



Trailwalker

Spring 2015 Issue 137

Free



**Larapinta with Luke
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Japan's Nakasendo Way
Return to Tiger Leaping Gorge**




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Contents



Published by the
Friends of the
Heysen Trail & Other
Walking Trails

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Burra Branch

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Membership Information

Joining Fee \$10

Single \$25 per year

Family \$40 per year

Schools & Organisations \$60 per year

Membership is valid from the date of payment until the end of the corresponding month in the following year.

Trailwalker Magazine

Views expressed in contributed articles are those of the authors, and not necessarily those of the Friends of the Heysen Trail.

The Trailwalker magazine is available by subscription or online at heysentrail.asn.au/trailwalker

The Trailwalker magazine is published quarterly:

- Autumn (March)
- Winter (June)
- Spring (September)
- Summer (December)

The Trailwalker magazine has a distribution of 1200, and an estimated readership of approximately twice that number.

Articles, reports and other submissions by members and other interested parties are welcome and should be emailed to the Trailwalker Editor at trailwalker@heysentrail.asn.au

The submission deadline is usually the first Friday of the month prior to the month of publication.

Advertising Rates

1/8 page vertical \$40 per issue

1/4 page \$60 per issue

1/2 page \$100 per issue

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Flyer (supplied for insertion) \$180 per issue

A commitment for 12 months advertising – 4 issues, would attract 10% saving

Advertising specifications and article submission guidelines are available upon request or by visiting heysentrail.asn.au/trailwalker

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The Friends of
the Heysen Trail
& Other Walking
Trails

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Graham Loveday
Neil Nosworthy
Elizabeth Rogers

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Judy McAdam
Chris Porter
David Rattray
David Roberts

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Eve Buckley
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Julian Monfries
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Sally Fieldhouse	Secretary
Benita Rees	Publicity Officer
Hugh Greenhill	Section 13 Leader

Council Meeting Dates

Wednesday 16 September 2015
Wednesday 21 October 2015
Wednesday 18 November 2015

Summer Trailwalker Deadline

Friday 6 November 2015

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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the Honourable
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Hang Xu (Lavender)
Man Jiawen (Mandy)



Cover

near Melrose, Heysen trail
Photo: Dom Henschke

President

A Word from the President

Robert Alcock



We need to relocate our office. After 25 years or so in the one location this is a major event for the Friends. Much searching and investigation has taken place. One likely premises has been short-listed and we await further details before deciding on our next address. It is likely we will remain in the city so we

are accessible to members and visitors. We expect to physically move around the end of the walking season to minimise disruptions to our member services. Many thanks to the team led by Dom Henschke for the hours spent investigating possible offices.

Colin and the maintenance teams have been busy. Construction, re-routing and regular maintenance being undertaken along our Trail.

Colin has spent many hours working with ForestrySA, Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) and others to achieve better outcomes at the 3 fire areas. At Wirrabara/Bangor the Trail has been re-installed back to the previous route. Bundaleer and Sampson Flat areas have been improved. It also involved placing many new markers and stiles along the 3 routes.

Under the towering Elder Range, the Red Range campsite is having a long overdue make-over with a new shelter/tank and new toilet being installed in August. Colin and his hard working team have been busy constructing and are about to transport and install the new structures.

On the 20 June I had the pleasure in presenting End to End certificates to 4 of the Sippas family. Erina (mum) with her 3 young children, Eli, Emily and Noah completed the trail at Cape Jervis. Father Luke became the support team after an injury, and he plans to complete the trail before the end of the year. Calling themselves '5 Ordinary People', this family are far from ordinary and have given their bright and bubbly young children a fantastic adventure, so early in their life. An inspiring young family stepping out of the technological web for 3 months in nature.

In late May the Jodie Lee Foundation held their successful 2 day fundraising 80Km walk along the Heysen Trail from near Peters

Hill, through the Tothill Range, to Burra Gorge. Our members supplied information to assist the logistics for the 300 participants to safely complete the event. This event has opened the wonders of the Trail to a new group of active people.

With the walk season well advanced, we have two of our End-to-End groups about to complete the Heysen Trail. By the time you receive this magazine End-to-End 5 will have completed their 1,200km trek to Parachilna Gorge. End-to-End minus 1 will cross the southern trailhead at Cape Jervis in October. Well done to all those completing the Trail. There will be many stories told and joyous partying at the celebratory dinners.

SARTI, the group developing the Lavender Federation Trail (LFT) have obtained a significant grant from the State Government. Work will soon begin on the latest extension taking the LFT through Webb Gap to the Clare Valley. The LFT will cross the Heysen Trail at Webb Gap, in the Tothill Range. It has been proposed that SARTI and the Friends hold a joint function to mark the occasion. Likely to be in April 2016, this will be an opportunity to showcase both Trails to local groups and individuals.

Put it in the diary - Morialta Park 100th will be marked with a Picnic Day at Morialta on Sunday 8 November. We will have a stall representing the Friends of the Heysen Trail, plus morning walks to compliment the many activities planned for the day. See details on page 14 of this magazine.

This years End of Year BBQ is moving to Karka Pavilion in Belair National Park on Sunday 15 November, free park entry to members attending our event. Book now, and I'll see you there.



New Venue

END OF YEAR BASH, BBQ + BAND

Come and see Rock and Roll to the tune of the foot-tapping band at the green surroundings of Karka Pavilion in Belair National Park.

Sunday 15 November, 12-4.30pm \$20 per person
Park entry fees are waived for attending members

Book early! No refunds!
Book at www.heyseentrail.asn.au/invite or via the office.

Before, BBQ and artisan bread provided.
BYO. - bring Wine, beer or soft drink,
bring a Salad or Dessert to share,
bring chair or rug, glass, plates & cutlery.

Karka Pavilion, Belair National Park. Upper Sturt Road, Belair

News

We are now over 1000 strong

As our membership numbers crept through the 900's, the decision was made to recognise the 1000 milestone in some way. That distinction fell to Rachel Faulkner when she and her partner joined as a family membership in May this year. Rachel lives in Whyalla and is a Trail Runner with her partner. Rachel explained that they joined the Friends as they enjoyed running the Heysen Trail.

As the 1,000th member Rachel's membership was upgraded to Life Membership and she was presented with an embroidered fleecy top.

Although living in Whyalla, Rachel works in Port Augusta. Our End-to-End 5 group was staying in Port Augusta in June and our Secretary (and past President) Julian Monfries is a member of that group.

An informal ceremony was held at the group's BBQ night and a presentation was made to Rachel by Julian representing the President.



Win a Free Calendar

Submit some of your photos for the 2015 Friends of Heysen Trail calendar for a chance to win a free copy of the calendar.

If we use one of them - you win a calendar.

Maximum of four photos per person.

Photos need to be landscape shaped and meet minimum technical specifications, generally a 7 mega pixel camera will suffice if on the highest image quality setting.

Email your photos to heysentrail@gmail.com by October 1.

Email size can be up to 25MB (your email provider may not allow emails of that size).



After 23 years in Pitt Street

THE OFFICE IS ON THE MOVE

You may have seen or heard of the plans that Uniting Communities have announced to redevelop their Pitt Street/Franklin Street property.

These plans mean that at or before the termination of our lease in December this year, our office will be relocating.

For some months, members of our Office Committee have been searching for new premises. We have looked at a number of properties in the CBD and think we have found the right one. We should have more information for you in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, the office at 10 Pitt Street will operate as normal. Office hours are 10.30am to 2.30pm, Monday to Friday. Our telephone number is (08) 8212 6299 or you can email the volunteers on heysentrail@heysentrail.asn.au.

Wanted - End-to-End 11 Group Coordinator

Are you interested in becoming the coordinator for the next End-to-End group commencing in 2016. The End-to-End groups walk the Heysen Trail over a period of 6 years. You may have a group of friends who would like to assist in the leading of the group.

The coordination involves being the point of contact for the group, organising buses to transport the walkers, updating the internet information for the group, etc.

Training and support will be provided by experienced walk leaders.

If you have enjoyed walking the Heysen Trail and are interested in assisting a new group to complete their journey along the Trail, please contact Lyn Wood via the Friends' office (8212 6299).

