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AN INTERLOPER'S PERSPECTIVE

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IMPRESSIONS FROM FIRST TIME E2E WALKERS

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## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

**SINGLE** \$25/year  
**FAMILY** \$40/year  
**SCHOOLS/ORGANISATIONS**  
 \$60/year

Membership is valid for  
 12 months from the date  
 of payment.



Cover: E2E12 walking on  
 Woodman Rd, Willalo, past  
 Willalo Creek & turbines of  
 Hallet Wind Farm, July 2021.

Drone photo by Philip Bell.

Trailwalker welcomes photo  
 submissions suitable for the  
 magazine cover. Please email  
 your high-resolution images to  
[trailwalker@heysentrail.asn.au](mailto:trailwalker@heysentrail.asn.au)

# About the Friends

DECEMBER 2021 • 3

## COUNCIL MEMBERS 2021

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**COUNCIL MEETINGS**  
 Council meets on the third  
 Wednesday of each month.

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**E2E11** John Babister  
**E2E12** Adam Matthews  
**E2E13** Vicki Barrett  
**E2E14** Mark Fletcher  
**E2E15** Mark Curtis  
**E2E16** Peter Clark  
**E2E-2** Julian Monfries

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**S2A** Richard Bourne  
**S2B** John Newland  
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**S5** John Babister  
**S6** Robert Ruediger, Ken  
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**S7** Carl Greenstreet  
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 (WEA Ramblers)  
**S9** Jerry & Michelle Foster  
**S10** Wayne Turner,  
 Peter Deacon  
**S11&12** Dom Henschke  
**S13** Hugh Greenhill  
**S14-18** Daniel Jardine  
 Coordinator  
**S17B** Simon Cameron

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 David Andrewartha  
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 Erika Guess  
 Julia McLachlan  
 Peter Clark

We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians whose ancestral lands we traverse along the Heysen Trail. We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of Aboriginal peoples to Country and pay respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal peoples within the Country we walk.





Walking on Nukunu Country,  
Mt Remarkable.

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CINDY ANDERSON

Cox Scrub Conservation Park

## Trailwalker

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

**Deadline for the next issue (April 2022):**

**25 FEBRUARY 2022**

The Trailwalker magazine is available by subscription or online at [heysentrail.asn.au/trailwalker](http://heysentrail.asn.au/trailwalker) and is published and distributed tri-annually:

- April
- August
- December

The Trailwalker magazine has a typical distribution of 1500, and an estimated readership of approximately twice that number.

Contributors are urged to contact the Editor to discuss their article prior to submission. The submission deadline is approx. 5 weeks prior to the month of publication.

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

### ADVERTISING RATES (EX. GST)

**1/8 PAGE** \$60 per issue  
**1/4 PAGE** \$90 per issue  
**1/3 PAGE** \$105 per issue  
**1/2 PAGE** \$150 per issue  
**FULL PAGE** \$220 per issue  
**FLYER** (supplied for insertion) \$265 per issue

A commitment for 12 months advertising (three issues) would attract 10% saving.

Advertising specifications and article submission guidelines are available upon request. Contact the Trailwalker Editor . [trailwalker@heysentrail.asn.au](mailto:trailwalker@heysentrail.asn.au)

# Biggest Year Ever!!

MELANIE SJOBERG



**2021** has been a fabulous year for the Friends despite the simmer of uncertainty flowing from the “COVID-scenario”. I’d suggest we in SA have been lucky. Let’s hope that continues in 2022.

We collectively delivered more walks in our program than we’ve managed before and our office volunteers have reported many more people inquiring about independent walking on the Heysen.

An extension of thanks has to go to every single volunteer who helps keep the Friends and Heysen Trail alive. Every contribution - no matter how big or small - is valuable.

- *Walk Leaders* who make the End to Ends happen;
- *Trail Maintenance groups* who fix markers, posts and stiles;
- *Helpful office staff* supporting members and public inquiries;
- *Membership & Marketing* that produce the Trailwalker, social media, publicity and promote the Heysen at events; and
- *Finance team* who gather every Friday to balance the books & pay the bills.

On behalf of Council I’d also like to convey appreciation to members for adhering to our COVID-safe policies with masks on buses, social distancing and check-in at our events. Council will continue to monitor SA Health guidelines in preparation for 2022.

This year members had the benefit of choosing from 7 separate End to End Heysen groups and 3 other extended walk options; the Willunga Basin Trail, the Lavender Trail and Walk the Yorke. Icing on the top was a week of highlights on Walk the Yorke and our Fleurieu to Mt Lofty Week. Those staying closer to home had their pick from a smorgasbord of Trailwalker and Trailstarter events.

Our program continues to be successful because we encourage participation and aim to build confidence among our members to walk in nature with the added benefit of camaraderie and support to ensure we stay safe on the trail.

Importantly, membership fees and revenue from the walk program offer mutual benefit as it flows into the Friends’ other activities to promote, maintain and develop the Heysen Trail.

Maintaining the trail is no small task when you consider that we care for more than 6000 items of infrastructure along its 1200km – that’s an awful lots of posts, signs, platforms, stiles, water tanks and shelters. During 6 years of walking one member counted climbing over 341 stiles!

Section maintenance teams may be less visible because they get on with repairs in between peak walk periods. Nonetheless, they are fundamental to keeping the Heysen safe and accessible for everyone across the walking community. While they may have a range of skills, mind-reading

isn’t one of them - so it’s a big help if walkers report issues needing attention through the Friends office or Walk Leaders.

Council and Committees are proud that the Friends is an outward-looking organisation where we collectively contribute to broader community benefit by informing all interested walkers about the Trail and ensuring the Heysen continues to be marked and safe for everyone to walk or, if you prefer speed, those hardy runners.

## COUNCIL 2021

### Constitution Review Update

Members are aware that during 2021 the Friends commenced a review aimed at modernising the 35 year old Constitution. Committees and members were afforded an opportunity to comment. Proposed amendments include simplifying membership categories, clarifying terms for elected office holders, updating finance definitions. Technical changes to recognise the use of email and electronic record-keeping have also been incorporated. Following a final legal review, Council aims to present the suite of proposals for consideration at the Annual General Meeting on the 24 March, 2022.



## 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.

To be considered for the 2022 AGM, nominations should be received by the end of January 2022.

### 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 six years of substantial voluntary contributions to the Association, including especially one or more of Maintenance Section Leader or Volunteer office, regular Walk Leadership roles, Maintenance Section Leader or Volunteer office.

### 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.

## 2022 Calendar available now



Photo: Mark Scicluna

Walking SA Awards were held on Thursday 28th October – Friends of Heysen Trail won an Award for our walk program that supports Heysen Trail development and regional communities. Wellbeing SA sponsored the Awards which included \$2000 to each of the winners.

## A new tank for Beetaloo



**After several years of poor quality water, then no water at Beetaloo (Mills Rd) we now have new water storage, and rain cooperating, a good water supply.**

The site has moved approximately 1km north of the old site at the junction of Grossman Track and Southern Boundary Track.

Volunteers installed gutters on an existing SA Water shed and installed the new 1500 litre poly tank.

The ring for the stand was kindly donated by Fibreglass Pipe Products of Gulnare.

## Friends COVID Safe 2021

SA Health COVID Safety requires the Friends of the Heysen Trail to:

- > keep a register of members at events;
- > comply with any attendance caps in place;
- > ensure trained COVID Marshalls are a part of walks and activities.

This means members/guests must register online in advance for ALL FoHT walks, activities and events. Our office volunteers will be able to assist if you have any difficulties. You also need to use QR Code check-in or sign-in when visiting and attending meetings in the office. Let's keep everyone safe.

# Heysen Trail Closure during the Fire Danger Season

## The Heysen Trail is closed during the Fire Danger Season.

The Trail crosses three different Country Fire Service Fire Ban Districts, so the closure dates vary slightly.

However, as we are now in December, all sections are now in Fire Danger Season. Consequently, the Trail is currently closed until 30 April 2022. In the Flinders Fire Ban District, the Trail will re-open on 15 April 2022.

The trail closure times must be obeyed at all times, as the viability of the Heysen Trail is dependent on the continuing co-operation of private landholders.

Some sections of the Trail are still open – depending on local fire ban conditions. During the Fire Danger Season there is still the opportunity to walk along the Trail in Forest Reserves, National & Conservation Parks and along country roads. However, camping and the ability to cook with a naked flame is restricted or banned in many areas.

Public reserves such as Forests and National/Conservation parks are open to the public over the Fire Danger

Season however on days of extreme or catastrophic fire danger they are closed.

The closure information on these dangerous fire days is usually promoted through the media via radio and television news bulletins. In addition, access gates to forests and parks are locked and have a sign informing people that the area is closed due to the fire danger.

