

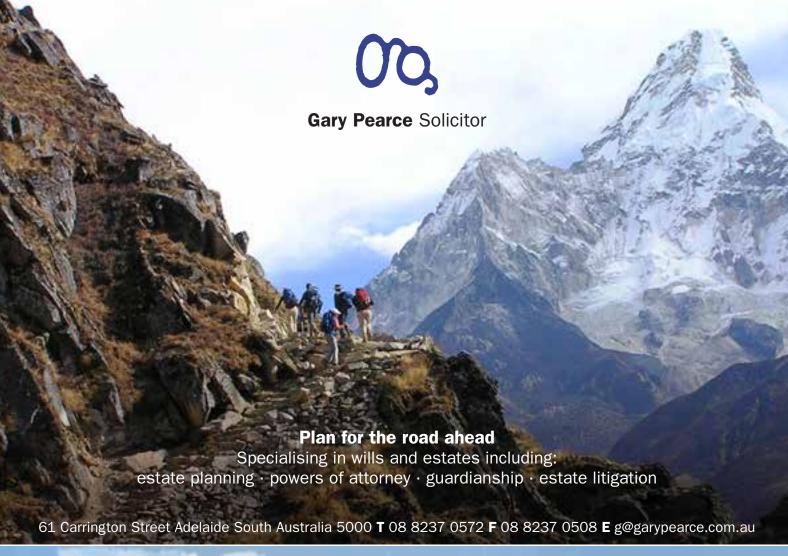
# Walke

**Summer 2014** Issue 130



Corsica - GR10 Horseshoe Range Warren Bonython Memorial Walk wrap-up

Tracks of Time Origin of the Heysen Trail Richard Savage completes a hat trick





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on the Heysen Trail

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Schools & Organisations \$60 per year

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#### **Council Meeting Dates**

Wednesday 20 November 2013 Wednesday 18 December 2013 Wednesday 15 January 2014 Wednesday 19 February 2014

#### Autumn Trailwalker Deadline

#### Friday 7 February 2014

Articles, reports and other submissions are welcome from:

members walking on the Heysen Trail or elsewhere; non-members walking the Heysen Trail; other interested parties.

To submit an article, contact the Editor at trailwalker@heysentrail.asn.au.

Contributors are urged to contact the Editor to discuss their article prior to submission.

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C. Warren Bonython AO\*

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Cover

Crossing Tanunda Creek on the Warren Bonython Memorial Walk Photographer: Robert Alcock

# President

### A Word from the President - Robert Alcock



The walking season has closed - and what a good year it's been. We hosted the largest bushwalking event in South Australia, The Day on The Heysen Trail. It was a large success. As the event was a memorial to Warren Bonython, we were pleased to be able to

include Warren's family in the event. A reception on the Saturday prior was hosted by Warren's daughter and son, Alice and Simon Bonython. Guests included Warren's widow Bunty, Terry Lavender's widow Ann Lavender, 4 representatives from the Friends, and family friends. Simon Bonython was one of the 556 walkers on the Sunday, ensuring the whole 1,200km on the trail was walked, on the one day. As a very large event, it took a lot of time and energy to organise - to those that contributed, in planning, logistics, and in participating, a big thank you. See the reports in the magazine.

Amongst all the planning for that event, our End to End (E2E) programme of 6 groups per month, and the regular Sunday walk programme continued. With so many groups the leadership is important, and keeps growing. A E2E 9 group is planned for next season, and willing leaders have volunteered.

Of course our core reason to exist is the responsibility to keep the Heysen Trail accessible and "walkable". Clearing, fixing, replacing, checking, building and improving the facilities. We rely on a large team we call "maintenance". It comprises groups, including other walk clubs, our members and individuals. They all have the goal of ensuring the 1,200km of trail is trafficable by the growing number of hikers finding and trekking the Heysen Trail. On behalf of all those walkers, a big thank you to all the maintenance personnel, the groups and individuals.

Behind the scene we have many committees, the Council, and a little more visible, the office staff - all working to support the "on ground" volunteers, and trail walkers. A big thanks to you all from me and all the people who are lucky enough to get out to enjoy the wonderful and diverse country along the trail.

I was please to have the opportunity to present End to End certificates to 2 "through walkers" of the Heysen Trail. One with many years of life experience travelled north, and a much travelled, much younger Jake hurried south.

Richard Savage, travelled from Tennessee to walk the trail for the third time - why?, because he revels in the diversity, "walking through South Australia has it all, every day is different".

Jake Combe completed his trek on 9th November, in 35 days. Jake's feet are slowly recovering after 32 days of walking, including a few 50km days. His adventure was a fundraiser for Operation Flinders. Jake has praise for Operation Flinders, and for the Heysen Trail "experience".

Looking to season 2014. At our walk planning meeting the walk programme was filled in record time. Another large walk programme is in place. The E2E 4 group will complete the trail in August.

Many of the maintenance workers will be out before next season to have the trail ready. Others are planning works and improvements, plus promotion of the trail. We are fortunate to have so many volunteers committed to the trail, yet there is room for more interested people to become involved. Talk to me soon.

To all of our walkers, stay fit over summer as we have a very busy walk programme next season.

Merry Christmas!! and on behalf of the management, we wish everyone a prosperous and exciting 2014.

EDITORS NOTE: Our president talks the talk and walks the walk. Robert has this season, walked all of E2E-1, all of E2E4 and some of E2E7 as well as the Warren Bonython Memorial Walk. Over 30 sections in all and effectively half the Heysen Trail's total length!



### 2014 Heysen Trail calendar

Showcasing hikers' photographs of the Heysen Trail, an A4 wall calendar, opening up to A3. Some copies of the calendar are still available from the office for \$18.



# Vews

#### Parachilna Gorge Hikers campsite

A new campsite for hikers has been established by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources. It has its own water tank which will avoid the problem of walkers having to rely on the water tank at the nearby Parachilna Gorge Trailhead (the tank there is readily accessible by vehicle so water supply is sometimes over-used.)

The site is approximately 500 metres south of the Parachilna Gorge Trailhead at grid reference 646 523.

#### Multi-Walk Cards and Golden Boots Cards

We are now selling Multi-Walk Cards and Golden Boots Cards online during walk registrations.

The cards are virtual. As you use trips off of your Multi-Walk Card those trips will be debited. When you have insufficient trips remaining to participate in a walk you are registering for you will be prompted to purchase a new card, and a new card of five trips will be credited to your account. Cards will no longer be issued as paper cards.

If you have any questions, please contact the office.





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Presenting a Heysen Trail End-to-End certificate to Jake Combe. Jake recently completed a solo trek of the trail in just 35 days - the fastest recorded completion of the trail.

At 1,200km, most people take 55-60 days to complete the trail, although just a couple have managed around 40 days.

Congratulations Jake!



#### AN APOLOGY

Apologies to members who have opted out of receiving their Trailwalker by post. You received your email copy of the last issue of the magazine much later than you should have. Unfortunately we were so busy planning for October's Day on the Heysen Trail event that we overlooked your exclusive early viewing email.

#### Nominations for Honorary Membership

Nominations of members (including self-nominations) are invited to be submitted to Julian Monfries, Chairman, Honorary Membership sub-committee of the Council, including name, address, contact numbers, and qualifications.

Recommendations from the sub-committee will then be considered by the Council, before being presented to the full membership at the next AGM.

In order to be considered for the 2014 AGM, nominations should be received by the end of January, 2014.

Guidelines for Honorary Membership (Distinguished Service)

(i) normally at least 10 years of paid membership as an Ordinary, Family or Life Member;

#### AND

(ii) at least 6 years of substantial voluntary contributions to the Association,

including especially one or more of

- Membership of Council
- Chair of the various sub-committees
- Regular Walk Leadership Roles
- Maintenance Section Leader or Volunteer
- Office Volunteer

Guidelines for Honorary Membership (Exceptional)

Substantial and sustained contributions to promotion, development and/or maintenance of the Heysen Trail, or the Association other than as a paid member or volunteer through, for example, public service support, media support etc



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## Office Report

#### David Rattray, Office Coordinator

The regular walk season has ended and Twilight Walks have commenced. Over 2,500 walkers have walked with the Friends this year and there have been 2,700 person days spent walking the Trail on End-to-End walks.

#### Office Closure

The office will close on Friday 13th December and reopen on Tuesday 21st January after an office staff training day on Monday 20th January.

#### Thank you

2013 has seen many changes in the way the Friends register for walks. The office volunteers have had to learn new procedures also and I thank all the Friends and the office volunteers for their patience and understanding. The new procedures have not always gone as smoothly as hoped.

#### Christmas Greetings

The office volunteers and I wish all Friends a joyous and happy Christmas and a safe holiday season and look forward to seeing you on the Trail or in the office next year.

#### **New Members**

The President and the Council would like to extend a warm welcome to the following 39 members, who have joined the Friends since the last edition of the Trailwalker, and urge them to become involved in the voluntary, walking and social aspects of the association.

Louise Aggiss Tony Hersey
Fiona Bruce Marie Leypoldt
Greg Bunnett Belinda Loveless
Bella Busto Chris Loveless
Alex Carroll Kevin McLean
Marianne Chapman Gerrie Mitra
Jesse Cooper Terri Murgatroyd

Peter Cooper Liz Perry

Simon Copp Marlene Plueckhahn
Sue Copp Ken Read
Allyson Day Melanie Reid
Izzie Day David Roshier

Jeannie Day Marjo Roshier-Taks Stuart Day Sameer Shaikh

Rod Ettridge Elizabeth Steele-Collins

Paul Frost Holly Tinning

Mardi Gammon Matthew Francis Paul Toon

David Haywood Tim White Rosemary Haywood Nina Zeidan

Judy Hersey



# Changes on the Heysen Trail



Richard Savage triple End to Ender Walkers on the Heysen Trail are not aware of the changes and improvements that take place over time. Richard Savage has travelled from his Tennessee home in USA to walk the Heysen three times. Here he describes some changes noticed on his recent end to end, completed on 23 September 2013.