Discounted Walk Fees? Discounted walk passes will save you \$\$\$\$.

There are several options for making walk payments:

<u>Casual</u> ,	pay \$8 per walk, (under 18s \$1 per walk)
<u>Multi-walk Pass</u> ,	pre-purchase a pass of 5 walks for \$30 (\$6 per walk), passes valid for 12 months, valid for one person.
<u>Golden Boots</u> ,	unlimited walks for 12 months after purchase, \$60 (not valid for Summer Twilight Walks)

You can purchase a pass:

'on-line' when you register for your next walk

(just click on Multiwalk or Golden Boots in the 'Walk fee' tab), or by contacting the Office.

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News

Office Report

Dom Henschke, Office Co-ordinator

Website upgrade

Over the last few months work has been undertaken to upgrade our event registration and membership system.

These changes involve updating the software in the 'back end' of our website. Apart from improving system performance, the end result will be largely unnoticed by website users. However during the upgrade you may find some features do not operate as expected.

Problems with NAB Transact

In addition to this work on the website, you will probably know that we were one of the many organisations which experienced difficulties with the NAB Transact system in late May and early June.

There were significant problems that disrupted the payment interface between our website and the National Australia Bank. These problems were entirely out of our control and have now largely been fixed.

However, a relatively small number of our members paid for a transaction (for instance a walk registration) without the registration being completed. In other cases members were charged twice for the same transactions.

Fortunately, John Wilson and his team of bookkeepers were able to identify these transactions during the weekly accounting review. As a result, the errors were corrected and monies refunded, where required.

If you were affected by this event, we apologise again for the inconvenience. Thanks also to the Bookkeepers for their excellent work in monitoring our financial transactions.

Congratulations to walkers who have recently received E2E certificates & badges

The following walkers completed their Heysen Trail adventure in recent months:

Coral Campbell	Emily Sipos (10yo)
Judith Rushton	Noah Sipos (8yo)
David Bond	Paul "Uggy" Burge
Carol Bond	Tony Fenotti
Tim Bunge	Carol Baird
Peter Ilee	Colin Simpson
Leila McEgan	Nev Madden
Ian Martens	Richard Wilson
Scott Adamson	Allan Wallace
James Yates	Chris Nance
Michael Trebeck	Julian Barnett
Susan Whittaker	Dean Richardson
Harry Beauchamp	Paul Megson
Erina Sipos	Susan Megson
Eli Sipos (12yo)	

New Members

The President and the Council would like to extend a warm welcome to the following 46 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.

Anna Allen	Suanne Fitzgerald	Leha Kohv	Jim Pearson
Graeme Bethune	Michael Guest	Jerry Kupfer	Jack Pointon
Meri Blake	Crystell Halliday	John Lewis	Brett Sander
Edward Bonkowski	Matthew Hassan	Jennie Lory	Hunter Smith
Felicity Bonkowski	Rosalie Hassan	John Lory	Indiana Smith
Matthew Brown	Richard Hillis	Michael Lyons	Sue St Clair
Alison Burgess	Jane Hogarth	Terry Lyons	Janet Trethewey
Wenfeng Chen	Sally Hood	Karel Oake	John Trethewey
Roger Coats	Brian Hughes	Karen Olney	Morag Zeman
Branwen Davies	Jocelyne Hughes	Rosslyn Park	Stan Zeman
Judith Dawes	Lynne James	Melanie Payne	
Susan de Laet	Amy Johansen	Jill Pearson	

Need Help Registering For A Walk?

If you've had trouble registering for a walk on our website, the following information may help.

Lost your user name or password?

If you can't log into your on line account to book walks or pay your membership fees, help is at hand.

At the top of the home page (<http://www.heysentrail.asn.au/>) there is a 'Login help' facility. If you click on that text you will find a 'Recover your details' section. By entering your email address you will be sent an email with your user name and password.

Walk registration emails

When you register for a walk you normally receive a registration confirmation email which includes details of the meeting location and time.

If you register for a walk and don't receive an email, don't worry. There most reliable way of checking your walk details is via your Account page. After logging into your Account, use the 'Manage Walk Registrations' facility to check whether you are registered. You can also use this to find the meeting location information.

Remember if you are having problems, you can call the office on Ph 8212 6299 between 10.30 and 2.30 on weekdays. We can help you to log on or if you need, we can book you onto your walk.

ALPANA STATION – *Escape the crowds*

Bushwalkers Transport Service

David and Sally Henery of Alpina Station Blinman offer a friendly, flexible and accredited transport service for the **Wilpena, Blinman, Parachilna Gorge Heysen Trailhead** section of the Heysen trail for walkers (individuals or groups).

Based 5 km from Blinman in the Flinders Ranges, Alpina Station also offers:

- **Self-contained accommodation:** quality shearers quarters for up to 14 people and Nungawurtina Hut bush retreat for up to 6 people.
- **Powered sites** with ensuite bathroom facilities for caravans/campers.
- **Bush camping** areas.

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Contact David and Sally Henery

Postal address PO Box 11, Blinman SA 5730
Phone or fax 08 8648 4626
Email alpina2@bigpond.com
website address www.alpanastation.com

Bookings Essential

News

All 8 new sheet maps for Heysen Trail now for sale - Map Sheets replacing Guidebooks

The full series of Heysen Trail map sheets have been released and are available for purchase. These new fold-out map sheets are produced by DEWNR and will replace the Southern and Northern Guidebooks which DEWNR has decided to discontinue. Each map is available for purchase now via our online store, for \$15 with postage from \$2.15. (Members receive a 10% discount). If you want a copy of the Northern Guidebook, you'd better place your order quickly. The Friends recently secured the last box in print of that guide, so we don't expect them to last long.

The maps are double sided and printed on water resistant paper. The maps include elevation profiles with kilometre markers and crossing point names. The new map style allows walkers to gain a "big picture" understanding of where they are on the trail, with a continuous trail line and a constant 3-5km of mapping around the trail.

Remember, you can sign up to receive re-route notifications for your guidebook or map sheet editions. All guidebooks and map sheets published since 2014 are available for notification.

There are 8 maps in this series:

Map 1: Cape Jervis to Kuitpo Forest – published September 2014

Map 2: Kuitpo Forest to Tanunda – published September 2014

Map 3: Tanunda to Burra – published May 2015

Map 4: Burra to Spalding – published May 2015

Map 5: Spalding to Wirrabara Forest – published August 2015

Map 6: Wirrabara Forest to Dutchmans Stern Conservation Park – published August 2015

Map 7: Dutchmans Stern Conservation Park to Mernmerna Creek – published August 2015

Map 8: Mernmerna Creek to Parachilna Gorge – published August 2015

BHUTAN for WALKERS

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Office Volunteer Spotlight

Baby news!

It isn't a common event that one of our volunteers announces the impending birth of a baby, but Ramya Ramamoorthy has done just that. She and Arjunan are expecting to be parents in early September!

With that exciting news, Ramya has understandably decided to devote her energies and time to home life. Ramya has said that she will miss being in the Office on Mondays and participating in walks, but we hope to see her from time to time.

Ramya, thanks for your help over the past year and a half and we wish you all the best for the birth.

Welcome to Judy & Rosalind

With Ramya's departure, we also welcome 2 new volunteers, Judy Szekeres and Rosalind Miles. Judy has joined the Thursday team and Ros will be in the Office on Fridays.

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Friends of the Heysen Trail receive 10% discount



End-to-End Walker?

End-to-End walkers past and present, it's time for a get together, at the Friends' Xmas gathering.

Time to catch up with old mates and walking friends.

Know someone who walked with an End-to-End group, however has drifted away from walking? Call and get them to come along. Make up a group.

Relive walking experiences, thrills and spills. More details and booking information on our website or call the office.

When:- Sunday, November 15th, 2015

Where:- Karka Pavilion, Belair National Park.



News

Trail Development Report

Colin Edwards, Trail Development Co-ordinator

Maintenance work on the trail is now in full swing from south to north.

With assistance from DEWNR in supplying fabricated sections for a new tank shelter and toilet at Red Range we will be able to do substantial work upgrading facilities at that camp site. The work will be completed this month (August). Also, as reported on our web site, the bridge at Oban has been completely rebuilt by DEWNR to a top class crossing of that difficult gully.