You can find out more about the sections of the Trail that remain open most of the year on the Fire Danger Season section of our website [www.heyseentrail.asn.au/heyseentrail/fire-danger-season/](http://www.heyseentrail.asn.au/heyseentrail/fire-danger-season/)

## ACCESS TO HUTS ON THE TRAIL IS ALSO RESTRICTED.

A number of the huts along the trail are on private property and are therefore not accessible to the public (including walkers) during the Fire Danger Season. These include Marschalls Hut, Huppertz Hut, Hiskeys Hut, Catninga Hut and Mayo Hut.

Huts in National and Conservation Parks are accessible during the Fire Danger Season, provided it is not a day of extreme or catastrophic fire danger.



## Trailthinker Quiz

1. Which memorable mountain is known by the Indigenous name Yoorka Kadnia?
2. Which HT beach is named for 'Windy Place'?
3. Which HT campsite was temporarily closed due to the 2019 Cudlee Creek bushfires?
4. What is the name given for a rock and pebble littered area of arid or semi-arid country in Australia?
5. From which CP, only accessible from the HT, would you expect to see the Superb Fairywren and the New Holland Honeyeater?
6. Which Hans Heysen painting depicts a scene from the final two walks on the HT?
7. In which year did the SA Christmas Pageant begin?
8. Which HT landmark is named after a man whose camel shot him and he subsequently died from gangrene?
9. Who was the SA Premier when the HT was first opened?
10. Which walk am I? The ancient Waigal Rainbow Serpent guides the way through Nyoongar country.

## Welcome New Members

The President and the Council would like to extend a warm welcome to the 305 members who have joined the Friends since the last edition of Trailwalker.

Recently some privacy concerns have been raised over the printing of new member names in each Trailwalker and as a result we will no longer be printing them.

This does not diminish our appreciation and gratitude to those who have joined. We look forward to meeting many of you on the trail in the future.

*Members and supporters are the life-blood of the Friends, so being a member helps to safeguard this precious community resource for future generations.*

*Thankyou!*



# Management Plan Review

## 35 YEARS OF SUPPORT

As the Friends mark 35 years of supporting the SA Government in developing the Heysen Trail, it is heartening to see SA Government investment in facilities to support bush walking. This includes Wild South Coast Way on the Heysen Trail and Southern Finders Precinct.

In order to effectively leverage off those investments and ensure that linking developments along the trail are prioritised to enhance the Heysen Trail, the Friends have jointly funded with the Department of Environment and Water, Forestry SA and SA Water the engagement of TRC Tourism to undertake a review of the previous management plan for the trail and to provide guidance on trail maintenance and management requirements during the next 5 years. This will inform annual work plans, resource needs, roles and responsibilities and the best

approach to effectively govern and manage the trail.

Following a workshop with the stakeholders, TRC will present recommendations and priorities for a logical program of works to be achieved over the next five years, including trail maintenance and realignment, infrastructure and investment needs, marketing and promotion and overall trail experience enhancement.

TRC will then produce the Heysen Trail Management Plan 2022- 2027 for endorsement and implementation by the stakeholders.

The overarching purpose of the Management Plan will be to provide proven solutions that are:

- Environmentally sustainable
- Manage public safety
- Improve the quality of the walking experience.

FOHT Council and Committees look forward to seeing the final draft proposals that should help our organisation prioritise our work over the next 3-5 years.

## Office Closed over Christmas and New Year

**OUR HARDWORKING OFFICE VOLUNTEERS WILL BE TAKING A WELL EARNED BREAK.**

The Office will close at 2.30 p.m. on Friday, December 10th, 2021. If you're looking to buy a Friends 2022 Calendar or have ordered a calendar and elected to pick it up from the Office, please do so before we close on the 10th.

The Office reopens for normal business from Tuesday 1st February.

# Infrastructure Activity Leaders Wanted

If you can fix just about anything, love the smell of sawdust and paint in the morning, are a great organiser and enjoy getting out and about in all sorts of places in South Australia, we've got just the volunteer role you're looking for!

As an Infrastructure Activity Leader with the Friends of the Heysen Trail, you will travel up and down the length of the trail, maintaining and improving the campsites, buildings, water tanks and toilets. There are around 35 sites, so there's always something that needs our attention.

You will have responsibility for work groups and away teams and the paperwork that goes along with it. You will be responsible to the TDC Infrastructure Coordinator for advice, training, and support.

## COME ON, YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO!

The Friends of The Heysen Trail encourages and supports training for our volunteers.

Infrastructure Activity Leaders should have the following skills or be willing to be trained in:

Basic building maintenance skills such as

- Job planning
- Painting and patching, concreting
- Rainwater plumbing
- Minor carpentry
- Minor hand trenching and excavation
- Power tool skills and safe use

4WD driving and navigation

Project management

- Organise volunteers for

activities

- Arrange transport and accommodation logistics
- Arrange supply of materials
- Solve on-site problems
- Record work hours and expenses

Volunteer Safety Procedure

- Identify potential on-site risks
- Conduct volunteer induction and safety briefings
- Complete end of activity reports

Use of the TDC Database

Most out of pocket expenses are reimbursed by the FOHT.

**If you are interested in these roles with the FOHT, please contact Peter Simons at 0415 493 077 or [peter.simons@outlook.com](mailto:peter.simons@outlook.com)**



# Friends Summer Walk Programme 2021/2022

DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
<b>WED 01</b> <b>EW SOUTH PARA GRAND HIKE</b> Elayne Sanders	<b>WED 05</b> <b>EW ANSTEY HILL</b> Julie Testi	<b>WED 02</b> <b>EW EAST PARKLANDS</b> Valerie Boundy	<b>WED 02</b> <b>EW BURNSIDE</b> John Babister
<b>WED 08</b> <b>EW WAITE CP</b> Heather Thompson	<b>WED 12</b> <b>EW SHEPHERDS HILL CP</b> Heather Thompson	<b>WED 09</b> <b>EW PORT ADELAIDE WONDER WALLS AND BRIDGES</b> Julian Monfries	<b>WED 09</b> <b>EW HAPPY VALLEY</b> Judith Ellis
<b>THU 16</b> <b>TS PORT NOARLUNGA &amp; RIVER LOOP</b> Daniel Jardine	<b>WED 19</b> <b>EW COBBLER CREEK</b> Julie Testi	<b>WED 16</b> <b>EW WILD DOG GLEN</b> Peter Clark	<b>WED 16</b> <b>EW PARA WIRRA</b> Elayne Sanders
<b>WED 22</b> <b>NO WALK</b>	<b>WED 26</b> <b>AUSTRALIA DAY NO WALK</b>	<b>WED 23</b> <b>EW SEMAPHORE HYSTERICAL/BEACH WALK</b> Julian Monfries	<b>WED 23</b> <b>EW HALLETT COVE</b> Simon Cameron
<b>WED 29</b> <b>NO WALK</b>	<b>SUN 30</b> <b>TS TORRENS RIVER PART 1</b> Bill van Riet	<b>SUN 27</b> <b>TS TORRENS RIVER PART 2</b> Bill van Riet	<b>SUN 27</b> <b>TS TORRENS RIVER PARK 3</b> Bill van Riet

● EW EVENING WALKS

● TW TRAILSTARTER/MORNING WALKS

Version released 14 November 2021



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friends

**Best of the  
Heysen Trail  
on Instagram**

*Burra Hills as captured by  
the Heysen Friends newest  
Insta curator @kt700*

**Check the online  
Walk Programme  
for latest updates  
and to register  
[heysentrail.asn.au/  
walks](https://heysentrail.asn.au/walks)**

The Summer Twilight Walks begin at 6pm, are typically 1.5 to 2 hours long, and are within close proximity to Adelaide. Followed by an optional social dinner at a local restaurant.

Participants require only a modest degree of physical fitness.

## Further Information

Details about each walk, our hot weather policy, what to wear and bring and walk grades visit [heysentrail.asn.au](https://heysentrail.asn.au)

# Celebrate NPWSSA's Park of the Month with Friends

**Join the Friends as we celebrate our amazing parks with the National Parks and Wildlife Service South Australia's Park of the Month.**

Register for a walk either online at [heysentrail.asn.au/walks](https://heysentrail.asn.au/walks) or by phoning the office on 8212 6299.

Park of the Month is a great way to gain a deeper understanding of our special natural places and to find new ways to enjoy them. Each month NPWSSA provide a variety of events for everyone to enjoy.

## DECEMBER ▼

**Eastern Kangaroo Island Parks (Lashmar, Baudin, Cape Willoughby)**

## JANUARY ▼

**Dhilba Guuranda-Innes National Park**

## FEBRUARY ▼

**Parks of Onkaparinga (Onkaparinga River National Park and Recreation Park, Moana Sands Conservation Park, Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park)**

## MARCH ▼

**Coorong National Park**

## APRIL ▼

**Parks of Central Mount Lofty Ranges (Belair National Park, Cleland Conservation Park and Wildlife Park, Mt George Recreation Park, Mark Oliphant Conservatio Park)**

## MAY ▼

**Parks of Northern Mount Lofty Ranges (Morialta Conservation Park, Black Hill Conservation Park, Anstey Hill Recreation Park, Para Wirra Conservation Park)**



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Image: Maggie Moy



# Wild South Coast Way on the Heysen Trail

MELANIE SJOBERG

Photographer: Darren Quick

## It is quite exciting to see physical progress following the SA Government's \$6million investment into the Heysen Trail and Deep Creek Conservation Park.