I travelled from Tennessee and began my first thru-hike of the Heysen Trail in May of 2004 - walking the first three weeks with companions and the remainder solo. I enjoyed the hike so much that I returned in June of 2006 and walked the trail again. I had in mind at the time that I would write a book about my experiences on the trail sometime. During the years since that second walk I walked several other memorable trails including the Larapinta and Bibbulmun in Australia, the Chilkoot in Alaska and British Columbia, and the Colorado Trail. Finally I got back to the Heysen and hiked it this year from July 28 to September 23. As I had on my first two hikes, I walked south to north. Now I hope to write that book, but the topic of this article is how the trail has changed from 2004 to 2013.

Before getting to the trail itself, I should mention that in 2004 the trail maps that I used were a series of 15 strip maps. These maps were numbered in the order that the sections of the trail had been completed so that, for example, Mount Magnificent to Mount Lofty was number one. Trail descriptions were always written for the walker going north to south. In 2004 a guidebook for the southern section of the trail was printed with the one for the northern section to follow the next year. Now the orientation was reversed with descriptions given south to north.

A big improvement in the trail since 2004 has been the establishment of new campsites equipped with rainwater tanks. By my count, there were 11 campsites that hadn't been there in 2004. In addition, Grays Hut has been opened in the intervening years and Bowmans Hut is now more accessible since it has been equipped with a combination lock. With water being more readily available, and by supplementing my water supply by filtering creek water when needed, I never carried more than three litres on the hike this year. In fact, most of the time I carried no more than two litres - only carrying more if I intended to camp between established campsites. On the previous hikes I carried up to five litres. There have many changes in the route of the trail since my 2004 hike. I will mention just a few of them which to me are among the most significant.

First of all, in 2004 the trail bypassed the towns of Marrabel and Spalding. This time, with the trail going through both towns, I stayed a night in both and enjoyed the food, beer, and the company.

There have been several alterations in the trail between Cape Jervis and Victor Harbor in the last nine years - most of which have been undertaken to improve the route. My favourite might be the trail along Aaron Creek before the Eagle Waterhole shelter which includes a nice waterfall. On my first walk, when the trail reached Hindmarsh Valley

Road, there was a road walk of a couple of kilometres until the trail finally turned to the left at a cleverly hidden trail marker. The current route, making use of lightly travelled Lawless Lane and off of the busier road, is much nicer.

The route through Morialta Conservation Park has been much improved since 2004. On my first hike, soon after Third Falls, the trail turned up a steep hill and soon left the gorge. Now the trail stays on the side of the gorge with great views much longer.

A major change in the trail has been the rerouting of the trail to go northward from The Bluff to join the Go-Cart Track instead of turning eastward into Wirrabara Forest. I did miss seeing the views offered by the old trail right after The Bluff although the new trail is well done. The Apricot Track is another part of the old route which I particularly liked. It is now a spur trail from the main route which I did as a side trip

There have been many changes in the trail before and after Melrose since 2004. The old route used some minor roads coming into Melrose hitting Main North Road at the silos, then following the road into Melrose, and after the summit of Mount Remarkable following the Mount Remarkable Range Track northward to near Spring Creek Mine. The only part of my 2004 route in the area still part of the Heysen is the trail from Melrose to the summit. I very much enjoyed the new route - especially the route along a flowing creek before reaching the Pines Track.

A minor reroute, but a good one in view of safety, is the trail bypassing the waterfall along the creek south of Mount Arden. I was glad the reroute was in place as I already have enough tales to tell about that waterfall from my first two hikes. Also minor is a change of the trail near the North Buckaringa campsite which now goes along a nice ridge where formerly I was walking an ocean of small rocks.

Finally, after the Trezona campground in 2004 the trail followed the Trezona Track northwards toward Aroona. I like the new trail over varied country which includes the spectacular Brachina Viewpoint.

I walked the Heysen Trail twice before I made any of my other long backpacking trips and now I have completed it for the third time. I have been asked several times why I have done the same trail three times. I have friends in Tennessee who have completed the Appalachian Trail as many as four times and they get the analogous question. I think that the answer is pretty much the same - we have formed an attachment to a trail and want to relive the experience. To me the variety of the Heysen is an outstanding feature of the trail. The trail is sometimes in the mountains, sometimes along creeks, goes along the coast, through farming and grazing country, through small towns, and so on. Its route gives a good representation of what South Australia is like. Although there are sections of the trail that I don't find exciting, if one keeps walking soon the scenery will be very different. Also, I have enjoyed meeting many people during my hikes. I doubt that one could walk anywhere where the people are friendlier. On the other hand, walking the trail takes one through some very sparsely settled country. There have been times that I felt sure that there were no other people around for miles. It is hard to match the loneliness of the trail here in Tennessee and that loneliness appealed to me.

# Greening the Heysen Trail

## Words and photos by Neil Nosworthy

After a heavy planting schedule in June, the Greening Committee has mostly been in hibernation over winter. But it is time to get back into action.

#### Hiskeys Hut

On 26 October, Dean Mortimer's End to End -1 group passed Hiskey's and kindly helped us to water the trees there. Over 200 trees are surviving and the best of them is just about chest height. Also the wire netting guards installed last year have generally protected the trees from the animals.

#### Spalding - Bundaleer Channel

While visiting Hiskey's Hut, we had a look at the trees planted along Bundaleer Channel east of Spalding in June. It has been a good growing season as evidenced by the prolific crop of spear grass. However about 90% of the trees are still alive and doing well. Greening Committee is investigating ways to water these and Worlds End plantings over summer.

#### Cape Jervis

Also in October, Carolyn Schultz's Cape Jervis Coastal Community Group held a working bee to gather tree guards from old plantings along the Heysen Trail near Fishery Beach. Carolyn has scheduled a series of working bees and other activities over the coming months including proposed planting days on 21/22 June 2014.



Neil Nosworthy inspecting the trees near Hiskey's hut

#### Projects for 2014 and future years

We have placed an order for 500 trees to be grown by Mark Hall through Trees for Life for planting in 2014 along the road between Worlds End and Burra and around the new Worlds End Camp Site. We expect to involve End to End -1 who will be based in Burra from 28 June to 4 July and End to End 6 who pass there on 19 July to assist us with the planting.

The trees to be planted at the Worlds End Camp Site will require protection from sheep and the Greening Committee has been able to obtain some more used wire netting guards from Tom Bullock's property in the Tothills. We now have sufficient guards to proceed with the planting at Worlds End.

In addition we have obtained over 700 used corflute tree guards and stakes from the Friends of the Onkaparinga Gorge. As a result we already have enough guards and stakes to complete next year's plantings.

We will also help the Cape Jervis project including the planting days on 21/22 June. In addition we are considering a planting day possibly at Mt Crawford in early June – this needs to be organised in conjunction with Forestry SA.

If you are interested in being involved or have any thoughts on future greening projects, please contact me by email at neil@noztours.com.au or by phone on 0447922617 or 82786577.



Dean Mortimer's End to End -1 group watering trees near Hiskey's hut



Thanks to all leaders, members and quests, for being involved. It was so wonderful to meet new people and have them raving about the county we walked through. They were all so complimentary re the organisation of the day. Simon Bonython walked in his father's footsteps, completing the Cleland to Norton Summit walk. A big thanks to the organising committee led by Simon Cameron, and all the members who jumped on-board to make this event a big success. Robert Alcock



A pleasant afternoon reception at Romalo House – the Bonython family home. Hosted by the Bonython family (Warren's widow Bunty, son Simon(visiting from Bangkok) and daughter Alice), and Ann Lavender, Terry Lavender's widow, all wished the Sunday Warren Bonython Memorial Walkers a good walking day. Bunty was intrigued and wanted President Robert's t-shirt which displayed the Heysen Trail. The Friends were represented by President Robert, vice President Richard, treasurer John and Chair on the new Warren Bonython Heysen Trail Foundation, Neville Harr.

Warren Bonython was Australia's greatest bushwalker and his death in April 2012 called for a special bushwalking commemoration. For the Friend's of the Heysen Trail it could be nothing less than Australia's biggest "day walk" - traversing the spine and heartland of South Australia, along 1200 kms of the Heysen Trail.

South Australia's bushwalkers and bushwalking clubs embraced the challenge, stepping out in 62 sections from Cape Jervis to Parachilna gorge with 556 recorded participants.

The Adelaide Bushwalkers took on warm weather and hordes of flies, walking nine northern sections, including Mt Arden, backpacking into campsites on Saturday to cover the longer stretches.

In the mid-north the Gawler bushwalking club stayed overnight at the Mt Bryan Schoolhouse before tackling Newikie Creek and ARPA boldly covered a broad region from Georgetown to Melrose. The latter group took honours for oldest walker on the trail, 89 year old Del Chessen. The youngest walker was 6 years, completing the final section from Aroona to Parachilna with ease.

The Mt Lofty ranges was the field of endeavour for the majority of the day's walkers with a large number of walking groups including Walking for Fitness, Wandergruppe, The Breakaways, WEA Ramblers and two hardy KI walkers.



It was the involvement of these clubs and groups that made the day possible, and it was the enthusiastic participation of so many of South Australia's walkers that made the day so rewarding. The enthusiasm was not just South Australian either. John Hilliard, from Alpine Victoria, flew into to Hawker to lead the Buckaringa section, returning the next day. Not to be outdone, Simon Bonython flew in from Bangkok to walk in his father's footsteps.