Fire ravaged forest areas are progressively coming back for walking access. Forestry SA has had to prioritise salvage requirements to retrieve as much useable timber as possible before it becomes too old. Frustrating as it is, this is our taxes at work and such a huge job takes time. Clean up after salvage is completed to make areas safe for walkers is also going ahead but again a major job. As time consuming and frustrating as it is FSA are helping to get our Heysen Trail back in working order and we are nearly there.

Mills Road to Block Nine Road through the Wirrabara forest has been remarked and apart from a minor temporary reroute near Yellow Cutting Road is now open for walkers. Bundaleer forest remains closed but we now have access in to Curnows Hut (as a spur). The trail continues along Springs Road for about 2km then turns west through the forest to join the trail (this reroute is shown on our web site) A toilet on loan from Kennards Hire has been installed at the hut.

Sampson Flat area from Rifle Range Road through to Nugget Road past Scotts Hut has been remarked on the original alignment and is open for walkers. The reroute from Chain Of Ponds to Welsh Road/Rifle Range Road remains as is for a bit longer.

But other work goes on. The welcome reports from our End-to-End groups is great assistance for the Section Leaders and largely avoids continually checking sections of the trail.

HELP WANTED

With the establishment of a secure lock up workshop at Cobbler Creek we are now able to start producing toilets and platforms and create a buffer stock of material for trail use. For this we intend having a work day each week at the shed. If you have the time and need to get away from house work please email me on marled2@bigpond.com. All you need is two arms, two legs and a pair of eyes. No skills needed – leave your brain home.

The Friends of the Heysen Trail thank KENNARDS HIRE for their ongoing support of the Heysen Trail'

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135 135

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Have you noticed any maintenance issues on the Heysen Trail?

Each year, every part of the Heysen Trail is walked by at least one of our End-to-End walking groups. We have arrangements by which the walk leaders report any issues they notice along the trail. These may range from the trail being closed or moved due to sections of forest being logged, cattle knocking over marker posts or marker plates missing or damaged.

If you notice something is awry while you are walking the trail you can help as well. Please take a note of the location (Guide Book or Sheet Map Number), grid reference, description of the problem and, if possible, a photo.

You can pass this information on to the office by email or by calling us on Ph 8212 6299.

Help With 2016 Tree Planting

Activities of the Greening Committee

Words by Neil Nosworthy

Photo courtesy of Dom Henschke

2015 Plantings

At the end of April, we planted a further 250 trees at Worlds End south of Burra. Inspections in July showed that most of the plantings have survived. In addition the trees planted in previous years had progressed well and benefitted from the watering over summer. We will continue to monitor the trees and water them when that becomes necessary.

In early May, we planted 650 trees at Railway Dam Road east of Spalding. After a recent visit, Dom Henschke reported that most of the trees have survived with some of the eucalypts thriving.

New Trees for Life Grower

Mark Hall who provided us with trees for three years, retired after 25 years growing trees with Trees for Life. However we have been fortunate that Jenny Pascoe has volunteered to take over this role – like Mark, Jenny walks with End to End 7.

We have offered to help Jenny to plant the seed and so would appreciate any volunteers who may be able to assist. When firm dates are available we will circulate that information. To make life easier for everybody, we have purchased hard plastic tubes and trays which we understand are easier to fill and empty as well as being recyclable.

2016 Plantings

The Greening Committee has decided to plant a further 500 trees at Worlds End in 2016. We have scheduled the planting for Friday 29th April and Saturday 30th April plus Sunday 1st May if required.

Greening Diary Dates

December 2015/January 2016 – Assist Jenny Pascoe to plant seeds

Friday 29th April and Saturday 30th April 2016 – plant trees at Worlds End

If you are interested in assisting us, please contact Neil Nosworthy by email at neil@noztours.com.au or by phone on 0447922617 or 82786577 or through the office by email at heysentrail@heysentrail.asn.au or by phone on 82126299.



New planting thriving at Spalding



Accommodation in the Wirrabara Forest, Southern Flinders Ranges

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Email: info@taralee.com.au
Web: www.taralee.com.au



News

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE OF MEETING

The first Annual General Meeting of the Warren Bonython Heysen Trail Foundation Ltd will be held at 5.00 pm on Wednesday, 21st October 2015 in the Board Room, Uniting Communities, 10 Pitt Street Adelaide.

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies.
- 2 Chairman's Report.
- 3 Financial Report.
- 4 Election of Directors.
- 5 Appointment of Auditor.
- 6 Other Business.
- 7 Close of Meeting.



WARREN
BONYTHON
HEYSEN TRAIL
FOUNDATION

Members can appoint a proxy by completing the Proxy Form at <http://wbhtf-agm-2015.questionpro.com>

By order of the Board

John Wilson

Company Secretary

10 Pitt Street, Adelaide, SA 5000 Ph: 08 8212 6299 Fax: 08 3212 1930
wbhtf@yahoo.com.au ABN 84 163 616 082

Deep Creek Open Day 20 September

The Friends will be represented at the Deep Creek Open Day on Sunday 20 September.

Venue is the Rangers Head Quarters
Tapanapa Road, Deep Creek

The Deep Creek Rangers host this Open Day with stalls and fun activities for all the family.



Centenary Picnic 8th November 2015 Morialta Conservation Park

Historical and natural resources management theme.

11:00am to 3:30pm:

Includes -

- Historic Images of Morialta Exhibition
- Natural Resource Management groups displays with nature play activities
- Cleland Wildlife park group
- Food Stalls by local clubs: Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis
- Fort Glanville Historical Society Cannon
- DEWNR Fire Truck
- CFS Community engagement
- RSPCA
- Friends of the Heysen Trail
- Morning Walks in the Morialta Conservation Park

Expecting to attract over 2000 attendees

Look out for more details of activities on the day

Friends of Black Hill and Morialta

Letter to the Editor

Adventures on the trail!

I thought I would send a brief account of my recent experiences on the trail.

My interest in hiking the trail began when I picked up an "oldie but a goodie" rucksack at a friend's garage sale!

I commenced from Cape Jervis a couple of years ago and have walked sections when I can fit them in with holidays. So far I have walked on my own apart from one day with an enthusiastic friend / neighbour who unfortunately was later told by his cardiologist that hiking wasn't for him. Quite a disappointment for him as anyone could imagine.

Back in May, I walked from Mt Crawford to Kapunda. The timing coincided with I think record winds at Mt Crawford. The day leading up to these winds was perfect, weather-wise, for hiking and I arrived at Rossiter's hut at about 3.45 pm. One of those situations where you wonder shall I walk on for another hour or so?

I had not stayed in any of the huts thus far on the trail and after some consideration, I decided to give it a go. It was an excellent decision. The weather was certainly wild that night and it completely shut out the noise of the very friendly mice who called the hut home.

Moving on to last week. I set out on Thursday morning to walk from Kapunda to Burra. It was an early start from

Oaklands Park to Gawler by train, and then the LinkSA school bus out to Kapunda. It was a very windy day and by early afternoon I started to think about making it a long day and getting to Marschalls hut for the evening.

Mt Crawford in May was on my mind a bit. I knew that the last hour or so would probably be in the dark but it was a blue moon tonight so I felt confident in giving it a go. The thought of a nice wood fire and not having to set up camp in potentially wild conditions was very appealing.

What I hadn't counted on however were the mist, the fog and the light rain that started to set in at about 4 pm so that by the time that I turned off the track into farm land for the hike up Peters hill, it was dark and visibility was minimal. My headlight didn't do much to help so I tried to walk as best I could in the direction indicated by the trail markers, and hope to eventually see the next marker. I am certainly very glad that the markers are made like a road sign to stand out in the dark when a light shines on them.

For an hour or so, I walked carefully on, trying to avoid tripping up on stones etc, all the while peering into the gloomy distance looking for any sort of faint glow that indicated my next best friend! Twice I had to reconsider and almost retrace steps, but finally I arrived at the best sign of the day - Marschalls hut spur trail 400 m! Relief and exhilaration! Mostly relief!