It has been a privilege as President of the Friends to be a member of the Wild South Coast Way Steering Committee being led by the Department for Environment & Water (DEW) and seeing these improvements take shape.

On September 29th, Minister Speirs formally opened the Goondooloo Picnic Area and Accessible Walk, which was attended by Paul Bond and Ross McDougall from FOHT Trail Development Committee. This 4km accessible trail enables mobility-impaired people to immerse in a native plant lined pathway to access stunning views across the park and to Kangaroo Island.

### HIKER CAMPING SITES

Construction of 4 dedicated hiker only camp sites has advanced despite some lousy wet weather causing hold-ups at the old Eagle Waterhole. It looks promising that all will be open into 2022.

- Eagle Campsite has tent pads, access paths, toilet and bridge in place;
- Former "FOHT Balquhider" has tent pads, bridge and toilet completed;
- Tapanappa will have a new site separate to the vehicle camping which has commenced;
- Newland Head Conservation Park new site has been surveyed.
- Trailheads at Cape Jarvis & Victor Harbor and signage is yet to be installed.

DEW is developing a dedicated website for the 5-day Wild South Coast Way on the Heysen Trail to provide information and bookings in one easy spot. Information will include: pre visit advice on planning and preparation, communication devices, telling responsible person of plans, checking forecasts, descriptions of walks/difficulty, contacting 000, maps, likelihood of patchy reception of connectivity. The FoHT website will link to that when it is available.

The new 5 day WSCW on the Heysen also changes access because that stretch of the Heysen Trail from Cape Jarvis to Victor Harbor will now be open all

year round. Park protocols for closure will still apply on days of Catastrophic Fire/Total Fire Ban days. Intending hikers should also exercise personal safety risk assessment on days that are hot – particularly over 30 degrees - and consider modifying or deferring planned activities. Care and respect

for private property through that area will also be essential if the benefit of this extended access is to continue.

DEW Fire Danger Season – (Existing) Management Guidelines

- No camping on private land
- No gas or solid fuel fires on private land
- Camping permitted only at designated sites on public land
- Public land campsites - gas fires only during Fire Danger Season
- Gas fires only all year in Newland Head Conservation Park
- No fires, including gas fires, on days of Total Fire Ban
- Deep Creek Conservation Park and Newland Head Conservation Park closed on days of Catastrophic Fire Danger
- Fuel build-up and buffer zones assessed prior to each Fire Danger Season as part of asset protection



# What do you use for navigating on the trail?



## ASK A HIKER



I like to look at a paper map to work out where we are on a trail and situate the track within broader landscape. In all honesty I rely on my GPS savvy partner for specific navigation and of course look out for Heysen red markers for good measure. In reality I put more effort into viewing the surrounds and taking photographs.

MELANIE SJOBERG

**President**



Started following the leader, stepped out with Google maps. Improved on that after finding that Walking SA has downloadable maps for us to follow.

Later we were told about Avenza, with fantastic free trail maps for all SA National parks.

But now we have recently started using Gaia GPS.

BILL VAN RIET

**Walk Leader**



Other than a good set of eyes to look for markers on a marked trail, I'm a bit of a traditionalist and just love hardcopy maps, plus a compass.

This year I did use the Heysen Trail maps downloaded from Avenza and found them a handy tool.

JUDY MCADAM

**Council Member**



My simple answer is follow the trail markers.

Maps: I take photocopies of HT guidebook maps (yes, they are getting a bit old). But I always check the re-route page on the website before a walk.

Garmin GPS 64sx. I use it to follow the HT gpx file (the purple line) and to mark a waypoint. This gives me a grid reference to check on my map.

DOM HENSCHKE

**Walk Leader/Office Manager**



First and foremost, a printed topographical map. I'm old-school (and a rogainer) and dislike hiking in unknown territory without a map in my pocket. I always carry a compass for those just in case moments. I build mental maps of places I've been, which helps when I revisit areas. A good understanding of my route and destination is also useful. Of course, those Heysen Trail markers are great for navigating, too ;)

JO POWELL

**Heysen Member/Rogainer**



Mostly I've enjoyed the luxury of following the person in front me on guided walks. Leaves time for life's debrief with my walking partner. Otherwise, it's Heysen maps and markers. Recently downloaded Avenza maps.

TAMMY MAIN

**Heysen Member**



I always carry a map. For the Heysen Trail, I use the old-style guidebooks, which I keep updated with re-routes posted on our website.

For other trails, I either print a map or grab a paper map at the trailhead if available. If no paper map is available, I will photograph the trail map using my phone.

DEAN MORTIMER

**Heysen Member**

## Trailthinker Quiz Answers

1. Dutchmans Stern
2. Waitpinga Beach
3. Grandpa's
4. Gibber
5. Finnis CP
6. Three Sisters of Aroona
7. 1933
8. John Ainsworth Horrocks
9. Don Dunstan
10. Bibbulmun Track



# Volunteer Profile: Erica Gordon

## HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE FRIENDS?

When Tom and I joined E2E 11 in 2016 it was our first contact with the Friends. On a walk in 2017, I overheard one of the walk leaders saying they needed more office volunteers, so I began in the office in September that year.

## WHY DID YOU INITIALLY GET INVOLVED WITH VOLUNTEERING AT THE FRIENDS?

I had retired several years previously, and was looking for some extra volunteering opportunities to keep me busy and keep my mind from going to mush! I had always enjoyed working in a team setting, and through our E2E experience I realized just how much behind the scenes work there is in keeping the trail, the walks program and the shop in good order. I have average computer skills and no office background, but was happy to learn.

## WHAT ARE SOME ACTIVITIES IN WHICH YOU'VE VOLUNTEERED WITH THE FRIENDS?

I first did one day with a trail maintenance team and quickly decided that working with power tools was not my forte.

The office better suits my personality. I enjoy the people I work with on a Thursday, and together we are learning new skills all the time. Luckily, the

Office Manager is a patient teacher! I am now also on the Office Committee.

## WHAT'S YOUR FONDEST MEMORY ON THE HEYSEN?

Our E2E experience has been terrific. The trail is wonderful and the group of people we have come to know and the shared experiences and conversations have been just as good. The group camaraderie has really blossomed since we began going away for weekends together. Climbing Mt Bryan in a howling gale was certainly memorable, as was the night we all had a yiros and bread and butter pudding dinner together in the Gladstone goal dining room. We had a big police presence that night – courtesy of Peter and Glenn – keeping us in order.

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE HEYSEN TRAIL TOWN/REGION?

I can only speak to areas south of Quorn.

The South coast is superb. The mid-north has been a revelation! Burra to Melrose is lovely walking with a few challenges (a few bumps as our fearless leader John Babister would say). All caravan park cabins have been uniformly comfortable. Scones and coffee at Good Golly Miss Polly, a Burra café were excellent, as was the Black Sheep restaurant there. The pubs and the bicycle café at Melrose are also very good.



## IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'D NEVER BE WITHOUT ON THE TRAIL?

Wet weather gear, sunscreen and a hat, and cold pasties for lunch.

At the beginning of each walking season I make a big batch of pasties, which I freeze. Then lunches on the trail are easy and delicious – one each, every day.

## WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE WALK ASIDE FROM THE HEYSEN TRAIL?

Before COVID we would walk in a different country each year, from Iceland through Europe and to Japan. In 2019 we walked parts of the “W” trail around the mountains of the Torres del Paine national park in Patagonia, which was truly spectacular. A close second would be the Tour du Mt Blanc through France, Italy and Switzerland, which we completed in 2013.

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# Nukunu Acknowledgement

SIMON CAMERON

*Nukunu Country, Warkalinya/Mt Remarkable  
Photographer: Paul Frost*

## **Simon Cameron from the Friends Reconciliation Committee acknowledges the traditional custodians on our land.**

Of all of the Language groups I have looked at to date, the Nukunu are the most enigmatic. There is very little in the historical record about them, and yet they are the traditional owners of a very large slab of the Southern Flinders Ranges. The Heysen Trail enters Nukunu country near Jamestown, travels through the very heartland at Melrose and does not leave until Quorn. On either side of the Heysen, Nukunu country extends west beyond the gulf and east to the Willochra Plain, almost to Orroroo.

Nukunu was a name unknown to me, at the start of my Heysen walking. Only emerging from the shadows in the last five years, appearing

on colourful signage beside the highway, and celebrated by a display in the Melrose Museum. Shadows is no exaggeration because they are a mysterious group, known to their neighbours, the Kaurna, as the upholders of law and given the name Nukunu, meaning 'assassin.' The translation is provided by the anthropologists working in the 1920s and 1940s, the same anthropologists who have provided most of the cultural information on other language groups, like the Ngadjuri, and may be a harsh interpretation. One Nukunu elder explained to me that they were sticklers for kinship laws and were probably known for killing anyone found in breach. However, there is an impression that they were feared. They were also influential. A long songline leads from Pt Augusta, traversing Australia to the Gulf of Carpentaria, implying country wide connections.