The logistics was as daunting as the distances and we relied on so many support drivers, it is not possible to mention them all.

My enduring memory of the day will be walking up Jervis Hill, near Hawker, returning into phone range late in the afternoon, to hear a succession of messages beaming in from the all points south. Within twenty minutes I had 32 "safe and finished" messages, and as I stood where Warren had looked north, I knew we had "done him proud".

My warmest thanks goes to all those who participated in the celebration of Warren's life, but in particular to my hard working committee who took the ball and kept it rolling: Jeremy Carter, Russell O'brien, Lyn Wood, Peter Larson, Julian Monfries, and Jerry Foster. They believed they could do it and they did. Simon Cameron

# e Heysen

Section 34: Burra/Spalding Road to the Chlorinator

There were 12 of us for this Section along the Bundaleer Channel, comprising 2 families of 5, and 2 guys walking on their own. All were new to the Friends, except Yours Truly. It was quite a warm day in the Mid-North, but we all got through safely. The grass was very high, shoulder length in places. If there were any snakes in the grass, we couldn't see them! This section is notorious for bees too, but they didn't cause any problems either.

The crops were quite high too; at times all you could see of 11 year old Barnaby was a white floppy hat! I think the participants were pleased to receive their Certificate of Participation. Hopefully everyone enjoyed the day enough to join the Friends one day!

#### Michael Middleton



Possibly our two SHORTest and youngest walkers on the trail that day were sisters Rose, aged 6, and Jess Carrick, aged 8, who completed the 17km final section from Aroona Hut to Parachilna Trailhead. They walked with their mother(Kylie), father (Rick) and Kylie's father (Ron Sherriff), all pictured on the final stile at the Parachilna trailhead.

#### **Dean Mortimer**





ARPA Bushwalkers, Mary Cameron, Phil Howes and Del Chesson at Raeville at the start of their 11 km walk to Hiskey's Hut. Del, at 89 years of age was certainly the oldest ARPA bushwalker participating on the day and possibly the oldest walker overall. Phil was not content with walking to Hiskey's Hut so decided to walk back to Gladstone. His goal was cut short when David Beaton picked him up a few kms short of Gladstone. He was not forced into the car.

#### Section 22 Hamilton to Peter's Hill

We all had a very pleasant walk on the day. Geoff Couch continued the E2E1 and E2E2 tradition of Tim Tams for morning tea, 2 walkers just missed stepping on a large snake and we all signed the log book on top of Peter's Hill. It was great to take part in the day and a group of us made it a weekend and stayed a couple of nights in Burra. We caught up with the E2E5 group at the Black Sheep Restaurant on Saturday night and with everyone from Lyn Wood's Section at the celebratory BBQ at Farrell Flat on Sunday night. Many thanks to the Committee for making it possible.

#### Rhonda Dempster



# A day on the Heysen



I chose to walk the Aroona to Bunyeroo section of the Heysen Trail to celebrate Warrens Bonython's life. For logistics, we split the walk into two sections and walk it north to south - Aroona to Trezona to Bunyeroo. This section truly showcases the fabulous Flinders Ranges taking in magnificent views of Wilpena Pound, the Razorback, the Heysen Range and the Aroona Valley. Surrounded by the landscape that Hans Heysen beautifully captured in his paintings, and following in the footsteps of Warren Bonython, it is simply my favourite walk of the Trail.

In his book "Walking the Flinders Ranges", Warren traversed the Heysen Range peak bagging all of the "Hayward's" on the 8th May 1968. He sheltered overnight in the Aroona Hut the following night after 2 inches of water was dumped on the Ranges.

Jack and I walked from the Aroona Hut to Trezona. We detoured to hike up to Red Hill lookout and take in the view of the Heysen Range to the west . We then turned our sights north to what Warren called "my dream mountain" - the

iconic Patawarta Hill, which he scaled on 3rd July 1968, coincidentally, the day after Heysen's death. Another 3, hiked the section from Trezona to Bunyeroo, with one member of the group walking the Trail for the first time and the walk leader of this group walking this section without any socks. Luckily, his feet were blister-free at the end! A fabulous Day on the Heysen!

Vicki Cox



Pewsey Vale to Tanunda.

Windy & overcast. Sunny later in the day.

A group of 13 met outside of Tanunda and carpooled to the start. Photos were taken with the shorts "flag", an address to the group and off we hiked. It was rather cool under the ominous clouds. We were a happy group out to enjoy the day and remember Warren Bonython's walking adventures. Soon we were walking through young growing pines, then between mature pines and the bush of Kaiser Stuhl Conservation Park, with stops to check on native orchids and wildflowers. Now in sunshine, there were good views of Kaiser Stuhl (Kings Seat) and vistas of green hills before seeing the Barossa Valley stretched out below us. A stop at Bethany park for a relaxing lunch break before

the road walk to Tanunda. Calls for coffee had us sitting at the main street cafe. At the other end we found the home made ice-cream shop. Two walkers stayed here while the group continued, across the unique pedestrian bridge, and back to the cars. A number of walkers from the walking groups in the area joined in the post-walk get together at the Tanunda Club. A warm, or a cool drink, while sharing the days experiences rounded out a most enjoyable day. Many compliments flowed, especially from those who experienced the Heysen Trail for the first time.

Robert Alcock

## Burra Group weekend camp at Horseshoe

#### by Helen Smith

On Friday 23 August a group of 9 walkers headed to the Horseshoe, led by Helen Smith. Helen lived her first 21 years there. It was a nostalgic trip as Helen had 2 grand daughters included in the 9 walkers.

We all arrived about 4pm and settled into 4 bedrooms in the old Connell family home, now a well appointed B&B called Horseshoe Top-End Homestead. A casual evening followed.

Next morning everyone was up bright and early, had breakfast and was ready to climb the "Moockra Tower" a scenic spot on the range of hills in the shape of a Horseshoe (hence the name) - CFS maps show this clearly. 6 walkers set off on foot and met up with me and the 2 girls near the foot of the Tower. We investigated an old dugout in a creek believed to be





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(08) 8406 0500 www.treesforlife.org.au over 100 years old - possibly a shepherd's hut, known as Cormack's Dugout; and then onto the site of an old homestead where the fellows were interested in the old reapers etc. At the foot of the tower we all set out on foot and eventually reached the top (I was 3 metres short, but was amazed I made it that far being the least fit: I last climbed it in 1982) for a magnificent view taking in Mt. Remarkable as well as all the Horseshoe and east to Carrieton. Mt. Stokes is nearby which has a Survey Trig from the war years on top and also another hill with a Telstra tower which the walkers decided to climb and go down another ridge back to where I left the car. I decided I couldn't do that and opted for a shorter route with Megan staying with me and eventually joined by Rodney who could see we needed guidance. The other group found an emu nest that had remains of eggs in it.

Safely back to the car Ken accepted a ride in the car and the 5 walkers headed back to the house for a late lunch. After a spell we went in 2 cars and then walked near a conservation area on Connell's property seeing a sleepy lizard and a lovely eremophila bush in flower, among other things. Wattles, some orchids and a lovely white daisy bush were also seen.

A shared BBQ & Salad tea was enjoyed as well as a bonfire while tea was cooking. Hot showers, TV (no ABC), scrabble and chatting meant a great evening.

Sunday morning a leisurely breakfast and we headed again in 2 cars to the top of the Horseshoe where we all walked to look out over the Boolcunda plain. From here Mt. Brown and the Dutchman's Stern were visible. Then another walk to look out to the east from the top of the range looking down on Yanyarrie Creek and from here we could see to St. Mary and Wilpena Pound. It's amazing that you can see from Mt. Remarkable at Melrose right around to the Pound from the Horseshoe hills.

Another hill beckoned for 8 of the walkers then back to the cars. An old ruin was inspected on the way back to the house. One very well built wall is still standing with an arched window, but was a house, not a church, owned by the Kranz family who lived there early in last century. Pack up time and a quick lunch, every one agreeing that the Horseshoe was a great place to go walking. Ken & Rodney left for home and the rest of us checked out a "bridge" in the Belleratta Creek near my old home which we played on as kids. There is still water in the Belleratta from a big rain on 31 May. Then it was a look at my poor old home and sheds, no one has lived there since Dad sold it in 1962. We said our goodbyes to Hugh & Kate, Peter & Hilde and Megan & Indy & I headed for home.

# Origins of the Heysen Trail

#### submitted by Thelma Anderson

Several years ago I was privileged to make contact with Stuart B. Hart, a former SA Director of Planning and Chairman of the State Planning Authority. In July, 2002 Stuart wrote an excellent and detailed account of the origins of the Heysen Trail and has granted me the privilege of re-counting events below, as they occurred at the time. Stuart's detailed account is entitled "The Heysen Trail – The First Steps".

"The first steps of a young child are difficult; the first year or two of the Heysen Trail were perhaps the easiest of its formative years. There were many difficult steps on the long and arduous path that lay ahead. Establishing the trail over a period of 24 years epitomized the truth of the adage that any major project is 5% inspiration and 95% perspiration.

In 1969 Warren Bonython, then President of the Nature Conservation Society of South Australia, presented a paper to a seminar on the Adelaide Hills. He said that there was scope for the creation of long walking trails in the Adelaide Hills and suggested that routes should be determined and any existing rights-of -way kept open. The Minister for Local Government, the Hon. C. Murray Hill, was impressed with the idea.