I still had the 400m to cover however, and those hikers who have stayed at Marschalls, might remember that it is quite a rocky downhill track to the hut. In the fog and dark, even more so. I had vague thoughts of walking right on past the hut without even seeing it but fortunately came to another sign indicating a right turn and then, when I was only about 30m from it, it appeared almost out of nowhere. That was a good feeling!

Part of my writing this is just to thank the people who not only help maintain the trail but also keep an eye on things like these huts that I have mentioned. Also, it's worth mentioning hikers who leave the place ready for the next guest. Someone like me, arriving in the dark, quite wet and cold, and the previous "tenants" have left kindling and other wood, and there was even a box of matches so I didn't have to go rummaging for mine in the first instance.

Thank you!
Happy hiking,
Neil Mills

PS Because of significant blisters on both feet, a progressing cough, and the forecast of deteriorating weather, I decided to stay 2 nights at Marschalls and shorten this leg to finish at Marrabel. My wife kindly drove out to pick me up and the reason I mention this is because if you ever have the opportunity to eat at the Marrabel hotel, I can say without doubt that I ate the best meat pie ever (home made), there on Saturday lunch time!



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End-to-End Walks

2015 Walk Season Programme

This version released 18 August 2015

heysentrail.asn.au

	1st Weekend	2nd Weekend	3rd Weekend	4th Weekend	5th Weekend
May	Sun May 3 End-to-End -1 Pewsey Vale to Mt Crawford Sun May 3 End-to-End 10 Cape Jervis to Cobbler Hill Sat May 2 - Sun End-to-End 6 Chlorination Stn to Curnows Hut to Raeville Sun May 3 End-to-End 7 Hamilton to Peters Hill	Sun May 10 End-to-End 8 Mt Crawford to Pewsey Vale	Sat May 16 - Sun May 17 End-to-End 6 Raeville to Locks Ruin to Bowman Park Sun May 17 End-to-End 9 Myponga to Mt Compass	Sat May 23 - Sun May 24 End-to-End 7 Peters Hill to Gerkie Gap to Webb Gap Sat May 23 - Sun May 24 End-to-End -1 Mt Crawford to Cudlee Creek	Sun May 31 End-to-End 10 Cobblers Hill to Tapanappa
June	Mon June 1 - Mon Jun 8 End-to-End 5 Dutchman to Old Wonoka Sat June 6 - Sun Jun 7 End-to-End 7 Webb Gap to Worlds End	Sun June 14 End-to-End 8 Pewsey Vale to Tanunda	Sat June 20 - Sun June 21 End-to-End 6 Bowman Park to Mt Zion to Wirrabara Forest Sun June 21 End-to-End 9 Mt Compass to Kyeema	Sat June 27 - Sun June 28 End-to-End 7 Worlds End to Burra to Wandallah Sat June 27 - Sun June 28 End-to-End -1 Cudlee Ck to Cleland	
July	Sun July 5 End-to-End 10 Tapanappa to Balquhider	Sun July 12 End-to-End 8 Tanunda to Kapunda	Sat July 18 - Sun July 19 End-to-End 6 Wirrabara Forest to Block Nine Road to Murraytown Sun July 19 End-to-End 9 Kyeema to Dashwood Gully	Sat July 25 - Sun July 26 End-to-End 7 Wandallah to Newikie Creek to Dares Hill Summit Sat July 25 - Sun July 26 End-to-End -1 Cleland to Dashwood Gully Rd	
August	Sun Aug 2 End-to-End 10 Balquhider to Waitpinga	Sat Aug 8 - Sun Aug 9 End-to-End 8 Kapunda to Hamilton to Peters Hill	Sat Aug 15 - Sun Aug 16 End-to-End 6 Murraytown to Melrose to Alligator Gorge Rd Sat Aug 15 - Sun Aug 16 End-to-End 9 Dashwood Gully to Mylor to Cleland	Fri Aug 21 - Sun Aug 30 End-to-End 5 Old Wonoka to Parachilna Sat Aug 22 - Sun Aug 23 End-to-End 7 Dares Hill Summit Rd to Hallett to George Rd quarry Sat Aug 22 - Sun Aug 23 End-to-End -1 Dashwood Gully Rd to Mt Compass	Sat Aug 29 - Sun Aug 30 End-to-End 6 Alligator Gorge Rd to Horrock's Pass to Broadview HS
September	Sun Sept 6 End-to-End 10 Waitpinga to Tugwell Road	Sat Sept 12 - Sun Sept 13 End-to-End 8 Peters Hill to Gerkie Gap to Webb Gap	Sat Sept 19 - Sun Sept 20 End-to-End 6 Broadview HS to Woolshed Flat to Quorn Sun Sept 20 End-to-End 9 Cleland to Montacute Heights	Sat Sept 26 - Sun Sept 27 End-to-End 7 George Rd Quarry to Spalding Rd to Chlorinator Sat Sept 26 - Sun Sept 27 End-to-End -1 Mt Compass to Inman Valley	
October	Sun Oct 4 End-to-End 10 Tugwell Road to Inman Valley	Sat Oct 10 - Sun Oct 11 End-to-End 8 Webb Gap to Old Burra Rd to Worlds End	Sun Oct 18 - Sat Oct 24 End-to-End -1 Inman Valley to Cape Jervis Sun Oct 18 End-to-End 9 Montacute Heights to Cudlee Creek	Sat Oct 24 - Sun Oct 25 End-to-End 7 Chlorinator to Curnow's Hut to Raeville	
November	Sun Nov 1 End-to-End 10 Inman Valley to Myponga	Sun Nov 8 End-to-End 9 Cudlee Creek to The Nugget Rd	Sun Nov 15 Sun Nov 22	Sun Nov 29	

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 unforeseen 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 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



TrailStarter & TrailWalker Walks

2015 Walk Season Programme

This version released 20 August 2015
heysentrail.asn.au

	1st Weekend	2nd Weekend	3rd Weekend	4th Weekend	5th Weekend
April	Sun April 5 Easter	Sun April 12 Trailwalker Lavender Federation Trail Stephen Salib-Brown	Sun April 19 TrailStarter Scott Creek Adam Matthews	Sun April 26 TrailStarter Willunga Catherine Anderson & Noeleen Smith	
			Sun April 19 Trailwalker Belair RW to Mt Lofty Alan Davis	Sun April 26 Trailwalker Black Hill Richard Milosh	
May	Sun May 3 TrailStarter Sturt Gorge Robyn Quinn	Sun May 10 TrailStarter Breakout Creek Peter Solomon	Sun May 17 TrailStarter Mt Crawford Kevin Liddiard	Sun May 24 TrailStarter Sturt Gorge Chris O'Brien	Sun May 31 TrailStarter Sea to Summit Bottom Half Julian Monfries & Simon Cameron
	Sun May 3 Trailwalker Lavender Federation Trail Stephen Salib-Brown		Sun May 17 Trailwalker Myponga Simon Cameron Sun May 10 Trailwalker Para Wirra Paul Saxby	Sun May 24 Trailwalker Beaumont to Hahndorf Richard Milosh	Sun May 31 TrailStarter Sea to Summit - Whole Trail Julian Monfries & Simon Cameron
June		Sun June 14 TrailStarter Anstey's Hill Colin Edwards	Sun June 21 TrailStarter Brownhill Creek Richard Milosh	Sun June 28 TrailStarter Belair Chris O'Brien	
	Sun June 7 Long Weekend Trailwalker Piccadilly Mary Cartland	Sun June 14 Trailwalker Lavender Federation Trail Stephen Salib-Brown	Sun June 21 Trailwalker Montacute Kevin Liddiard	Sun June 28 Trailwalker Mt Hayfield Peter Clark	
July	Sun July 5 TrailStarter Cleland Adam Matthews	Sun July 12 TrailStarter Koala Walk Michael Middleton	Sun July 19 TrailStarter Mt Lofty Arrienne Wynen	Sun July 26 TrailStarter Around Mylor Stephen Salib-Brown	
	Sun July 5 Trailwalker Glen Osmond Mary Cartland	Sun July 12 Trailwalker Lavender Federation Trail Stephen Salib-Brown	Sun July 19 Trailwalker Scott Creek Chris O'Brien	Sun July 26 Trailwalker Sandergrove to Milang Chris Allen	
August	Sun August 2 TrailStarter Mack Creek Kevin Liddiard	Sun August 9 TrailStarter Onkaparinga Dana Florea	Sun August 16 TrailStarter Kaiserstuhl Peter Solomon	Sun August 23 TrailStarter Warren/Hale Conservation Park Robyn Quinn	Sun August 30 TrailStarter Mylor Nature Trail Graham Bald
	Sun August 2 Trailwalker Morialta Mary Cartland	Sun August 9 Trailwalker Lavender Federation Trail Stephen Salib-Brown	Sun August 16 Trailwalker Wirra Wirra Peaks Eve Buckley	Sun August 23 Trailwalker Gandys Gully Neil Rivett	Sun August 30 Trailwalker Mt Lofty Botanic Loop Michael Middleton
September	Sun Sept 6 TrailStarter Mount Lofty Graham Bald	Sun Sept 13 TrailStarter TBA TBA	Sun Sept 20 TrailStarter Newland Head Robyn Quinn	Sun Sept 27 TrailStarter Cox's Scrub Chris Porter	
	Sun Sept 6 Trailwalker TBA TBA	Sun Sept 13 Trailwalker Lavender Federation Trail Stephen Salib-Brown	Sun Sept 20 Trailwalker Mt Crawford Paul Saxby	Sun Sept 27 TBA TBA	
October	Sun Oct 4 Long Weekend TrailStarter McLaren Vale Cathy Anderson & Noeleen Smith		Sun Oct 18 TrailStarter Onkaparinga Arrienne Wynen	Sun Oct 25 TrailStarter Adelaide Strret Art Vicki Cox	Sun Nov 1 TrailStarter Cedars Dean Mortimer
	Oct 3-5 Long Weekend Trip Away Kangaroo Island Hugh Greenhill	Sun Oct 11 Trailwalker Lavender Federation Trail Stephen Salib-Brown	Sun Oct 18 Trailwalker Mt Crawford Carol Homewood	Sun Oct 25 Trailwalker Kuitpo Chris Allen	Sun Nov 1 Trailwalker Moana to Pt Willunga Richard Milosh