So how does a powerful, or influential

## **Indigenous custodians**

The Heysen Trail passes through Country of seven traditional owners: the Ngarrindjeri, the Kaurna, the Peramangk, the Ngadjuri, the Nukunu, the Banggarla and the Adnyamathanha.

*Excerpt taken from 'Heysen Highlights. Companion Guide to the Heysen Trail' by Simon Cameron.*

tribal nation fade from post-colonial record? It is the same story of settler impact with disease and dispossession. Nukunu country was well watered and lush. The pastoralists arrived in the early 1840s, once again following the footsteps of Edward John Eyre. The White brothers took up the Charlton run, near present day Wirrabara in 1844 and Alexander Campbell arrived at Willowie and later Mt Remarkable. It was almost certainly a Nukunu man who led John Horrocks over his eponymous pass in 1846.

Interactions between shepherds and Nukunu would have been continuous. Some are recorded in the police records from the outpost setup at Melrose in 1848. Stock stealing was a serious offence. A few newspaper reports from the 1850s describe confrontations near Crystal Brook, including a 'group' killed for sheep stealing. These scattered and poorly documented interactions are currently being updated by a large University ➤



of Adelaide project, scouring written sources and recording oral settler and aboriginal records. It promises to pull the early colonial history out of the shadows, and I for one cannot wait.

“

**A long songline leads from Pt Augusta, traversing Australia to the Gulf of Carpentaria, implying country wide connections**

”

The Nukunu remained in contact with their country. According to the Nukunu elder who kindly spoke with me, about 120 descendants identify as Nukunu today. That implies that only a handful survived settlement. By 1911 there were a handful of families living on Country at Baroota Reserve, eventually settling in Pt Germaine. Mobs still gathered near Mt Remarkable up to the 1920s, camping near Doughboy Creek, outside of Melrose. The families at Pt Germaine were as close to their land as possible and fought for 28 years, the longest Native Title claim to date, to gain rights to the Southern Range and adjacent plains, granted in 2019.

The Nukunu are finally emerging from the shadows, and one meaningful way to acknowledge them is to recognise Mt Remarkable in language – Warkalitya, and celebrate the spiritual heartland of these guardians of lore.

“

**Songlines are known as navigational tracks, in that the elders or the trained Indigenous people will sing the landscape and therefore be able to move from location to location through it, and teach each other.**

”

Quote from Lynne Kelly, Monash University; taken from 'Songlines: the Indigenous memory code' by Lynne Malcolm and Olivia Willis.

### Trailwalker Photo Competition



**Volunteer, Heather Thompson relaxes with the TrailWalker Magazine as the sun sets on Kings Canyon, Alice Springs.**

**We invite our readers to submit photos of themselves or others reading TrailWalker in interesting or unusual locations.**

Please send your high-resolution photos to The Editor at [trailwalker@heysentrail.asn.au](mailto:trailwalker@heysentrail.asn.au)

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**ON THE MOVE? RING US FOR A REMOVAL QUOTE**

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END-TO-END 15

# Impressions from First Time End to End Walkers

*Photos: Carolyn Pickering  
Native bush in Deep Creek CP*

## The first taste of E2E15's hiking on the Heysen Trail, from Cape Jervis to Myponga, from Claire Morrison and Wayne Miller.

The South Coast with its remoteness, breath-taking scenery and diversity of flora and fauna, much of which is accessible only on foot, makes for a unique and special place in South Australia. What a marvelous place to begin a 6-year commitment of 1200km.

The sheer size of the group was quite surprising - at times up to 80 hikers comprising singles, couples and a range of friends and family groupings. Some were content with their own company and immersing themselves in nature. Others enjoyed meeting fellow walkers and sharing stories. All marvelled at and revelled in the beauty of the coastline and the Fleurieu. In

this year of pandemic lockdowns how keen was the group to be living life in the outdoors!!!

In this group - so many people with so many talents - an author and artist who settled herself amongst the native bush each lunch break to paint the landscape, a yoga instructor who provided impromptu yoga sessions after these long and arduous climbs, photographers and naturalists, Christmas elves who delivered 'good tidings' for the end of year and all of us who just enjoy a walk.

One of the positive things, I feel, that has emerged from COVID, is a greater sense of community. People are kinder and more accepting of others. One of the loveliest things about the walks is the ability to meet others who have such positive energy and

enthusiasm and a willingness to share their stories. Everyone seems happy to chat with strangers and all with interesting stories to tell. The brilliant idea of name tags on our packs helped promote a sense of belonging and easy companionship amongst the group.

Some reflections on a few of our walks thus far...

### SECTION 3: TAPANAPPA TO BALQUHIDDER

As we drove towards our meeting point, the Fleurieu was bathed in fog, however by the time our bus dropped us at Tapanappa campsite, the skies were clear, and we

walked down to the cliff tops to see the spectacular views we'd come to expect along the South Coast. We descended to sea level and the creek crossing was less challenging than expected. Our gallant leader, Mark, had offered ➤





to stand midstream to help us across but the creek was shallow enough to rock hop across without incident. A long beach walk ensued. The soft sand tested our legs and if that wasn't enough, the ascent up to our parked cars was tortuous - straight up from the beach along a fence line that was both slippery and steep.

We were rewarded with views of impossibly high cliffs to the west and a green jelly snake. After a group photo while we caught our breath, it was onwards and upwards to the finish where rain shortened our celebrations.

### SECTION 5: WAITPINGA TO TUGWELL RD

Being new to hiking and the Heysen Trail, the 17km was worrying me a little through the week, as I am always anxious that I will be a liability and so I did approach this day with some trepidation.

After completing it without incident, I must say that it is my favorite of the walks, to date. With the spectacular vistas across the immense, glassy Southern Ocean to The Bluff and Encounter Bay, majestic, rugged cliff faces, the stunning golden wattle and delicate native wildflowers of white and orange, it proved to be a beautiful walk. Some of those cliff tops were sheer and I, for one, was glad it wasn't raining, hazardous and slippery. This is a place where whales wave at you and dolphins frolic. Today unfortunately, they were busy elsewhere but that just means I'll have to repeat the walk sometime - not such a bad thought!

I have always loved the green rolling hills and farmlands of this area and the second part of the walk was just as gorgeous.



*Carolyn Pickering captures the scrambling down and up the South Coast between Cape Jervis and Tapanappa.*



### FINAL E2E15 WALK FOR 2021 INMAN VALLEY TO MYPONGA

And yet another hill, words heard quite frequently on this walk - a memorable achievement for many was the hill arising out of Inman Valley - to be confronted with a seemingly never-ending climb with a 550m ascent, about 10min into our final first year's walk between Inman Valley and Myponga, was quite a shock to the system, as well as possibly being the longest hike thus far.

This final walk afforded a real sense of accomplishment and personal achievement, especially to those of us who haven't attempted walks such as these before and to those of us who originally thought '...I'm not sure I am able to do this...'. And so we have conquered the physical challenges presented to us with an optimistic 'can do' attitude - the conquest of Cobbler's Hill was a memorable achievement for many and the soaking squalls which hit us on top of a stretch of open clifftop,

forcing us all to stand as sheep with our backs to the driving rain, has only served to make us ready and more determined to look forward to what challenge might next confront us.

I know that the ability to be able to maintain a good level of fitness through training walks will help build assurance that we are able to begin again in our second year with increased confidence to complete each walk, especially as they become more challenging.

A huge thankyou must be extended to the organisers, guides and support people who are always so very kind, friendly and encouraging throughout the walks. I can appreciate that it must be a huge task in being responsible for such a large group, in particular establishing and maintaining the communication between all participants.



