crystal Brook. Although the weather conditions were generally appalling with dews, mists and heavy rain, our objective of collecting material for the third "Heysen Trail" book was very successful".

We will keep 'Trailwalker' readers informed about progress on these handbooks.



The request for interesting copy in 'Trailwalker No. 2' attracted a fascinating response from Tom Mann.

Tom has been organizing walks for the "oldies" at Hillsvie Retirement Village, and has listed over fifty walks so far. Groups of between 15 and 25 people walk for 1½ to 2 hours, in areas which are not too steep for them, sometimes taking lunch along the way.

The walks cover a fair range too; from the Mangrove Walk at St. Kilda, to Sellicks Beach in the south. About half of the walks use parts of the Heysen Trail.

P. KELLETT

# HEYSEN TRAIL EXTENDED

Another section of this long distance walking trail is due to open shortly. It extends from Newland Hill to Cape Jervis, much of it along the rugged southern coastline of Fleurieu Peninsula.

From Newland Hill the trail heads south to Newland Head and following the coastline, descends to Waitpinga Beach. After traversing the sandy expanses of Waitpinga and Parsons beaches the trail moves inland along road reserves until Bollaparudda Road is reached. This road is followed for 2km until a recently realigned extension of Tunk Head Road (unsignposted) is reached. The trail follows this road over Callawonga Creek, through pleasant bushland until reaching a road reserve north of Tunk Head.

This road reserve leads towards Tunk Head, deviating in a south westerly direction and finally descends steeply to Tunkalilla Beach.

Tunkalilla Beach is a 5km stretch of uninhabited coastline with magnificent views towards Kangaroo Island. It can, however, be subjected to the full force of the Southern Ocean's bad weather and rain gear should be carried at all times.

The trail then climbs steeply over the headland at the western end of the beach, crosses undulating grazing land and descends to Boat Harbour Beach. This rocky beach marks the eastern boundary of Deep Creek Conservation Park and for the next 20km the trail passes through some of the most rugged and scenic terrain in South Australia.

From Boat Harbour, a steep climb leads to the headland above Tapanappa Creek with an equally steep descent to the creek. The trail then follows the creek upstream, climbing away from the coast steeply to an old fire track on the next ridge. Crossing this track the trail leads into an unnamed creek then uphill again to Tapanappa camp ground.

Open Country is then traversed for 1km then the trail again enters thick scrub, crossing two creeks before ascending to an area of relatively flat heathland. This area contains many lovely wildflowers in late winter and spring.

Descending a long ridge the track swings north west to reveal one of the highlights, the Deep Creek waterfall. Deep Creek cascades over the falls, the volume of water in wet weather is quite amazing for a creek of such relatively short length.

The crossing of Deep Creek below the falls can present quite a challenge when the falls are at peak flow. A good track climbs steeply up the ridge to meet a fire track. The Heyesen Trail crosses the fire track and traverses undulating terrain to The Trig camp ground. The trail then follows the northern boundary of the park for 3km crossing Tent Rock and Aaron Creeks.

Fire tracks are then followed north and south west crossing Aaron Creek and climbing very steeply to the summit of Cobbler Hill. The trail then heads south through light scrub to reach the coast near Blowhole Beach on the western boundary of the park.

Between Blowhole Beach and Cape Jervois the trail follows the coastline, past Fishery Beach with excellent views of Kangaroo Island.

The Department of Recreation and Sport designed this section of the trail and building and marking of the trail has been carried out by the Department with assistance from Adelaide Bushwalkers, St. Agnes Walking Club and various local high schools.

This section of the trail is sure to be a welcome addition to the network of S.A. walking trails.