Walk Grades

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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

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

If unforeseen 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

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The Meritorious, Notorious and Hilarious Adventures of Morris Minus (Part 5) – Morris Learns About Catch-ups, Casualties and Companions.



Hello happy readers,
To start our final year on the trail we had an easy one-day walk – a catch-up for the postponed last walk in 2014. Our numbers had reduced due to a couple of our walkers suffering injuries in the 'off' season. So it was down to The Woods of Mount Crawford with a random assortment of teddy bears and a screaming baboon

called Super Morris Major!!!

At the end of May we were back on track with a weekend walk through the areas burnt out by the Sampson Flat fire of early January. There was much evidence of rebuilding with new fences and logging of burnt forests presenting challenges and detours. However, it was a cleared house site that was "very sobering" where all walkers appreciated the devastation faced by many in the fire's path. I spent the weekend riding with Neil and Ann of the Greening Committee and I am not sure if they took my ideas for replanting the forests seriously.

The month of June saw us well and truly into the Adelaide Hills – and there were lots of them. Robert carried me up all of them on the first day, even the big long steep climb away from Sixth Creek towards Montacute Heights. It was tough going for him having just returned from China where he had scaled thousands of granite steps and taken one huge leap when he proposed to Lucy. On Sunday I was challenged in 'The Cutest Backpack Accessory' stakes

when the Kelly's daughter and son-in-law joined us from Third Falls lookout to Colonial Drive with 9 month old grandson Leighton on board. Robert had passed me over to Albert who had shown that he could quite easily carry extra load. Maybe I became too heavy for Albert because at one point he stumbled and cracked his head, requiring some first aid. Anyway, we all made it through a long tough weekend ending at Cleland Wildlife Park.

Christmas in July rewarded us the returning presence of Marlene, Dom and David. The day started with perhaps just a hint of a possibility of snow, but it didn't. However, we did suffer a white-out when fog shrouded Mount Lofty summit. Our leader aborted the intended detour to the top to look over the city then promptly declared it was "all downhill from here to Cape Jervis"! On reaching Mylor we were amazed at how much bushland we had walked through along the most densely populated section of the Heysen Trail. The overnight storms had cleared to greet us with sunshine on Sunday morning. The boardwalks near Long Gully were really appreciated as all waterways were running. Most walkers took the opportunity to take the underground trail option at Jupiter Creek Gold Diggings. Next up was entering Kuitpo Forest where, for the second time in FoHT history, two End-to-End groups met, with E2E9



Albert's Answer to a Heavy Pack



Boardwalk

sharing the trail with us. Once again the weather was kind although the trail was soggy under foot.

Only two more walking weekends remain before we hit the south coast for a 6-day walking week which sees E2E-1 completing their Heysen Trail at Cape Jervis on Saturday 24th October. I extend an invitation for fellow walkers, friends and mascots to join us for any or all of our remaining walks. Maybe you would just like to greet us at the 'final stile' and/or join us for our celebration dinner at the McCracken Country Club at Victor Harbor on the Saturday night? Check the walk program for details (Note: There is a separate registration for the last walking day/dinner).

With excitement building as the end approaches.....

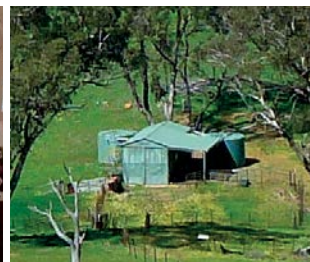
Morris Minus.

(Photos by Mary Cartland).

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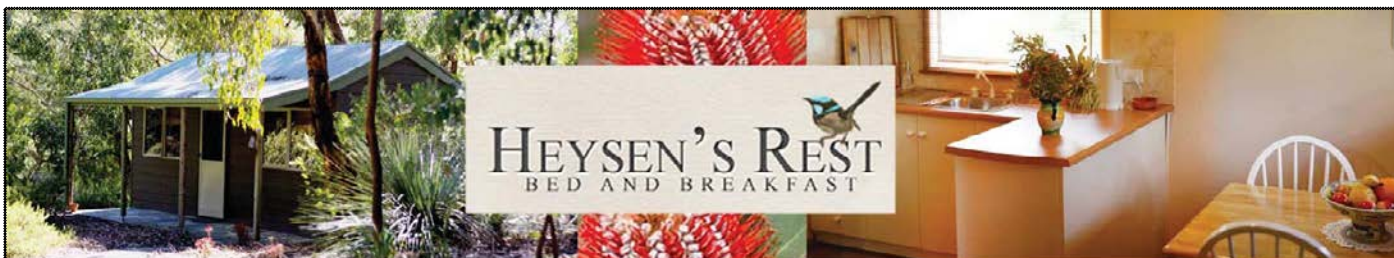
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The Nakasendo Way – A ba

by Neil Nosworthy

Several years ago we read an article in the Adelaide Advertiser by Rex Jory in which he described a walk in Japan on the Nakasendo Way. It sounded interesting so we included it on our bucket list.

The Nakasendo was one of the highways developed in the 17th Century for travel between Edo (now Tokyo) and Kyoto which was the capital of Japan. The whole route is over 500 kilometres long passing through the central mountains. We walked for nine days covering about 150 kilometres mostly along the Kiso Valley. The rest of the way was spent on Japan's excellent train system including several trips on the Shinkansen, the high speed train.

We were on a trip organised by Walk Japan Ltd (www.walkjapan.com) and led by Tom Stanley, a retired American professor and a co-founder of Walk Japan. Tom had an encyclopaedic knowledge of Japanese history and was fluent in Japanese (which was just as well, as our language skills were non-existent). There were only 10 others in our group. Most were Australian and most were middle-aged people like ourselves.

Our trip along the Nakasendo Way was more than just a walk. It was part cultural experience of rural Japan, part historical tour covering some significant events influencing the modernisation of Japan as well as walking through the mountains and along the Kiso River valley. In general, the walking was easy on backroads and paths through towns and the terraced countryside as well as some long sections through forests watching out for the bears and boars. The trail was well maintained and marked although there were some slippery sections particularly on the original stone paving when it was wet. (However good trails did not guarantee safe walking as one of our group slipped and broke her ankle.) There were some steeper sections across several passes but even the longest day of 24 kilometres was not physically demanding although the rain increased the challenge.