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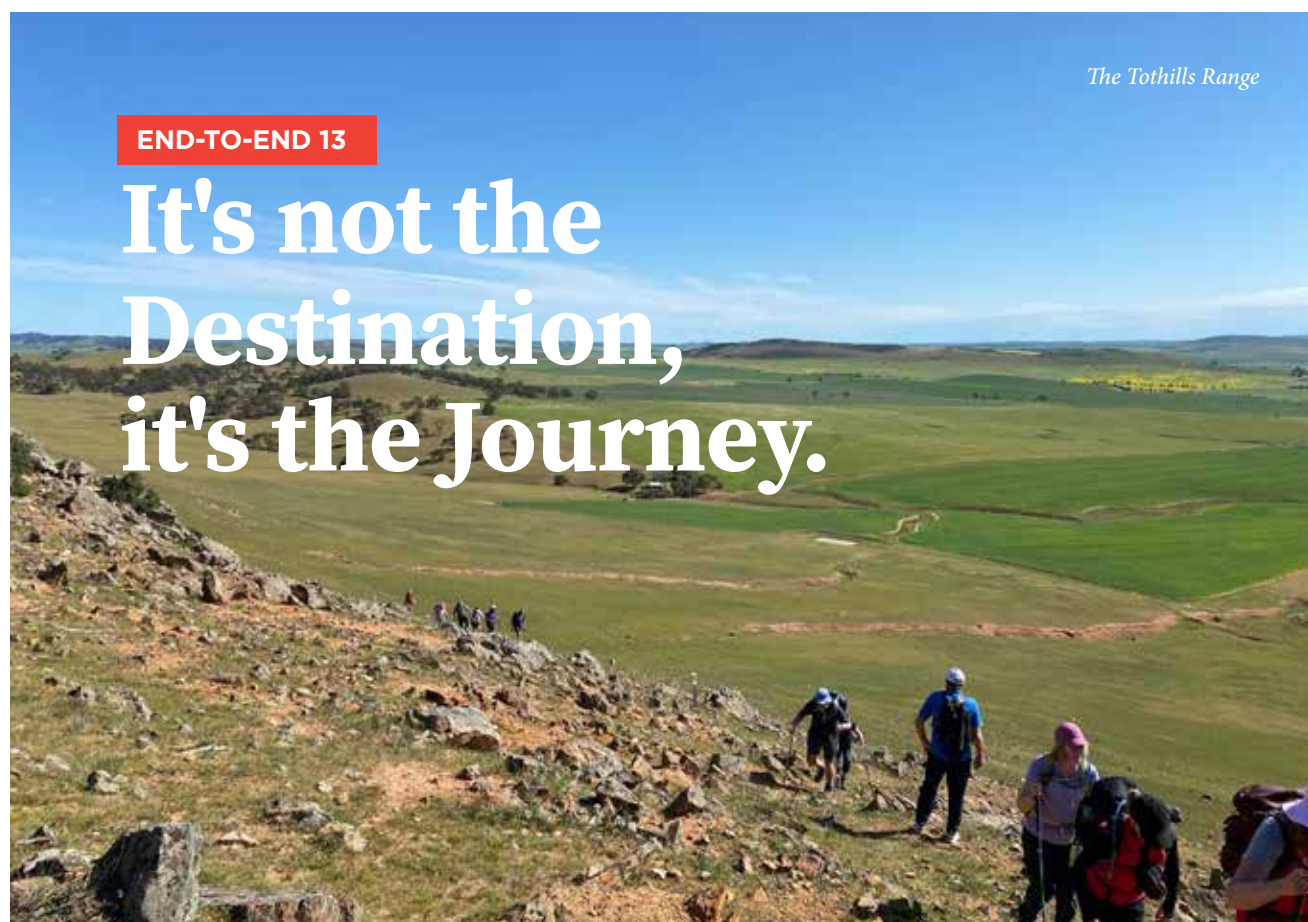
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END-TO-END 13

# It's not the Destination, it's the Journey.

## **Anthea Bowler shares a look into the year that was 2021 for E2E13.**

**T**he E2E13 group started the Heysen Trail at Cape Jervis in 2018. We crossed the 400km mark in October 2021. Only 800km to Parachilna!

But it's not about the destination, it's the journey.

With no walks scheduled in 2020 due to COVID, 2021 was a year of reacquaintance and strengthening friendships. The group had lost a few members and welcomed new walkers who are now an integral part of E2E13. The ad hoc walkers who joined our walks to make up sections they had missed or as one-off walks were warmly welcomed and their interesting conversation and perspectives were enjoyed by the group.

Every walk has provided diverse scenery that often can't be seen from a

car and there is no doubt walking the trail gives a different perspective of the terrain and an appreciation of that diversity.

Although 2021 was a year of high rainfall, the monthly walks for E2E13 were dry and sunny until the September walk – our first weekend away and, for many, the most exhilarating walk for the year. A spectacular sunrise with low fog provided a beautiful start to a sunny June walk, climbing over Mt Crawford and Wirra Wirra Peaks. We stopped at the top for a photo opportunity to acknowledge the Queen's Birthday long weekend and continued on to Pewsey Vale. This walk provided stunning views over vineyards and we were grateful for the maintenance team who provided sturdy steps down the steep hill into the pine forest. Our stop at the Old School House may have

overwhelmed the family camping there but as they sat around their log fire they graciously welcomed us while we had morning tea. Some of the group were treated to an inspection of the accommodation in the Old School House.

We met at Torbreck winery for our July walk, far too early to get distracted by the offerings inside. A pretty and varied walk with pines, vines, gums, interesting rock features, panoramic views over the Barossa Valley and a



footbridge over the shoe-adorned footbridge. The Bethany Reserve picnic ground provided shelter, tables and chairs and flushing toilets and

the main street of Tanunda included an icecream stop.

Vineyards were plentiful between ➤



Tanunda and Kapunda and the first signs of spring were evident, with blossom and fields of canola. A deep creek bed was the dumping place for old cars and trucks and as we followed its course, it provided a perfect location for a break. We walked single file through a crop and the owner was thanked heartily by members of our group at an accidental meeting at a bar in Tanunda later in the day. The historic copper mining town of Kapunda was our destination that day.

Our first weekend of walking in September was quite a bonding experience. Saturday was a pleasant walk under a cloudless blue sky, past old ruins, through undulating farmland and followed by dinner at the Riverton Hotel.

“

**Now we know we can walk in any condition....and enjoy the day.**

”

Sunday was cold, wet and windy, yet many photos show fluffy white clouds in a blue sky, to remind us that it didn't rain all day. At the top of Peters Hill we were buffeted by strong winds as we admired the views over pastureland.

We made a short detour to Marschalls Hut for a lunch break. As we trekked down the hill against a head wind, the rain turned to hail. It was exhilarating to use the hut for the purpose it was intended – to provide shelter. Originally built in the mid-1850s, the current hut is built with stones from the 5 room homestead ruins. The large fireplace looked enticing, but our stay was brief and dry wood was scarce.

A brief burst of clear skies and it was back up the hill with the wind and hail at our backs. A couple more stiles, over the top of Peters Hill and we could see our cars in the distance. Now we know we can walk in any condition... and enjoy the day.

On the October long weekend our walk along the Tothill Range started with the walk furthest away so we would end up closer to Adelaide.



*Sunny June walk, climbing over Mt Crawford and Wirra Wirra Peaks.*



The thick low fog had morphed into bright sunshine by the time we began at Webb Gap. It was a day of pretty vistas from the Tothill Range over farmland and Apoinga Lagoon. A brief stop at Huppertz Hut before a steep climb to a rocky outcrop.

Soon after leaving Gerkie Gap on Sunday we arrived at a campsite at the top of a hill where a firepit still had some warmth.

On Monday, Peters Hill to Gerkie Gap was a pleasant walk along back roads to Marrabel, famous for its annual rodeo and bull ride, with morning tea near the life size bronze statue of horse and rider.

With the start of daylight savings, the theme for the weekend was “time”. We started the walks with various time related songs and finished the walk to the haunting strains of “Time to say goodbye” by Andrea Bocelli and Sarah Brightman. A poignant way to finish the year's walks, we look forward to the adventures of 2022 – friendships, fitness, scenery, and opportunities to learn about a wide range of subjects from fellow walkers.



Our support driver David has provided wise counsel on everything from safety to fitness and the most appropriate boots and socks. His friendly smiling face has greeted us regularly along every walk, delivering spare water or spare shoes, sharing a break or providing a reprieve for those needing a lift.

I have no doubt that everyone who has walked with E2E13 over the three

years feels an immense gratitude to our walk leaders who have committed to organising us, guiding us, providing a cold drink at the end of each

walk, and a chance for social interaction. Thank you to Vicki, Kevin, Peter, Dean and our new leader Rob. We couldn't do this wonderful walk together without the generosity of these volunteers.

**Keen to start your ETE journey in 2022? Register your interest now for ETE16, starting at Cape Jervis in May 2022. For more information head to [heysentrail.asn.au/walks-calendar/2022-05](https://heysentrail.asn.au/walks-calendar/2022-05)**



Photo: Philip Bell

END-TO-END 12

# All in a Name

***Gillian Steven may not have walked each section with E2E12, but a part of the group she is, nickname and all.***

What a fantastic hiking season E2E12 has had. We were blessed with great weather; fantastic support from our leaders and support crew; and some amazing scenery. With a touch of history and local knowledge thrown in by the presence of Simon Cameron (author of 'Heysen Highlights') we are a much wiser mob.

Everyone has a story and I'm no different. I've been with the E2E12 group since the start of the trail, however, until 2021 I infrequently hiked with the group. Joining in 2017, my first few hikes with the group were a new experience, hiking with over 80 people is not something I'd ever done before. Army Reserve commitments clashed with a number of the dates and then in 2019 I was deployed to

Iraq. Trying to keep up with where the group was, was a constant cycle of finding people to hike with and focusing on catch-ups. Fortunately, my hiking/cycling buddy Elayne Sanders from E2E10 stepped up and made it her mission in 2020 to get me back on track. We achieved our goal, including ensuring Elayne had caught-up a few of the sections she had missed. Both caught-up, Elayne has since completed the Heysen with the E2E10s and started volunteering at the Heysen office. Elayne encouraged me to get back on with the group in 2021 as she believed 'finishing with your group is a real achievement'.

