

THE TRAILWALKER

ISSUE No. 31

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

OCTOBER 1991

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The Trail Walker

MEMBERSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The discovery of walking - as recreation, therapy, interest in flora and fauna, fitness - and for a whole range of other reasons, continues to increase our membership. A warm welcome is extended by the President, Nev. Southgate and members of Council to the following members who have joined the Friends since August, 1991.

Individual

Elizabeth Puddy
Angela May
David Phillips
John Turner
Narelle Bremner
Maureen Heuzenroeder
Judy Strawhan
Dorothy Rooney
Derek Nicholl
Vanessa Black
South Coast Peace and Environment Group
(Youth Organisation)
John Ribackow
Mary Crosby
Harry Ostendorf
Jean Parry

Family

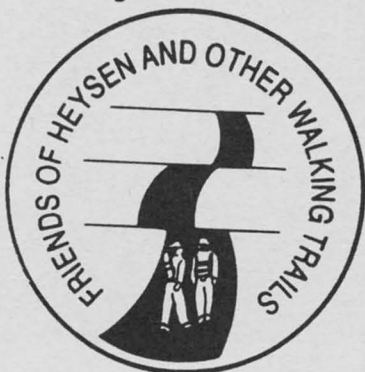
John and Gwenyth Hewitt
Lynn Morgan and Heather Booth
Steve Donovan and Sheila Bryte
Neville and Elizabeth Kenyon
David Wynn
Bob and Joan Randall
Helen and Charlie Adam
J. Pakula
Ken and Doreen M. Dingwall
Tony and Jennifer Statton (Burra)

Apologies are made for the omission of the following members who joined the Friends' earlier this year and were not acknowledged on this page in a previous issue:-

Walter I. Robertson
Kay E. Pfluger,
Cherry Weeks

Many thanks to those members who have contributed articles for publication in the "Trailwalker" about a wide variety of walking experiences. They are greatly appreciated and provide an interesting range of items for readers. Please keep them coming! You are assured that they will all be published.

Terry Lavender returns to Adelaide from a Churchill Fellowship Award Study tour of the United States and the United Kingdom at the end of October so we shall look forward to welcoming him and hearing news of overseas walking trails.



"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



The Trail Walker

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WALKING PROGRAMME

Dear Sir,

Several times I have heard suggestions that the monthly walks with the Friends should be held more frequently. Personally, I believe that once a month is sufficient and if held more frequently there is a real risk that the nucleus of dedicated leaders could be burnt out.

My wife and I try to walk at every opportunity by ourselves or with a small group of close friends and then look forward to the monthly group walk to meet others and exchange experiences and ideas.

However, on these monthly walks, I have gained the impression that a number of walkers join the group walks because they are unsure of the ways and means of planning their own walks. They are concerned about where they may go because of the risk of trespass on private land, etc. and gauging the distance.

Therefore I strongly believe that rather than increase the group walks, the Friends could organise regular workshops on "Planning your own Walks" along the lines of the map reading seminars.

Please try and keep up the monthly walks but can we ensure they are held on the LAST Sunday each month. (Sometimes a fifth Sunday causes confusion.)

Mike Parsons

SOUTH COAST DEVELOPMENT

Dear Editor,

It was with interest, cynicism and disappointment that I noticed in the article "South Coast Development" the approval granted for a house construction on land near the cliff top above Kings Bay (Beach).

The interest for me, coming from Kangaroo Island, is that this type of construction is becoming all too numerous on the otherwise unspoilt beaches of the Island. One of these, apparently built partly on Crown Land, overlooking the beautiful Snellings Beach, was/is the house of Mr. Hannaford, who was certainly responsible for placing his house on the cliff face in full view of the beach and ocean, thus spoiling it for others.

How inconsiderate and unfair such a construction seems to be especially when it is to be repeated. What will be left for our children if such approvals continue. What can be done to educate councils?

Barb. Wiadrowski

[I am sure that many of our readers are asking the same question so we will ensure that a copy of this issue of the "Trailwalker" is forwarded to the Victor Harbour Council. Ed.]

The Trail Walker

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Thanks to the quick and unselfish thinking of Thelma Anderson, a potentially dangerous situation has been avoided. While I was assisting Andrew Moylan (the Northern District Manager) with the Heysen Trail survey and negotiations north of Quorn, the bridge over the Onkaparinga River at Mylor collapsed, due to flooding. It was the quick reaction of the Friends in erecting suitable warning signs which may have prevented injury to children from the nearby Church Camp.

In addition I owe my gratitude to Thelma for dealing with the unexpected re-route of the Heysen Trail through Kuitpo Forest, which also occurred in my absence. It may be said that as Administrator of the Friends, it was not Thelma's responsibility to take such action, but I would say that as a true "Friend" of the Trail she undertook a task for the benefit of the Trail and the safety of walkers in an unselfish manner and with the endorsement of the S.A. Recreation Institute.

Thank you to all the "Friends".

Yours sincerely,
Martin Foster,
Southern District Manager

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ORIENTEERING

Dear Sir,

Many people look at Orienteering as an activity undertaken by youthful, blonde athletes called Erik and Ingrid who race through the forest and return covered in mud and blood!

Orienteering in South Australia caters for all ages and abilities and this year the Orienteering Association of South Australia (O.A.S.A.) has required all event organisers to include a recreational course. This course involves fairly easy navigation following tracks or handrails (fence lines, creeks, etc.) and takes about two hours of brisk walking.

Events are open to all (non-members pay a higher fee) and costs are designed to cover map production.

Maps are generally 10,000 or 15,000:1 and much more detailed than the 50,000:1 Heysen Trail and Lands Department maps.

I would recommend that events to any bushwalker interested in developing his/her map techniques, particularly those attending the map-reading workshops. Whilst navigation is not difficult, one learns the need to concentrate and keep in contact with the map.

Events are held every Sunday (10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. during the winter months. Programmes are available from O.A.S.A., Department of Recreation and Sport, or Coopers Guide in Saturday's "Advertiser" each week.

Mike Parsons

[Thanks Mike for passing on that information which could certainly be of interest to many of our readers. Ed.]

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

As you are aware, the official opening of Freeman Hut was held on 25 August, 1991.

Approximately 110-115 invited guests attended the opening, including residents of the Breakthrough Centre of the Adelaide Central Mission, sponsors of the Trail, Department of Recreation and Sport staff, and of course, members of the "Friends".

I would like to take the opportunity to thank three of the Friends' members in particular for their assistance on the day, Liz Barry, Thelma Anderson and David Matthews. Without their help, things would not have gone as smoothly as they did.

Once again, thank you to all of them for their invaluable help. I hope to see the Friends at the next function held by the Recreation Institute, the opening of Tiersmen's Bridge at Arbury Park.

Yours sincerely,
Gloria Bache,
Promotions Officer,
S.A. Recreation Institute





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DEVELOPMENT NEWS

With the expectation of funding being made available to the Friends' following an invitation to tender for the maintenance and marking of the Heysen and Mount Lofty Walking Trails, an indication of interest in the Part-time position of Trails Co-ordinator is sought from members whose particular alliance with the Friends has been with trails maintenance. The position will involve the co-ordination of maintenance tasks with various volunteer leaders and liaising, when necessary, with Branch Trails Co-ordinators.

An item elsewhere in this issue gives details of a working party which visited the mid-north recently to mark a section of the Heysen Trail over Mount Bryan. Only a short section remains to complete Map No. 12. It is expected that this map will be released at the start of the 1992 walking season. Map No. 13 is being printed and should be released shortly.

Officers of the Recreation Trails Division are currently negotiating with landowners to delineate a route for the last remaining section of the Heysen Trail between Quorn and Hawker. It is hoped that Friends' volunteers will commence marking in this area as soon as weather conditions permit at the commencement of the walking season in 1992. The completion of the Trail will provide South Australia with one of the longest marked walking trails in the world and, indeed, an enviable tourist achievement.