At that time I was the SA Director of Planning and Chairman of the State Planning Authority. Our offices were in the recently demolished Police Headquarters building in Victoria Square. Warren came to see me on 28 October 1969. It was a bright and sunny day and from my 7th floor office window we could see the hills to the east, extending round to the coast at Marino. As we talked the concept evolved of one long trunk route from Cape Jervis to Mount Hopeless in the Northern Flinders. The National Fitness Council of South Australia with Albert Simpson as its Director was already starting a network of routes in the hills near Adelaide suitable for one-day walks.

The State Planning Authority, aware of the Minister's interest, established a Long Distance Trail Committee to report on the concept. The Committee had its first meeting on 14 May, 1970. The Surveyor General George Kennedy was Chairman with Warren Bonython, Albert Simpson and myself as members. Warren Bonython became Chairman from 1971. The terms of reference referred to a walking and riding trail as it was thought that the horse riding fraternity would give support. However, even at that first meeting the minutes record that walking and horse riding "are not completely compatible" and the idea of combining the two was eventually dropped. One item stresses the need for the whole trail to be a first class project.

The Minister's initial press statement (Advertiser 4 December 1969) suggested "Flinders Way" as a suitable name. The word "way" was used in Britain as in "Pennine Way". Warren Bonython and Albert Simpson thought "track" was more Australian.

There was Milford Track in New Zealand but here in South Australia "tracks" were used by vehicular traffic, e.g. Birdsville Track. "Trail" was used in the USA e.g.Appalachian Trail. Commemorating Sir Hans Heysen was thought to be a brilliant idea as his interests spanned both the Adelaide Hills and the Flinders Ranges. The committee at its fourthMeeting on 20 August, 1970 adopted the name "The Heysen Trail".

Enthusiasm was high. Warren Bonython was out and about checking alternative routes. Maps were prepared, design standards compiled, operating procedures discussed and legal complexities investigated. Some of the planning staff voluntarily spent a gusty weekend in the Deep Creek-Newland Head area. The Army assisted during exercises in the Flinders Ranges.

Despite the extremely heavy planning workload and acute staff shortages, matters relating to the trail were included in the duties of a staff member. Those involved over those first years included Andrew Lothian, Alan Withy, Greg Perkin, Bob Teague, Hague Showell, David Brodeur and Basil Thompson. Ian Robertson designed the attractive winding and undulating trail marker. Attention was given initially to the Cape Jervis-Mylor section. A brochure was prepared and discussions began with district councils and the emergency fire services. Some councils were favourable but some, echoing the concerns of landowners, were hostile. The trail would be a fire hazard, stock would be disturbed, gates left open and litter proliferate. One suggestion was made that all walkers should be registered. Problems relating to insurance and landowners' liability for injuries sustained on their properties would arise. Removal of uncertainty regarding insurance problems still needs attention today.

The acquisition of the route and its subsequent management were of great concern.

Negotiations with individual landowners could not be undertaken with certainty until these matters were resolved. It was thought initially that the State Planning Authority had the powers and resources to establish the trail providing the trail was delineated in the appropriate development plans then being prepared. Eventually it became clear that proceeding under the Planning and Development Act was going to be cumbersome and fraught with difficulties. Separate legislation was required. Considerable work was done on a "Recreation Trails Bill" with the expectation that it would be introduced in 1976, but it did not appear then, or subsequently. Undoubtedly the strong land owning interests in the Legislative Council would not have allowed it to go through, particularly if it contained compulsory land acquisition powers.

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There had been public interest in the project from the outset but there was nothing on the ground. Something had to be done, so work began in 1975 on a section of the trail near Adelaide, all on publicly owned land. The Governor Sir Mark Oliphant opened the nine-kilometre section at Cleland Conservation Park on 1 May 1976. Mr. David Heysen was present. This high profile section did help to maintain public interest and reinforce the Government's commitment.

The Committee conducted user surveys and attempted to establish further sections despite lack of staff and continued legal doubts over the use of the use of the State Planning Authority's powers. The Government transferred responsibility for the trail to the Department of Tourism and Sport in 1978., the Department already having taken over the National Fitness Council's network of trails near Adelaide. It was agreed that the Heysen Trail would retain its distinct identity, but the Authority's Long Distance Trail was no longer required.

The Committee met 39 times over eight years, Warren Bonython remaining Chairman for almost seven years. The original concept coming from a person so highly regarded and experienced made the project seem feasible and worthy of support. It was endorsed initially by Liberal and then by Labour governments. The Committee had several changes of membership, Terry Lavender becoming a member in November, 1976. He had been involved in establishing the National Fitness Council's trails in the Adelaide Hills and was transferred to the Department of Tourism

Recreation and Sport in 1978 with the responsibility for developing trails.

Terry Lavender was the right man, in the right place, at the right time. In his book "The Last Post, or how to build the Heysen Trail in 400 years or less" he vividly describes the meeting with Minister Tom Casey where the future of the Heysen Trail hung precariously in the balance. Terry writes with wry humour of the many years of negotiating with landowners, public meetings and public service bureaucracy. The Premier, Mr. Lyn Arnold, officially opened the whole trail on 4 April, 1993 and Terry Lavender was honoured for his work with the award of the Medal of the Order of Australia in January, 1994."

[The foregoing detailed account of the history of the origins of the Heysen Trail was written by Stuart Hart, South Australian Planner of the Day, who has generously granted permission for its publication in the interests of all members of the walking community throughout the world. Thelma Anderson.]

Although now retired for more than thirty years from the S.A. Public Service Stuart continues to contribute interesting and entertaining articles on wide-ranging topics for publication in the magazine produced for members of the S.A. Retired Persons Association. Thank you Stuart!



#### www.heysentrail.asn.au

#### **End-to-End Walks** 2014 Walk Season Programme

THER WAL	1st Weekend	2nd Weekend	3rd Weekend	4th Weekend	5th Weekend
Мау	Sat May 3 - Sun May 4 End-to-End 5 Based in Wirrabara To Wirrabara, Block 9		Sat May 17 - Sun May 18 End-to-End 6 Based in Riverton To Gerkie Gap, Webb Gap	Sun May 25 End-to-End 7 To Mewett Rd	
	Sat May 3 - Sun May 4 End-to-End -1 Based in Spalding To Chlorinator, Marble Hill	Sun May 11 End-to-End 8 To Mt Compass	Sun May 18 End-to-End 9 To Cobbler Hill	Sat May 24 - Sun May 25 End-to-End -1 Based in Clare/Burra To EE George, Hallett	
June	Sat May 31 - Sun Jun 1 End-to-End 5 Based in Melrose To Murraytown, Melrose	End-to-End 4 Sat Jun 7 - Sun Jun 15 Eyre Dept to Mayo Gorge Sat Jun 14 - Sun Jun 15		Sun Jun 22 End-to-End 7 To Mt Crawford	
		Sun Jun 8 End-to-End 8 To Kyeema	End-to-End 6 Based in Burra To Burra Rd, Worlds End Sun Jun 15 End-to-End 9 To Tappanappa		Sat Jun 28 - Fri Jul 4 End-to-End -1 Based in Burra Hallett to Old Burra Rd
July	Sat Jul 5 - Sun Jul 6 End-to-End 5 Based in Melrose To Alligator Gorge, Horrocks Pass		Sat Jul 19 - Sun Jul 20 End-to-End 6 Based in Burra To Burra, Wandallah	Sun Jul 27 End-to-End 7 To Pewsey Vale	
		Sun Jul 13 End-to-End 8 To Dashwood Gully	Sun Jul 20 End-to-End 9 To Balquhidder	Sun Jun 26 - Sun Jul 27 End-to-End -1 Based in Riverton To Webb Gap, Gerkie Gap	
August	Sat Aug 2 - Sun Aug 3 End-to-End 5 Based in Quorn To Broadview,	Sat Aug 9 - Sun Aug 17 End-to-End 4 Mayo Gorge to Parachilna		Sun Aug 24 End-to-End 7 To Tanunda	Sat Aug 30 - Sun Aug 31 End-to-End 6 Based in Burra To Hallett, EE George
	Woolshed Flat	Sun Aug 10 End-to-End 8 To Mylor	Sat Aug 16 - Sun Aug 17 End-to-End 6 Based in Burra To Newikie Ck, Dares Hill Sun Aug 17 End-to-End 9 To Waitpinga	Sat Aug 23 - Sun Aug 24 End-to-End -1 Based in Riverton To Peters Hill, Hamilton	
September	Sat Sep 6 - Sun Sep 7 End-to-End 5 Based in Quorn To Quorn, Dutchmans		Sat Sep 20 - Sun Sep 21 End-to-End 6 Based in Spalding To Spalding Rd, Chlorinator	Sun Sep 28 End-to-End 7 To Kapunda	
		Sun Sep 14 End-to-End 8 To Cleland	Sun Sep 21 End-to-End 9 To Tugwell Rd	Sat Sep 27 - Sun Sep 28 End-to-End -1 Based in Kapunda To Kapunda, Tanunda	
<b>October</b>	Sat Oct 4 - Mon Oct 6 End-to-End 5 Based in Pt Augusta To Eyre Dept, Warren Gorge, Buckaringa		Sat Oct 18 - Sun Oct 19 End-to-End 6 Based in Gladstone To Curnows, Raeville	Sat Oct 25 - Sun Oct 26 End-to-End 7 Based in Kapunda To Hamilton, Peters Hill	
		Sun Oct 12 End-to-End 8 To Montacute	Sun Oct 19 End-to-End 9 To Inman Valley	Sat Oct 25 - Sun Oct 26 End-to-End -1 To Pewsey Vale, Mt Crawford	
November					
Nove		Sun Nov 9 End-to-End 8 To Cudlee Ck	Sun Nov 16 End-to-End 9 To Myponga		

#### Walk Grades

There are five different grades of walk on the Friends of the Heysen Trail walk programme. Four of these operate during the walk season, generally from April to November when it is not Fire Ban Season:

- Trail Starter
- Trail Walker

  Trail Rambler

  End-to-End

When it is not walk season, generally during the summer Fire Ban Season, a fifth walk grade, Summer Twilight Walks, operate.

