

FREE

TR↑ILWALKER

REFLECTING

On the season that was...



LAVENDER HIGHLIGHTS

END-TO-END YEAR IN SUMMARY

WHEN THE ONLY WAY IN IS TO WALK

SOUTHBOUND STOMP OR NORTHWARD WANDER

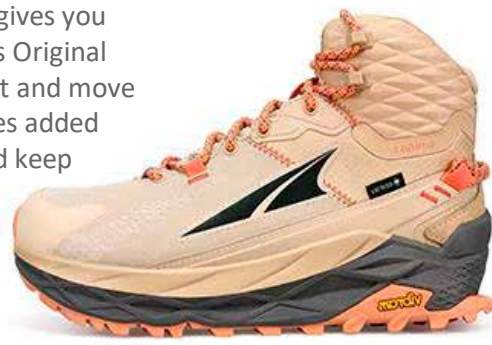




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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

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



Cover: Morning Tea, Wonoka
Creek - Section 55 (Leigh Creek
Road to Mt Little Station)

Photo by Paul Frost

Trailwalker welcomes photo
submissions suitable for the
magazine cover. Please email
your high-resolution images to
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About the Friends

DECEMBER 2022 • 3

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COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meets on the third
Wednesday of each month.

The President and the
Council would like to extend
a warm welcome to the 150
members who have joined
the Friends since the April
edition of Trailwalker.

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C Warren Bonython AO*

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E2E13 Vicki Barrett
E2E14 Mark Fletcher
E2E15 Mark Curtis
E2E16 Paul Gill/Kathy Wright
E2E-2 Julian Monfries

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S13 Hugh Greenhill
S14-18 Daniel Jardine
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S17B Simon Cameron
*assisted by Retired Active SA
Bushwalkers

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Karen Baker

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 our respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal peoples within the Country we walk.



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The fog is lifting at sunrise, Mt Brown.

Photo: Celine Bernard

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FAVOURITE SHORT WALK

BILL VAN RIET

The Mylor Loop

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

Deadline for the next issue (April 2023):

17 FEB 2023

The *Trailwalker* magazine is available by subscription or online at heysentrail.asn.au/trailwalker and is published and distributed tri-annually:

- April
- August
- December

The *Trailwalker* magazine has a typical distribution of 1800, 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 approximately 7 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) as of November 2022

1/8 PAGE \$60 per issue
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1/3 PAGE \$105 per issue
1/2 PAGE \$150 per issue
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A commitment for 12 months advertising (three issues) will attract a 10% saving.

Advertising specifications and article submission guidelines are available upon request. Contact the Trailwalker Editor . trailwalker@heysentrail.asn.au

Wet and wild weather but what about the wildflowers!

MELANIE SJOBERG



It's a good time to reflect on our collective experiences as we wind down from the main walk season into the summer walks program, balmier days and seasonal festivities.

Many of us have felt our patience tested this year. Anecdotally, it seems we've had to cancel or reorganise more walks and maintenance work than usual as covid continues to influence our activity, topped by challenges with heavy rains and wild weather impacting on access to trails. Scenarios in 2022 have offered a reminder to us all to revisit that old adage "be prepared" and quickly adapt to Plan B.

POSITIVES FROM A NEGATIVE

Members on away trips for End-to-End walks have occasionally been forced to bail as a few walkers contracted Covid, forcing volunteer walk leaders to reorganise and reschedule events. Some Walk Leaders were required to isolate under Covid rules leaving potential gaps in the teams: we're fortunate that newer members willingly stepped into the space so walks could proceed. More importantly, those members discovered they enjoyed the challenge and could capably contribute.

RAIN, WIND AND WEATHER WARNINGS

It's stating the obvious to say that being out in nature includes making allowances for shifts in the weather ... and hasn't this year delivered in spades! There's a common expression

among walkers that there is no bad weather just bad clothing. This year, however, even solid wet weather gear hasn't been enough to prevent leaders needing to modify or cancel walks due to severe weather, strong winds and boggy tracks.

This sometimes dismal season has taken its toll on our planned maintenance activities too. Landholders are generally helpful with access for trail work but in recent months it's taken the form of advice that back roads or paddocks are too muddy - washed out and rutted tracks unsuitable for vehicle entry!

Alas some work must wait. Our maintenance volunteers spend many hours planning and preparing to make good use of work time on the trail. It's frustrating for the maintenance teams to reschedule and of course it means sometimes walkers may confront stile damage or missing markers longer than we would like.

EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING

Despite the travails of erratic weather, the skies eventually clear and we're able to hit the trails: walks are rescheduled, maintenance work revived, summer walks on the horizon.

Balmier spring days are starting to expose the benefit of the wet winter as the visual landscape shows dense patches of green spreading along the trails and hills.

Like me, I'm sure many members have witnessed the plethora of wildflowers,

orchids and stunning regrowth across Parks and Forests. It's reassuring how quickly nature regenerates when given a drenching so don't miss these wonderful opportunities.

"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." – Margaret Atwood

HELP THE FRIENDS AND KEEP THE HEYSEN ALIVE

The Friends is managed by an elected Council that takes overall responsibility for finances, administration, policy and strategy. Our Standing Committees - Walking; Trail Development; Office, Finance and Promotion - make sure our key activities are effectively organised and provide support for our dedicated volunteers.

We are always looking for new people to be involved and continue our 35 years of success. Newer members bring fresh ideas and energy necessary to maintaining a healthy organisation. The camaraderie and sense of contributing make it a valuable investment of time. Council and Committees are always open and we welcome interested members attendance anytime to find out how the Friends operate.

Nominations for Council will be called before the Annual General Meeting due March/April 2023.

FoHT Holidays Office Closure

Please note that the Office will close for a holiday break from 2.30 p.m. on Friday December 9th, 2022.

If you've ordered a calendar and elected to pick it up from the Office, please do so before we close.

Over the Christmas break our on-line shop continues to operate, although with extended delivery dates.

Normally we undertake to despatch orders within 3 business days. Over the break, we aim to despatch them within 5 business days.

Our volunteers return to attend the Office Volunteers' Information day on Monday Feb 6th 2023.

The Office will re-open for normal business at 10.30 a.m. on the following day, Tuesday February 7th, 2023.

Enquiries to the Friends Office can be made in person, by phone or email:

Suite 203, Epworth Building
33 Pirie St, Adelaide SA 5000

Open Mon – Fri
10:30am – 2:30pm

T (08) 8212 6299

E heysentrail@heysentrail.asn.au

Order your calendar online at
heysentrail.asn.au/shop/

Nominations for Honorary Membership

Nominations for Honorary Membership are invited to be submitted to Julian Monfries, Chair Honorary Membership sub-committee of Council.

Guidelines for Honorary Membership

(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 Friends, including especially one or more of Council and/or Standing Committee Membership, Trail Maintenance Activity/Section Leader, Finance or Office Team. Nominations should outline how the member has made substantial and sustained contributions to promotion, development and/or maintenance of the Heyesen Trail, and the Association.

Any nominations should include name and contact details of nominee. Nominations must be received by 31 January 2023.

Enquiries and nominations can be sent to Julian Monfries:
julian.monfries@bigpond.com

Recommendations from the subcommittee will be considered by Council, before being presented to the full membership at the next AGM.

Time to help out in the Office?

The 'Friends' is a volunteer organisation.

We are looking for volunteers to regularly assist with our activities.

There are many ways you can volunteer to help the 'Friends'. One of them is to join our team of volunteers in the Office. We currently have a few vacancies for 2023.

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

Casual work – from one day a week or fortnight. Usually between 10.30am-2.30pm weekdays.

Your duties may include:

- Using our computer website/database to take walk bookings.
- Selling maps & books.
- Helping with trail and walking enquiries.
- Maintaining our membership records.

If you think you can help, please send an email to the office.