Maintenance carried out in the southern Mount Lofty Ranges area includes repairs to the bridge over Cox's Creek in Engelbrook Reserve by volunteer Doug Leane and Eric Rowatt of the Workshop; installation of a large stile at Bassnet Road by Norm Taylor and Tom Thomasson to give access to a Mount Lofty Walking Trail in Mount Crawford Forest; re-route of a section of the Heysen Trail by Peter Buckland and a small team of volunteers at Kuitpo Forest, (details are outlined in a separate item); continuing maintenance by Fred Brooks and his team of helpers near Mount Crawford where interference with markers seems to be a constant problem; also general maintenance between Hindmarsh Tiers Road and Moon Hill by Shirley Rumble and her band of volunteers.

A major task in A.R.P.A.'s section of the Heysen Trail is the permanent re-routing from Sprigg Road through the eastern side of Cleland Park to Mount Lofty Summit. As mentioned in the last issue of the "Trailwalker", an alternative Trail through Mount Lofty Botanic Garden will also be marked by A.R.P.A. volunteers when negotiations are finalised.

Doug Leane will construct a small creek crossing in the Hindmarsh Tiers Road area and in Arbury Park. Doug has established a sound reputation as Bridge Consultant and his expertise in this area is highly valued.

Other outstanding work is general maintenance to marking between Moralan Drive and Mayo Hut; installation of special signs at Pewsey Vale has been delayed pending replacement of the mechanical posthole digger; and installation of two stiles near Huppertz Hut.

As referred to in a separate item, the bridge over the Onkaparinga River at Mylor has once again sustained irreparable damage as the result of recent floods in the Mount Bold catchment area. This has become a regular three to five year occurrence, so there are now plans for a replacement bridge to raise the height above the reach of future floodwaters.

Several groups of walkers have reported Heysen Trail marking in the Knott Hill area of Kuitpo Forest. A permanent re-route of the Trail through this scenic area is being carried out by Forest staff in liaison with the Recreation Institute, but it will not be finalised for quite some time, due to a range of factors. Construction of a bridge over Meadows Creek was commenced some time ago by residents of the Breakthrough Centre, but its foundations were severely damaged by recent floods in the Meadows area and a fresh start will be required. No projected date is available for the use of



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this re-route but members will be kept informed of progress.

Special mention has been made elsewhere regarding activity by the Leigh Creek and Fleurieu Branches and of the establishment of the Burra Branch of the Friends. We look forward, with a welcome sigh of relief, to the valuable assistance and support of volunteers in these more distant areas and to the establishment of other branches throughout the length of the Heysen Trail.

Thelma Anderson,
ACTING TRAILS CO-ORDINATOR

BURRA BRANCH

Another milestone in the advancement of the Friends' was reached on Friday, 6 September, 1991 at a meeting called by local residents of the mid-north area to form a Branch of the organisation at Burra.

The meeting was convened by ardent Friends' supporter and walking enthusiast, Mike Fretwell and attended by 27 persons with apologies from others not able to be present. Four visiting walkers to the area from the "Over the Hill" Bushwalking Club also remained in town to attend the meeting.

Representatives from Adelaide were the President, Nev Southgate and Secretary, Thelma Anderson and Shirley and Jim Crinion of the Greening Committee. Andrew Moylan, Trails Manager for the Heysen Trail north of Burra represented the S.A. Recreation Institute.

The feeling of the meeting was keen enthusiasm and interest, both for the establishment of a Branch and for the opportunity to assist as volunteers in the maintenance of the Trail in the Burra and surrounding areas.

A committee was elected, with Mike Fretwell as Chairman, Hugh Greenhill, Secretary/Treasurer and Helen McColl as Trails Co-ordinator. Members of the committee comprise Joylene McCann, Tony Statton, Joan Jones, Kyron Statton, Scott McCann, Bev Jennings and Barry Wright.

The fire in the Friends' Workshop at South Terrace interrupted plans to set up the Branch with a set of tools and to conduct an Instructional Workshop for Branch volunteers. However, this will be attended to as soon as practicable to ensure the provision of facilities for maintenance. The group has generously agreed to maintain the section of Heysen Trail between Marrabel and Georgetown and our support to this valuable contribution is guaranteed.

Advice has been received that the Branch Committee held its inaugural meeting on Thursday, 19 September, 1991. The name "Burra Branch" was confirmed and the area of responsibility. Chairman, Mike Fretwell will be the representative nominee to Friends' Council, with Nev Southgate as proxy. Mike's report revealed that Committee member Tony Statton is a stonemason and has volunteered to maintain walking huts in the area. The first assessment walk has been planned from Burra to Stein Hill, so the Branch is already on the move. A great start!

For the information and interest of Adelaide and regional members, Mike and Leonie Fretwell are the proprietors of Pollys Kitchen at Burra, their cuisine delights having been enjoyed by both walking and volunteer groups visiting the area. In addition, Mike, as proprietor of "Tootling Along", a walking tour service, has also assisted and advised our members in identifying access routes to the Heysen Trail.

"He that plants a tree plants for posterity."

- Proverb



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THE FLEURIEU BRANCH

The Fleurieu Branch has been consolidating notwithstanding winter weather and the advent of the whales, resulting in many local people using their spare time whale-watching.

Trail maintenance materials have been received and half is stored and available from Don Shepherd at Encounter Bay and half with Tim Stokes at Normanville.

We have received posters and pamphlets, most of which have been distributed and are available to the public at various locations.

On the activities front, some of the committee did maintenance work on the Heysen Trail over about three kilometres south of the Waitpinga-Range Roads intersection and members have identified maintenance needs on other sections of the No. 8 "Whale Watch" map including some erosion requiring shrub and tree-planting.

Some of the committee are active with an informal group of Normanville bushwalkers and a very enjoyable walk went to the Mount Compass area in late June.

A further note to the article in the August "Trailwalker" about the granting by Victor Harbour Council of approval for a (large elaborate) house on Kings Head, is that Council did this despite overwhelming local opposition which included a petition of over 1,000 signatures and the opposition of several organisations. Democracy? Victor Harbour Council style!!

With the advent of spring and summer it is hoped (perhaps by the time this is read, at least one will have taken place) that some more trail maintenance cum recreational walks involving the committee and possibly the Normanville walkers will occur including one on the Trail between Back Valley and Inman Valley.

The Fleurieu Committee members are always happy to be approached by Adelaide people who wish to participate or even initiate joint activities.

Don Shepherd,
Chairman, Fleurieu Branch

LEIGH CREEK BRANCH

Activity and enthusiasm are still thriving at the Leigh Creek Branch. Members of this group maintain the Heysen Trail between Wilpena and Parachilna and have developed a comprehensive programme for maintenance of this section.

The latest innovative idea to be developed is the setting up of a maintenance trailer to contain a lockable storage cabinet for small hand tools, caps for metal posts, nails, bolts, logos, etc. and featuring a storage area and roof rack for materials; and a work bench and vice. A rear amber revolving light will be fitted for use when working on or near public roads.

Funding for the trailer has been approved by the Friends' Council and a cheque will be forwarded to the Branch as soon as possible to enable construction of the mobile workshop to commence. It will be particularly adaptable for use in this area as the Heysen Trail mainly follows roads and fire tracks.

Congratulations to this energetic and enthusiastic band of Friends on their initiative and enterprise.



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GREENING COMMITTEE

A very successful day was held on 31 August last at Folland Park where Anne McMahon, Seedbank Officer from Trees for Life, conducted a most interesting and instructive workshop on the methods to be used in collecting seed from our native trees and shrubs. It would seem that every mosquito in the State pounced on the sixteen members who attended. Standing or sitting, listening to Anne, was accompanied by a cacophony of slapping or under the breath mutterings. Nevertheless, members of the Committee were entirely engrossed in the interesting information being imparted by Anne to be too distracted. Anne discussed leaf shapes of the eucalypts and cassias, etc., the variety of clusters or spikes and the formation of the flower right through to the fruit or seed. Samples of each were shown from capsules collected by Anne on her previous sorties.