Details of each walk grade are provided on the website: heysentrail.asn.au/walks

#### Walk Registration

Register for a walk either online or over the phone.

Register online at heysentrail.asn.au, or by phoning the office on 8212 6299.

Walks close between Tuesday and Friday prior to the walk, closing dates and times are listed on each walk event page on the website.

#### Walk Cancellations

End-to-End walks are not subject to a weather forecast temperature limit, however the walk leader may decide to cancel or amend the event if weather is deemed to present a high risk.

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

#### **Further Information**

Details about each walk, the hot weather policy, what to wear and what to bring, walk grades or to print off a colour copy of the programme, visit heysentrail.asn.au

#### www.heysentrail.asn.au

#### TrailStarter & TrailWalker Walks 2014 Walk Season Programme

1st Weekend 2nd Weekend 3rd Weekend 4th Weekend 5th Weekend Sun Ap 20 Sun Apr 27 Carrick Hill Sturt Gorge Richard Milosh **Sun Apr 13** TrailWalker Sun Apr 27 TrailWalker **Bootcamp Run** Montacute Richard Milosh Alan Davis Sun May 11 Sun May 18 Sun May 25 TrailStarter Chambers Gully TrailStarter Ashbourne Mt George Michael Middleton Dean Mortimer Graham Bald May Sun May 11 Sun May 4 Sun May 18 Sun May 25 TrailWalker TrailWalker Mt Crawford TrailWalker Black Hill Deep Creek Para Wirra Paul Saxby Conservation Park Carol Homewood Richard Milosh Peter Clark Sun Jun 22 Sun Jun 29 Sun Jun 1 Sun Jun 8 (Long Weekend) TrailStarter Crafers Onkeeta Trail Gregory Walker **Brownhill Creek Hallett Cove David Roberts** Graham Bald Graham Bald Sat 7 - Mon Jun 9 (Long Weekend) TrailWalker / Extended Walk Hawker Sun Jun 1 Sun Jun 15 Sun Jun 22 Sun Jun 29 TrailWalker TrailWalker TrailWalker TrailWalke Montacute Pioneer Womens Trail Horsnell Gully Deep Creek Mary Cartland Peter Solomon Richard Milosh Julian Monfries Simon Cameron Sun Jul 6 Sun Jul 13 Sun Jul 20 Sun Jul 27 TrailStarter Sturt Gorge TrailStarter
Ambers Gully TrailStarter Sleeps Hill TrailStarter Morialta July Sun Jul 6 Sun Jul 20 Sat Jul 14 Sun Jul 27 TrailWalker TrailWalker TrailWalke TrailWalker Gandys Gully Neil Rivett Sandergrove to Milang Chris Allen Thomas Hill Mt Misery Richard Milosh Steve Clift Sun Aug 3 Sun Aug 10 Sun Aug 17 Sun Aug 24 Sun Aug 31 TrailStarter TrailSta Ansteys Hill Shiraz Trail, Willunga Coxs Scrub Mylor Russell O'Brien Graham Bald Kevin Lilliard Peter Solomon Chris Porter Sun Aug 17 Sun Aug 3 Sun Aug 24 Sun Aug 31 TrailWalke TrailWalker Cleland TrailWalker
Para Wirra
John Potter TrailWalke Warren-Hale **Onkaparinga** Dana Florea **Conservation Park** Mary Cartland Richard Milosh Sun Sep 7 Sun Sep 21 Sun Sep 28 September **Newland Head Mt Lofty** Graham Bald Mt George Robyn Quinn Carol Homewood Sun Sep 21 TrailWalker TBA Sun Sep 14 TrailWalker

Mylor to Mt Lofty Ŕichard MilosI Ben Wait Sun Oct 5 Sun Oct 12 Sun Oct 26 TrailStarter Wirra Peaks TrailStarter Scott Creek TrailStarter
Sturt Gorge for Wimps Octobel Gregory Walker Richard Milosh Kevin Liddiard Sun Oct 12 TrailWalker Sun Oct 19 **Sun Oct 26** TrailWalker

#### **Walk Grades**

There are five different grades of walk on the Friends of the Heysen Trail walk programme. Four of these operate during the walk season, generally from April to November when it is not Fire Ban Season:

- Trail Starter

• Trail Walker Trail Rambler • End-to-End

When it is not walk season, generally during the summer Fire Ban Season, a fifth walk grade, Summer Twilight Walks, operate Details of each walk grade are provided on the website: heysentrail.asn.au/walks

Aldgate

Mary Cartland

#### Walk Registration

Register for a walk either online or over the phone.

Register online at heysentrail.asn.au, or by phoning the office on 8212 6299.

Chapel Hill

Richard Milosh

Walks close between Tuesday and Friday prior to the walk, closing dates and times are listed on each walk event page on the website.

#### Walk Cancellations

TrailStarter and TrailWalker walks will be cancelled in the forecast temperature for Adelaide is equal or higher than 32°C.

Mt Hayfield

Peter Clark

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

#### Further Information

Details about each walk, the hot weather policy, what to wear and what to bring, walk grades or to print off a colour copy of the programme, visit hevsentrail.asn.au



#### www.heysentrail.asn.au

THER WA	1st Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week	5th Week
November	Wed Nov 6 Twilight Walk Chambers Gully Arrienne Wynen	Wed Nov 13 Twilight Walk Marino Coastal Walk Dana Florea	Wed Nov 20 Twilight Walk Adelaide Uncovered Vicki Cox	Wed Nov 27 Twilight Walk Semaphore Beach Julian Monfries	
December	Wed Dec 4 Twilight Walk TBA Peter Larsson	Wed Dec 11 Twilight Walk Wild Dog Glen Peter Clark	Wed Dec 18 Twilight Walk Widflower Mary Cartland	<b>Wed Dec 25</b> No Walk	
January	<b>Wed Jan 1</b> No Walk	Wed Jan 8 Twilight Walk Glen Osmond Mary Cartland	Wed Jan 15 Twilight Walk Brighton to Kingswood Carol Homewood	Wed Jan 22 Twilight Walk TBA Sandy Wood	<b>Wed Jan 29</b> Twilight Walk <b>TBA</b> TBA
February	Wed Feb 5 Twilight Walk Mt George Chris Porter	Wed Feb 12 Twilight Walk Linear Park Steve Clift	Wed Feb 19 Twilight Walk Ambers Gully Steve Clift	Wed Feb 26 Twilight Walk Beaumont Spur Dana Florea	
March	Wed Mar 5 Twilight Walk Brownhill Creek	Wed Mar 12 Twilight Walk North East			

#### Walk Grades

There are five different grades of walk on the Friends of the Heysen Trail walk programme. Four of these operate during the walk season, generally from April to November when it is not Fire Ban Season:

Rhonda Dempster

- Trail Starter
- Trail Walker
- Trail Rambler
- End-to-End

When it is not walk season, generally during the summer Fire Ban Season, a fifth walk grade, Summer Twilight Walks, operate.

Robert Alcock

**Twilight Walks** 

2013/14 Programme

Details of each walk grade are provided on the website:

heysentrail.asn.au/walks

#### Walk Registration

Register for a walk either online or over the phone.

Register online at heysentrail.asn.au, or by phoning the office on 8212 6299.

Walks close between Tuesday and Friday prior to the walk, closing dates and times are listed on each walk event page on the website.

#### Walk Cancellations

There is no Hot Weather Policy for Twilight Walk, however the walk leader may cancel the event if they think the walk isn't suitable for the weather forecast.

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

#### **Further Information**

Details about each walk, the hot weather policy, what to wear and what to bring, walk grades or to print off a colour copy of the programme, visit heysentrail.asn.au

### Celebrate Aussie Day with friends

Friends of the Heysen Trail - Australia Day BBQ

Grab your chops and snags, and get to the beach (or bring your salad or sangers - if hot meat is not for you)

- ✓ 26th January 2014 at Kingston Park foreshore
- ✓ Coastal walk at 3pm followed by BBQ at 5pm
- BBQ and table provided.
- ✓ BYO meat, drinks, chairs and a salad or dessert to share
- ✓ Hot day? Then swim first
- ✓ No cost to attend ~ don't wish to walk? ~ turn up at 5pm for BBQ
- No booking required for the walk or BBQ, just turn up to enjoy



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# **CORSICA GR20**

### by Di Walker

After Mera Peak last year everyone was asking, "Are you going to climb another mountain?" No, but I'm going to walk the GR 20 which is Europe's most challenging long distance walk. It was established in 1972 and is 200km through granite mountains, alpine terrain, gorges, pine and beech forests, with sea views from the mountain tops -19,000m of up and down in 15 days.

After some planning John (my geologist husband an igneous petrologist - so would love the granites) and overfit friends, Chris and Linda, decided to do the GR20 in September before the refugios closed and snow started, and hopefully after the warm weather, and the crowds.

Corsica is not the easiest place to get to. You arrive via Paris(plane) or Italy(ferry).

John and I had a few days in Ajjacio the birthplace of Napoleon before catching the train to Calvi to meet Chris and Linda where we enjoyed nice food and wine by the sea.