We will contact you and talk about a job that will suit your skills and availability.

Although the Office is closed from mid-December to the end of January, now is a great time to contact us.

It means we can invite you to attend the Office Volunteers Information Day in early February.

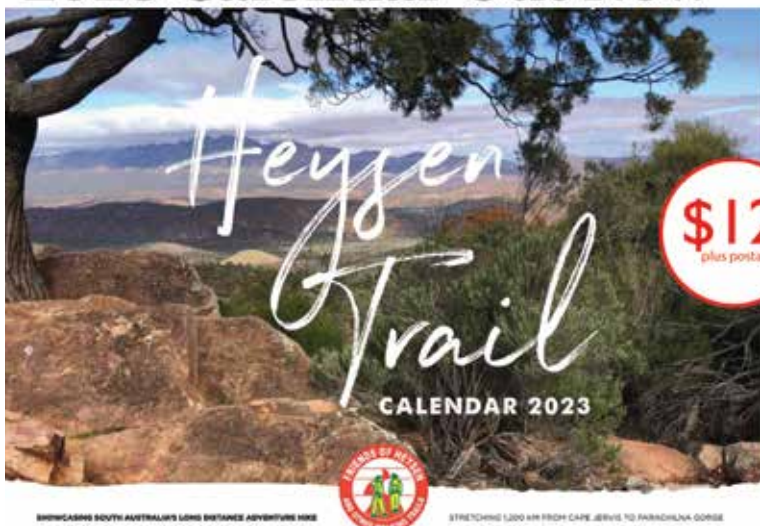
It is an enjoyable day as you will get to meet the team and find out how you can help.

We won't drop you in the deep-end but will assist and train you for the jobs involved!

Dom Henschke
Office Manager

Trish Bowie
Office Volunteer
Co-ordinator

2023 Calendar Out Now



Heysen Trail Closures over 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 2023. In the Flinders Fire Ban District, the Trail will re-open on 15 April 2023.

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.

The Wild South Coast Way on the Heysen Trail between Cape Jervis and Victor Harbor is the one exception to this rule – the 5 day, 75km section is open all year round, including walk-in campsites.

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 may be closed on days of total fire ban or extreme or catastrophic fire danger.

Walkers should check relevant Parks/Forestry and SA Water websites for closure information.

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 walkers during the Fire Danger Season. These include Marschalls Hut, Huppatz 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. When were the Friends of the Heysen Trail formed?
2. Cudlee Creek was named after which Kaurna word?
3. Where was copper first found in South Australia?
4. Where is Hiskeys Hut and how many can be accommodated?
5. Where is Hughes Gap situated?
6. What can you see from Lands End?
7. Wilpena Pound, Mt Remarkable and Warren Gorge are located in which natural formation?
8. What is the name of the largest desert located in South Australia?
9. Which creature is on the log of the World Wildlife Fund?
10. Partacoona Station and The Oaks Station are walked in which area?

ANSWERS PAGE 30



Golden Rule = Leave the Gate as you find it

It was disturbing to hear that the beautiful stretch south of Mt Elm, The Oaks, lost sheep during mustering because walkers did not close the gates. Not once but twice. It's not okay. The rule is: Leave the gate as it is found. It is a privilege to walk here and a message that is strongly enforced by the Friends Walk Leaders. It is the responsibility of all, so share it with your walking friends to help spread the word and keep the Trail open.

 Trailwalker Quiz Photo: taken near the Huppatz Hut by Kirsty Gwynn-Jones.

When the only way in is to walk

DANIEL JARDINE

The Heysen Trail section from Aroona to the Northern Trailhead at Parachilna Gorge is one of the more remote and consequently presents issues when carrying out maintenance.

The two private properties that this part of the Trail is on have not run sheep for a number of years and have therefore not needed to maintain the vehicle tracks. This is particularly apparent north from Pigeon Bore to the Northern Trailhead, a distance of around 13 km.

A survey through the section in June identified up to 100 old wooden posts that needed replacement. The only way to replace the majority of these posts was by walking them in.

A team of 8, fit and enthusiastic volunteers were put together to head up to Parachilna for the project.

A large number of the existing posts were attached to star droppers. Discussion amongst the Trail Development Committee arrived at the conclusion that it was efficient to reuse these by attaching a 250 mm long section of metal tube, rather than the full 900 mm long tube that is generally used. This, cleverly, allowed a much larger number of tubes to be carried.

The other new idea to assist with moving large amounts of material, was the Friends purchase of a metal framed



“Gorilla Cart”. This proved a major advantage in transporting posts along up to 3 km of trail before running into a creek washout and blocking further progress with the cart. Other maintenance teams will certainly find the cart useful for future work.

In order to cover the distance, the volunteers were split into 2 teams of 4 with one starting south from the trailhead and the second driving to Pigeon Bore and heading north. Carrying metal tubes, caps, plates and drills in backpacks, the teams managed to replace all the posts over three days. In addition, we replaced 2 wooden stiles with the new metal ones and stabilised the large wooden step ladder, roughly half way between Pigeon Bore and the Northern Trailhead.

were given a coat of linseed oil, as well as removal of invasive vegetation.

The team found during our few days around the trailhead that it gets regular visits from short day walkers and curious passers-by. The Trail Development Committee has now decided to investigate options for an upgrade of the site; particularly as it should provide a more memorable start/finish for the Heysen.

The group stayed at Angorichina Village, group dinners were arranged each night, including one at the Blinman Hotel.

Photos: Melanie Sjoberg

⤴ Peter, Ross, Mark and Daniel moving material using the Gorilla Cart. Heading south from the Trailhead.

⤵ Carolyn and Mark removing an old wooden post.

⤶ Daniel Jardine, Mark Curtis, Peter Deacon, Ross McDougall, Carolyn Guerin, Kevin Ward, Melanie Sjoberg & Dean Mortimer.



The Northern Trailhead was looking quite tired so it was also given a “make over” just ahead of E2E11's final walk. The wooden structures such as the platforms, grand/last stile and the information shelter



Safety First!

OLAF KONSTANTIN KRUEGER
JORG VALENTIN

If you ask the Bushwalkers of the South Australian German Association (SAGA) what sentiment they harbor when walking the Heysen Trail, it is: "Safety first!"

Perhaps small wonder that walking volunteers of the SAGA can often be seen beavering away maintaining or re-installing Heysen routes. The hiking group was founded in 1990 and walked the entire Heysen Trail in stages between 1998 and 2010. For more than 20 years now, the hiking group has been immersed in maintaining sections of the Heysen for the general public. So much so that in SA the Bushwalkers of the SAGA have gained a solid reputation as "bridge builders".



In Sections 3 and 4 of the Heysen, the Bushwalkers regularly clear the Trail and maintain the crossings and wooden bridges constructed by SAGA volunteers. In this spirit, the Bushwalkers also carefully record their efforts for ForestrySA. For example,

it takes seven volunteers up to one and a half days just to renovate one footbridge, as the group's hiking guide Hermann Schmidt acknowledges.

Hiking the Heysen's 1,200 kms from Cape Jervis in the south to Parachilna Gorge is clearly no picnic. Walking the Trail with sections of remote tracks and improvised cuttings can be pretty wearying. Fortunately, the Friends have been keeping the routes safe and accessible since 1986 so as to keep the strain of walking the Trail

to a minimum. It is a multitude of inspired volunteers, including since 1999 the Bushwalkers of the SAGA, that is making all of this happen.

The Bushwalkers were established in 1990 by members of the "Süd-Australischer Allgemeiner Deutscher Verein" (SAADV), the predecessor of SAGA, to run a selection of leisure time hikes. On the 20th January 1991, the Bushwalkers completed their first 13 km hike under the guidance of Wilf Rueweler with 25 enthusiasts along the Torrens River. In 1998, hiking guide Hermann Schmidt encouraged the Bushwalkers to set themselves the ambitious goal of hiking the Heysen Trail End-to-End. Hermann Schmidt and his deputy Fred De Ceukelaire meticulously planned each of the stages of the Trail, finally reaching the walking group's goal in 2010 in Bundaleer where 26 enthusiasts cheerfully celebrated, their crossing of the finish line.

