



"THE TRAILWALKER"



DON'T FORGET

THE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2.30pm

SUNDAY 30th AUGUST 1987

ARBURY PARK OUTDOOR SCHOOL

BRIDGEWATER

You might like to come early
and join other FRIENDS at a
picnic in the school grounds
before the meeting starts.

NOON - B.Y.O.

CLOSE THE RAIL - CUT OFF THE TRAIL

The recently announced closure of the Belair to Bridgewater Railway Line was a grave disappointment to users and FRIENDS of the Heysen Trail.

The line currently provides safe, enjoyable access to the most popular section of the Trail - Mt. Lofty to Mylor.

We live in a time when the hazards of our hills roads are provoking increased concern, and where stressed drivers drive badly and bad driving causes stress. The rail line allows for a much more relaxed ride to the Trail than does running the gauntlet of Mt. Barker Road.

It seems contradictory for a Government apparently committed to improving our lifestyle by developing the Trail, to impede our access to it!

EDITOR

NEWSLETTER OF THE

FRIENDS OF THE HEYSEN TRAIL

AND OTHER SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WALKING TRAILS.

NO.5 JUNE 1987

Editorial Committee: C.Warren Bonython, Kerry Hall, Derek Whitelock.

Editor: Barbara Mattsson. Administrative Officer: Thelma Anderson.

HISTORY OF THE HEYSEN TRAIL - PART 1



It is now 18 years since the Heyesen Trail was conceived; the first 9, under the State Planning Authority, were a period of enthusiastic planning changing to frustration; the second 9, under the Department of Recreation & Sport, have been a period of steady building of the trail and further promotion of the idea behind it.

The conception came in 1969. At that time a network of walking trails was being established in the Adelaide Hills by the National Fitness Council. Mindful of the long-distance walking trails then coming into vogue overseas - in America the 3,200-km Appalachian Trail and the 4,000-km Pacific Crest Trail, and in Britain the 400-km Pennine Way - I suggested at a National Trust symposium in July of that year that there was now scope for one in South Australia. I was thinking in the context of a trail in the Mount Lofty Ranges, but I also carried fresh in my mind the memory of my trek, completed the year before, along the full length of the Flinders Ranges. The end result was a combination of the two.

Even if it had been conceded that my suggestion had merit it still might have languished unimplemented for years had it not happened that a Minister of the Crown, the Hon. Murray Hill, MLC, attended that symposium and heard what I said. It is to his eternal credit that he latched on to the idea and took it up with his Government. The sequel, coming out of a Cabinet edict, was the formation in early 1970 of a body called the Long Distance Trail Committee. Its remit was to investigate and develop a walking and horse-riding trail of length and general route now well known to us.

C. Warren Bonython

The Age newspaper in a 1985 article described the Heysen Trail as being equal to walking from London to Madrid or Chicago to New Orleans. It might have been said that Melbourne to Brisbane would have been more relevant, nevertheless those examples serve very well to illustrate the sheer size of the enterprise we have taken on.

The trail is approaching the 1/2 way mark and we have faced many problems and solved them, there are many that need our attention and I believe the challenge is as big as ever.

This year on 1st april, we launched the Cape Jervis to Newland Head section of the Heysen Trail, 80kms of some of the toughest and most spectacular coastal country in S.A.

Jubilee Walks 1 2 3 & 8 were launched along with a guide to outdoor First aid.

THE DEPARTMENT AND THE HEYSEN TRAIL

Negotiations for the section Woolshed Flat to Spring Gulley have been completed and will open in August 87, 2 new Jubilee Walks, South Flinders and the South East are being drafted. This year we embark on a new project a series of circular walks each of approx. 50kms in the Mt. Lofty's, these will link the N.F.C. walking trail and the Jubilee Walks and in the Flinders Range the Heysen Trail and existing paths.

We are also undertaking a major study of all unmade road reserves in S.A. to determine their recreational significance. This study will largely rely on volunteers from the "Friends Walking, riding and other groups who need access to the countryside. We have an enormous back log of work to be done by the Friends and need all the help we can get. On Wednesday the 18 June at a dinner in the Yalumba Cask Hall, the State's Tourism Awards were awarded. The Heysen Trail won the award in the Special Recognition section. A great honour for all of us who have worked on the trail for the last ten years.



Terry Lavender

THE ADELAIDE BUSHWALKERS INC.

On any weekend, from the Northern Flinders down south to the Coorong, from Kangaroo Island to the Grampians or even to the Tasmanian wilderness, you might find the A.B.W.: packs on backs and faces to the elements, and to the point, much of this bushwalking is done on the Heysen Trail.