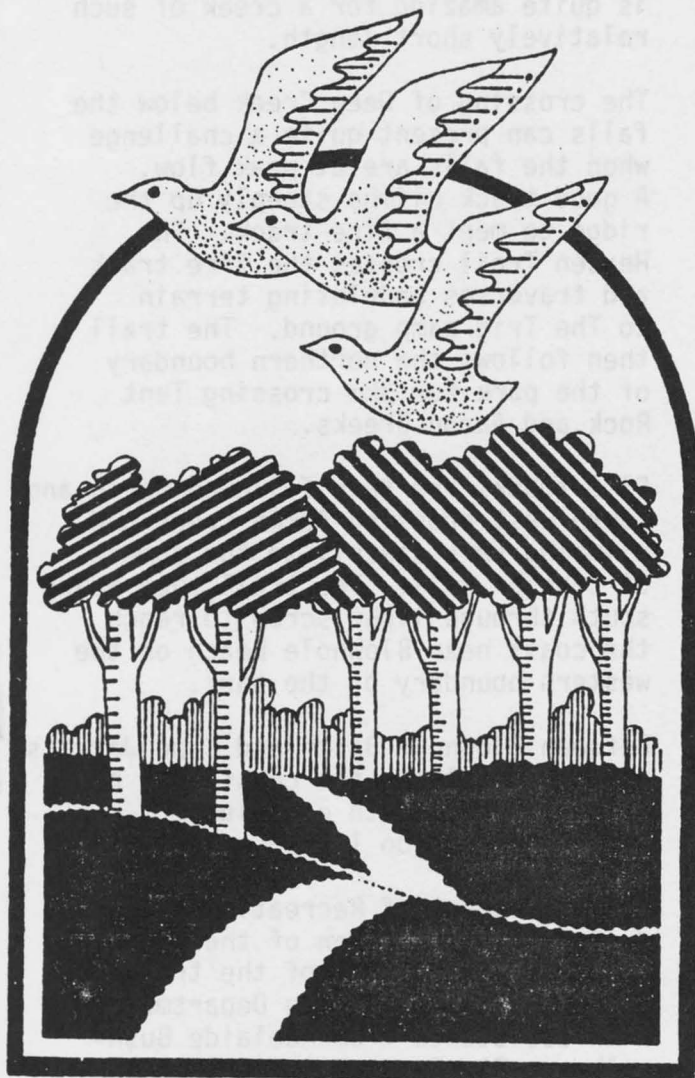
FRANK HALL

## JUBILEE WALKS NO.2

The Department of Recreation and Sport has just released the second in its series of "Jubilee Walks".

There are another ten walks - again in the area between the Barossa and the Fleurieu Peninsula - which take between 1½ and 4 hours to complete. The walks are graded Easy, Moderate or Hard, and have descriptions as well as sketch maps.

The first in the series was extremely popular and this will be a popular new item for walkers. They are available free from the Government Information Office in the Grenfell Centre, or the Department of Recreation and Sport.



## ROACHDALE NATURE TRAIL



Department of  
Recreation and Sport

## JUBILEE WALKS

10 WALKS—BAROSSA,  
ADELAIDE, FLEURIEU  
PENINSULA



Other walks worth trying are the Roachdale Nature Trail (near Kersbrook) and the North Terrace Walk. Both brochures are also available free from the Government Information Centre.



## ARBURY PARK FLORA/FAUNA RESERVE

### - NEW FENCE COMPLETED -

Abutting the Heysen Train at Arbury Park Bridgewater, a new vermin-proof fence has been completed to enclose 35 hectares of mainly forest and scrub, which is to be developed as a Flora/Fauna Reserve. This fence replaces an earlier version with obtrusive overhead cantilevers and operates to dissuade vermin entering the park through its single strand of electrified wire out from the top.

This has been a project, albeit rather drawn out, of the Arbury Park Development Committee, and its future development will be through the Arbury Park Outdoor School. A proposal is being prepared for consideration by the World Wildlife Fund for corporate sponsorship of the future development and management. The proposal suggests that management be in the hands of students, with some assistance from a Resource Manager, and that they be members of the Australian Wildlife Club which is promoted by World Wildlife Fund (Australia).

Currently a comprehensive concept plan for future development and management is being prepared by a Degree student from the Salisbury Campus of S.A.C.A.E. Further information can be gained by contacting Brian Foreman at the Arbury Park Outdoor School (339.3227) or Lynn Brake at Salisbury (258.3000)

Brian Foreman.

### SPEAK UP FOR A TREE

The National Trust has established a "Register of Significant Trees", to identify and hopefully protect important South Australian specimens. The trees can be "significant" due to their historical connections (e.g., The Old Gum Tree, Glenelg, Aboriginal Canoe Trees), their beauty, size, uniqueness, rarity or genetic value.

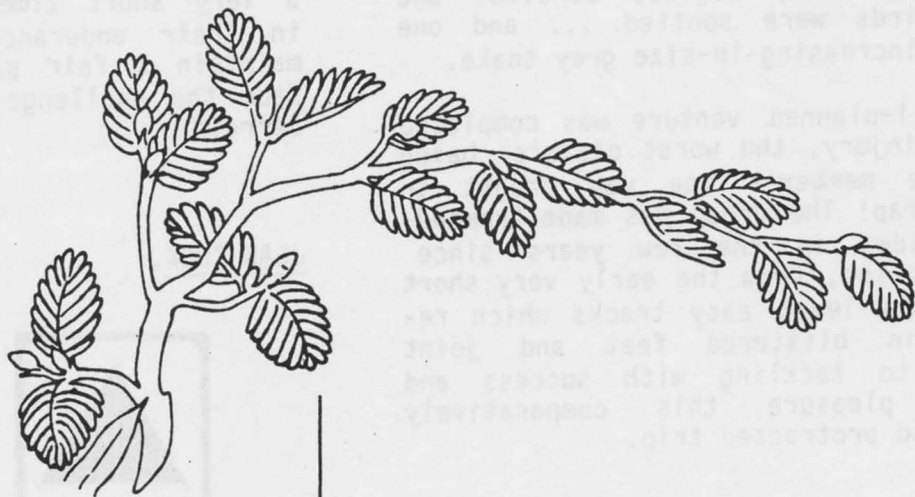
The register already includes over 300 trees and the project only commenced in 1982. A first edition of The Register is to be published later this year.