We had the first of many early mornings - up for the taxi transfer to Callenza, the start of the GR20 northern section. We began with a nice gentle walk and a gentle climb of 500m however we could hear thunder and then the rain started. Fortunately it was only a short 3-4 hr walk to Bonifatu Gite for our first night. A group of English trekkers arrived soon after us. Our paths crossed during the week (they were less experienced and not as fit as us so had very, very long days). We had an early night however they spent hours drinking beer.

The next day the real walking began. The pattern would be the same for the rest of the northern section. The usual 1000-1500m ascent then of course down again. This day was an incredibly scenic day and features on all the post cards - walking through forest, crossing the Spasimata suspension bridge, walking up huge granite slabs beside big waterfalls, then reaching the high rocky passes to reach Bocca Stagnu where we could see Corisca's highest mountains. We even saw 2 mouflon while having our morning coffee at a small refuge. It was then a steep descent down to the ski village of

The next day was to include the famous Cirque de la Solitude which includes chains for both ascent and descent as well as a ladder. This section can be avoided by choosing a low level route but who wants to be

When we left it was much colder and windy. As we left the forest the wind became incredibly strong (think 10x Burra wind) and we had to put on thermals under shorts - we were mistaken for New Zealanders (this is a compliment in the bush). It was a hard slog up 1000m into the cold wind. Finally we reached the cirque. We had met some people retreating as they had vertigo. It really wasn't scarey - if it was New Zealand there would have been no chains. The biggest danger is at the start



One of the many scenic views - just like the postcards

on the scree should loose rocks disloidge on walkers descending. We were lucky as everyone was patient, polite and waited for walkers going both up and down. As a bonus we were now out of the wind. The Cirque would however be dangerous if raining or in snow. Later we were told that someone was killed recently by a falling rock. The scrambling up the other side was fun on firm granite and then a short ladder with top rungs missing and then we arrived at the other side. Fantastic views looking back and hard to see where we had descended however we were back into strong winds again.

We then had a quick descent down to a small Bergerie where we spent a very comfortable night in tents after the best pasta ragu I have ever had.

All the refuges, gites and bergeries had great 3 course meals for 15-19 euro and of course there is wine, beer, pastis etc. Corsica is part of France although at times seems more like Italy.

The next day there was quite a change in scenery to reach Castello di Verghu (another ski village). Walking in forest was soft underfoot - a change after being constantly on rocks. Some of the English used this as an escape after a horrific 12 hour day doing the Cirque (most people take less than 6 hours).

Once again we started in forest but then the usual 1000m climb to a windy ridge where even the pine trees were horizontal. However we were lucky. The clouds

lifted and there was sunshine as we snacked by a lake where there were lots of wild horses. The rest of this day was a very pleasant descent beside a river with great lunch spots, swimming pools and waterfalls. John and Chris went swimming It was cold.and on their arrival at the Sega Lodge the guardian gave them a Corsican beer before even saying bonjour (he has a reputation for great food and hospitality-which was certainly justified). We met some New Zealanders here and exchanged tales of the GR20 and walks in NZ. They



Climbing on granite was hard on

confirmed our thoughts that in NZ there would have been no chains in the Cirque.

After a great meal we set off for Corte which was to be a rest day for John and me before we continued on and then Chris and Linda would head to Italy and the Dolomites.

Corte was a great little town - great food and John bought new boots on sale in one of the outdoor shops. It was a full moon as we enjoyed a balmy evening meal of great Corsican food and then saw the rally cars arrive for the Corsican car rally.

John and I went by train to Vizzavona to start GR20 southern section which is meant to be the easier section but still involves lots of up and down. The last day is the longest for whole trip - 8 hours. We stayed the night in a gite which was attached to a hotel. The Roumainian guardian cooked a fantastic meal and we chatted to a delightful French couple who were doing day walks. Over the whole trip we saw no Australians. There were lots of French mainly our age group or early 20's and they were all incredibly friendly as were all the guardians.

The next day we started walking in the forest but then it was the usual 1000m climb - although this track was very good and less rocky. Then it was down to Campanelle, another ski village with a great refugio. After a long lunch sitting in sun we walked up to Lack Bastian to help decide whether we would do the high or low route the next day. After further discussion with walkers who had come over the high route from the

# Mt Brown Accommodation Catninga





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**Catninga B&B:** Is 26km east of Port Augusta at the base of Mt Brown. Perfectly located between Horrocks Pass and Woolshed Flat. Just 2km from the Heysen Trail. Stay in a charming old rail carriage with original arched wooden ceiling:

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Continental breakfast supplied. Snacks and meals can be provided upon request.

**Catninga Shed:** Stay on the trail & enjoy the magic of Mt Brown. Shelter from the elements in a rustic mountain shed. Comprising 4 camp beds; wood stove; gas BBQ; camp shower and flush toilet

Phone 0458 436 363 or 08 8643 6327 Email catninga@activ8.net.au other direction we decided it would be fun to go this way. We met up with a group of French men and we all negotiated the tops together. There was a great view from the high level traverse - you could see the sea on both sides - amazing! Then a decent down to the Pozzi small lakes which have native trout, where we had a pleasant lunch until reaching Vol De Verde refuge for the night.

The next day we would ascend to the Prati refuge which is at the top of the pass and was where the allies dropped supplies for the resistance in WW2. We must have been fit as the previous day other walkers had discussed the ascent to the Prati. It was only 750m and felt like a doddle! After a nice rocky traverse it was a 1300m descent to Cozzano in the heat to our refuge called La Bella Vista. It was well named and had the most fantastic vegetable garden from which our dinner was made. We often had Corsican soup (thick vegetable) and this was the best. However John had developed a fever and had to be forced to eat. The owner of the refuge was an experienced mountaineer and described an alternative route the next day for us as he thought John wouldn't make the standard route. So next day we turned a gauche a la barrage and voila we had a lovely easy walk to Basseta in 3 hours along an easy track with few rocks. John rested and we paid 5 euros to upgrade to a chalet.

Fortunately lots of food and some medications and John was better as the last day was 24 km - up 1300m and down 1400m to Bavella, on a hot day. You don't expect the last day to be the longest. Although this day was long, like all the previous days the scenery was amazing and we both felt tired as we walked past LES AIGUILLES DE BAVELLA to the refuge.

We had done GR20!

It is a fantastic walk but you need to be fit. And take some snacks as breakfast is not substantial although other meals are good and of course you can buy good coffee and wine along the way.

I think some of you may enjoy it - either the whole GR 20 or day trips as several French couples with "bad knees" were doing. We did it self guided although it limits where you can stop. I wouldn't do it in a big group as you need people of he same fitness level to enjoy the challenge although the French we met were all fit.



This was a welcome refugio after a tough days walk



# 

## End to End 4 Nick Langsford

The final E2E4 weekend walk saw us at Eyre Depot on Saturday, thankfully walking in shade most of the way and finishing before the hottest part of the day. The bus arrived on time as it always has. The walk down the gorge from the Dutchmans Stern is one of the best parts of the Trail, in my opinion.

On Sunday we did the 'fill-in' from Quorn to Dutchmans Car Park. It hailed on several occasions! Nevertheless we all enjoyed the great views from the summit platform.

Now we are all set for the final 2 weeks (July and August) in 2014 - the Rufusbus E2E4 Adventure Weeks. Well done to all the walkers, there were some tough days this year. Thanks to all the walkers and the other leaders, and to Hanleys for making it a memorable and thankfully accident-free year for me.

See you all in 2014, on the Rufusbus. Cheers

#### End to End 5 Russell O'Brien

South Australia's mid north is good walking country. The mix of scenery, history, townships, forests, gorges, creeks and rivers provide continuous variety for walkers who take the time to see this rich tapestry of some of our state's farming country. And, this year it was beautiful!

In September, the walk from Wandallah to Newikie Creek to Dare's Hill Summit Road was a long time coming due to access road repairs and closures. However, these walks, being near the top of the Heysen Trail list of favourites, were much anticipated. Newikie Creek is delightful and picturesque and had our group entranced during a brief an encounter lasting just long enough for a morning break. Following lunch at Caroona Campground our attention turned to the wonder of Tourilie Gorge. (How can you not fall in love with that name?) Resplendent with water holes, cliff faces and creeks, the gorge offers an opportunity to see the area north-east of Burra and discover that not only is there something out there worth seeing but that it really is one of the state's special places. On the occasion of our passing through, the day was unexpectedly warm but our support vehicle driver was determined to see us 'supported' and a good thing she did. Despite Jerry's concern, Michelle literally crossed cavernous creeks to deliver extra water to thirsty walkers.

October's walks included the heralded Warren Bonython Memorial Walk. Following a great deal of planning, E2E

5 was split into two groups each of which completed a section of trail from Curnow's Hut (that is, to Raeville and to the Chlorinator) on both Saturday and Sunday so that it would cover two sections of the Heysen Trail for this special event. Our depleted 'regular' leader count enabled some people from within the group to step up and take charge. My sincere thanks go to Judy McAdam, Carol Homewood, Dana Florea, Peter Clark and David Szilassy for their willing participation and great leading. On the public holiday Monday the group once again became whole and finished walking at Lock's Ruin.

The final walks of the season were held in early November with Saturday temperatures in the midthirties and Sunday's in the mid-twenties. Fortunately, Saturday's walk to Bowman Park from Lock's Ruin is one of the easier sections, provides opportunities for extra water to be pre-located on the roadside and passes through Crystal Brook. The latter became a pleasant and unhurried lunch break with everyone taking advantage of unlimited shade and refreshments and, for some, the hospitality of the Crystal Brook Hotel. The final couple of kilometres to Bowman Park were a little warm but numerous shade stops and an early return to our base at the Gladstone Gaol provided ample time to shower and to enjoy hydrating refreshments and good company before a relaxing barbeque dinner, and for the curious, a chance to experience the Ghost Tour. Sunday's walk was a stroll along the lovely Crystal Brook and a gentle climb to the finish near Mount Zion.