The A.B.W. was started in 1946 by pioneering bushmen such as H.A. Lindsay, an ex-army bushcraft instructor. It offered remote walking areas, survival skills, nature observation, nature conservation and social activities. Now 40 years down the trail with over 140 full members, the programme grows ever more comprehensive. Primarily, of course A.B.W. remains a bushwalking club.

Walk Standards

A.B.W. walks vary from fairly easy to as challenging as possible. Most walks are held over weekends. This requires camping in small tents and carrying rucksacks of around 15 kg. Some walks require more preparation and effort than tender feet normally experience. For those in that category, A.B.W. holds day walks about twice per month. But even day walks need reasonable fitness and effort.

Other Activities

Energetic activities include base camp walks, endurance orienteering, rock climbing, leadership training, caving, canoeing and cross-country skiing. A.B.W. has an active interest in the environment, so members build and maintain trails and plant trees. This liaison with the Department of Recreation and Sport parallels the dialogue A.B.W. has with walking and conservation groups. A.B.W. monitors land use developments and lobbies to protect threatened walking areas. Other natural observation includes photography, sketching, wild-life watching, wild-flower appreciation, geography and geology. All members share responsibility in accident prevention, survival skills and first aid. Social activities include interesting talks and demonstrations, late-night campfire, competitions, parties and dinners. Everyone joins A.B.W. as active walkers, but may keep social contact as members after their walking days are over.

Gear

Beginners are urged to ask experienced members for advice on gear before attempting to buy. There is a lot of expensive and even unsuitable equipment to tempt the unwary. A.B.W. has its own cheap hiring service for members. So that beginners need buy little to start with until they know exactly what they should buy. Then they can take advantage of the discount scheme which A.B.W. maintains with nearly all Adelaide outdoor stores. On top of that, members stage a mock auction of private gear periodically, which beyond being useful, is always very funny. Beyond an essential minimum, bushwalking can be as cheap or as expensive as you decide.

Highlights of 1986/87

In the last year, the most prominent event was the club's 40th anniversary. Reunion celebrations were held at "Broadview", Wilmington, near Mt. Brown. As part of this State's 150 Jubilee, followed by a commemorative walk to the summit of Mt. Brown to mark an earlier ascent in 1802. In this earlier year, Mathew Flinders sailed to the head of Spencer Gulf and landed a climbing party under the ship's botanist, Robert Brown. Their ascent and overnight stay was marked by A.B.W., with a plaque and a brief ceremony. This plaque continued a policy of service to walking areas which has seen the club place log books on prominent peaks.

In October of last year, there was a bus trip to the Grampians, including the Major Mitchell Plateau. This followed a bus trip to Wilpena Pound and the Moralana Track in June. These bus trips provided a sociable atmosphere and a diversity of walks on arrival.

Publications

A.B.W. publishes a walks programme and a magazine, quarterly. The program is subject to alteration. The magazine is called "Tandanya" and is full of relevant and not always reverent articles on club interests. Both publications are covered by membership fees.

Membership

Applicants first become prospective members on payment of the prospective membership etc. This entitles them to most club benefits excluding voting and committee rights. They may be awarded full membership after completing three weekend walks of an approved standard within six months. Membership applications are examined and approved by committee. Membership rates are reasonable and necessary to maintain membership privileges.

Meetings

Social meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month and general meetings on the third Wednesday. There is an informal dinner before each meeting and coffee, tea and a biscuit, or better, afterwards. Membership enquiries and bushwalking arrangements are best made at meetings. The present venue is:

The Girl Guide Association Hall,
278 South Terrace, Adelaide (upstairs)
at 8.00 p.m.

The postal address is: P.O. Box 178, Unley. 5061.

So What is A.B.W.

A.B.W. is South Australia's premier walking club. It's not really for spectators; but for those fit and enthusiastic it can be a way of life.

CHAIRMAN'S FAREWELL MESSAGE

Members,

It is with pleasure that I have to report to you that an Inaugural Meeting on 3 April last was a success and over 100 interested persons attended. This shows a keen interest in the friends considering that it was a Friday night!

The meeting was opened by our Acting President, Mr. Warren Bonython, who introduced our agenda and visiting speakers. Warren took time in this introduction to enlighten the audience to some of the history of our Heysen Trail.

Our main speaker was the Minister of Recreation and Sport, The Hon. Kym Mayes. Kym expressed his full support for the Friends and generously presented us with a cheque to enable the Friends to appoint a part-time Administrative Officer for one year. Mrs. Thelma Anderson has been appointed to the position and comes to us with much expertise from the Treasury Department.