We had scheduled our trip to Japan for late March and early April to coincide with cherry blossom time. We were a bit early in Kyoto and a bit late in Tokyo but saw plenty of fabulous blossom all the same. This put us at the mercy of changeable early spring weather. After a couple of nice days to start, a front came through bringing cold, rainy days for the rest of the walk. However there was not much wind so we were never really cold but several days were spent slogging along in the rain, never a pleasant experience.

One consequence of the rainy weather was that we missed most of the grand mountain scenery – we had seen it from the train getting to Kyoto and we did get one distant view of the active volcano, Mt Ontake which



Walking a snowy Nakasendo Way

erupted in 2014. But most of the time the mountains were obscured by the clouds. The absence of wind meant that we did see many clouds resting in the valleys, a common feature in Japanese art, particularly in woodblock prints.

However the cold weather delivered a wonderful consolation on the last day of the walk. We woke to a world of white – everything was covered with two inches of fresh snow and light snow was still falling. Tom wasn't sure whether there would be too much snow to stop us from getting over the Usui Pass but we set off anyway along the trail through a forest with all of the trees frosted with snow. It was a unique experience for us heading up a pristine trail without any sign of previous walkers. There was some trepidation that the trail may be slippery but this was not a problem in the fresh snow. The downside was that when we arrived at the top of the pass, we could not see the surrounding mountains including Mt Fuji and Mt Ontake but that was a small shortcoming on an amazing walk.



Four little maids (and Richard) dressed for dinner

all in the snow

We did get over the pass and down the other side with more fabulous snow scenes all the way.

Our accommodation options were interesting. We mostly stayed in local inns starting with small, traditional inns which had sliding doors, paper walls, futons and low dining tables. And we were introduced to the traditional routine – boots off at the door, slippers to be worn on the wooden floors but not on the tatami matting; different slippers when visiting the toilet; wear traditional gowns inside; and then there was the ritual of the onsen or bath.

Enjoying the onsen was one of the great pleasures of the trip. A hot bath every night after a day's walk, particularly on the cold rainy days, was a great pleasure and one reason why we did not have any stiffness or soreness during the trip. But, as with all things Japanese, there was a ritual. In the small inns, there was a two person bath which Ann and I shared but the larger inns had separate male and female bathing pools. The rules were no costumes, thorough wash before entering the pool and use of the pocket handkerchief towel but don't get it in the water. While there was some initial diffidence, we were soon happy to take the plunge and really enjoyed the bath.

The food was also an interesting experience. Except for one night when we went out for a Korean BBQ, we were served dinner in the inns. Usually we sat down at a table set with many small dishes and bowls with small servings. More courses were brought through the meal – our penultimate dinner had nine courses. And there was a wide variety of dishes covering the well known areas of Japanese cuisine (to our limited knowledge anyway) including sashimi, wagyu beef (extraordinary marbling!), tempura, fugu (the potentially deadly blowfish) plus the staples of rice, miso and noodles. It seemed that the Japanese eat just about anything – on the trail, Tom showed us an asparagus like “weed” which was served to us one evening; then we saw a young boy out collecting the same plant. There was always plenty of food although Japanese flavours remained something of an acquired taste.

Overall we had a wonderful and enjoyable trip. Japan is so clean (no rubbish bins = no rubbish!) and safe and the Japanese are so polite and helpful. There was so much to see and do. We thoroughly recommend it.

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Mountains to Die For – To Shaggy Ridge

by Simon Cameron

Why walk in New Guinea? The world is full of walk challenges?

It brings us to the heart of any walking career: why do we walk where we walk. Trekking is a very focused, goal orientated activity and much of our walking is directed by careful marketing, creating the right mix of challenge, mysticism and the sublime. The marketing is frequently associated with appellations of "world's best", "world's oldest" or "world's most remote". They are all good reasons for walking. After the marketing, comes the packaging, and suddenly all roads lead to a drop down list of options.

PNG is marketed primarily to Kokoda, with the focus on life affirming challenge and endurance spiced with Australian traditions of mateship and sacrifice. All true, but what the marketers miss is the spectacular beauty of rainforest mountains, rising above the clouds, where rainbow canopy sparkles in diamond light.

New Guinea is the land of spectacular, soaring mountains, wild rivers and lost valleys that have cradled timeless societies in a profusion of breathtaking diversity. It is a magical place that has escaped the packaged holiday due to perceptions of danger and difficulty. The same perceptions that gave travel its name – from Latin roots, to the French "travail", meaning hard work. However few people travel in the modern era to "work hard."

New Guinea is hard work. Roads are poor and planes unreliable, but the "travail" offers a life warming experience and a humbling step into the extraordinary. Humbling, because New Guinea remains a land of the walker where people power is the main form

of locomotion and "trekkers" are not fit to walk alone. No maps, few roads, and indistinct tracks makes the trekker totally dependent on the skills of the "born on foot" guides.

Like New Zealand, these mountains are on our door step, and the neighbours are friendly. Our colonial history, in the two provinces of Papua and New Guinea, was light enough to leave only a tinge of regret, and a modicum of respect. The stares are open and curious without resentment. That does not mean it is a peaceful place. Violence is an intertribal norm, best managed by staying well outside the tribal boundaries or bring your own tribe, in the form of a sizeable group.

Our war time history in Papua and New Guinea is intense and enlightening. Australia lost over 4000 soldiers in 3 years of fighting and their sacrifice is far more than Kokoda. The AIF and the Commonwealth Militia bent their will to long and difficult campaigns, and it was the haunting black and white photos of "Shaggy Ridge" that surpassed all of the "world's best" marketing for me this year. A long narrow ridge, named after a future Lord Mayor of Adelaide, Bob "Shaggy" Clampett, became the scene of three months of fighting along a front no wider than a World War 1 trench. It is very much a South Australian story, involving the 2/27th and 2/10th Battalion.

Walking with ghosts is not a reason to trek, but in New Guinea it is an opportunity to honour the dead, and remember the true cost of war, while walking wild mountains, and it is worth all of the hard work.

A Shaggy Ridge walk guide will follow soon.



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Fifteen Years of Assisting with Maintenance on the Heysen Trail

Words by Jorg Valentin. Photo by Ilse Nienhaus.

Our focus is on safety

The Wandergruppe Bushwalkers of the South-Australian German Association (SAADV) are celebrating 15 years of membership in the 'Friends of The Heysen Trail', and with it, 15 years during which the Bushwalkers have been helping to develop and expand the Trail and boost its recreational potential.

Since its foundation in 1991, the Wandergruppe has undertaken 700 walking trips in South Australia covering over 9,000 kilometers of trails, including the full 1,200 kilometer length of the Heysen Trail.

Early one morning in 1998, an idea for a project hit bushwalking group leader Hermann Schmidt. On first putting the idea to the Wandergruppe Bushwalkers, Hermann could read from the face and body of each of his fellow bushwalkers the extent to which the project he proposed struck them as nothing short of jaw-dropping, mind-blowing and awe-inspiring.

The idea put forward by Hermann was to try an end-to-end walk of the Heysen Trail, and the Wandergruppe - made up of dedicated bushwalkers aged forty to ninety - decided to give it a go. Together with deputy group leader Fred De Ceukelaire, and many a hard-earned feat later, the

Wandergruppe completed their final stage of the Trail in Bundaleer in 2010, coming away with the feeling that the Heysen Trail springs a surprise or two for even the most experienced bushwalker.

Achieving the end-to-end walk of the Heysen Trail also coincided with the Wandergruppe reaching its 10th year of responsibility for maintaining the Myponga section of the Trail.

"Our focus is on the safety of the walker",

Hermann points out. "Since 1999, we have erected three bridges with a length of up to 20 meters, four creek crossings and 70 meters of board walk", Hermann is pleased to report.

Maintaining the Myponga section involves some large and a fair bit of small routine work. The Wandergruppe sees to it that paths through the Conservation Parks are accessible, pruning bushes and shrubs. By far the most complex and demanding work though is the regular upkeep and maintenance of the bridge constructions. Hermann Schmidt gives each of the bridges a close inspection once a year, carrying out on-the-spot repairs where necessary.