End to End groups could not function without the involvement of good people and quality teamwork. My thanks to the leaders, Vicki Cox, Chris Porter, Peter Wynen and Jerry Foster; the vehicle support drivers, Michelle Foster and Arrienne Wynen; the dinner organiser, Chris O'Brien; the bus driver, Leon Schwarz of Mid North Coaches and, of course, each and every member of End to End 5 for your endless co-operation and extremely good company.



Sunday 3 November 2013, E2E 5 with bus driver Leon Schwarz (far left) before leaving Bowman Park

# Reports

### End to End 6 Lyn Wood

The End to End 6 group completed 7 days walking along the Heysen Trail and its 3rd year as a group. We continued our journey from Cudlee Creek and finished at Peters Hill.

The 2013 walks brought fog, cold, rain, gale force winds, sunshine and heat. The group completed the year with its first weekend of walking. Our base for the weekend was Kapunda and the theme was Halloween. After Saturday's walk we gathered at the Kapunda Tourist Park for a BBQ. The Halloween costumes were interesting and everyone joined into the 'spirit' of the theme. The weekend brought a burst of warm weather. We walked through paddocks of tall crops and grass.

Looking forward to the 2014 weekends of walking.

### End to End 8 Chris Allen

The last walk for the season on November 10th from Inman Valley to James Track epitomized the season in general. We had 72 walkers of whom 66 continued on to the Myponga Micro Brewery for an end of season celebration, which kept the barmen very busy. (Surprise! Surprise!).

Everyone has settled extremely well into the groove with good general fitness (for the first season), participating in the themes for each walk, enjoying the drinks and nibbles after the walk and putting their photos on the Facebook page for all to see.

Well done to all of you, I know that we are going to enjoy a wonderful 6 years of walking the Heysen Trail together.

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#### End to End -1 Dean Mortimer



"Morris Rides with the Kelly Gang!" - The Continuing Adventures of Morris Minus (Part 3).

Hello loyal readers,

August's walks saw us tackle the "roller coaster", i.e. walking the ridgeline above Wirrabara Forest including The Bluff. We were treated to great views and a generous smattering of orchids, mainly green hoods, a few spiders and

the odd donkey. Mary demonstrated the correct way to climb a stile, well every stile actually, and Michael showed that he could walk in anyone's shoes, provided he had enough pairs of socks. It was on this walk that a sinister and persistent complaint developed – people were misplacing things: Eve's hat, Michael's boots .... was there a prankster or something more devilish in our midst?

As the Spring Equinox approached we were greeted with sunny blue skies and paddocks with many hues of green. On the way to Crystal Brook, walkers met the dorpers, were interviewed by an ABC reporter from Port Pirie (Eloise Fuss) and saw a lace monitor climb the trunk of a large river red gum. I rode the winner of the Heysen 100m at the smelters' picnic ground having forgone the bubbly Jane for the more fancied runner Cathy Kelly. While walking the roads to Lock's Ruin, the complaint spread wider; to Eve's salad bowl, Robert's Crows poster and Dean's Greens corflute. Suspicions were heightened.

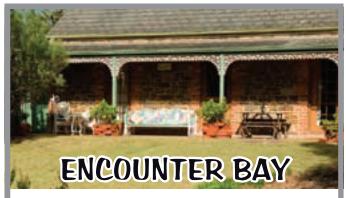
Apparently, as it was alleged, during my monthlong stay with the Kelly's I had ran amok in their neighbourhood, from pilfering to hooning and trashing



Tonka trucks. So I was fitted with prison garb and sent to Gladstone Gaol along with the rest of the walkers. I was pressed into service with the 'road gang' under the watchful eye of WPC Margaret who marched me along miles of roads with a stint of hard labour watering trees at Hiskey's Hut. There was evidence all round of a good season with bountiful crops and tall grass but, alas, not for Neil's trees as they struggle to compete. On Saturday night Judge Dean passed sentence on every inmate and I copped it worst - I was to be hung in the morning!!! Come daybreak, the walkers received a reprieve and not just from the forecast hot weather. I narrowly escaped death to once again join the clutches of the Kelly Gang. The suspicions then became more serious as Michael lost his GPS despite intensive searching. It was up and away onto the ridges and over the hills, losing the pursuers in the tall grass before reaching Bundaleer Forest. A reroute forced us into 'road gang' mode again and as I was making my getaway with the Kelly's we were bailed up only to be told that Michael had mysteriously found his GPS. So I was free to roam with the Kelly Gang for the next 6 months.

A happy and prosperous festive season to everyone, Morris Minus

(Thanks to Mary for the pics.)



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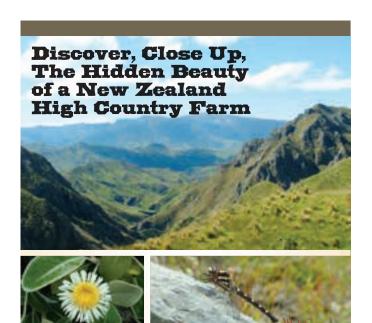
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# Tracks of Time - The Flinders

#### by Oliver Yardley



Frome River southside of Angepena Statio

The nights were cold—almost freezing—and the days were hot—like an open oven. The landscape was like one would imagine existed when time began. It was devoid of people and settlements. But my first adventure to the Flinders Ranges was everything that I had been told. It was a special place.

Since that first visit I have returned many times. This remote region of northern South Australia is still untouched despite a century and a half of European settlement. The area still looks like it would have at the dawn of creation

The first I heard of this part of the outback were the stories about my wife's great-grandfather. He drove cattle down a track from Birdsville south through the Sturt Stony Desert to a town just north of the Flinders Ranges. Family stories say that "Toby" drove hundreds of head of cattle down the track destined for the rail siding at Herrgott Springs (which is now called "Marree"). Here they were loaded on a train for markets even further south in Adelaide. He did this amazing feat with an Aboriginal guide and a dog. It took weeks with no one around for hundreds of kilometres to call on for help if things went bad. And they often did in this part of the world. The landscape is dotted with graves of the brave souls who ventured that way over the last century or so.



Mt Serle and surrounding hills

Despite the isolation, this is a feature that attracts many people. Picture a time long-ago where you would like to be transported, not by a time machine, but by the family's sedan. This is the Flinders Ranges. A place that is remote beyond description, yet beautiful as any place on earth. Not beauty as in the sandy white island adorned with tropical fruit trees and lazy lagoons. The Flinders Ranges are beautiful in the sheer size and scale of the distances that separate you from civilisation. It has horizons that go on for what seems to be no end.

However, in these expansive peaks are hidden visual treasures—like gorges and creeks that flow to and from—well, who knows where. They appear out of nowhere after a deluge of rain and flow in what seems like a frenzy to some imaginary destination; like a child rushing to an amusement ride in a park. But these streams of water disappear almost as soon as their single-minded journey starts, leaving you with the impression that you have just experienced a mirage.

The Flinders Ranges is a place where Aboriginal people left their footprints fifty-thousand years ago. Like a scientific "cold case" of some television drama, you are free to explore the austere beauty that is the hallmark of this region. For instance, there are exhibits of Aboriginal rock art that would rival modern art gallery displays. These are historical



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# s Ranges

images of people and wildlife that lived in the Flinders before European's even knew that there was a land downunder. They depict a life that is not far from what exists there today—slow, reflective, and in-step with the surroundings. These ancient works of art are thought to represent The Dreaming and spiritual ceremonies and can be seen on cave walls at places such as Yourambulla, just south of Hawker.

Although I camp on a sheep station when I travel to the Flinders now, I have stayed at some of the more comfortable places—like the Prairie Hotel, Rawnsley Park Station, and Wilpena Pound Resort. The Prairie Hotel at Parachilna is a particular favourite of mine as it has gourmet dining (including the famous FMG, or "feral mixed grill") and its own boutique beer. It has been the venue for numerous motion picture scenes.

Even a weekend walking trip to the Flinders Ranges will leave you with the sense that you have been granted a view through a window to the past. You are likely to walk away from the experience with a profound feeling that you have been given the opportunity to see what the world looked like when the Creator made it.

I for one can see why Aboriginal culture places such an importance on, and respect for, the land. If you venture to this most extraordinary place, I am sure you too will appreciate how wondrous and beautiful this area is—and it is a day's drive from Adelaide. Moreover, like tales of my wife's great-grandfather, Toby, you'll be able to pass on your stories of how you travelled the tracks of time.



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Mt Serle and surrounding hills





Rawnsley Park now have weekend departures as well as the popular three and five-day guided walks, the weekend package is ideal for people wanting to experience the Flinders' magnificent scenery and wildlife on foot, but who have limited time in the region.

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### Rawnsley Park expands multi-day walks with Heysen Trail focus

Award-winning Rawnsley Park Station will expand its multi-day guided walks of the Flinders Ranges in 2014.

The expansion will feature a strong focus on the iconic Heysen Trail which runs 1200 kilometres from Parachilna Gorge in the Flinders Ranges to Cape Jervis at the tip of the Fleurieu Peninsula.

Station owners Tony and Julieanne Smith said the walks program, led by bushwalking author and member of the Friends of the Heysen Trail, Kym Tilbrook, would start on April 7 and continue until late October.

Members of FOHT can get a 10 per cent discount on the guided walks.

"The Heysen Trail is regarded as one of the world's best walking trails and we have the perfect opportunity to showcase sections through the Flinders Ranges," they said.