MAINTENANCE WORK IS LABOUR INTENSIVE

Ten years earlier, in October 1999, the Bushwalkers, in coordination with FoHT and Walking S.A., had assumed responsibility for maintaining a 20 km section of the Heysen south-east of Myponga.

In addition to the labour intensive work of ensuring accessibility, the SAGA Bushwalkers gradually constructed a number of small and

big footbridges along that section (Sec.4). To be precise, the construction work included a 9 m wooden walkway across Spring Creek, a 15 m wooden bridge across Emerald Creek, and a 12 m timber and steel bridge across Swampy Creek. In 2013, the group also assumed responsibility for Section 3 of the Heysen.

Maintaining, repairing, and improving Trail sections involves installing or moving direction posts, building and mending step over stiles, replacing logos, trimming branches, bushes and undergrowth, constructing footbridges, crossings and boardwalks, removing barriers and debris from deteriorating buildings and disposing of litter scattered carelessly.



This year, it took the Bushwalkers Hermann Schmidt, Werner Bartjes, Ulli Henn, Arnulf Mollenhauer, Lothar Ortloff as well as Rainer and Elke Pottel a full week to carry out the repair work. The crossings got restored, and the footbridges got repaired and cleared of dense scrub and wild growth before getting a complete repaint.

The Bushwalkers have been keeping a log for ForestrySA for many years now, so hiking guide Hermann Schmidt can confirm: "It takes seven hiking volunteers round about 15 hours to re-install each of the footbridges."

The SAGA Bushwalkers agree that the safety gained through the work of the walking volunteers is well worth it.

Photos: Hermann Schmidt

- ⤴ Myponga lunch break
- ⤴ Spring Creek Crossing restoration.
- ⤴ Swampy Creek Crossing looking fresh and inviting.

Friends Summer Walk Programme 2022/23

DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
	WED 04 SW COBBLER CREEK Julie Testi	WED 01 TBA	WED 01 SW SHEPHERDS HILL Heather Thompson
WED 07 SW ANSTEY HILL Julie Testi	WED 11 TBA	SUN 12 TW THE HILLS 1 Bill van Riet	SUN 12 TW THE HILLS 2 Bill van Riet
WED 14 SW BROWNHILL/ SPRINGWOOD Heather Thompson	THURS 19 TW BURNSIDE John Babister	THURS 16 SW PORT NOARLUNGA Melanie Sjoberg THURS 16 TW BELAIR John Babister	WED 15 TBA
WED 21 NO WALK	WED 25 SW SEMAPHORE SOUTH Bill van Riet	WED 22 TBA	WED 22 TBA
WED 28 NO WALK			WED 29 TBA
● SW SUMMER WALKS ● TW TRAIL STARTER/MORNNG WALKS Version released 7th November 2022			

Check the online Walk Programme for latest updates and to register heysentrail.asn.au/walks

The Summer Twilight Walks begin at 6pm, are typically 1.5 to 2 hours long, are within close proximity to Adelaide and generally, followed by an optional social dinner at a local restaurant. Participants require only a modest degree of fitness.

Further Information

For details about each walk, our hot weather policy, what to wear and bring and walk grades visit heysentrail.asn.au

Accommodation between Kapunda & Marrabel – ideal for Heysen Trail hikers



The **Olde Hamilton Shop** apartment is very modern and well appointed. It caters for 7 guests ~ double bed in main bedroom, double bunk sleeps three in bedroom two, and a sofa bed in lounge room. Wi-fi, TV, air-conditioning, plus Breakfast provisions provided. Located on the main road in a quiet rural setting. Relax out in the fenced backyard with gum tree views.



Hosted by Stella: **0452 260 471**
857 Marrabel Road, Hamilton

Email: stellaweaver@hotmail.com
Book thru Airbnb: tinyurl.com/hamiltonbnb

Bookings for End-to-End 17 open Monday March 20th, 2023



Photo: Paul Frost

End-to-End 17 walks commence on Sunday May 14th, 2023.

How to register for the first walk:

Bookings for the first walk will be via the online registration system and will open at 07:01am on Monday 20 March, 2023.

The number of walkers who can join the group is limited by the number of leaders and the capacity of the buses used (approximately 75 walkers including leaders).

Due to the anticipated high demand for joining the group, bookings are taken on a 'first come, first served' basis. Bookings are expected to fill quickly.

Our online registration system is set to switch over to an overflow list once the number of bookings nears capacity.

Apart from the overflow list, we do not maintain an early registration/waiting list. In fairness to all, bookings are taken only using the on-line registration system. This means if you want to make sure of joining the group, you and your friends need to register for the walk as soon as possible from 7am.

If you have created a Family Membership, you can book for all members of your family simultaneously.

If you are thinking of joining the first walk, the best advice is to become familiar with the walk booking process before March 20th. You will find it quicker to book onto the walk if you have already joined the Friends.

You can find out more information about membership of the Friends at: heysentrail.asn.au/friends/membership/, or by contacting the office on (08) 8212 6299, or via email: heysentrail@heysentrail.asn.au

Introductory walk on Sunday April 16th & 30th.

To give everyone joining E2E17 a taste of what lies ahead, the walk leaders have organised two introductory walks on Sunday April 16th & 30th, 2023.

Walkers who register for the May 14th walk from Cape Jervis will receive an email invitation to register for the introductory walks. The location of the two walks will be in the Cleland & Morialta Conservation Parks.

These walks will be a good opportunity to meet the leaders, ask any questions you may have about E2E walks and test your footwear, clothing & equipment.

With distances of about 12 kms, the walks will be a bit shorter than the first official walk. However, it will still give a taste of what lies ahead with sections of narrow paths on hillsides and some challenging hill climbs.

Both walks will be a loop walk so you will be starting and finishing at your cars.

Good luck to intending walkers. The leadership team look forward to joining you on the trail!



The perfect Heysen Trail Companion Guide

Heysen Highlights

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END-TO-END 16

Sweet Sixteen

Photo: Ingrid Castle

High praise for the E2E 16 group from leader *Paul Gill* as he updates us on their first year on the Trail.

Early morning. 8th May 2022. 69 hikers gathered at Cape Jervis. Novice hikers to experienced adventurers. Teenagers to seniors. The excited. The apprehensive. The curious. They were all there to witness the birth of E2E 16. To experience taking the first step on the Heysen Trail that for some, will build into a 1,200 km and 6 year commitment. A walk that many have undertaken before them, yet for each of these walkers, their experience will be unique. But first, that initial step.

The first walk went well. Nobody died. Or got lost. My basic measure of a successful walk. A lot of chat on the trail. Signs of walkers willing to assist walk mates. These are all positive signs. And at the end of that section, atop Cobbler Hill, so many smiles. Here was potentially, the best Heysen E2E group ever.

June rolled around as the rain poured down and the wind whipped through. Heysen walks are rarely cancelled. We knew that. But this walk was cancelled and the schedule for the rest of the season was pushed back to

keep us walking through the sections in sequence. And the group's response was consistently "We understand and thank you for keeping us safe". Yep, this is the best E2E group ever.

July and we got to walk Cobbler to Tapanappa. There are a lot of "Oh wow" moments to be had on the coastal section of the Heysen and I was hearing those words constantly as ➤



Photo: Kathy Wright

we walked which is another one of my measures of a successful walk. Onward and upward.

Until August and more rain, wind and closed access roads forced the cancellation of yet another walk. The best group were also becoming the unluckiest group in Heysen history.