Later members split into groups and circumnavigated the Park to collect samples from the assorted trees and shrubs. To test the ability to correctly identify a species the members were required to utilise excellent books on this subject from the Woods and Forests Department and two private publications. Needless to say there was an odd "crow" when an identification proved correct.

One thing that became obvious from the workshop was that the Greening Committee had a considerable amount of work ahead of it if the denuded sections of the trails are to be revegetated. There is considerable work in seed collection as well as in the propagation of seedlings. Planning of sites for plantings has to be done at least eighteen months ahead in order to assess the type of seed to be collected - and this can only be done during the time of the fruiting season. Approval from the Council and S.A. Recreation Institute is required as well as from the local government authorities or private landowners. The whole has to be keyed into the Trees for Life programme.

In this first year we are proceeding modestly and cautiously by ordering 1,000 trees, some of which will be grown by members and the remainder taken as seedlings. Subject to the requisite approval, we have selected a section on the Heyden Trail between Greenock and Kapunda, the area adjacent to the Freeman Hut and on the Mount Lofty Walking Trail running south from Babeeba near Gawler.

Whilst the Committee members are learning fast it has been decided that the following concept for greening shall be:-

1. Trees grown or selected as seedlings shall be entirely native and indigenous to the area.
2. Plantations shall be in block or triangular form. Rows of trees will not be used unless windbreaks are needed.
3. Species within the plantings shall be varied in height, shape and type unless local conditions dictate otherwise.
4. Clearing of undergrowth will only take place as directed by S.A.R.I., Woods and Forests or Parks and Wildlife, the reason being that dense undergrowth is the habitat for small fauna against birds of prey and foxes, etc. Any further removal of undergrowth will diminish this population.

Jim Crinion, Convenor

The next meeting of the Greening Committee will be an "on-site" meeting to examine the feasibility of planting seedlings along the Mount Lofty Walking Trail which runs south from Calton Road, Gawler East.

Friends are to meet at 2.00 p.m. on Saturday, 19 October, 1991 at the South Para River bridge on Julian Terrace. Vehicles will then proceed to the site. Some walking may be involved. All Friends are welcome.

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OFFICIAL OPENING OF FREEMAN HUT

In crisp, wintry, but invigorating weather, the official opening of Freeman Hut at Williamstown took place on Sunday, 25 August, 1991. Mr. Mike Nunan, Acting Director of the South Australian Recreation Institute, officiated at the ceremony which was attended by approximately 110 people. Most visitors were ferried in from the Williamstown-Springton Road by four-wheel drive vehicles as heavy rains had created a lake across Old Glen Road above Victoria Creek. However, some of the more adventurous guests (including one uncomplaining six-year old veteran) walked through drizzling rain from the junction of Wirra Wirra Road and Ross's Fire Track, accepting the elements as they were presented. Nonetheless, the warmth of an open log fire on arrival at the hut was most appreciated.

Freeman Hut provides overnight accommodation for walkers using the Heysen Trail and the Mount Lofty Walking Trails and a marked spur trail leads to it from the junction of these two trails on Ross's Fire Track at the base of the hill on which Microwave Tower is situated.

The Hut was restored by residents of the Breakthrough Centre of the Adelaide Central Mission under the supervision of Paul Nicholas. Greg Lowe, Morris King, Brett Mattsen and Joe Tabb proudly pointed out to visitors the areas of restoration in which they were individually involved. John McLean, a building contractor, was overseer of the work.

The S.A. Recreation Institute and the Friends', on behalf of all walkers, are indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Ian Ross for their generosity in making the hut available for the benefit of all users of the trails.

There is an interesting history to the origins of the occupation of this land which date back to about 1887 when Mr. Joseph Freeman and his family arrived in South Australia and applied for a land grant from the Government. They received a lease of 200 acres of scrub in the Mount Crawford area. They built a two-roomed stone house and planted their crop, but before it could be reaped, the entire bullock team died. They left the property and settled in Wilmington. On 6 December, 1913, Robert Ross purchased the property, freehold, for 187 pounds sterling.

Freeman Hut is the fifth hut in a series of huts being provided along the Heysen Trail. It accommodates up to eight people and features an open fireplace.

Staff of the S.A. Recreation Institute expressed gratitude to members of the Friends' for our co-operation and enthusiastic assistance in serving pumpkin soup, chicken and salad, blueberry muffins and preparing cups of tea and coffee.

TRIBUTE

We have recently learned of the death, while on a bushwalk, on 9 June, 1991 of Dr. Ted Shields in England. Ted was a member of the Steering Committee of the Friends' which was appointed following the inaugural meeting in June, 1986 to establish the organisation.

Ted's efforts in the preparation of our Constitution were an invaluable contribution to the successful foundation of the society.

He remained as a member of the Friends' Council until his return to England, with his wife Barbara, for family reasons, but his heart remained with the Heysen Trail.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Ted's widow and family.

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ONKAPARINGA BRIDGE AT MYLOR

During the height of heavy rains throughout the Adelaide Hills in September, the bridge over the Onkaparinga River south of Mylor was severely damaged by rising floodwaters and debris which followed in its wake.

As a result the bridge has been closed and signs to this effect have been placed on both sides of the river. In addition, "Trail Closed" signs have been installed at the junction of Strathalbyn and Silver Lake Roads on the northern side and at the junction of Glen Bold and Feder Roads on the southern side. It will therefore be necessary for walkers to use the road bridge on Strathalbyn Road to cross the river, by-passing Silver Lake Road from the northern approach and Feder Road from the south.

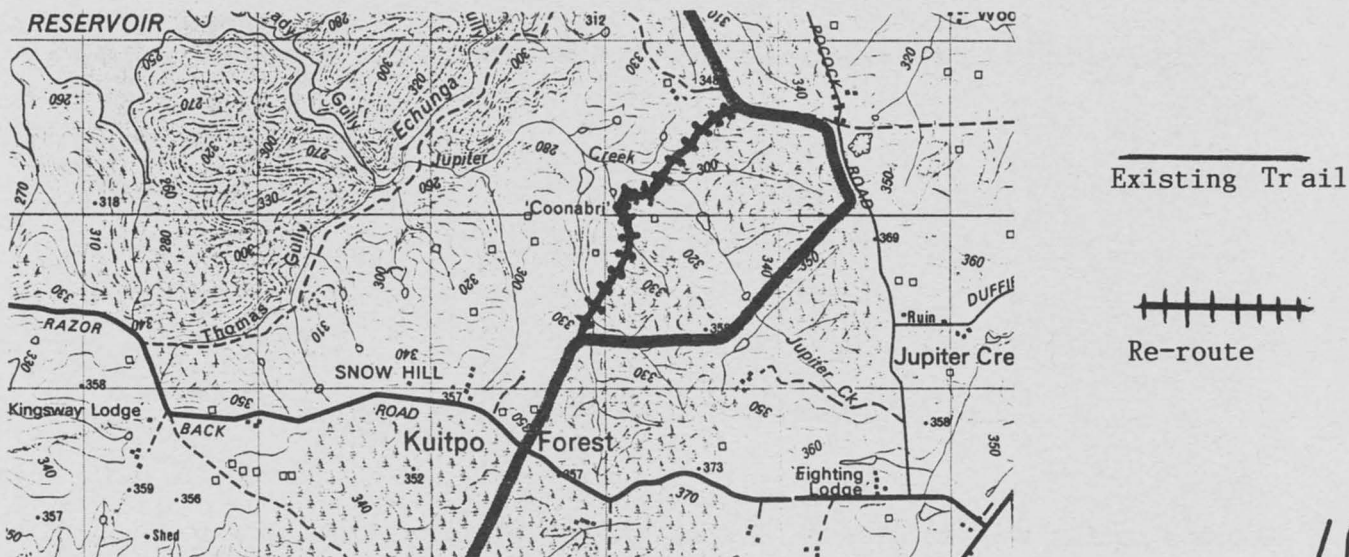
Arrangements are being made to dismantle the wreckage as it is considered to be dangerous and negotiations have commenced to build a new bridge, designed to clear the level of future floods which inevitably occur at three to five year intervals.