Members at the meeting were provided with a composite report on the actions and deliberations of the Steering Committee over the last year.

In my comments to the report I attempted to highlight in brief some of the aspects of our deliberations which I felt merited attention and where we needed your active support and labour in the near future.

Terry Lavender gave an interesting and informative talk on his involvement with the Heysen Trail and of the scope and intentions of the Department for more walking trails in the future.

Liz Leibing, who was a Project Officer with the Jubilee Youth Trek, enlightened us on work carried out to make the Trek the success it was. Two videos taken of the link walk from Mt. Babbage to Cape Jervis by the participating schools were shown and enjoyed by the members.

As many of you know I leave in a few days for an extended stay overseas. My duties as Chairman of the Steering Committee technically cease at the forthcoming A.G.M. I have consequently resigned as Chairman to allow someone else to occupy the seat till the aforementioned meeting where you will be able to nominate your own members to look after your interests on the Council.

Unfortunately I will not be available to attend the A.G.M. but I wish you all the very best and a successful meeting. We have the makings of a viable Association which can contribute greatly to the development of an extended network of interesting trails in South Australia. There is no reason why we cannot become known worldwide for our Heysen and network trails as well as our hospitality to visiting walkers. It would be nice to think that we all contributed in this important year ahead and to the success of this thought.

I extol you all to register your membership with the Association as soon as possible and then go out and persuade your friends, even though they may not walk, to help contribute to this concept.

Happy and enjoyable walking.

Jim Crinion
CHAIRMAN

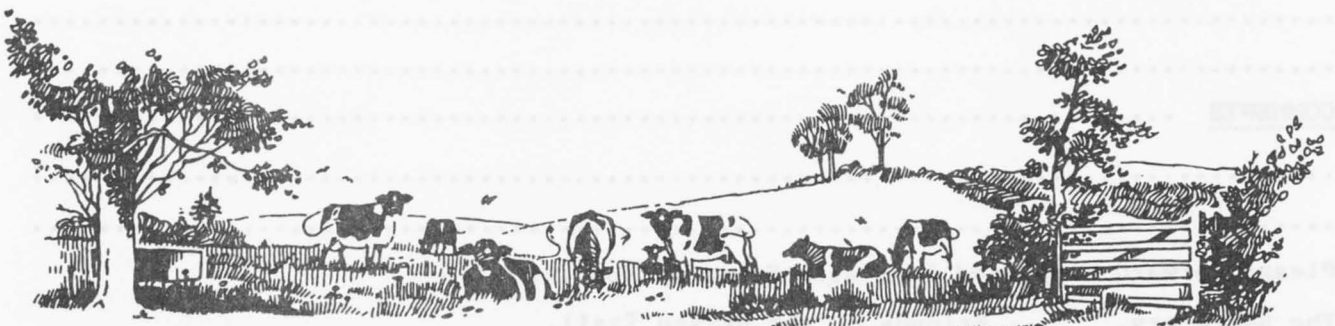
SHUT THE GATE !

A great deal of information is published from time to time reminding walkers of their obligation to members of the farming community who lease road reserves which also form sections of the Heysen Trail.

There are always of course, Two Points of view, but ultimately, if a general attitude of respect for property is maintained, harmony between farmers and walkers can prevail.

Unfortunately, the walker can also become a scapegoat for other sections of the outdoor community who vandalise, not only fences and gates, but walking trail markers too.

We can all enjoy optimum benefits of the environment by sharing responsibility for deliberate violations of the "Country Code" and, where possible, correct them.



FRIENDS OF THE HEYSEN TRAIL AND OTHER WALKING TRAILS INC:

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

FORM A

Name:
Address:
Telephone No: (H).....(B).....
Occupation:
If retired, former occupation:

<u>MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED:</u>	Subscription Enclosed	
Ordinary Membership	\$ 10.00
Family Membership	\$ 15.00
Signed		Date

For Office Use:	Membership No:
Receipt No:	Registered (date)(signed)

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

Inspection & reporting on trails	Building bridges
Reviewing environmental studies	Signing trails
Writing articles for Trail Walker	Planting trees
Research & planning new trails	Leading work parties
Collating material on flora & fauna	Research: Legislation
Art Work	Rights of Way
Fund Raising	Searches
Office Work (at home)	Heritage
Office Roster	Days available

SPECIAL INTERESTS

e.g. Geology, conservation, rock climbing, etc.
.....
.....

COMMENTS

Please forward completed form with Subscription to:

The Secretary, Friends of the Heyesen Trail,
c/- Department of Recreation & Sport Administration Centre,
1 Sturt Street, Adelaide 5000