We decided to stick to our established schedule for the remainder of the walks. We contemplated being the first E2E group to take 12 years to complete the Trail. We considered asking the trail maintenance group to make the end of the trail wheelchair friendly. Some of us were going to need that.

Balquidder to Waitpinga was completed in September. Followed by our first after walk drinks and nibbles event that was very well supported. Tablecloth, serviettes and home baked goods. Have I mentioned, best group ever?

So as I write this in late October, we have completed Waitpinga to Tugwell Rd. The 'Oh wow' meter went off the scale along the Waitpinga cliff section. The enthusiasm remains in the group. Smiles aplenty at walks' end, despite having a 1.5km walk out, back to the cars. At the last minute we were required to find a new meeting point when the site we usually park at was not available. The luck continues.

We walked Tugwell Rd to Inman Valley in a couple of days. Heavy rain is forecast. And new road works on the run in to Inman Valley have required last minute emails to be sent out advising how best to get to the

@trainorwalk



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Ben Trainor enjoys trail running and combining photography with bushwalking up mountains and mostly exploring parks in the Adelaide Hills where he grew up beside the Heysen Trail.

meeting point. The following Sunday we will go back and walk Tapanappa to Balquidder. No last minute changes to that schedule yet but there is still time for something to go awry.

“

Here was potentially, the best Heysen E2E group ever.

”

So, we finish this first season one walk behind plan. No big deal. We plan to be back on schedule by this time next

year. More importantly, the 16's remain excited, enthusiastic and dedicated. They support each other on the trail. There is the nucleus of a social committee evolving which will be so important as we head further up the trail. And despite all the effort and the sweat, the mud, the hills and the wet feet, there are still the smiles. The fun factor is still there.

This is the best E2E Heysen group.

We are the Sweet Sixteens!



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END-TO-END 15

The Fearless Fifteens

Photo: Mary Welch

Wayne Miller recaps E2E 15's second year on the Trail.

This was our second season which took us from Myponga to Cudlee Creek. It was a year that brought us together more as a team. We adopted our new name - we became the "Fearless Fifteens", fitting really, given the way we tackled the challenges of the season. We established a social committee which came up with great after-walk activities. Our creative team designed new badging depicting an incident dubbed our "Pamplona Moment" but more about that later.

For a wet winter we were lucky enough to avoid stormy walking days but we experienced plenty of mud and swollen creeks. Wildlife spotted along the way included koalas, kangaroos and various reptiles not to mention a few uninvited guests like deer, goats, rabbits and hares. The flora was a delight with orchid and fungi spotting and photographing a priority.

SECTION 8

Myponga to Mt Compass was a great mixture of virgin scrub, open pasture and pine and eucalypt forests. We scaled [almost] our first mountain of the trail - Mt Cone. One of the many farm access tracks we travelled was open to a herd of steers and as we approached most of them retired to their paddock. However a few chose to run ahead of us in the corridor which inevitably ended at a gate. Although we kept to one side so they could escape

a couple panicked and jumped the fence. The rest - about two dozen - bolted past us to freedom. Hence our "Pamplona Moment".

SECTION 9

Mt Compass to Kyeema took us to a real mountain. Through farmland into the Finnis and Mt. Magnificent Conservation Parks giving us original, untouched scrub. Lunch on the summit of Mt Magnificent gave great views all the way to the South Coast and the lakes. After the walk we celebrated the Queen's Jubilee complete with a Knighthood for all our walk leaders.

SECTION 10

Kyeema to Dashwood Gully Rd. A 20km walk through flat farmland and forest. Plenty of water and mud underfoot. We celebrated Christmas in July complete with Kris Kringle.

SECTION 11

Dashwood Gully Rd to Mylor offered more water underfoot together with a memorable ford crossing. Lunch at Jupiter Creek mines failed to find our fortune in gold.

SECTION 12

Mylor to Cleland was quite a challenge. Our leaders described the topography along the Heysen Trail as "undulating". This was something else - after morning tea at Bridgewater Mill providing a caffeine hit to fortify us for the challenge ahead. The Cox's Creek

tunnel under the railway line shared a swollen stream with the walking trail which tested our waterproof footwear. After lunch at Piccadilly we were rested and refuelled for the final "fearless" assault - the East face of Mt Lofty. Once accomplished and we regained consciousness we posed for a group photo at the summit -727M - named by Matthew Flinders in 1802.

SECTION 13

Cleland to Morialta Conservation Park. This was our longest walk of the season - 26 km including a detour around a difficult creek crossing. As we headed off along the ridge of the Adelaide Hills great views were seen to the east over Piccadilly Valley and west over the Adelaide Plains. This part of the Heysen Trail takes in some very deep gullies and steep inclines and it was a relief to stumble to the finish. Probably our toughest walk to date.

SECTION 14

Morialta to Cudlee Creek. Just a fortnight after walk 13 we thought we'd experienced everything the Heysen could throw at us, but we were wrong. The strip maps didn't show the extremity of the slopes, particularly the descents. Our quads and calf muscles got a real workout testing our fitness levels. But it was a great sense of achievement to complete the season. We celebrated with a meal at the Cudlee Creek Tavern. A huge vote of thanks to our leaders who planned our walks meticulously and kept us safe.

Volunteer Profile: Adrian Rogers

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE FRIENDS?

Liz and I joined the Friends in 2008. We had retired and wanted to continue our active outdoor lifestyle. Our cycling adventures morphed into long walks. Initially joining the Friends on Trail Starters and Trail Walkers we eventually joined E2E 4. Enjoying the challenge and the fabulous countryside we finally made it to the final stile.

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

I began helping out with various trail maintenance projects. Some down South, others in the Flinders Ranges. I work mostly at Deep Creek between Cape Jervis and Tapanappa Hill. A great place to work, although sometimes people walk by, not realising that the trail requires maintaining, in fact one lady thought the track was a natural feature!

WHAT'S YOUR FONDEST MEMORY ON THE HEYSEN?

One of the many special memories was the time we walked into Warren Gorge as the afternoon sun lit up the red sandstone cliffs with a clear blue sky behind. Most of my favorite memories seem to relate to the magical Ranges although the Southern Coast is special too.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE HEYSEN TRAIL TOWN/REGION?

Probably Melrose where we camp near the creek with Mt Remarkable towering above us. The town is full of historical buildings and that magnificent gum tree bisecting the side road. And of course the pubs.

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

There are the obvious equipment considerations like boots, hat, backpack, etc. Food and water of course. Oh, one other thing, my dear wife!

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

Favorite walks would be any of the walks within the Onkaparinga National Park. One local walk follows the Onkaparinga river as it meanders close to Port Noarlunga. Especially when the waters are high and after rain has refreshed the trails. Hardy's Scrub is another favourite and right now the orchids and sundews are emerging.

DURING YOUR TIME AS A VOLUNTEER, WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT ABOUT THE TRAIL THAT SURPRISED YOU?

I am surprised at the extent of maintenance constantly required



especially where I help out down south. The plant growth, especially during this wet winter, has been prolific.

HOW HAS VOLUNTEERING ENHANCED YOUR EXPERIENCE ON THE TRAIL?

I am more aware of the effort put in by volunteers to maintain the Trail. When I walk through parts of the Trail that I've helped maintain I feel a connection and quietly pleased.

FLORA OR FAUNA...WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE DISCOVERY ON THE TRAIL?

While working on the trail near Trezona campground we came across a beautiful echidna foraging in the low scrub. We watched it for some time while being acutely aware of the beauty of the surrounding country.

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END-TO-END 14

Weekends Away

Photo: Cathy Bowditch

A quarter of the distance under their belt, E2E 14 begin the two day walks. Margaret & Mark Fletcher sum up the year.