RE-ROUTE OF HEYSEN TRAIL IN KUITPO FOREST

A re-route of the Heysen Trail has been marked in Kuitpo Forest due to tree-felling operations which commenced on Monday, 30 September, 1991.

The area affected is north of Razorback Road. A detour sign has been installed on the forest track which follows the forest boundary in a north-easterly direction, if travelling from south to north from Razorback Road, at the point where the Trail turns east. Markers now indicate that the Trail continues along the boundary track to a gate and stile leading into Engineering and Water Supply Department property to cross Jupiter Creek via a ford on an old track leading to the corner of another forest block situated north-east of Jupiter Creek where there is a second gate and stile. The re-routed Trail continues along the boundary of the forest in a north-easterly direction until it meets the existing Trail. Another detour sign has been placed at this point where the Trail then continues in a north-westerly direction. Forest staff have also placed a "Trail Closed" sign at the north-eastern approach to the Jupiter Creek bridge crossing.

This re-route will be in place until 31 December, 1991 when logging operations are expected to be completed. However, the Heysen Trail is officially closed from 1 December, 1991 and walkers are urged to respect this restriction, particularly through areas of private property which, of course, includes Engineering and Water Supply Department property.





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FRIENDS OF THE HEYSEN TRAIL AND OTHER WALKING TRAILS, INC.
(Proudly sponsored by the South Australian Government through the South
Australian Recreation Institute)

NOTICE OF SOCIAL MEETING

A warm welcome is extended to all Friends, their families and friends, to
attend a

SOCIAL MEETING

at

The Girl Guides Association Hall (upstairs),

at 7.30 p.m.

ON FRIDAY, 8 NOVEMBER, 1991.

The Friends' President, Nev. Southgate, will host the evening.

A special feature of the evening will be the presentation

of a framed certificate to

C. Warren Bonython, A.O.

acknowledging his acceptance of the Friends' invitation to the position of

P A T R O N

An interesting programme is promised

12 Tea and coffee will be served. Please bring a plate of light supper.



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WALKING LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME 1992

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE!

Why aren't you leading hikes for the Friends? How come you've missed out? Want to do something about it? Here's your chance at last and it's as easy as falling off a log. The next three lift-out pages are mainly to find out who will be allowed to lead hikes for the Friends next year. All you have to do to join in - is write your name next to the hikes you want to lead and return the lift-out to the Administrative Officer at Underdale. As you will see, there are still many unclaimed hikes. But you'd better hurry! All vacancies will be filled and if you don't apply now, you might have to wait until 1993. First come, first served!

WHY BOTHER?

More than anything else, leading walks is fun! You're mad if you miss out! And as the President has gone hoarse repeating, this association depends heavily on volunteers and its growing demands are the combined responsibility of all its members. If we want to extend, maintain and enjoy this great international Trail it's up to each of us to join in; the poor old Editor can't do it all for us.

ALL DIFFERENT SORTS OF WALKS

And it's not necessarily hard either. There are many different sorts of walks to choose from, varying from two-hour short ones to two-day over-nighters. So if you're a little new to walking or your time is limited you can lead 2 to 4-hour "Walking S.A." Introductory Walks. If you're a bushie with more time you can lead 2 to 5.5-hour "Friends Go Walking" short or long walks. If you're ambitious you can lead 2-day week-end walks, staying in a bunkhouse overnight. If you're a teenager at heart you might lead one of our new Youth Walks.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Of course it hardly stops there. The FRIENDS' has grown like Topsy and offers Council positions, committee positions, training courses, social events and honest to goodness working bees. There's something for everyone. If you want to join any activity you can find out about it by contacting Thelma, the Administrative Officer at the address and telephone number below.

SEND THIS FORM IN!

Please send the form to:-

The Administrative Officer,
Friends of the Heyzen Trail and Other Walking Trails, Inc.,
C/o S.A. Recreation Institute,
304 Henley Beach Road,
UNDERDALE, S.A. 5032

or telephone on:

234-0844, Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

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1992 WALKING PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

Gala Day Opening - Week-end Walks - Long Walks - Short Walks -
Introductory Walks - Youth Walks

Definitions:- Long Walk - Walking time - 10.00 a.m. - 3.00-3.30 p.m.
Short Walks and Introductory Walks - alternate 10.00 a.m. -
2.00 p.m., 9.30 - 12.30, 1.00 p.m. - 3.00-3.30 p.m.

Sunday, 5 April, 1992 - Opening of the Walking Season - six walks of
various times/distance, all culminating at the Outdoor Area
by the creek at the Bridgewater Hotel for Afternoon tea.
Six leaders required to plan and lead these walks.

Leaders

Walk 1 - Long Walk	.....
Walk 2 - Long Walk	.....
Walk 3 - Long Walk	.....
Walk 4 - Short Walk	.....
Walk 5 - Short Walk	.....
Walk 6 - Short Walk	.....

Sunday 12 April - Walking S.A. - Introductory Walks in central area, e.g.
Belair, Morialta, Linear Park.

Leaders

Walk 1	.....
Walk 2	.....

Sunday, 26 April - Friends Go Walking

Leaders

Walk 1 - Long walk South	.....
Walk 2 - Short walk - Central Hills	.....
Walk 3 - Long walk North	.....
Walk 4 - Youth walk - 13 to 20 years	.....

Sunday, 10 May - Walking S.A.

Walk 1 - Central	.....
Walk 2 - Central	.....

Week-end 23/24 May - Week-end walk staying bunkhouse accommodation
Mid-north.

Leaders

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Leaders

- Sunday 24 May - Walk 1 - Short walk - Central Hills
Walk 2 - Long walk - South
Walk 3 - Long walk - North
Walk 4 - Youth walk - 13-20 years
- Sunday 14 June - Walk 1 - Walking S.A. - Central
Walk 2 - Walking S.A. - Central
- Sunday 28 June - Walk 1 - Short walk - Central Hills
Walk 2 - Long walk - South
Walk 3 - Long walk - North
- Sunday 12 July - Walk 1 - Walking S.A. - Central
Walk 2 - Walking S.A. - Central
- Sunday 26 July - Walk 1 - Short walk - Central Hills
Walk 2 - Long walk - South
Walk 3 - Long walk - North
Walk 4 - Youth walk - 13-20 years
- Sunday 9 August - Walk 1 - Walking S.A. - Central
Walk 2 - Walking S.A. - Central
- Sunday 23 August - Walk 1 - Short walk - Central Hills
Walk 2 - Long walk - South
Walk 3 - Long walk - North
- Sunday 13 September - Walk 1 - Walking S.A. - Central
Walk 2 - Walking S.A. - Central
- W/E 26/27 Sept. - Week-end walk Fleurieu Peninsula

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Leaders

Sunday 27 Sept. - Walk 1 - Short walk - Central

Walk 2 - Long walk - South

Walk 3 - Long walk - North

Sunday 11 Oct. - Walk 1 - Walking S.A. - Central

Walk 2 - Walking S.A. - Central

Sunday 25 Oct. - Walk 1 - Short walk - Central

Walk 2 - Long walk - South

Walk 3 - Long walk - North

Sunday 8 Nov. - Walk 1 - Walking S.A. - Central

Walk 2 - Walking S.A. - Central

Sunday 22 Nov. - Walk 1 - Short walk - Central

Walk 2 - Long walk - South

Walk 3 - Long walk - North



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DIARY DATES

- OCTOBER 9 Walking Committee Meeting, S.A.R.I. - 6.00 p.m.
11 Executive Committee Meeting, S.A.R.I. 12.00 p.m.
11 Trails Committee Meeting, S.A.R.I. - 4.00 p.m.
19 Greening Committee Meeting, South Para River Bridge, Julian Terrace, Gawler - 2.00 p.m.
20 Introductory Walks (Walking S.A.) - see Walking Programme.
23 Friends' Council Meeting, S.A.R.I. - 6.00 p.m.
27 Friends Go Walking Today - see Walking Programme herein.
- NOVEMBER 8 SOCIAL MEETING - Girl Guides Association Hall, 278 South Terrace, Adelaide - 7.30 p.m.
- NOVEMBER 10 Introductory Walks (Walking S.A.) - see Walking Programme
12 Greening Committee Meeting, S.A.R.I. - 6.00 p.m.
13 Walking Committee Meeting, S.A.R.I. - 6.00 p.m.
15 Executive Committee Meeting, S.A.R.I. - 12.00 p.m.
15 Trails Committee Meeting, S.A.R.I. - 4.00 p.m.
24 Friends Go Walking Today - see Walking Programme.
27 Friends' Council Meeting, S.A.R.I. - 6.00 p.m.