Bushwalkers and hikers certainly encounter 'significant' trees on their wanderings, so next time you see a particularly large or unusual tree, why not nominate it? You might just save it from a chainsaw.

A worthwhile task for our fledgeling association would be to register all of the significant trees along the Heysen Trail, or even to identify the actual trees painted by Sir Hans Heyssen in the trail's vicinity.

Forms are available from the National Trust.

PETER KELLETT



### THIRD-AGE TREKKERS

Two groups of South Australian retired people recently enjoyed six consecutive days of extensive bushwalking.

Between Sunday, September 21st and Friday September 26th, the Retired Teachers Bushwalkers took part in a Flinders Ranges JUBILEE TREK along the Heysen Trail from Wild Dog Creek, Parachilna, to Wilpena Caravan Park, and, for those who chose to walk on the rest day, beyond Wilpena to Bridle Gap.

The Angorichina and Oraparinna Hostels were used for accommodation, and car shuttles were organised to avoid re-tracking.

Fine weather prevailed throughout although the final day when we walked the greatest distance was sweltering with plagues of flies adding to the discomfort.

Many kilometres of the Heysen Trail have been widened and iron stakes, topped with red tape, mark the route clearly. This year's heavy rainfall had produced an uncharacteristic but lovely green landscape even though creek beds which the Trail frequently follows were usually dry. Wildflowers and flowering bushes were varied but not abundant, the native hops being particularly stunted. Every vantage point was rewarded with magnificent, clear sweeping views. Numerous kangaroos, emus, eagles, corellas and other birds were spotted ... and one forever-increasing-in-size grey snake.

This well-planned venture was completed without injury, the worst disaster being when one member's toe was caught in a mousetrap! The group has made tremendous strides in the few years since its inception, from the early very short strolls on level easy tracks which resulted in blistered feet and joint twinges to tackling with success and immense pleasure this comparatively rugged and protracted trip.

The second group of "oldies", the Australian Retired Persons Association Bushwalkers, hiked every day from Tuesday, October 7th to Sunday, October 12th inclusive. Halls Gap in the Grampians, Victoria, was the base and most of the walks were circular, the degree of difficulty varying greatly from moderate to very demanding, the latter involving rock scrambling and bush-bashing with some sections designated in the Bushwalking Manual as "only for the very agile"! This applied particularly to Hollow Mountain in the Northern Grampians which can be ascended from the inside through a series of caves.

Once again weather conditions were favourable and much cooler than the Flinders. The countryside was lush; valleys were ferny; summits spectacular; myriads of multi-coloured wildflowers adorned the slopes; waterfalls, cascades and torrents were overflowing.

Koalas are obviously well-established over a wide area. Kangaroos and deer are thriving on the abundant green-feed. A herd of snow-white goats was sighted on a precipitous rocky hillside and several dark-coloured snakes slithered swiftly into the undergrowth. Bird songs were frequently heard in the background but the birds themselves, usually quite small, flashed through the foliage at such high speed that few could be positively identified.

The A.R.P.A. Bushwalkers have also in a very short time made great progress in their endurance, their ability to maintain a fair pace and above all to face the challenge of increasingly tough terrain.

JEAN COOK.





# QUESTIONNAIRE

## *FRIENDS OF THE HEYSEN TRAIL*

### *and other S.A. Walking Trails*

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

TELEPHONE NO: ..... (H) ..... (B)

OCCUPATION: .....

Please indicate if you are able to assist with any of the following:

Inspection & reporting on trails

☐

Constructing new trails

☐

Building bridges

☐

Signing trails

☐

Planting trees

☐

Research: Legislation

☐

Right of Way

☐

Searches

☐

Reviewing environmental studies

☐

Writing articles for the Trail Walker

☐

Research and planning new trails

☐

Leading work parties

☐

Collating material on flora and fauna

☐

Artwork

☐

Office work

☐

#### SPECIAL INTERESTS:

E.g. flora, fauna, geology, conservation, rock climbing, orienteering etc.

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#### OTHER INTERESTS:

To assist with social and fund raising activities.

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#### ANY COMMENTS:

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Please forward completed form to: Ms. Betty Wise, 2a Mary St., Eden Hills, 5050.