Two years ago, the Wandergruppe took charge of another stretch of the Trail, Section 3, which increased the Bushwalkers' workload. "I put together a crew of five walkers and we went on an inspection walk", Hermann explains. "We found that some spots needed major changes, including changes in the way the route was located, because initially the section was far from fit for walking." The job done, the Wandergruppe rounded off by setting up 'monitor boxes' for the walkers' better orientation.

On top, the Wandergruppe volunteered to carry out necessary additional work that popped up in adjacent sections of the Trail. "It's our way of showing how much we have the Heysen Trail and the walkers of the Trail at heart," Hermann explains the extensive track record of the Wandergruppe Bushwalkers.



Maintenance team (left to right): Arnulf Mollenhauer, Lawrie Rowley (farmer), Elfi Goels, Monika Hartmann, Hermann Schmidt.



Larapinta Trail – Rugged Outback

by Luke Adams

One kilometre to go we stopped at the now very familiar sign with the blue arrow and took a picture. The previous sixteen days of bushwalking had been a fantastic adventure. It had been both Adam & I's longest continuous bushwalk.



The Larapinta Trail traverses the West MacDonald Range outside Alice Springs for a little more than 230km. It can be done a number of ways - either bushwalking carrying packs with food and all of your camping gear or in a series of daywalks with commercial operators moving the camps each couple of days. We opted for the bushwalking packs.

We met our transfer driver in Alice Springs, he provided three plastic tubs with lids for our food drops which we would place at Stanley Chasm, Ellery Gorge and Ormiston Gorge. Leaving Alice Springs at dawn and driving west we were treated to our first outback dawn. We decided to walk West to East and finish in Alice Springs to give us an option of finishing a day or two early if we felt like it, but most people seemed to be walking East to West to finish at Mt Sonder which provides a magnificent view and would be a highlight to end the walk.

Once we had sorted out our food drops we were dropped out at Redbank Gorge at the western end of the walk. We quickly organised our daypacks and headed up Mt Sonder - 1380m. Both Adam and I were quietly surprised by the rockiness of the trail. We had both decided to walk with walking poles and this proved to



Adam Sabic halfway up RazorBack Ridge

be a good decision. The ascent of Mt Sonder starts with a steep climb on to a rising series of hills on a ridge before reaching a beautiful view of the walking that lies ahead.

Once we had returned to Redbank Gorge and set up our first camp, my legs were feeling the first days walking: I wished I had trained a bit more.

Each day would then start with a breakfast of muesli and strong coffees followed by packing up and starting walking by about 8am. The cool of the morning was a great time to do the majority of the days walking. The Larapinta Trail is broken into 12 sections of approximately 25km each and is graded from medium (normally a well graded trail with very little rocks) to very hard (no trail and very slow walking). At the end of each section an official campsite would be provided with water tanks, drop toilets and at some sites a sleeping shelter.

Every day on the trail provided a highlight as it weaved its way first through the Heavitree Range and then crossed over the Chewings Range and finally on to Alice Springs.



Camping in redbank Gorge Creek

k Beauty with Amazing Walking



Summit of Brinkley Bluff

The highlights for me:

- The view from Mt Sonder
- The Ormiston Pound
- The Hugh Gorge, especially the upper Hugh Gorge water hole
- Brinkley Bluff – Sunrise and Sunset from this high vantage point was amazing
- The trail out of Stanley Chasm to Jay Creek - small natural springs along the creekbed provided so much birdlife.

There are many ways to experience the beauty of the West MacDonald Ranges, but I think spending 16 days walking amongst its spectacular gorges, mountains and valleys really gives you a good feel for the place.

My recommendations for people considering doing this walk would be:

- Take a sturdy pair of boots - we saw two people who had footwear problems that could have led to having to cut short their trips.
- Walking Poles were essential for us - we both finished the walk without any knee or ankle soreness.



Spinifex at Dawn on Brinkley Bluff

- A warm sleeping bag - at least -5°C as it gets very cold at nights.
- I took an old closed cell foam mat to sit/lay on at lunch and in the evenings it worked well even on spinifex.
- I would recommend John Chapman's Larapinta Trail Book 2nd Edition 2015. He has written the book for both east/west walkers as well as west/east walkers and we found it invaluable for route information and notes of flora, fauna and geology.
- The National Parks and Wildlife website <http://www.larapintatrail.com.au/> is informative and has excellent suggestions to how long to take.

In Summary, the Larapinta Trail has been rated one of the top 10 multiday walks in Australia by Australian Geographic Outdoor Magazine and I would agree.



Luke Adams at Hugh Gorge



Return to Tiger Leaping Gorge

by Matthew Howie

April Fools' Day 2014. End-to-End 3 reunion.

Peter: Hey Matthew. Looking for someone to come on your trip with you?

Matthew: That's right. We need 2 people for the Overland Track walk.

Peter: No. Your China trip!

Matthew: What China trip?

Peter: The one you won with Peregrine.

Matthew: B@#\$%^&t. Don't you know April Fools Day doesn't apply after midday? (But thinking - How did he know I entered that competition?)

To cut a long story short Peregrine confirmed I had won the land content of the Yangtze & Beyond tour in China for one person. As Helen and I had already done a similar tour with Peregrine in 2011, I asked, and Peregrine kindly agreed to allow me to swap to the Yunnan Explorer. This meant that Helen could also do the Tiger Leaping Gorge walk, which I had done with her brother-in-law, Ken, in 2008.



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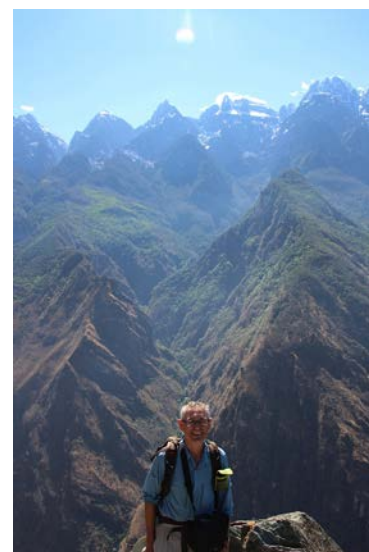
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Tiger Leaping Gorge, in Southwest China, is one of the deepest gorges in the world, with the Jinsha River (or upper Yangtze River) flowing through it and some stunning scenery, including Jade Dragon Snow Mountain and Haba Snow Mountain. The name comes from the legendary tiger, which escaped soldiers or hunters by jumping across the gorge via Tiger Leaping Rock. A two-day, 23 kilometre walk on the upper path about 1000m above the river is popular, particularly with foreign trekkers.



Why the smile Matthew??

My interest in Tiger Leaping Gorge (TLG) was piqued about 10 years ago, when I read 2 quite separate travel articles on TLG, as well as Michael Palin's description of TLG in his book Himalaya. All in the space of a week! Perhaps it was Palin's description of the 'Number One Toilet in Heaven and Earth' that caught my attention.

In May 2015, Helen and I were en route to Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province, via Hong Kong. Apart from the minor mishaps common to travelling (such as getting to immigration in Hong Kong and realizing my passport was still on the plane, luckily not yet on its way to Heathrow or similar), we arrived in Kunming a couple of days ahead of the tour departure. By now Helen was starting to doubt the wisdom of any overseas travel with me (especially after our previous overseas trip had been cut short as a result of my inability to stay upright on a bike)!

Although not part of the tour, the Stone Forest of Shilin is a must do day trip from Kunming. Walking amongst the strangely shaped and tall stone outcrops or karsts is seriously like walking through a stone forest. A fascinating experience! As was the adventure of actually getting to it after being directed to the wrong bus station! Let's just say our guide book pronunciation in Mandarin left a little to be desired and English speakers were few and far between, especially where we were staying.

The first tour night we met the rest of the group of 16 and our tour leader, Jane, for a briefing. The first stop after Kunming being the tourist "old town" of Dali on Lake Erhai. Another very different and uniquely Chinese experience. Not much old but plenty to see and do during our 2 day stay (along with what seemed like most of the local and foreign tourists in China).

