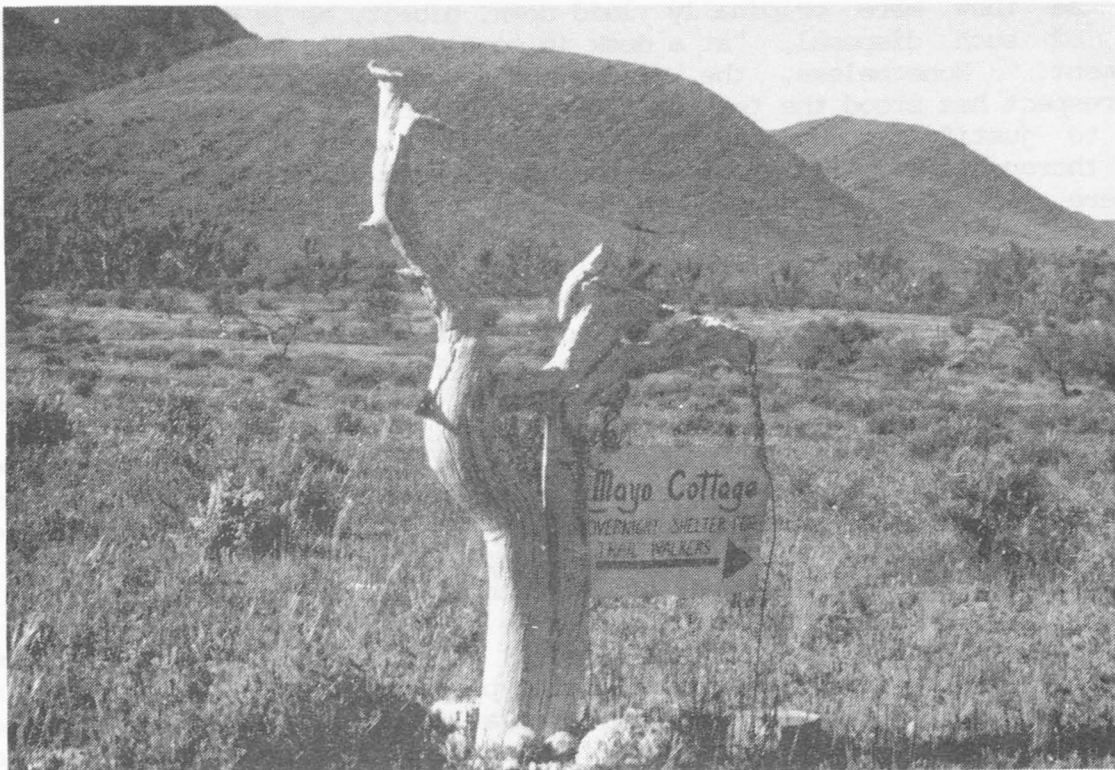




### OFFICIAL OPENING OF MAYO HUT

With a backdrop of the magnificent Flinders Ranges, at their brilliant best following excellent seasonal rains, the official opening ceremony of Mayo Hut was celebrated on the banks of the Wonoka Creek in Mayo Gorge in traditional and enthusiastically warm country style on Sunday, 3 September, 1989.



A glorious sunny day with a gentle breeze provided perfect conditions for approximately 150 people who attended. Peter and Marion McInnis and family, - twins Andrew and Phillip and daughter Erica accompanied a walking party from Wonoka homestead to Mayo Cottage. The group was led by Warren Bonython and included members of the Friends of the Heysen Trail and Other Walking Trails - Neville Southgate, Joan and David Matthews, Betty and Paul Franche, Sadie Leupold, Karen Sparrow, Shirley Rumball, Thelma Anderson; and Terry Lavender, Manager of the Recreation Trails Division of the South Australian Recreation Institute. Others attending the opening included many well-known Hawker identities; Alan and Heather Wilson from Leigh Creek Bushwalking Group; Bob and Hazel West and family from Quorn.

Mr. Eric Felgate, Director of Developmental Services of the Adelaide Central Mission outlined the history behind the renovation of the Cottage and introduced the Rev. Ivor Bailey, Superintendent of the Mission who, together with the Rev. Raeburn Reynolds, a Director, had given full support to the project. Paul Nicholas, Director of Wright Court, gave an interesting account of the enthusiasm displayed by the men selected to carry out the work of restoring the ruin to its former glory when it was first occupied by William and Mary Mayo. Those involved included Robert, Leon, Ron, Keith, Rod, Greg, Mick, Ian, Andy, Maurice and Chris, some of whom were present at the opening and explained to the visitors details of the work required as depicted in a photographic record. Paul also thanked Lyn Flink, Marj Tilyard and Gary Paynter for their untiring efforts in preparing food and associated duties for the barbecue on Saturday night.



John Miller, Director of the South Australian Recreation Institute, acknowledged the value of co-operation between the Central Mission, the Institute and the McInnis family on whose property the Hut is situated, in securing overnight accommodation at a strategic location for walkers using the Heysen Trail. Peter McInnis, on behalf of his family, responded, referring to the friendly negotiations between all parties involved in the restoration process.

Terry Lavender added his thanks to all those involved in the project and performed the unveiling of a plaque set in a stone cairn to mark the occasion. Friends' Vice-Presidents, Warren Bonython and Neville Southgate ceremoniously cut the ribbons securing the front door and Mayo Cottage was officially declared open.

Students of Hawker Area School provided the catering for a barbecue and salad lunch, by courtesy of the South Australian Recreation Institute, as a special fund-raising project for the School. Again, the effort and precision involved in this enterprise was reflected in its success and enjoyment by all those present.

The rest of the day was spent inspecting the comfortable quarters available for walkers fortunate to use this section of the Heysen Trail and enjoying a walk along Wonoka Creek. All that remained was for the visitors from distant destinations to leave this timeless part of the world to return to the reality of City life.

Apologies are extended for omission of reference to many persons who were involved in various ways, either by participation or attendance at the opening. They all contributed to the outstanding success of the occasion.



### MAYO HUT

There's a place up in the Flinders known to few as Mayo's Gorge,  
It's a secret jewel of beauty in our State  
With the rugged rusty mountains punching high into the sky  
And the peaceful pools of water edged with slate.

'Twas the place where William Mayo and his Mary came to live,  
'Twas the place they wore their fingers to the bone  
Cutting logs along the river,  
Fetching water from the creek,  
The place they built their humble hut of stone.

It's a place we've come to cherish on the splendid Heysen Trail,  
It's a place with special meaning in our lives  
For we came and camped and stayed awhile  
And rebuilt in a Mayo style  
Feeling the spirit of pioneers  
As we made the old anew!

And the few of us so privileged  
To know this time so well  
Found - not only were we renovating ruins  
But our own lives partly wasted  
Were restored with hope and vigour  
As we watched this home reborn before our eyes.

There's a wonder in the Mayo's Gorge  
There's a treasure in their hut,  
But you have to come and stay awhile to find it!  
Don't be rushed ..... and don't be busy,  
Think of others gone before ....

Know the pain they felt in their tired aching bones,  
The heartbreak as the splendour of the country turned to scorn,  
Know how flies and heat and drought and dust  
Forced hopeful hearts to mourn.

But come and be and hear the stars, the crackle of the fire,  
The endless outback sunshine, ... the prickles and barbed wire.  
Bring food and comfy walking shoes - leave behind the mut!  
And come and stay and be our guest for a night in Mayo's Hut!

2 September, 1989

Paul Nicholas