FRIENDLY SALES

Members are reminded that the following items are available for purchase from the Friends':- (Order forms are available from the Friends' office, 304 Henley Beach Road, Underdale.)

Polo Style shirt)	\$22.50	
Windcheaters)	\$26.00	all displaying Friends' logo
Jackets)	\$31.50	

Cloth Badges displaying Friends' logo - \$6

Heysen Trail Badges - \$2

Metal Badges - \$4

Heysen Trail maps and books - \$5.50 and \$12.95

Mount Lofty Walking Trails (Barossa) Maps - \$7.50

Map of Black Hill and Morialta Conservation Parks - \$5
(Excellently presented map showing all walking trails throughout these two scenic Conservation Parks.)

"Flowers are like the pleasures of the world."

-William Shakespeare



The Trail Walker

THE FRIENDS GO WALKING ON THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

FRIENDS' WALKING PROGRAMME

Sunday, 27 October, 1991 -

Deep Creek Conservation Park - Jennifer Dow - 276-6484 (after 4.00 p.m.)
Mount Gould/Kersbrook - John and Joy Whiting - 264-3620
Montacute area - Rob Hill - 362-6882 (H); 363-1433 (W)

Sunday, 24 November, 1991 -

Kersbrook - Maureen Vale - 251-1413
Kyeema Conservation Park - Eric Rowatt - 298-6149 or 231-4607
Kyeema Conservation Park (two short walks - a.m. and p.m.) - Bob Curtis.

INTRODUCTORY WALKING PROGRAMME - (WALKING S.A.)

Sunday, 20 October, 1991 -

Mount Lofty area - Janice and Bruce Paltridge - 271-0363
Cleland area - Carlien Melrose - 79-6597

Sunday, 10 November, 1991 -

Mt. George - Afternoon walk. Jennifer Dow - 276-6484 (after 4.00 p.m.)

WATERS ROAD

A ray of hope emerged recently for the future retention of Waters Road as public walking access to link Bridgewater, Kenneth Stirling Conservation Park and Mount George Conservation Park. After enjoying a "reccy" for a Friends' walk in this area, one of our members wrote to the Onkaparinga Council expressing concern about the proposed closure and sale of Waters Road by the Council to an adjoining landowner.

She subsequently received a reply advising that any decision about the future of Waters Road no longer rests with the Council but with the Lands Department. Although this information is confusing it is encouraging as a sufficient volume of correspondence has been forwarded to the Surveyor General to provide undisputed evidence that Waters Road is traditionally used by walkers and local residents to provide walking access between Bridgewater and the Onkaparinga Valley and to withdraw such an amenity would disadvantage a large section of the community. It is understood that with the weight of such evidence, the Surveyor General would not approve the sale of Waters Road. However, constant vigilance of the situation will be maintained.

A group of twenty walkers recently enjoyed a "Friends" walk from the Bridgewater Hotel, following scenic back roads to the Onkaparinga Valley via Waters Road and to the Kenneth Stirling and Mount George Conservation Parks to return to Bridgewater from Arbury Park along the Heysen Trail. The spring-flowering vegetation in the Conservation Parks and roadsides - particularly pultenae and the diuris orchid - provided a brilliant display throughout the walk. The varied environment in Kenneth Stirling and the magnificent views from Mount George, together with two kangaroo sightings, delighted the group. Added interest was provided by the Steamranger on its regular Sunday journey to Victor Harbour after crossing the railway line on Waters Road.

The Trail Walker

YOUTH HOSTELS ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

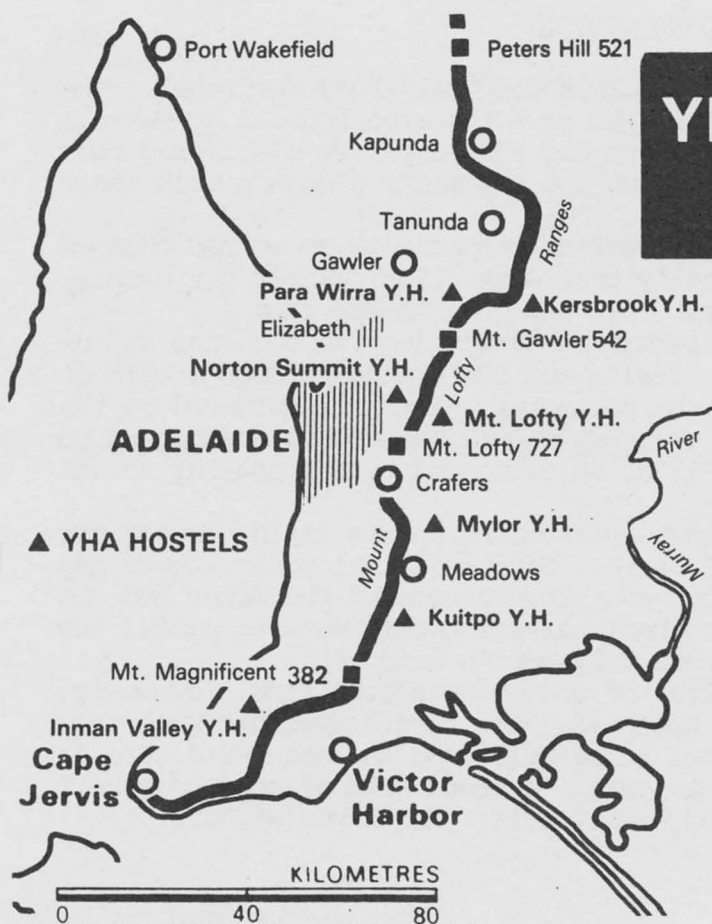
Most "Friends" would be aware of Y.H.A. hostels through the ad. in each issue of the "Trailwalker" and from seeing them first hand on the Heysen Trail; some may even be members of the association.

Are you aware, however, that YHA members conduct activities on most week-ends and hold a club night twice a month where guest speakers are usually present. Activities vary from day walks, bike rides, canoeing, horse-riding, working bees at hostels to social outings of dinners and folk dancing evenings. We also have two day or longer trips involving canoeing, backpacking walks, camping out or using hostels and other accommodation.

All the activities are open to everyone whether a YHA member or not. Membership is only necessary when staying at our hostels.

For more information on activities or membership Tel. 231-5583 or call in at the YHA Office, 38 Sturt Street, Adelaide.

Chris Whiteside, Secretary, Adelaide Regional Group (YHA)



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

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF BUSHWALKING CLUBS

Advice has been received from two members of the Steering Committee formed to establish a South Australian Federation of Bushwalking Clubs.

The first meeting was called in December, 1990 when a large number of bushwalking groups were circularized seeking support for establishment of the Federation. Progress has been slow and support from the groups has varied from enthusiastic to doubtful.