Tony and Julieanne said Rawnsley Park had just completed two years of offering multi-day guided walks, including the recent introduction of weekend walking packages.

A champagne celebration atop the stunning Chace Range and an early morning climb to the top of rugged Rawnsley Bluff to watch the sun rise over the Flinders Ranges are highlights of the station's Flinders by Foot bushwalking tours.

Tony Smith said the Flinders by Foot guided walks showcased what the Flinders is famous for – ancient rugged ranges formed more than 500m years ago. red-gum lined creeks and beautiful valleys clothed in native pine.

"The Flinders has magnificent scenery and fabulous wildlife which makes it a great place for walking," said Tony.

"Through Flinders by Foot, Rawnsley Park offers a mixture of walks which take in some of the most scenic areas of the Flinders. It's a truly magical place that really opens up its secrets when you get off the beaten track. The scenery along the Heysen Trail is simply magnificent.

"Walking offers the perfect way to get up close and personal with the wildlife which includes red kangaroos, emus, euros, wedge-tailed eagles, redcapped robins, multi-colored rainbow bee eaters and the striking mallee ringneck parrots."

The climb to the top of St Mary Peak (1171m) is a standout, with panoramic views across the Flinders including Wilpena Pound, ABC and Heysen ranges. From atop the peak eagles are often seen soaring in the valley below.

A bonus is a trek on neighbouring Arkapena Station bought four years ago by the Smiths who have long been key players in the tourism industry in the Flinders.

Very few people have had the opportunity to walk on the sheep station which features the Chace Range, named after bullocky William Chace who discovered Arkaba, Wilpena and Aroona creeks in 1850. His discovery resulted in the opening up of the area for sheep stations.

The climb to the top of the range is rewarded with a champagne afternoon tea and magnificent views across the sweeping plains to Wilpena Pound. The return to Rawnsley Park is by four-wheel-drive.

Tony said walkers who did not want to tackle some of the harder walks could talk to the guides who would

Atop Rawnsley Bluff - early morning

tailor different trails.

The station is the base for all walks, with walkers returning each night to 4-star eco villa accommodation or 3.5 star cabins. At night, they dine at the award-winning Woolshed Restaurant.

"Our aim is to give people a great adventure during the day and at night they can relax with fine dining and reflect on the day's adventures," Tony said.

Costs for the walks are \$2450 per person for the five-day trek (1 BR eco-villa accommodation) or \$1975 in a 3.5 star cabin. Three-day treks are priced at \$1535 in an eco-villa or \$1250 in a cabin. All costs are based on a twin-share – single supplements apply.

Details of the 2014 walks program can be found on the station's website www.rawnsleypark.com.au

For further information and bookings contact Rawnsley Park Station on (08) 86480030 or email info@rawnsleypark.com.au



Swimming in Blinman Pool



### Trail Maintenance

The Friends of the Heysen are a volunteer organisation dedicated to the promotion and maintenance of the Heysen Trail. The organisation depends on members and where appropriate non-members for information and comments on the condition, location and safety of the trail for all walkers. All comments are welcome, both good and bad, collated and forwarded to the appropriate Section Leader for action. Details on the location referred to would be appreciated.

Maintenance Coordinator

Colin Edwards 8264 1492 [H]

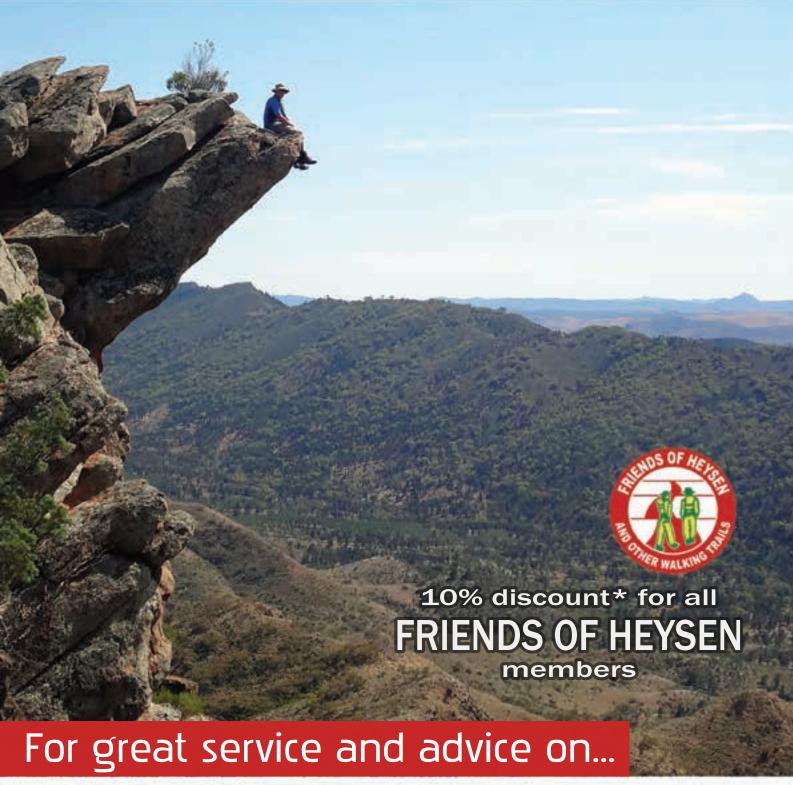
Secti	on	Map and GR	Section Leader	Contact
1.	Cape Jervis to Tapanappa	Southern Guidebook, Maps 1.1-1.3 Cape to GR 518 530	Bob Gentle Albert Schmidke	8294 7287 (H) 8381 8861 (H)
2A.	Tapanappa to Waitpinga Campground	Southern Guidebook, Maps 1.3-1.5 GR 518 530 to 735 544	Roger Dunn	8260 2146 (H)
2B.	Waitpinga Campground to Back Valley Rd	Southern Guidebook, Maps 1.5-2.2 GR 735 544 to 761 649	John Quinn	8294 3115 (H)
3.	Back Valley Road to Moon Hill	Southern Guidebook, Maps 2.2-2.3 GR 761 649 to 682 726	Wandergruppe Bushwalkers, Hermann Schmidt	8344 4072 (H)
4.	Moon Hill to Hindmarsh Tiers Road	Southern Guidebook, Maps 2.3-2.5 GR 682 726 to 737 803	Wandergruppe Bushwalkers, Hermann Schmidt	8344 4072 (H)
5.	Hindmarsh Tiers Road to Blackfellows Creek Road	Southern Guidebook, Maps 2.5-2.7 GR 737 803 to 889 908	Women in the Bush Eleanor Martin Myra Betschild	8431 8187 (H) 8331 2992 (H)
6.	Blackfellows Creek Road to Glen Bold	Southern Guidebook, Maps 2.7-3.2 GR 889 908 to 962 161	Richard Webb	8381 5308 (H)
7.	Glen Bold to Piccadilly	Southern Guidebook, Maps 3.2-3.4 GR 962 161 to 924 264	Norrie Hamilton	8332 1982 (H)
8.	Piccadilly to Norton Summit	Southern Guidebook, Maps 3.4-3.4 GR 924 264 to 922 332	WEA Ramblers Liz O'Shea	8352 1636 (H)
9.	Norton Summit to Cudlee Creek	Southern Guidebook, Maps 3.5-3.7 GR 922 332 to 013 424	Colin Edwards	8264 1492 (H)
10.	Cudlee Creek to Bethany	Southern Guidebook, Maps 3.7-4.4 GR 013 424 to 148 759	John Potter	0418 835 321
11.	Bethany to Hamilton	Southern Guidebook, Maps 4.4-5.2 GR 148 759 to 045 102	John Potter	0418 835 321
12.	Hamilton to Huppatz Hut	Southern Guidebook, Maps 5.2-5.9 GR 045 102 to 086 509	Dom Henschke	8322 5455 (H)
13.	Huppatz Hut to Spalding	Southern Guidebook, Maps 5.9-6.12 GR 086 509 to 785 903	Burra Branch Hugh Greenhill	8843 8115 (H)
14.	Spalding to Georgetown	Norhern Guidebook, Maps 1.1-1.6 GR 785 903 to 574 058	Kevin Liddiard	8289 4236 (H)
15.	Georgetown to Mt Remarkable	Northern Guidebook, Maps 1.6-2.11 GR 574 058 to 345 667	A.R.P.A. Milton Turner Ron Capel	8263 2393 (H) 8251 7717 (H)
16.	Mt Remarkable to Horrocks Pass Rd	Northern Guidebook, Maps 2.11-3.4 GR 345 667 to 250 828	Julie Starkey Gary Wright	8667 5077 (H) 8667 5077 (H)
17A.	Horrocks Pass Rd to Dutchmans Stern	Northern Guidebook, Maps 3.4-4.2 GR 250 828 to 807 227	Michael Kerin	8642 4728 (H)
17B.	Dutchmans Stern to Wilpena Pound	Northern Guidebook, Maps 4.2-5.8 GR 807 227 to 723 094	vacant	
18.	Wilpena Pound to Parachilna Gorge	Northern Guidebook, Maps 5.8-6.8 GR 723 094 to 645 528	Alpana Station Operation Flinders Gavin Campbell	8648 4626 8242 3233 8296 8613 (H)



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Originally from the United Kingdom, Greg was born and brought up in the Peak District in North West England. It was here that he developed a passion for the outdoors, walking extensively throughout the region. A walking trip along Hadrian's Wall also sparked his interest in Ancient History, particularly the Roman Invasion of Britain which he studied in college.

Greg lived on the island of Rhodes in Greece for four years before working onboard numerous cruise liners around the World. During this time he visited many destinations including Canada and Alaska, The Caribbean and Central America.

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