E2E 14s 2022 got off to a bit of a challenging start with a call from the Heysen Office a few days prior to our first walk, to advise that a prescribed burn off across the Trail in Warren Conservation Park had just been scheduled. We decided to swap to our second walk on the program which was Mount Crawford to Pewsey Vale.

The sun was shining with bright blue skies and magical views from the top of Mount Crawford awaited. A steep descent and more hiking through native bush and pine forests, with a pause to investigate the Old School House that can be hired through Forestry SA. There were a couple more hills to tackle (as there always are on the Heysen), again with stunning views, and towards the end a beautiful

road reserve to finish up. On this walk we passed the sign that indicated the $\frac{1}{4}$ way mark of 300km. Technically we were short of the mark as we skipped ahead a walk due the prescribed burn but nobody seemed to notice or care so a great start to the season.

On our second walk, the previously postponed Nugget Rd to Mt Crawford Cemetery, again we hit a snag! A severe weather warning the evening before the walk caused it to be cancelled along with a scramble to ensure that all walkers and the bus company got the message. The walk was moved to mid-September.

Due to a couple of leaders having Covid, close contact isolation rules and then a trip away, the E2E 14 leadership team was down to four plus a support driver for the July and August walks. The remaining leaders did a fantastic job leading the two walks; Pewsey Vale to Tanunda and Tanunda to Kapunda. E2E 14 members might guess who these two missing leaders were due to the scant information on these walks in this article.

Early September we embarked on our first weekend away, based at Kapunda. The Saturday, Kapunda to Hamilton, walk was hit by a short notice reroute. Despite no trail markers for that section no-one got lost (at least on the unmarked section – a leader may have walked past a marker early on however). A fabulous night was enjoyed by all with a delicious meal provided at the church hall by the local Lutheran Church. People joined in with the theme “Wear something red or a funny cap” and some great entertainment was provided by the E2E14 Social Committee. The weather was glorious with the highlight being Marshall’s hut and then walking through the bright yellow Canola fields, backdropped with blue skies and snow-white clouds. Many photos were taken as we all slowed down to enjoy this magnificent crop.

Mid-September, third time lucky, we finally managed to do Nugget Road to Mount Crawford. This has to be one of the Top 10 walks of the Heysen Trail due to the variety of scenery; the ➤

glistening silver and golden trail from the mica in the Warren Conservation Park, the stunning views from the Fire Tower overlooking forest and reservoirs and the amazing and long boardwalk. We had the privilege to walk on it when the water was flowing fast underneath. The other notable highlight being the array of wildflowers you observe through the Warren Conservation Park and on the slow and steady climb up Little Mount Crawford.

Our second weekend away saw us again based in Kapunda for the walks from Peters Hill to Webb Gap and Webb Gap to Gerkie Gap. The first walk consisted of a considerable amount of road walking which led us into Marrabel where we had morning tea. An updated group photo was taken at the statue of "Curio". We met the local landholder who arrived in the classic "farmer style" on his motorbike with dog perched on a wooden board mounted at the rear. We thanked him for allowing us to walk over his property. He graced us with his stories of through-hikers he had helped in the past when they were hit by storms and whilst this banter continued, his faithful kelpie enjoyed being patted by dozens of our walkers, probably hoping it would never end. Saturday night, we enjoyed another social event held at the Kapunda Caravan Park – a campfire and a camp kitchen. "Flora and Fauna" was the theme for the weekend, and many participated by adding some touches to their backpacks and hats for the hike and then dressing up for the social function on the Saturday night. On Sunday we enjoyed walking through bushland



Photo: Mark Scicluna

along the Tothill Ranges taking in the ridge views of yellow and green fields to the west. The weather was starting to warm up and it was no surprise that we encountered some snakes with the walk leader a stride away from stepping on one before stopping dead in his tracks. A timely reminder to us all that knee high canvas gaiters are a pretty good idea on the trail!

- ⤴ ETE 14 group photo at Marrabel in front of Ben van Zetten's 'Curio' cold cast bronze, 1991.
- ⤵ Skirting the bright, yellow fields of canola.
- ⤴ On the boardwalk at Mt Crawford Forest.



Photo: Mark Fletcher

Southern Flinders Ranges

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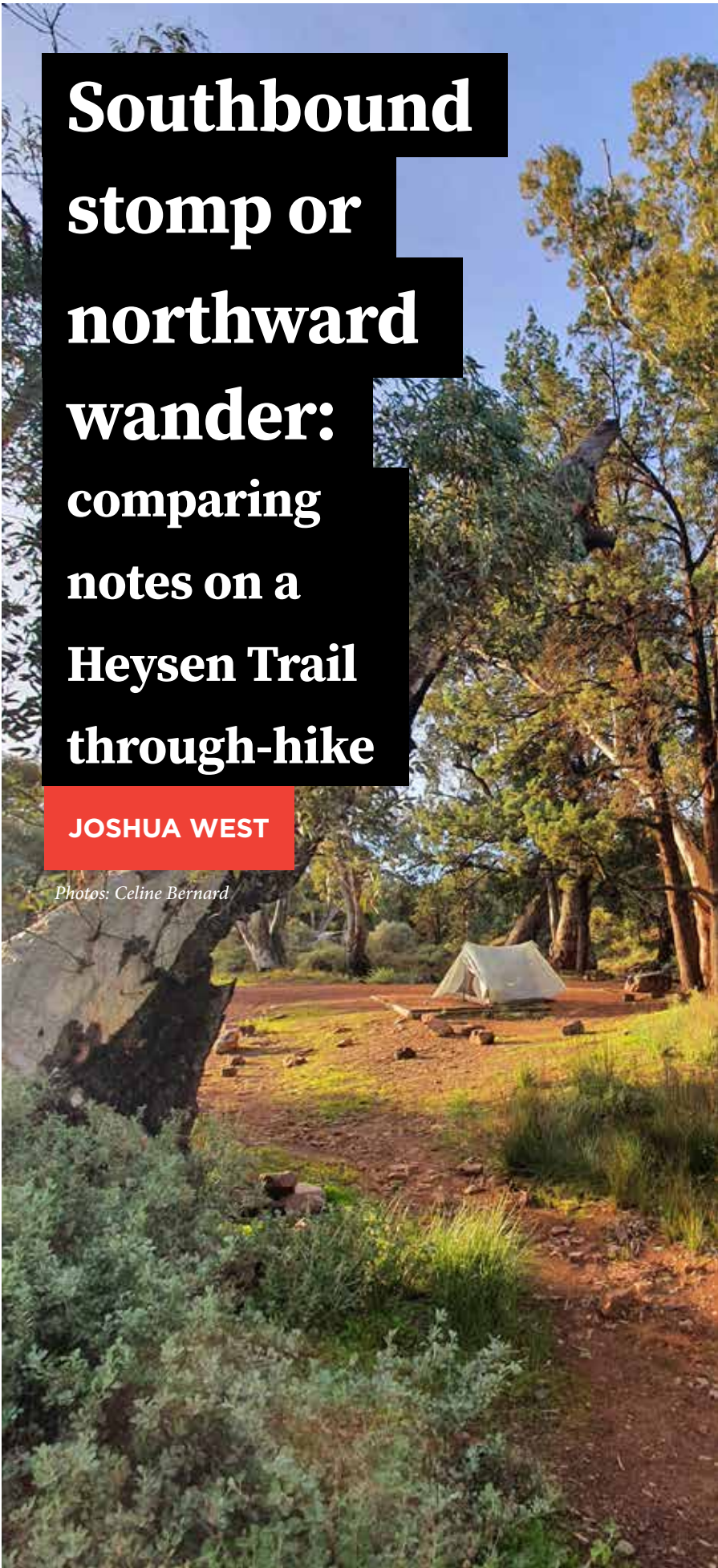
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Southbound
stomp or
northward
wander:
comparing
notes on a
Heysen Trail
through-hike

JOSHUA WEST

Photos: Celine Bernard

Heysen Trail ambassador *Josh West* completed his southbound through-hike in 2018. Four years later, his partner *Celine Bernard* made the same South Australian pilgrimage, except in reverse.