## SECTIONS 24 - 37

Hiking sections 24-37 during 2021 has been another new experience. This year we continued away weekends, completing two sections each weekend. Group members glammed it up in B&Bs; brought caravans/camper trailers; stayed in hotels and camped. We even had a few who slept in their cars! For the first few hikes, camping at Burra in my two-man tent was an

adventure. As the weather became colder, Paxton Square Cottages seemed like a good option, then as the weather changed again, back to camping at Gladstone. Booking accommodation in advance is highly recommended. There is a lot of infrastructure development happening in the area, with Burra being fully booked on some of our weekends away. Gladstone caravan park was also fully booked, even for unpowered sites.

The great thing about weekend hiking is that we spend more time with each other and therefore get to know each other better. Our social committee really came to fruition. The group embraced dress-up dinners, with themes such as 'Bands'; 'A Touch of Class'; and of course 'Christmas'.

They did a great job arranging dinners at the Burra Old Railway Station, Burra Bowling Club and Burra School. Our last dine-in night was at the recently renovated Georgetown Hotel with a surprise visit from Santa.

I was expecting the traditional tuna mornay you are often served at ➤





⤴ *Down the Hill to World's End,  
captured by Lance Perryman*

community venues, however, we were offered a variety of yummy dishes that went down well after a day of hiking. Between courses (yes we had two to three course meals) we played bingo; awarded prizes for best dressed and shameful moments on the trail. It was a great way to celebrate individual characteristics and to support local community groups and venues.

“

**He recently renamed me  
'Scooter', which was quite  
endearing**

”

A fun part has been the naming of some of the friendship groups. We have the Mallee Girls and the Kylies. For Russel Fowlers, this has made it much simpler, as referring to 'the Kylies' is much easier than remembering multiple names. Russel has been a champion tag along, bouncing between multiple E2E groups, bringing funny stories from the other groups along with him. He recently renamed me 'Scooter', which was quite endearing given I have run with the Hash House Harriers group for years and no-one has ever been able to come up with a name for me.

The Kylies are impressive. Not ones to miss an opportunity for social catch-ups, their weekends away start with wine tasting and dining on the way up, followed by drinks and nibbles at

their rooms before hitting the local pub, with toe tapping dancing sessions back at their rooms until late to finish off the night. I can now understand why Elayne encouraged me to get

back on board.

Whilst sections 24-37 didn't have the spectacular sea views or forest experiences like down south, the hiking has offered insight into the history of the area as well as grain production and the struggles of past farming, evidenced by the number of ruins on the track. Some of the highlights have been having access to private land with views overlooking the Mt Lofty Ranges and the Flinders Ranges from ridge tops.

Notable too was the differences in engineering technology. The Bundaleer Scheme and Beetaloo (1890) was an ambitious attempt to supply water from the area to the mid north. The sections around Spalding and Chlorination Station follows the channel. The walks are relatively flat, with a few surprise climbs once entering private property.

In contrast, the Burra area has a developing renewable energy program where windfarms are often in the background of the hiking trail. Some frosty morning hikes, where visibility was low, but windfarms could be seen poking their arms out along the skyline. Needless to

say, the area around Burra and Hallett has high speed winds.

E2E12 was caught-out by the wind when attempting to climb Mount Bryan. On first attempt, the group hiked the 7 kms of road to the base of Mount Bryan. We knew it was windy, however, with winds of 100km/hr and gusts up to 140km our attempt at hiking the mount was abandoned. Poles were flapping around, hikers were crawling on hands and knees holding onto each other so as not to be blown over, with the eventual call of it being too risky to finish and turning back. E2E12 is only the 2nd group to abandon a hike. A few members have returned to complete the section, with our leaders planning a catch-up next season.

The best thing I did this year was to purchase Simon Cameron's book. Simon has captured information, by sections, about local history and aboriginal culture and influence. Reading each section before and after the hike is well worth the investment.

Now that the season has ended, the challenge will be to maintain our fitness, if not improve it, in preparation for 2022. Our first few hikes in 2022 will involve significant more elevation, through Wirrabarra and Mount Remarkable. The Friends of the Heysen's hiking calendar provides members with options throughout the off season, as does meetup.com groups such as Adelaide Walkers and Joggers. I highly recommend hikes led by Michael Lang if you are after a challenge.

⤵ *Shadow People, Lance Perryman*







END-TO-END 11

# Wirrabara to Eyre Depot - Logged!

*Photos: Tammy Main*

## **Impressions of the trail from E2E11 stalwart, Glenn Chambers.**

**T**he thunderstorm way off in the distance, breaks the silence of the night, thoughts of loose items in the campsite are quickly assessed in the half sleep. Drifting back to sleep. Must do this more often.

Half an hour before first light nature's alarm begins, a chorus of bird calls. My mind is centred with identifying them. Thoughts of the previous days bushwalk come to me, to come across a family pack walking for 3 days in Parachilna Gorge. What is that, how do they prepare? Planning for the worst-case scenario! Twisted ankle, snake bite, water, thunderstorms!! Amazing the spirit of adventure some

people have. They had walked the Heysen Trail from Cape Jervis to Parachilna Gorge a few years earlier, 60 days. Sure, I had heard of long-distance trails, but really who has the time to do them.

We said our goodbyes and pressed on in different directions. My route a clearly marked trail, theirs a destination marked on a map. The thing with bush walking is the peace and quiet, the thoughts of many generations of those that had walked this country. The natural environment always has a remarkable story to tell, even in these harsh conditions life continues to make the most of what is provided....still my thoughts return to what he said about joining a group. Could be a good thing; support, planning, like-minded people wanting to achieve the same outcome. Give it a go? That's how it started for me.

Jumping forward a few years, and now 850kms in, this experience has been worth every step. The past 6 months have been pushed and pulled by outside forces trying to bring the programme to a halt, but if there's a will, there's a way forward, the leaders made sure of that. The continuity we were used to of the past was gone, but we kept putting distance under our boots.

The cold chill of a mid-winter morning, add a slight drizzle as we head to the start point, head lamps to get underway today, and from the first step it is up hill, about 2 hrs worth, well where would you rather be. The view at the top better be as good as promised. I am sure the leader's handbook has paragraphs from the used car salesman's manual, convincing us our morning tea break is at the end of the rainbow. The trail follows the contours until it disappears into the cloud... ➤



... that was some hill. Morning tea was good that day, we stopped climbing for 15 mins, and the 5 min warning was only 3 mins, then onwards and upwards...still into the clouds. Damn! Will have to do this all over again to see what we were promised. Rain, in S.A., unheard of, or so we thought, got my boots wet, really. Isn't that why walkers love S.A., trails are more dust than mud. Single focus is staying upright, don't slip, don't twist an ankle.

Where's the road, the bus driver slows down, and stops at the drop off location. Rain and wind so bad. You want us to leave this nice dry cosy shelter for that? Are you crazy? On the other hand, to see running water in these mostly dry creeks and streams, today is going to be one to remember. With our backs to the weather, the kms passed by. Getting across those flowing creeks became our personal challenge. Across the first and watch the hop, skip and jump as others try to keep their already soaked boots dry. We did get the occasional sunny break, not all bad. Then the day is done, plenty of smiles as the group debrief with cake and a beverage. Would do it all again in a moment's notice.

What is this bush walking caper all about anyway? Yes, we all know the health benefits. Maybe it is for those of us who like to leave the man-made environment behind for a few hours, to reconnect with our distant past, it's in the DNA. The trails are endless for what it brings to our senses, the observations of landscapes, fauna and flora. The group always has a resident expert in some relevant subject. How good is the knowledge of people when you are miles from anywhere! There is always a smile that comes across your



face when you spend a few kms with a fellow walker and discover a common interest, the weight of the backpack, boot laces too tight, sore joints all disappear for a while. Our bushland backyard has much to offer when it comes to regenerating enthusiasm and energy.

The day's hike is done, boots and packs come off, a convoy of vehicles head back to base to relax and prepare for an evening out to a themed group dinner, smiles and applause greet the variation of dress as they come into the dining room, what a collection! The locals would have mixed thoughts about these visitors that come in and take over their town for a few days, but they bring all this colour and fun with them. The local business owners are happy. The glow of the campfire guides us back to tent city, and some more conversation as to the next opportunity

to do this all over again. Late night preparations for the next day's hike, the camp table has an assortment of tasty treats for all to enjoy or pack for the trail. Numbers dwindle as people head off for much needed rest, till only one remains to put out the embers of the shared fire.

Nature's alarm is the first conscious thought of the pre-dawn, how good to have this experience, and the trail will take us all to another destination over the horizon.

This year's GPS data log is now a continuous line from Wirrabara to Eyre Depot, no gaps. Next year is planned, arrangements confirmed, 300kms to go for this E2E group. Cannot wait to meet up again on this long-distance trail.