However, the current situation is that A MEETING of parties interested in forming a South Australian Federation of Bushwalking Clubs WILL BE HELD in the Purple Lounge of the Union Building at Flinders University (southern end of building, upstairs) AT 7.45 P.M. ON THURSDAY, 24 OCTOBER, 1991. It is suggested that arrival time be planned for 7.30 p.m. An agenda will be supplied at the meeting and it will probably include an opening address regarding the reasons for forming a Federation, a secret ballot on whether a Federation should be formed, then, if the majority decision is to proceed, another ballot to elect a council and a concluding address followed by refreshments. A suggested Constitution for the Federation has been prepared. For further information enquiries should be directed to Steering Committee members David Turner, (232-1777 - work, 293-5201 home) or Ian McDougall (339-4645).

A WELL KEPT SECRET

The designation for my Introductory Walk was "Salisbury Environs". The lass at Salisbury Council had been unable to give the area bounded by Maxwell and Bridge Roads a name, although when we did a "recce", we discovered that it was called the Paddocks. My own club had enjoyed a pleasant walk there one day and I was happy to have a look.

Five of us walked. The weather was perfect, especially as we had changed from winter to spring quite dramatically that week. As I waited for people, many dogs were having their Sunday treat - it was good to see them.

We headed diagonally toward Salisbury at first, leaving our cars at Bus Stop No. 89, skirting a football field and traversing through a belt of trees, envious of the houses on the perimeter which were unfenced on the Paddocks side, giving the occupants a lovely view. The area was designed to cope with run-off water from Para Hills, as evidenced by the healthy shrubs and trees.

Following a return track we moved away from the sports fields toward the Wetlands and into the R.J. Giles Reserve. On our initial visit, there had been more water laying and birds, but even though some of the water had now gone, there was still enough to make the reserve interesting with ponds, low waterfalls and creeks that could be crossed by wooden bridges.

Three youngsters had their own idea of how to spend the time, low music, yabbie nets and fishing rods at the side of a lake. I wonder what they caught! From there we walked parallel to Maxwell Road and meandered through the shrubs and paths, back to the cars, a round trip of one and a half hours. A thoroughly gentle, enjoyable, social walk. Thank you walkers!

Judith Avery

The Trail Walker

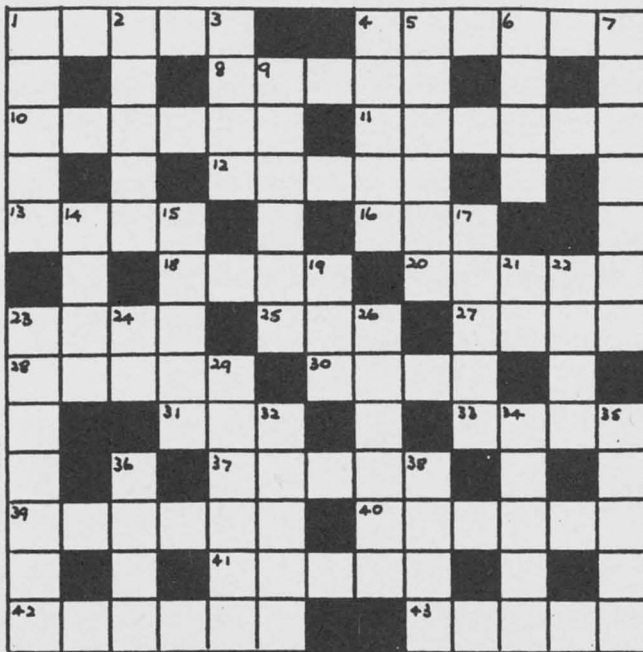
WALKERS AT PORT PIRIE

Russell Freak, of Port Pirie, would be interested to hear from anyone in that area who is interested in forming a group to walk, inspect trails or any other allied Friends' activity.

Russell confides that he reads with envy of the range of activities, meetings, etc which are available in Adelaide but the distance involved in travelling from Port Pirie prevents him from attending them.

If anyone from that area is interested in forming or joining a local walking or working group, will you please contact Russell whose address is 40 Dunn Street, Port Pirie, or telephone (086)32-2049.

Perhaps some of the teachers and students from the numerous schools in the area may wish to support Russell in his attempt to form a local group.



FHT CROSSWORD NO. 4

5. Area
6. Fine particles of dirt etc.
7. Talk about
9. Species of 39 across
14. Swamp bird
15. Grazing animals
17. Necessities
19. Compass point
21. Morning
22. Species of Greenhood
23. Peaceful
24. Aust. Territory (inits.)
26. Stinging plant
29. Long, narrow hilltops
32. Farm birds
34. Main stem of a tree
35. Swamp grasses
36. Walk
38. Small plant

ACROSS

1. Cons. Park
4. Wore away
8. Over
10. Hakea
11. Cares for (horses etc.)
12. Township on R. Finniss
13. Rests
16. Age
18. Outgrowth (cattle etc.)
20. Approaches
23. Conifer
25. Accommodation house
27. Flightless birds
28. Family of daisy-like flowers

30. Unwanted plant
31. Farm animal
33. Seen at night
37. Deepness
39. Thysanotus (..... Lily)
40. Pod
41. Winding glacial ridge
42. Dairy product
43. Sun hardens

DOWN

1. Fenced areas
2. H.T. fords this river
3. Not difficult
4. Avoid

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO. 3



The Trail Walker

VOLUNTEERS AT WORK

Six Friends' volunteers, led by Andrew Moylan, S.A. Recreation Institute Trails Manager for the northern area, travelled to the mid-north on Monday, 16 September, 1991 to mark a section of the Heysen Trail over Mount Bryan towards the completion of Map No. 12.

An eight-seater bus, driven by Allan Colgrave, was hired to transport the volunteers to Burra where we had a brief stop-over to call on our new Burra Branch Chairman, Mike Fretwell at Pollys Kitchen and to liaise with Andrew. From there both vehicles travelled to the western side of Mt. Bryan for lunch before getting started with the job of marking the Trail. The weather was fine and the countryside was green and glowing in the sunshine. A sleepy lizard had even emerged to prepare for warmer spring conditions.

Work commenced as stiles, signs and tools were unloaded from the trailer and the volunteers sprang into action. With the absence of any sign of habitation at a nearby homestead, a wonderful sense of isolation pervaded the area at the base of Mt. Bryan, the summit designated in the distance by a radio tower. The temperature dropped quite suddenly as the sun was completely obscured by clouds racing across the sky into the valley warning of impending rain. Undeterred, we donned jumpers and continued marking, moving closer to the steep climb to the summit. As the light started to fade, some members of the group followed Andrew towards the tower to obtain a better view from a higher level. Wisdom finally prevailed and we returned to the vehicles to make our way to overnight accommodation at "Wirrilla" Shearers' Quarters, near Georgetown, noticing various crossings of the Heysen Trail along the unsealed roads on the way. Prior arrangements had been made to obtain an evening meal at Georgetown Hotel where we were welcomed by the friendly host and hostess.



The Trail Walker

On Tuesday we met Andrew and two members of the Burra Branch (Mike Fretwell and Tony Statton) on the eastern side of Mt. Bryan. The intention was to demonstrate a Trails Workshop to members of our new Branch, but this proved to be impossible due to severe weather conditions - deafening gale force winds and blinding rain. However, two extra pairs of hands were greatly appreciated in carrying markers up the even steeper eastern slope of Mt. Bryan where they were placed on the ground at intervals to mark the route to the summit. It was decided to wait until the following day to install them in the hope of an abatement of the weather. Some of the more hardy souls of the party pressed on to the survey beacon to admire views of closer areas which were not completely obliterated by persistent rain, including a magnificent view of the rain itself drifting across the steep valley below like a silken curtain being drawn from the top of the mountain.

Again we returned to the vehicles and sought shelter to eat our lunch at the Mt. Bryan East School which is now the property of the Department of Recreation and Sport. The Department's intention is to renovate the buildings to provide overnight accommodation for walkers. However, we gladly accepted the existing shelter to light a fire in one of the fireplaces and to eat our lunch. Thoroughly wet, we returned to "Wirrilla" for a hot shower followed by another evening meal at Georgetown Hotel.