Our paths to beginning the Heysen Trail had striking similarities. We both discovered our love for hiking after periods of isolation, and we stumbled across the Trail after walking or living along its winding route for years. However, this is where the parallels end.

Celine finished her journey in June this year, and during our five-hour drive back to Adelaide, we realised, despite covering the same route, our experiences contrasted heavily. Following four years of popularity growth, trail development and climate fluctuations, plus, of course, travelling in opposite directions over different seasons, our adventures could not have been more different.

	JW	CB
Year	2018	2022
Direction	South	North
Duration	59 days (4 rest days)	52 days (5 rest days)
Months	Aug-Oct	Apr-Jun

DIRECTION

Many through-hikers start their Heysen Trail from the southern end, where the tracks are typically flatter and easier to navigate; I decided I wanted an ocean finale. Thankfully, by the time I found my hiking legs wandering west from Hawker, a week had passed, and my sixth sense of locating trail markers had fully engaged. >

However, while it may be easier to find your groove (and signposts) beginning from Cape Jervis, it wasn't all smooth sailing. Celine discovered the Trail's steepest slopes were at their most perpendicular heading north. Tunkallila Hill, Montacute Hill, Mount Bryan, New Campbell Hill, Mount Brown, Mount Arden and the path leading to Bridle Gap all required extra energy en route to Parachilna Gorge.

SEASONS

Beginning my journey from Parachilna Gorge paired perfectly with my mid-August launch. I knew the sun would be at my back and Adelaide's wildflowers would be waiting for me come spring. However, I did have one major concern. After one of the driest winters on record in 2018, I hoped a late burst of August rain would service the Trail's rainwater tanks (luckily, there was enough supply to see me through).

Celine began her trip north at the end of Autumn, praying for the opposite. La Niña had just buffeted Australia for the second straight year, and there was little doubt the tanks, creeks, ponds, dams and rivers were full. Unfortunately, the weather and scenery weren't at their most vibrant for long stretches through the mid-north. Thankfully, the Trail's beautiful bookends delivered the best conditions.

POPULARITY AND COVERAGE

I can count on one hand the section and through-hikers I passed in 2018. After that year's dry winter, interest

lingered, but individual hikers were scarce. Weeks went by without seeing anybody else with a backpack, but I knew friends and family were keeping a close eye on my journey. Similarly, online through-hiking content was minimal (shoutout to Friends webmaster Jeremy Carter for creating one of the original Heysen Trail diaries), but, as always, the Friends planning resources were invaluable.

Celine's experience again varied greatly. After several years of rising popularity, due partly to interest piquing over the pandemic, the Trail's numbers exploded in 2022. This intrigue, coupled with the hard work from the Friends' Membership and Marketing Committee, meant few days went by without seeing a new or familiar face. Various blogs and YouTube channels have also popped up with long-distance content in recent years, sharing information with prospective through-hikers.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The decision to hike for 50+ days through the elements is always daunting. Thankfully, efforts from the Friends' legion of volunteers keep logistical issues to a minimum. Since 2018, major upgrades at Rossiters Hut, Black Jack Hut, Lights Hummock campsite and along the Wild South

Coast Way have provided more options for long-haul hikers. Thanks to the Friends for keeping these projects on track and making our adventures easier.

FAVOURITES

Favourite town meal

JW: Marrabel Hotel

When I breezed through Marrabel in 2018, the pub was barely hanging on. This literal one-horse town gets little traffic; however, that didn't stop the best chicken parmy of the Trail from landing on my plate during my stay at the rodeo showgrounds. Rest in peace, the Marrabel Hotel.

CB: El Estanco, Greenock

This little gem has popped up recently in the Barossa Valley, only 290m from the Trail! Offering Mexican-inspired breakfast and lunch treats, this quick respite at El Estanco made the stretch between Tanunda and Kapunda all the more enjoyable.

Favourite day

JW: Newland Hill to Balquhiddier

After such a long adventure, the Heysen's coastal stretch marked my final chapter, delivering a deluge of emotions. A mere glimpse of the ocean brought me to tears. The weather, the views, and the sea spray permeating my nostrils; what's not to love?

CB: Red Range campsite to Wilpena Pound

By the time Celine weaved through creeks and forests to the foothills of Wilpena Pound, the day already felt magic. Still, the climb was spectacular. But the real star was the expansive ➤



- ⤴ Above: Celine and Josh at the Parachilna Gorge Trailhead.
- ⤴ Main: Camp setup at Aroona Campground.
- ⤴ Left: The fog lifting after sunrise at Mt Brown.

view from Bridle Gap, with its supporting act being a plate of fresh veggies from the resort bistro that night.

Favourite view

JW: Mt Arden

There are few reasons I'd backtrack along an already conquered stretch of trail — Mt Arden's sunrise views are one of them. Despite a tortuously early alarm, I simply had to revisit the summit at sunrise. When the light finally spilled over the distant mountains, the entire valley glittered gold.

CB: Waitpinga Cliffs

Waitpinga's jagged coastline is simply breathtaking; thankfully, Celine located a handy park bench to catch hers. It's a view one needs to sit for, in awe of such beauty; views that require silence because the soundtrack needs to be part of the experience. And if that wasn't enough, her morning walk was accompanied by a cloud of little white butterflies.

Favourite hut

Both: Marschalls Hut

Hands down, our favourite hut on the Heysen Trail. Marschalls Hut, located between Kapunda and Marrabel, provides a robust fireplace, secure bunks, chiselled stone walls, and the coziest sunset view on the Trail.

Favourite campsite

JW: Grandpa's Camp

After 47 long days, I finally had the opportunity to camp with fellow hikers on a public HT campsite. We shared dinner, regaled stories and compared camera equipment. Finally, I crawled into my sleeping bag entirely content — until the local koalas began mating.

CB: Aroona Campground

Located between two towering mountain ranges, the Heysen Trail saved the best for last. Complete with stately gum trees and a winding creek, Aroona Campground provides a magical campsite to reflect on, or build anticipation for a long journey.



⬆ Above: Sunset at Marshalls Hut.

⬇ Main: Day 2 at Deep Creek Conservation Park.