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# E2E10 get there... eventually!

## Last words from beloved E2E10 Leader, Judy McAdam.

End to End 10 started the trail on May 31, 2015 with 71 walkers and 6 leaders. On July 16, 2021 40 people crossed the final stile. 29 to complete the trail, 3 others were almost there, 2 of these have subsequently reached their goal.

Regardless of newly imposed COVID-19 restrictions on room density that saw us split into two adjoining areas and no singing or dancing, spirits were not dampened, MC'd by Bran the evening was a perfect celebration. Phil's hiking chant was a highlight of the evening.

Carol Homewood who led the 10's as co-ordinator for most of the trail made a surprise appearance at the final stile and presented the completion certificates.

Thanks to the leadership team over the

journey, to Rob and Terry for back-up support and to you, the walkers, for being a pleasure to lead.

An end to end journey is about camaraderie. Kath Benson, one of our walkers posted an open letter to the 10's, it encapsulates what being part of an End to End group means. I had to share.

**Judy McAdam**  
**E2E 10 Co-ordinator**

### KATH BENSON - OPEN LETTER

Dear E2E 10ers,

Our mission to walk 'The Heyesen' has been accomplished. And what an achievement it has been. But it has been much more than the physical act of walking, climbing or scrambling the 1200 kms from Cape Jarvis to Parachilna.

When we first started on our trek 7 years ago to follow our illustrious

leaders and their magnificent support crew, little did we know what was ahead of us?

But we have forged friendships that may survive the lengths of time. We have met people who otherwise we would never have come into contact with. And we are better people because of this.

There have been stories told and confidences and secrets shared.

We have seen simple acts of kindness that have been monumental... a helping hand up a steep rocky outcrop, or to walk and talk with someone at the back of the group.

Someone to hold down the barb wire as we climbed through another fence or simply to hold our sticks as we climbed one of the 341 stiles we passed through.

Or just to bend down and tie a fellow walker's shoelace after a fall. ➤



## End-to-End 10 Awards

Taking that final step over the stile at Parachilna Gorge is quite an achievement. Even the better to do it with friends who have shared the long journey. Congratulations to the following 30 Heysen members who completed the trail in July 2021.

Branwen Davies	Lindy Brooke
Bronwyn Cadd	Lisa Duffield
Cathy Hall	Marg McNamara
Charles Nagy	Mary Lane
David Heritage	Meri Blake
Elayne Sanders	Michael Forrest
Helen Drew	Niels Gebauer
Jacquie Heritage	Peter James Noll
Jane Matthews	Philip Barnett
John Cadd	Toni Clarke
Richard Skinner	Tony Brosnan
Julie Stapleton	Tracey Evans
Kath Benson	Wayne Hansen
Kathy Wright	<b>2ND TIME COMPLETED</b>
Kevin Benson	
Leanne Taylor	Judy McAdam

We have seen generous acts of courage to retrieve lost items!

We have shared chocolates, cakes and snacks, or little gifts as we marked the milestones of our journey.

We have seen glorious sunrises, sunsets, panoramic vistas that make your heart sing.

We walked in brilliant sunshine, rain, fog and gale force winds, up hills and mountains, across fields of canola, along gibber in creek beds or gentle undulations!

We've seen echidnas, (well one or two) eagles soaring, a couple of snakes and many ants!

We've seen many a ruin from a gone by

era and experienced the joys of an outback loo!

We have laughed and cried (some more than others!).

We have sung, joked, dressed up and celebrated at many a party together.

There has always been word of encouragement when we needed a boost.

Oh, the resilience and persistence we have shown to complete this journey together...

to support one another and learn about ourselves and the way we treat each other with respect, with consideration and with tolerance.

We have grown in so many ways and we will all take from this experience something different.

...But we did it oooooour way...

Sooooo...

Thank you to everyone one in

END to ... End to... END 10

**Kath Benson**

### JOHN CADD - AN INTERLOPER'S PERSPECTIVE

We had been walking the Trail independently for two and a half years and arrived at Hawker at the end of May. What had begun as a series of day walks in the Fleurieu had become increasingly difficult, logistically, as we walked further north and so, when

we noticed E2E10 was also at Hawker and planned an eight-day charge to the finish line in July, we decided to tag along. We did have some

misgivings about this. There would be seven years of shared history that we wouldn't understand, established relationships and rituals and symbols



that were assumed but foreign to us. Would we be welcomed or simply tolerated?

We need not have worried. From the time Russell initiated a class war on the bus by declaring those of us in the caravan park (Lower Rawnsley) were the proper people, unlike the toffs up the road (Upper Rawnsley) in their en suite cabins, we were made to feel welcome. We had barely passed Wonocka ruins when people began introducing themselves, asking about our journey and passing on intel about the group. By morning tea, we had discovered several friends or work colleagues that we had in common and by lunchtime at Mayo Hut, while we were still unfamiliar with the stories and banter on the trail, we realized we were in good company.

Everyone was a little apprehensive about the 30 km second day. We walked back through Mayo Gorge to the trail, initially following Mernmerna Creek for a few kms before climbing over the hills and down into Slaty Creek. We followed the creek for some distance with the spectacular Elder Range on our left before stopping at Red River Camp for lunch. Eventually, we left the ranges behind, passing Mt Ide, and following a track to the welcome sight of the bus. On the way back to camp we were introduced to what seemed an endless marching song, sung with great gusto by almost everyone on the bus – where do they get their energy?

The next day we made an easy start along Black Gap Creek and then up the steep, narrow ascent to Bridle Gap with its stunning views back to the Elder and Red Ranges. ➤



Soon after resuming the hike, half a dozen of our women, complete with tiaras and veils and singing 'Chapel of Love' set upon our farmer Peter, in their version of Farmer Wants a Wife. With decorum restored, we followed the flat walk through the native pines, had lunch at Hills Homestead and met the bus at the Wilpena Information Centre.

We picked up the trail at Wilpena campground and walked along a track offering excellent views of St Marys Peak and the ranges. At morning tea, Helen shared chocolates for her birthday and was surprised by about a dozen walkers wearing 'Helen' faces. How many more carefully planned 'surprises' would be sprung on unsuspecting group members we wondered? Soon after morning tea we left the track and climbed into the ABC Range enjoying panoramic views as we had lunch on the track. It was mostly downhill in the afternoon to rendezvous with the bus on the Bunyeroo Rd.

Due to forecast weather conditions, we postponed the rest day and resumed walking. After an early steep climb, we descended to Yanyanna Hut in time for morning tea. This was followed by an uneventful walk along Yanyanna Track to Middlesight Water for lunch where it was discovered that the Bell, a group totem, assigned to someone's care before each day and carried from Cape Jervis, had been left about 4 km back. Brenton and Wayne mounted a rescue mission while we all walked on to Trezona camping ground. Our bus driver, Gavin, supplied hot drinks and cookies while we waited for the return of our Bell heroes.

Winds and rain were still threatening after the rest day, and we alighted at Trezona to light drizzle although it did not last long. A short distance along the creek we came to the only Precambrian Golden Spike marking the start of the Ediacaran Period which began 635 million years ago. The trail then struck out over the hills to the ruins of Monela Hut and offering grand views of Mt Hayward in the Heysen Range. It was generally easy walking after lunch, and we arrived at Aroona by mid-afternoon.

There was an air of anticipation for the last day. We walked in light drizzle for much of the day but the weather miraculously improved as we neared Parachilna Gorge. It was then time for the red shirts and the triumphant arrival to the cheers and excitement of family and friends who had gathered to celebrate the crossing of that final stile. Each 'finisher' was greeted with cheers and champagne and, later in the evening at the Woolshed Restaurant, was presented with their official certificate. There were also well-deserved special presentations to Judy, our group leader, and to Toni who had guided us so expertly along the trail.

Walking with a group was such a different experience to walking independently. We have the utmost respect for all those walkers who stayed the course from the beginning and especially the three who attended every scheduled walk. What an amazing level of commitment! We are so grateful to have been included and indeed welcomed into the group.

Thank you E2E10

*John and Bron Cadd*



## End-to-End Awards

Congratulations to the following walkers who received End-to-End awards for completing the trail up until the **end of August 2021**.

Alexander Campbell	Kaye Gilhooly
Basia Samcewicz	Marcel Gillespie
Caroline Harch	Mark Jackson
Christopher Mason	Paul Gilhooly
Corey Phillips	Phil Chambers
Danielle Stander	Pierre Charbonneau
Don Sinnott	Robert Dart
Doug Young	Roger Moir
George Moschos	Sally Westover
Greg Roberts	Siobhan Sheridan
Iwona Pattison	Terry Cleary
Jacinta Gibson	Warren Harch
Joshua Fraser	
Katherine Binks	<b>2ND TIME COMPLETED</b>
Kathryn Merchant	Lyndon Grimmer
Katrina Gillespie	

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Photos: Teri McComb

# A Newbie on the Heysen Trail

TERI MC COMB

**The Heysen Trail landscape wasn't the only colour and joy Teri McComb discovered on the trail.**

For many years our good friend Simon Cameron had extolled the pleasures of walking the Heysen Trail. My husband Andrew and I had thought about doing it, but the pressures of work, and then a seven-year stint living in the Netherlands, and then COVID had meant that it wasn't until 2021 that we were ready to give it a go. We had been walking regularly with friends for much of 2020, getting increasingly fitter, and so in early 2021 we eagerly signed up for the E2E Minus 2 walk with the Friends of the Heysen Trail.