Fortunately, the weather had moderated sufficiently, despite occasional showers, on Wednesday to return to the western approach of Mt. Bryan to complete our task and even to obtain some photographs. Lunch was eaten in the deserted railway station at Hallett before returning to Adelaide.

This account would not be complete without mention being made of Allan Colgrave's skilful handling of our eight-seater bus on the wet and slippery unsealed roads between "Wirrilla" and Mount Bryan. Thanks are also extended to all members of the party - Tom Thomasson, John Summers, Colin Dunncliff, Rex Edwards and Allan, and of course, our leader Andrew, for the success and value of this contribution towards completion of the Heysen Trail.

Thelma Anderson



The Trail Walker

FROM SIX TO SIXTY - A "GRAND" WALK

If any "Friend" is looking for a nice peaceful holiday I wouldn't recommend taking four grandchildren aged between six and fourteen years on a four-day hike! Muff and I had often thought the Clare district would provide some picturesque walking areas so when we decided to take my one-and-only (Adam) and Muff's three (Fiona, Alexander and Steven) for a four-day trek, we spread out the map and with the aid of a length of string, planned the route. Several telephone calls were made to arrange our accommodation (one of our hosts remarked "I'm glad you're not MY Grandmother!"). We then waited for the second week of the July school holidays. The first week it rained - and rained! My enthusiasm began to wane. Departure day dawned and we drove through fog from Eden Hills to Elizabeth! Beyond Elizabeth the fog lifted and the windscreen wipers cleared the way through the drizzle. I tried not to think of all the wet clothing and sodden shoes.

Our starting point was Bungaree Station where I had arranged to leave my car. As we drove through Clare the rain stopped, the sky cleared and fortune shone for the next four days. Leaving Bungaree at 10.00 a.m. we followed unsealed roads east of Clare to the caravan park where we collected our cases (full of food and sundry requirements, and dropped off earlier on the way through) and struggled with them to our cabin, situated in a remote corner of the park. We had been required to provide our own linen here so after a noisy debate on who would sleep where, the Grannies made up the beds while Fiona tackled the microwave and the boys turned on the television. Typical? I had drawn the sofa-bed which I was surprised to find quite comfortable and was drifting off to sleep when I heard a band start up. I looked at my watch - 11.00 p.m.! One O'clock, boom, boom - 2 O'clock - that band went on until 7.00 a.m.! Apparently a group of bikies had set up camp on the oval opposite the usually quiet caravan park and brought along their own band. While the inebriated partygoers slept off the effects of their all-night bash, two bleary-eyed Grandmothers re-packed cases and wondered how they were going to reach their next stop, Leasingham Village, 18 km away. Alexander was dispatched to borrow a wheelbarrow and we unceremoniously transported our cases back to the office where the Manager had kindly agreed to hold them until we returned the following night.

Having blissfully slept through the entertainment, the children were revitalised. We set off via the dismantled railway line and more unsealed roads, crossing under the main road at Penwortham. We were admiring the view from a scenic track about two kilometres short of our destination when the children discovered a young kangaroo, recently killed by an unknown assailant. While they studied the remains with genuine fascination and interest, Grannie hurried by, refusing to look. Biology was not one of my subjects! We had two cabins at Leasingham. Muff and her three shared one and Adam and I occupied a tiny box with a trundle bed which, when trundled out, extended from wall to wall and blocked the doorway, but oh, what a beautiful sleep! We dined that night at Crawley's Restaurant.

On Day 3 we about-turned and trekked the scenic route west of Clare, calling first at Watervale Store to buy our lunch. The children watched a farmer load a flock of young lambs onto a trailer and drive away (presumably to get their tails docked) to the plaintive bleating of their protesting mothers. They saw Mitchell's Winery and held their noses as they passed the "lily" ponds further along the road. Now and then we would stop and study the map so the children could see exactly where they were and how far they had to go. Fiona had her own camera but the boys all used mine to take their own pictures - very odd subjects, some of them! Arriving at Clare Caravan Park we again loaded the wheelbarrow for a repeat performance, minus the rock band, thank goodness!



The Trail Walker

Day 4 we set off again along the scenic route which is very quiet on week days, then through Armagh and the more open countryside to Bungaree. Our accommodation here was The Lodge, a three-bedroom cottage with a fire burning in the tiny lounge and a three-course dinner brought to us from the homestead. After dinner we sat around the fire and the children presented a puppet show. We then all joined hands and sang "Auld Lang Syne", a lovely ending to a fun-filled walk. Those little legs walked 70 km in four days without complaint - a new generation of bushwalkers.

Betty Wise

DIAMOND PEAK

SOUTH WEST TASMANIA

I had never heard of Diamond Peak until August last year. It is not one of the higher peaks in Tasmania but I have subsequently found out that it is one of the most remote, challenging and rewarding places to visit in one of the more isolated parts of the South West.

In early discussions with Darren Watkins, who organised the trip, I was to find out that an 18-day walk being organised, involving carrying food for the whole trip, and visiting such places as Vale of Rassellas, Lake Rhona and Reeds Peak, Lake Curly, Mt. Curly, The Font, Innes High Rocky, Denison River and Diamond Peak.

"Shall I tackle such a trip?" I asked myself. I decided "Why not?" It would be a hard trip, my pack would be very heavy, but I would be visiting a very remote but very special place, and I would be a member of a small but experienced group. So I decided to go and carefully planned my equipment and food accordingly.

At the start of the trip, the four of us established that all our packs weighed approximately 31 kgs. Certainly more than is comfortable, but necessary to see all that was planned.

The original plan for the trip included a visit to the Truchanas Huon Pine Reserve on the Denison River, with the walk ending at the Gordon Dam, but circumstances prevented a traverse of the Prince of Wales Range southwards, so we were unable to visit the Huon Pine Reserve. Instead of ending the walk at Gordon Dam, we headed north-east from Diamond Peak and ended the walk at Clark Dam near Tarraleah on the Lyell Highway between Hobart and Queenstown.

As well as Darren Watkins and myself, the party included Tim Kirsten and Roger Hunter - the first three being members of Adelaide Bushwalkers.

Transport to the start of the walk at Timbs Track commencing at the Strathgordon Road, 21 kms beyond Maydena was provided by ABW Club members David Green and his parents from Launceston, as two cars were needed. In fact, David decided to walk in with us for one day, as far as the Gordon River. As the walk started on New Year's Eve, David was able to carry some special cheer for us to see in 1991.

Sunday, 30 December, 1990 - By early afternoon we had all met up in Hobart, enjoying superb weather and joining in the carnival atmosphere created by the end of the Sydney-Hobart and Melbourne-Hobart yacht races.

The Trail Walker

Monday, 31 December, 1990 - David and his parents picked up the four of us from the home of my friends Ian and Vivian Burton, who live at Mount Stuart, a Hobart suburb, and with whom we had spent the night and by 8.30 a.m. we were on our way on our adventure. After some final shopping at New Norfolk we were on Timbs Track in the Vale of Rassellas by 11.00 a.m. The Vale is generally flat, mainly button grass with patches of Eucalypt forest.

After crossing the Florentine River by aerial cableway, we reached the Gordon River at a major bend and set up camp to spend a quiet but enjoyable New Year's Eve, marred only by the Currawong who flew out of my tent with a plastic bag containing 18 days' supply of tea bags! Fortunately, David had surplus tea which he was able to give to me.

Tuesday, 1 January, 1991 - David watched us as we crossed the Gordon River by another aerial cableway and then he headed off back to civilization while we headed for the bush.

Two weeks later, we would again cross the Gordon river near its rise just east of the King William Range.

We proceeded up the Vale of Rasselas, passing the ruins of Ernie Bond's Gordonvale settlement, abandoned in 1950, and on a warm and clear afternoon ascended the eastern slopes of the Denison Range to reach the beautiful Lake Rhona, set in a cirque at the foot of Reeds Peak, by late afternoon.

There is a beach two thirds of the way around the lake, and the vegetation is well on the way to recovery after a bad fire in 1968 and several campsites have been established behind the sand dunes rising from the beach. A wash in the lake was welcome even though the water was very cold.