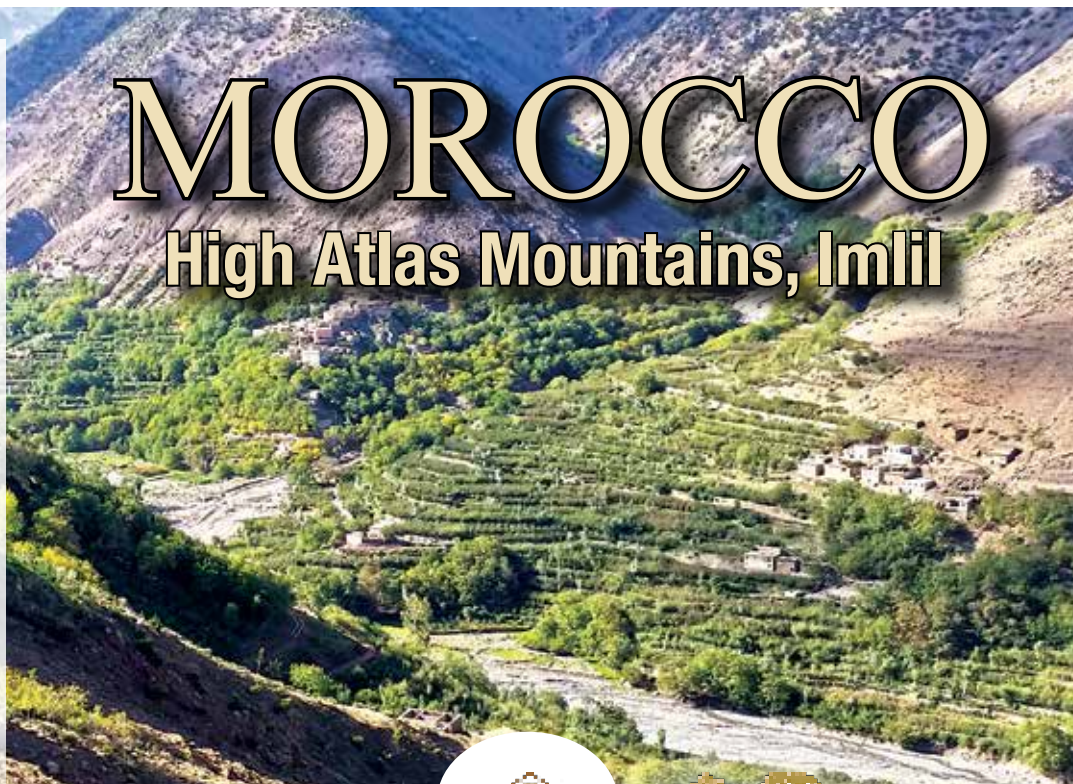


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END-TO-END 13

Winter Walking

Photos: Anthea Bowler

Anthea Bowler shares her highlights from E2E 13's fourth year on the trail.

Winter can be the best time to explore the wonders of the South Australian countryside. The hiking season from April to October showcases our state at its most fertile - lush and green, often soft and sometimes soggy underfoot. Hiking the Heysen Trail is a wonderful way to get off the beaten track and enjoy the beauties of the seasons.

The mid-north provided the full gamut of weather experiences for Lucky 13s. Following a very windy, wet, cold August walk, the next walk around Bundaleer Forest and Never Never Creek was bathed in sunshine.

When all the creeks are bulging and flowing quickly, it makes you realise how often we cross dry creek beds without paying much attention. It's just the bottom of one gully, before climbing the next hill. The fun and exhilaration of rock hopping or sloshing across creeks provided some trepidation and many laughs as we assisted each other to avoid a soggy walk back to our cars.

The frogs were singing in full voice and lambs were plentiful and vocal at our intrusion. Spectacular vistas from the ridgetops - green paddocks and golden canola crops with a smattering of wattle. Hills covered in black boys, young and very old and gnarly, and the beginnings of wildflowers carpeted the ground.

Another highlight this year was the section north of Burra, which passes through Caroon Creek Conservation Park and Tourlie Gorge. This section

can be tricky to get to in wet weather, so our group leaders wisely decided to walk this section out of order while the weather was fine.

Early starts driving in the dark in a convoy of headlights and surrounded by fog were amply rewarded with the magical moment of glorious sunrises highlighting the hills around us. It's impossible to describe how breathtaking this experience was. Even those who are not naturally early risers appreciated starting the day at the same time as the kangaroos. It was a spectacular and memorable day from start to finish.

Of course there were many other highlights, and a growing camaraderie as the group gets to know each other better, with good conversation and plenty of banter.

Many of us have catch up walks to do and will inevitably have different experiences from this group, depending on the time of year and the weather on the day. We look forward to picking up the trail again at Mt Zion, north of Crystal Brook, in autumn 2023.

On the way it will be tempting to revisit Hiskey's Hut to check out the revegetation project - with plentiful rain and sunshine, the trees are sure to have flourished.

.....

⌚ Above: West Bundaleer, Curnows Hut to Raeville in Sept, 2022.

⌚ Below: Wandallah to Newikie Creek near Burra in May, 2022.



END-TO-END 12

Fun Raising by the Dozen

Pichi Richi encounter
Photos: Lance Perryman

E2E 12 are cohesive and making the most of their time on the trail. Barbara Sedgley recounts their year with eloquent finesse.

My 2022 Heysen Trail adventure began with a great deal of anticipation and excitement, as well as a degree of trepidation. Had I done enough preparation? Was Pilates three times a week and at least 2 weekly hikes with elevations, dips, gullies, sinuous paths, bulges and summits going to be enough to tackle what 2022 had in store for us. Would I conquer my biggest fear – Warkality?

My fears diminished as we began our first walk of the season on the “Rollercoaster” Mt Zion to Wirrabara Forest. I could do it! Only stopping to enjoy the magnificent views of the Gulf on the west, the wondrous landscape of scrubby gorges, full of gums, wattles, grasses, birds and colour, plus the freshly sown farmlands to the east.

And where had ‘they’ moved our goal, the television tower to? Would we ever get there?

Our first weekend hike was a great opportunity to catch up with our fellow hikers. We all embraced the pink theme; Simon in his pink tights, the Mallee girls and many others in pink tutus. The humour heightened as tights became laddered and tutus began to unravel as we climbed over stiles and through waist high weeds, summed up by Jayne’s comment “I’m not enjoying this, Adam!”.

The Saturday night’s dinner at the North Laura pub was another opportunity to share stories and enjoy our ‘pinkness’, with Donald being the star of the show in musky pink – definitely his colour! The dinner was a fundraiser for the Australian Melanoma Research Foundation.

All in all, a great weekend with friends, with adventures and challenges met and conquered, ready for the 2022 season!

This year, we walked on Nukunu country and I enjoyed listening

to Phil, Janette and Simon as they acknowledged the Nukunu people and shared some of the history.

‘The Heysen Trail enters Nukunu country near Jamestown and travels through the very heartland at Melrose and does not leave until Quorn. On either side of the Heysen, Nukunu country extends beyond the gulf and east to the Willochra Plain, almost to Orroroo’.

(“Nukunu Acknowledgement”, Simon Cameron, Trailwalker Dec 2021)

As we headed further north, we encountered many more challenging tracks. The Apricot Track which we hiked up with its recurring inclinations, abundance of crests and false flats only took us to the start of the day’s section of the Heysen Trail! However, the native scrub was spectacular; fresh, green, abundant and a joy to behold. The Go Kart Track was aptly named, as many of us wished we had a go-kart to conquer the abundance of crests and convexities along the surface of the seesawing track. The pauses to look at the views of the Gulf to the west provided breaks to catch our breath, surrounded by verdent vegetation, fresh air and birds’ song, giving us well-earned respite.

“

The view was stunning, and punctuated by Spotted Jezebel butterflies dancing around the gum tree branches.

”

Horrocks Pass was another steep and continuous uphill challenge, once again spectacular scenery abounding in all directions. The steep climb giving plenty of opportunity to stop, catch your breath and absorb the beauty and wonder we are privileged to walk through. Walking alongside Suzanne was a meeting of like minds as we shared our appreciation of this section of the Trail.

Dutchman’s Stern Loop Track was an absolute highlight for me. The well-formed, single file track took us to the summit, with breathtaking views of the surrounding country. The light, rain showers just made ➤

Fun Raising by the Dozen

the walk more pleasurable. The vegetation varied; tall gums, she-oaks and native cypress...hidden among all this, our new favourite, orchids. Since having our eyes opened to the magic by orchid fanatics James and Phil, many in our group have become obsessed with our beautiful, fragile, delicate native orchids. The cliffs on the opposite side of the gully on the meandering descent, were radiant with the sunshine, revealing the many different coloured strata. After we re-joined the Heysen Trail, the track sign said "Walkers Follow Fence" and we know now that this means the track goes straight up and straight down, ad infinitum.

On 1st July, I succumbed to the dreaded COVID-19; the outcome of which left me breathless and tired and unable to conquer by nemesis Warkalita (Mt Remarkable). Happily, I was able to greet those who did at the end of the day, armed with my much appreciated 'Hiking Biscuits'. The next day, after we'd had our group photo taken by drone operator Phil in front of Australia's 38th largest River Red Gum, hikers proceeded to the trailhead in Melrose to be greeted by a sausage sizzle provided by the very fabulous and famous Melrose resident Russell. He had set up his BBQ on his trailer in the carpark.