The next stop was the market village of Shaxi; much quieter and less developed than Dali. Unfortunately we missed its renowned market, which was packing up as we arrived. A quiet village square with the obligatory dogfight, but boasting coffee and a drinkable Yunnan red. A genuine pizza bar around the corner, complete with Italian chef and Portuguese red wine, was a complete but pleasant surprise. Not that we hadn't been enjoying the mostly superb local cuisine but it was an enjoyable change.

Our stay in Shaxi included a day walk into the Shibaoshan National Park. In hindsight this must have been planned as a test of our endurance for the TLG walk, as there was a range of experience and capacity for extended walks in the group.

Departing after our guesthouse breakfast we walked back along the main Shaxi road through the wide flat valley, tightly packed with small fields and the occasional worker, towards the distant hills. Then cutting in from the road we reached a walker's entrance on the park boundary and a small building for the official(s) recording our entrance. As we seemed to be the only walkers they weren't likely to be rushed off their feet that day.

We faced a steady, in some places steep, climb up past a small temple perched at the top of the valley. Then more climbing up to the Shizhong (Stone Bell) Temple and Pagoda, home of some fascinating and unique Buddhist carvings dating back about 1300 years. The landscape was dry with red coloured hues reminiscent of South Australia's mid-North in the summer. After about 13 km, a stop for lunch and a wait for the mini-bus, surrounded and harassed by the resident golden monkeys, we headed back to Shaxi. Some of the group were reconsidering their trekking options but with some reassurance that TLG would be no more difficult than the day's walk, Helen was a definite starter (in spite of some slight lingering lack of trust in my judgment!).

The next day we travelled by bus to Qiaotou, paid our TLG entry fee, and then drove the length of the gorge downstream to Tina's Guesthouse, our starting point, just upstream from Walnut Grove. The lack of safety railing on the road providing a bit of excitement especially for those on the river side of the bus peering straight down several hundred metres to the river below.

Starting the upstream walk from Tina's Guesthouse was to be a different perspective for me as in 2008 we had finished just down the road at Walnut Grove and I would now be walking the reverse direction.

As Tina's guesthouse was perched some 400m above the river some of us took the opportunity for a late afternoon walk down to the river edge.

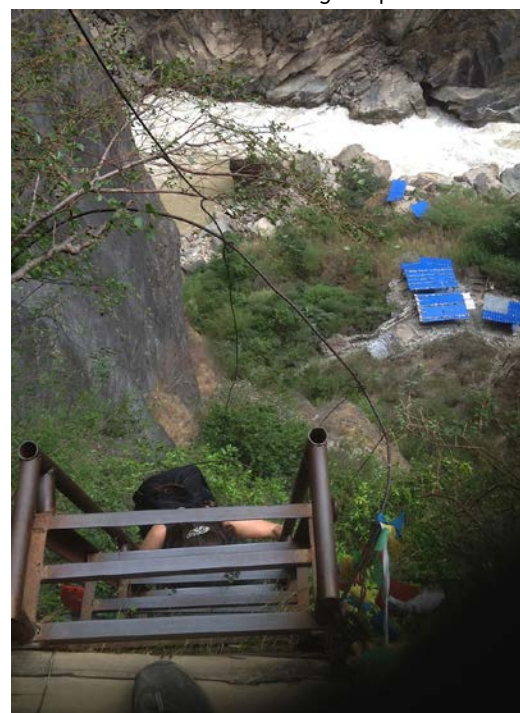


Coming round the mountain.

Others, including Helen, strolled down the road to Walnut Grove, a small village with a couple of other guesthouses.

The first obstacle on the way to the river was the unofficial local family stall where we negotiated a 15 Yuan (\$3) entry fee. A second obstacle was the steep descent, although no worse than some of the Heysen descents. Then out onto the Middle Tiger Leaping Gorge Rock via a small cable bridge. Quite stunning views up and down the narrow gorge with the Jinsha River rushing past us and other boulders the size of trucks.

The third obstacle was next. Not one that any previous treks had prepared me for. We headed downstream via a track carved out of the cliff and climbed up to a small shelter from which a ladder headed straight up. No effective safety rail or harness and I later heard it described as the Tiger Leaping Gorge version of "the ladder of death"! Now heights are not usually a significant problem for me, but I was wondering why the local guide was telling the others ahead of me to leave a good space between each of us. Was it to give the person below time to duck or was it to spread the load on the connections to the cliff face? And how was it connected anyway?



The way up. Is that a safety cage??



As I headed up with the “3 points of contact, 3 points of contact,” mantra playing on my mind, I was wondering whether I could afford to look down. Playing it safe I kept looking in at what seemed to be fairly flimsy rods drilled into the cliff wall over the remains of an old ladder. Not a lot of joy there! Eventually we all reached the top of the ladder and continued the steep climb up the side. Sedan chairs (some broken) lay around at various points but no one to carry them. Luckily not needed by us but obviously there for a reason.

Then a well earned beer on Tina’s viewing platform with the gorge and Jade Dragon Snow Mountain behind us.

Day 1 of the official walk started from Tina’s with a steady climb of just over 300m with great views back downstream and across the gorge. Quite difficult for the inexperienced and a number of the group had wisely self selected to minibus it to our overnight stop. Not an option I remember being available in 2008 and one sign of the gradual development of the track. Although locals still apparently monitor walkers leaving the other end and offer to hire donkeys and horses as they pass. Even speculatively following some trekkers and groups, presumably with the price increasing the further you get.

After the climb the track then eased to a fairly level and easy pace, some of it carved out of the side of the cliff, with stunning views across the gorge and of the track ahead.

We arrived at the Half Way Guesthouse an hour ahead of the tour schedule for lunch. Naxi bread, fried eggplant, green tea and apple pie was my order. Unfortunately the apple pie arrived first but it was as good as I remember. Then to check out that “Number 1 Toilet in Heaven and Earth”. Still a stunning view across the gorge in spite of the nearby construction of new accommodation to cater for the increasing trade. Then a very gentle pace around the mountain contours and cliff edges with views up, down and across the gorge. Obviously Jane didn’t want us to arrive at our next stop too early.

We arrived at Tea Horse Guesthouse in plenty of time for a relaxing drink taking in the stunning views of Jade Dragon Snow Mountain across the gorge (not quite clear of cloud). The same great view to wake to from our window and another sign of progress was the Western toilets that had been installed since my previous stay.

The next morning most of us departed by foot, reaching the high point of the path at 2640m after an hour and a half. Then around the bend to the viewing point. For a small purchase or fee of at least 10 Yuan at another unofficial family stall we could take in the view and take photographs. We all decided to forego the saffron and cannabis on offer. Helen and I opted for a Snickers bar each but watched in fascination the dispute with a couple of young backpackers who took in the view and refused to pay. They begrudgingly parted with their funds before it got too physical. I think this was



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where I was threatened by an irate guardian with a whip last time when taking photographs prior to getting to the viewpoint. (Quite oblivious to the expectation of payment).

Then quickly down the infamous "28 bends". So much easier going down than it was going up which I remember vividly. Luckily it wasn't wet as it was heavily channeled with talcum like powdery dust. Soon we were coming into view of the construction work that would prevent us from completing the track and contributing to the tour decision to walk the track in the reverse direction. Our walk ended with lunch and another well earned beer at the Naxi Family Guesthouse.

Then by bus to the UNESCO heritage town of Lijiang where the group stayed for two nights and we chose to stay on for a couple of extra nights independently. Finally arriving back in Adelaide 30 hours late after weather delays. (At least that wasn't my fault!)

There is no question that it was worth doing the second time especially experiencing the reverse direction. If you do get a chance to walk TLG I suggest you do it sooner than later as progress is changing the character of the area. If doing it with a group make sure the tour is taking the high path over 2 days and not just visiting the observation points. There are other options for independent walkers for longer walks but a local guide is probably essential.



Jinsha River. Middle Tiger Leaping Gorge Rock in the foreground. Note path carved out of rock face on the left.

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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)

Section	Map and GR	Section Leader	Contact
1. Cape Jervis to Tapanappa	Southern Guidebook, Maps 1.1-1.3 Cape to GR 518 530	Albert and Margaret Schmidke	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	Graham Loveday	8331 7595 (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	0422 430 330
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	Northern 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	Simon Cameron	0401 623 436
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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