Because we would start the trip with very heavy packs, the early stages of the trip would not be difficult and two or three stops involving day trips were planned.

Wednesday, 2 January - A day walk took us to Reeds Peak, Bonds Craig and Lake Wugata where we stopped for lunch and then back to Lake Rhona. The views from Reeds Peak were superb - Federation Peak, Mt. Anne, Eldon Bluff, Diamond Peak could all be seen clearly, as well as closer views of the small lakes nestled in the cirques below us. The day was very warm and a quick dip and a wash back at Lake Rhona was welcome.

Thursday, 3 January - Even the night before, it was apparent that this day would be very hot so a lazy day was spent in the shade on the beach with an occasional dip in the lake.

By early evening we were stirred back into activity when a severe thunderstorm came over, bringing some heavy but brief rain and cooling things down considerably. It was a wise move to stay at Lake Rhona that day as the next day turned out to be quite a long haul across the button grass in untracked country and this is always hard going.

Friday, 4 January - Our destination was Lake Curly, set at the base of Mt. Curly. Cooler weather was appreciated as we skirted Bonds Craig and dropped down on what seemed to be endless button grass until the lake was reached in the early evening. We were very tired upon reaching the lake after the longest day of the trip, but we found the lake to be a delightful place with small beaches at the north-east end and a good sheltered campsite in the scrub at the largest of the beaches.

By now the weather was quite cool and three days were to pass before fine and mild weather returned.

Saturday, 5 January - While Robert, Tim and I made a leisurely climb of Mt. Curly, Darren went on further to visit some of the small lakes in the Pokana Cirque. Mt. and Lake Curly are near the north end of Lake Gordon, the very large artificial lake created by the Gordon Dam. From the summit, good views were obtained of the Spires and Innes High Rocky where we would be in a few days. It was on this day that we saw the last of other bushwalkers. It would be ten days before encountering another person when we reached Butlers Gorge on the last day of the walk.



The Trail Walker

Sunday, 6 January - The weather closed in as we climbed the ridge on the north side of Lake Curly and the rest of the short journey through the button grass and scrub along Reverend Creek up to the Font, was in cool wet conditions. The Font is a tiny gem of a lake at the foot of the Flame, part of the Spires, but two days of low cloud and light rain prevented us from appreciating its beauty and grandeur. There is only one tiny campsite at the Font, so we were lucky there was no-one else there.

Monday, 7 January - The poor weather prevented us from moving on over the ranges and the only thing we managed that day was a very short climb to the top of the Flame with visibility almost nil.

Tuesday, 8 January - We suspected the weather was improving, so to avoid losing further time, we decided to move on to Innes High Rocky and the Denison River.

Walking across high button grass plateaux took us to Innes High Rocky and by the time we reached the summit soon after lunch the weather had cleared and we were able to see clearly the full extent of the wide Denison River Valley, the very long Prince of Wales Range, and our principle objective Diamond Peak which is near the north end of the range.

On viewing the valley and the eastern slopes of the range, it became apparent to us that reaching Diamond Peak would be easy as there were steep button grass slopes each side of the valley and thick scrub and rain forest each side of the Denison River and the creeks leading into it. However, it all had to be tackled, so down a ridge from Innes High Rocky we went, soon to find ourselves in impossible scrub and forest. As we were situated, the only way to reach the river was down one of the creeks and by 8.00 p.m., we had had enough so set up a makeshift camp by the creek in the lush forest.

Wednesday, 9 January - At this stage in the trip there was a mutual feeling that time and weariness may prevent us from completing a traverse of the Prince of Wales Range and down to the Gordon Dam, so it was decided that we would most likely make our exit via Bombardiers track to Clark Dam near Tarraleah. As bushwalking trips are meant to be enjoyable, we decided to spend an easy afternoon in delightful rain forest in excellent weather on the east bank of the Denison River after a short trip wading down the creek.

Thursday, 10 January - Our destination this day was the top of the Prince of Wales Range, only five kms away, but 800 metres above. It took us six hours to cover that short distance across button grass covered slopes and through very thick scrub. The climb was very demanding but the elation upon reaching the ridge made up for everything. The view across the valley to Frenchmans Cap was superb, the weather couldn't be better, and Diamond Peak was within our reach. I will always remember sitting on a rock on the top of the Prince of Wales Range that perfect evening - Frenchmans Cap on one side and the Spires, Reeds Peak and Innes High Rocky on the other. What a sunset it was that night!

The climb to the ridge was made slightly harder because we were carrying five litres of water. However, we were able to replenish our water supply by the well known method of siphoning water from yabbie holes on the ridge plateau. Camp that night was in low scrub in a very exposed position so due precautions were taken.

Friday, 11 January - At last - our day for Diamond Peak had come. A strong wind came up in the early hours of the morning so we were on our way along the ridge to the peak very early. It was just as well we did because no sooner had we finished an early lunch on the summit when we were enveloped in low cloud. By mid-afternoon we were back at camp after a ridge top walk to and from the peak through mainly thick scrub, through which there is a rough track most of the way. Diamond Peak itself turned out to be an easy climb and views were magnificent until the cloud came in.

Saturday, 12 January - With the weather fine again we dropped down to the Denison River via another scrub-bound creek and spent an easy afternoon at a forest camp near a pebbly beach by the river.

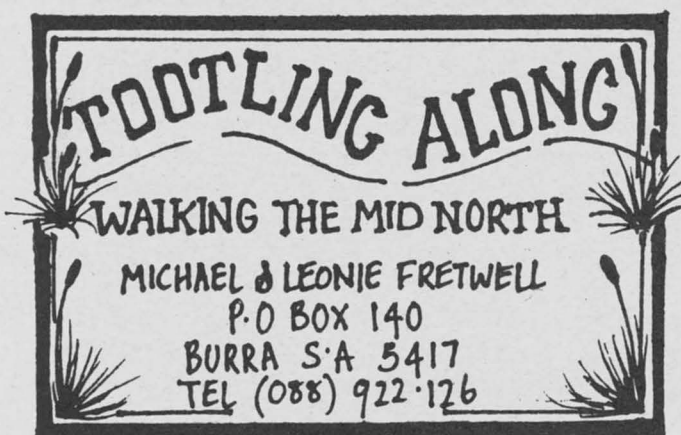
Sunday, 13 to Tuesday, 15 January - There is an old overgrown track from the Denison River to Clark Dam known as Bombardiers Track and three uneventful days were spent following rivers, crossing the ubiquitous button grass and walking through patches of rain forest. There is not a great deal to see in this area, and with some deterioration in the weather as well as a certain degree of tiredness, we were pleased when Clark Dam at Butlers Gorge came into view through fine rain in the late afternoon on the last day.

As Tarraleah was 20 kms away on the Lyell Highway, where we would catch a bus to Hobart the next day, we hoped there would be someone at Butlers Gorge to give us a lift. A Butlers Gorge resident happened to be going there quite soon, so by 10.00 p.m. that night we were washed, fed and camped down near a caravan park in Tarraleah, feeling quite satisfied with our long, adventurous and very satisfying trip in mainly excellent weather.

Not only was the trip well organised and researched by Darren, but there were no mishaps of any consequence. The distance covered was approximately 127 kms - not far in 16 days, but frequently the going was slow and lots of rests were necessary. Fortunately, little time was lost due to bad weather.

By Wednesday afternoon we were back in Hobart, a day earlier than originally planned. In the usual manner the trip concluded with a good evening out at a Hobart restaurant.

[Lack of space prevents listing details of gear and food which was supplied by John, but interested readers may obtain this information by contacting John, a member of the Adelaide Bushwalking Club. Ed.]



Join us for Bushwalks in the more remote areas of the North Mount Lofty Ranges. Enjoy the leisurely pace and the comforts of country style accommodation and catering.

Half-day, full-day or two-day packages available.

Write to us or telephone for further details.