As a newbie to the Heysen Trail, I really wasn't sure what to expect. What I got was so much more and so much better than I had even hoped for. Time spent with dear friends, making new

friends, lots of fun and laughter and downright crazy stuff, history lessons, geology lessons, new skills learnt, a somewhat slimmer me and the opportunity to walk in some of South Australia's most beautiful areas in the company of some fabulous people. I think it is the sense of fun and enjoyment, and not taking themselves too seriously that epitomises the feel or "the vibe" of walking the Heysen Trail with the Friends for me.

Looking at the walk notes for that first section leaving from Parachilna, the thing that really caught my eye was that 32 km section we had to walk on the last day. 32 km!! "Tell 'em they're dreaming". I needed to prepare! That was a long way to walk and so I needed to get new boots, new orthotics and to make things easier for myself, lose a bit of weight. Motivated by the desire not to conk out on that section or miss out on that walk, I proceeded

to execute my plan, and so started off the first 6 days of walking grateful that the decision to walk the trail had provided the motivation I needed to get slimmer and get new boots.

All the walkers were accommodated for that first 9 days of the trail walking in the various accommodation options at Willow Springs.

Andrew and I had the good fortune to be in the Shearer's Quarters, along with many other walkers. We were a bit unsure how it would work, as we didn't know anyone else who was staying there, as our friends were in different accommodation. It turned out to be a fantastic way of getting

to know each other and setting up great friendships for the rest of the walk. Everyone quickly learned how to work together to manage the complex choreography that was 20 or so people ➤





using one kitchen to prepare meals, and we all courteously took turns in having showers and managing washing. Not only that, it was very entertaining in the evening as we learnt about each other, and people with skills brought them to the fore for the benefit of everyone else. Ian was the “bringer of warmth” as an expert in lighting the combustion heater, as well as getting us all up on time for our 5:30am start on that last walking day by playing reveille on his trumpet. Vicki, ably assisted by Kevin, bravely taught a bunch of previously non-dancers to do the swing, and later the samba, and gave us a wonderful exhibition dance of the cha-cha. Krystina gave us all the opportunity to hone our sculpturing skills by bringing out plasticine so we could make models to inspire her primary school class – I will never forget Kevin’s intricate model of a yellow-footed rock wallaby, complete with joey in pouch. Natasha did yoga exercises and encouraged others to join if they wanted to. Patricia made scones and bread for us all (yum).



And over that week and the next, Basia taught me how to sing “Happy Birthday” in Polish (Sto Lat). Who would have thought that walking the trail would also bring so many other fabulous experiences!!

I will always remember Simon turning up on the first day of the walk, complete with kilt and

bagpipes, and piping us all off on the walk by playing Amazing Grace. What a way to start a 1200 km journey!!

Each walk week has a theme and the first one was “South bound” or “Reverse” and Dean turned up with his coat on backwards, a face on the back of his head – in other words a “reverse” walker – so good! Andrew ➤

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and I were modestly into the theme stuff from the start – each carrying a little banner on our packs related to the theme for that week – but we (well really, I) got more into this as the weeks went on. Week two was “Australian Movies” as we were staying part of the time in Quorn which has been the movie set for quite a number of Australian movies, and week three was “Flowers” as we were staying in Melrose. These theme weeks gave me the opportunity to come wearing various items that were relevant to Australian movies (a wedding veil for “Muriel’s Wedding”, a paper plate for “The Dish” etc.) but the best was the dinner when so many people wore feather boas (“Priscilla Queen of the Desert”) that the place looked like a large nest, and Vicki and Kevin arrived in fantastic paso doble costumes (from “Strictly Ballroom”). Week three gave me the opportunity to unleash my inner “Dame Edna” and I did a 20km walk in a purple wig, purple glasses and gladioli (which is how it fitted into the flower theme).



We were introduced that first day to Morris Major, our monkey mascot. Morris is “the monkey on the pack” and is awarded each walk day to a walker who has done something clever, funny, weird or memorable in some way, nominated by their fellow walkers. Morris was dressed as a superhero when we first met him

but has gone on to demonstrate the versatility in his nature by being dressed in a wedding gown in week two (as Morris Muriel from “Muriel’s Wedding”), and as a hippy flower child in week three. Goodness

knows how he will turn up next year, and how big his wardrobe of outfits will be by the end of the trail!

And then we had members of the leader team (and a few others) turning up in awesome Viking knitted hats, complete with Viking beards, courtesy of Jen the fabulous knitter. We had “nude bushwalking day” (a real thing) as we climbed Jarvis Hill. We had ice creams at the end of the walk to Dutchman’s Stern thanks to Mark and

Jenny. We had tea, coffee and cake at the end of a number of walks thanks to Gavin the wonderful bus driver. We had the elegant Jennifer and Geoff, who raised the tone of the group by sitting on proper chairs and having morning tea from china cups and saucers.

We had history and geology lessons along the way from Simon and he was such a good teacher that Rosalie and I were able to identify that it is stromatolites that form the base of the tank at Gray’s Hut – something Simon had not realised before.

And then the actual walking, with all logistics carefully worked out by the group leaders. The scenery was fantastic, the views amazing, the walking varied and interesting. On each section you can walk with different people and get to hear their stories and their views – so many interesting people in our group. People helped each other over the difficult bits and encouraged each other as we covered the kilometres.

I feel very privileged and fortunate that I spent nearly three weeks of this year walking the Heysen Trail with the E2E -2 group, and very grateful to the Friends of the Heysen Trail for all the work that the team put into everything. My thanks to all the walkers as well, you are great people to walk with. I eagerly look forward to more of the same next year, and the year after.

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Thank you all!!

I also hope Simon will play the bagpipes again when we cross the finish line in 2023.



CINDY ANDERSON

# Favourite Short Walk

## Cox Scrub Conservation Park.

*Photos: Cindy Anderson*

Submit your favourite short walks to the Editor

I think my favourite short walk has to be Cox Scrub Conservation Park. The Park is situated south of Adelaide, off the Bull Creek Road in Ashbourne and there are parking areas which are well sign posted.

There are several walks in the Park and some work has been done in the last few years to make the tracks clearer and they are now well sign posted. At the start of the walk there is a map showing the different routes varying from 3.5 to 8.5 kms and if you are after a longer walk, they can be combined to give a longer distance of about 14kms.

There are a few gradual hills and descents and some of the tracks are soft and sandy in places. There are firm tracks which are easy to walk on, others covered with bracken that has been slashed.

I always find it a good idea to do a bit of research about the park before I go so I am able to identify some of the plants and birds.

I like the Emu Wren Hike as it encompasses many different types of vegetation which includes coming back down through the Stringybark section where the bird life is amazing. I also normally add in an extra bit to go and have a look at the quarry. The quarry looks down on sections of the park and across the surrounding farmland and countryside. Be careful at the quarry if it has rained as the ground can be extremely slippery.

I love going to Cox Scrub in about May when the many different coloured Banksias are flowering. There are many other wild flowers and orchids at all times of the year, but especially in spring.

I have seen Emu footprints but have never actually come across one.

I normally walk anticlockwise, so take the track leading from the main car park and keep on going left. The track becomes a wide sandy road which can be very soft when dry. This section has the main concentration of Banksias, although they are spread throughout

the park. The bush next to the road is dense but the trees in this section are generally small so the road and tracks are mostly in the full sun.

This road leads to the Western boundary where the road is a lot firmer and there is a short descent and then a long hill. The track to the quarry leads off this road. As seen from the photo, the quarry is one of the highest points in the park and has a lovely view.

Heading East from the quarry, there is an intersection of tracks and I usually take the track heading North. This adds extra to the walk by going down to Coles Crossing where there is a shady area to have a picnic with the background noise of flowing water in the river and the birds.

From Coles Crossing, I retrace my steps to the track that runs along the Northern boundary heading East and after a short distance turn right onto a track cut into the thick bracken which can sometimes be hard to see. This is my favourite section of the walk with lovely views as well as the biggest concentration of wild flowers.

This track comes out in the Stringybark section which is close to the car park. Here there are many tall trees with little undergrowth, home to numerous birds, a favourite spot for bird watchers.

On the way back to Adelaide as the road turns into Clarendon there is a very nice bakery on the left.

**Do you have a favourite short walk you'd like to share?** Please send your article to The Editor at [trailwalker@heysentrail.asn.au](mailto:trailwalker@heysentrail.asn.au)







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