Our stays in Melrose saw a number of E2E 12s come down with COVID-19. July also brought another hazard to the fore. Indonesia's outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease meant we all needed to clean our gear, and prior to the day's walk, our boots were sprayed to rid them of any biosecurity nasties.

Mt Brown gave us another uphill walk, along creeks studded with stunning river red gums, over green paddocks



Another undulation, with a pink theme
Photo: Lance Perryman

and eventually following the fence line up to the ridge, then along the ridge until we regrouped before proceeding "precautiously" along the fence line, up over boulders and rocks until, after rock scrambling, we arrived at the summit of Mt Brown with its lookout tower. The view was stunning, and punctuated by Spotted Jezebel butterflies dancing around the gum tree branches.

The idea of seeing the Pitchi Richi train brought out the child in all of us. We followed the ridgetop above Pitchi Richi Park, keeping our eyes on the track, and finally descended to the railway track, to be rewarded with the sound of the steam whistle signalling the train's imminent approach. Great excitement from E2E 12s and the passengers on the train.

Recent heavy rain had washed out access to the Eyre Depot walk which resulted in it being postponed to 2023 and us walking from Buckaringa Gorge to Calabrinka Creek instead. The descent from the Gorge through the whispering she-oaks to the Willochra Plain below, was an amazing experience for all. The tranquillity and beauty of the area was awe-inspiring, the expansive landscape humbling. The ochre banks provided the perfect outdoor restaurant setting for our lunch stop, with a colour scheme of soft creams to butter and pale pinks to rose. I enjoyed the last part of this day, walking alone and taking in the enormity of my day's experience.

Saturday night dinners have been a highlight, with our very active Social Committee coming up with great venues and themes. We have enthusiastically dressed up or down, according to themes (Think Pink, On the Farm, Saturday Night Fever, Flying Doctors, Comfy in Quorn, Australian Movies), raised money for Cancer Research and R.F.D.S., supported local pubs and restaurants.

I am always amazed by the skill set my fellow E2E 12ers share within our group. Annie and Deb sharing their nursing skills with fellow walkers in need. Simon sharing his knowledge of the Trail. Mark gifting us with Golden North Ice-creams purchased from the drinks money, (thank you, James and Kara) as we emerged onto a road ➤



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was established as the fundraising arm of the Friends of the Heysen Trail in order to assist with the development of the Heysen Trail and other walking trails in South Australia.

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after the Wirrabara Greenway. Russell and his local knowledge supporting an unplanned exit. The very talented photographers and drone operator who interpret and capture our journey through the land we walk on. Heather organising special awards for various members of our group for doing outstanding things or going above and beyond. Ruth's skill of managing and reading the full size Heysen Trail maps in high winds. Don't know how she does it! James and Kara's trusty esky, always a welcome sight at the end of the day's walk. My husband Lance for pulling me up all those steep pyramid shaped hills. The bottomless pit of resilience displayed by all our group. The kangaroo rescue skills shown by Shaun – a story worth telling. Our group had disturbed a wary mob of kangaroos and as we came over a rise, ahead of us was a large grey kangaroo with his legs caught in the top wires of the fence. We knew we had to do something: Adam had us wait a way back and a few went ahead to try to free it, only leading to more struggling until our vet summed up the situation,

put his hand on the kangaroo's head in a manner to calm it...and then it actually allowed the human hands to lift its body level with the top of the fence so that wires could be unwrapped/freed/unwound from around its legs. Then they lowered it to the ground where it hopped away and promptly fell over, only to get up again and bound away. It was an amazing moment in time; a time to be thankful for the expertise within our group.

We appreciated the morning greetings from the drivers and co-pilot of the Hanleys bus from Gladstone, which heralded the start of the days' adventure, travelling to each new trailhead. We were sad to farewell them on our last hike for the year.

This year, E2E 12s have hiked sections 38-48 plus 52 of the Heysen Trail. We all admire the patience, tolerance, knowledge, kindness and generosity of spirit of our leaders Adam, Suzanne, Robin, Kara and James plus our support drivers, Mark and Phil,



*View from Dutchmans Stern
Photo: Lance Perryman*

who have enabled and facilitated us to undertake this extraordinary and privileged experience.

I have learnt the hike is all about the journey; having the fitness to appreciate the journey is paramount to enjoyment. The shared experiences with community enrich the outcomes. I take joy in the beauty all around me as I walk and am so grateful to have started this adventure in 2017 and next year, I am looking forward to revisiting some of my favourite places and... completing the walk.



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Image: Maggie Moy

Thelma Anderson OAM

We regretfully note the passing of Thelma Anderson, one of the most respected supporters of the Friends and the whole bushwalking community of SA.

Thelma was supporting the Heysen Trail before the Friends was formed as she worked in Terry Lavender's office as Project Officer when the Trail was being designed.

When the Dept of Recreation and Sport called a meeting of bushwalking clubs to assist in the development of the Trail, the outcome was the establishment of the Friends of the Heysen Trail. Thelma was a member of the Interim Council which led to the

organising of the Friends, and was a member of the first Friends Council, on which she served for many years..

Thelma was a passionate supporter of all bushwalking trails, and was noted for her efforts in protecting road reserves for public use.

Thelma also took on the responsibility as Leader for maintenance and development of Section 6 of the Trail.

She was one of the earliest members of the Friends to be awarded Honorary Membership for her outstanding contribution.

John Wilson



End-to-End Awards

Congratulations to the following walkers who received End-to-End awards for completing the trail up until the **end of October, 2022**.

Rachelle Rafferty
Mark Woodward
Jennifer Savage
David Savage
Daniel Gensemer
Sean 'Safari' Smith
Michael Davis
Susan Davis
Brett Bovey
Keenan Heng
Lucy Buckle
Rosemary Hall
Janice Watt
Libby Brown
Geert van Keulen
Michael Steer
Carl Greenstreet
Luke Trotter
Claire Trotter
Graeme Smith
Sonja Jensen
Nicole Wickham
Liz O'Keeffe
Simone Gifford-Moore
Julia Patten
Dave Watts
Dan Camac
Misha Carnell
Louise Carnell
Manal Monsour
Nick Tyllis
Glenn Jones
Brendan Kenny
Stephanie Atkinson
Mel Monks
Alexander Wilson
Rosalie Schultz
Dick Day
Aletta Fowke
Jordan Kent

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END-TO-END LAVENDER TRAIL

Lavender Highlights

Photo: Philip Bell

As the first FoHT Lavender Trail End-to-End finishes, Valerie & Greg Boundy and Liz & David Bowey recap.

Who would want to walk The Lavender Federation Trail we have been asked!

On a very wet day on the 13th August this year 24 intrepid walkers with their volunteer leaders finished just that.

Our journey began in April last year (after one year of deliberation due to COVID) when The Friends of the Heysen Trail initiated an End to End walk of the 325 kilometre Lavender Federation Trail for Heysen members.

Four rather novice volunteer leaders and an initial bunch of 35 walkers met at Monarto Sports Ground for our first bus trip, with masks and hand sanitiser at the ready, to be transported to the start of the trail at Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge to begin our adventure.

Initially walks were one Sunday a month during the walk season and as the Trail got further north they became weekend walks on the Saturday and the Sunday. This has benefitted local bus companies, accommodation, and hospitality and service providers as part of the outcome of the walking activity. Walks averaged about twenty kilometres each day.

The Trail initially takes in the banks of the Murray with its rich history, going

past wetlands and then into pasture land with rocky outcrops in amongst the mallee scrub and interesting ruins from days past. We managed to skirt the edge of Monarto Zoo without losing any walkers (phew!), the journey often skirting along creek beds with a rich tapestry of farmland and backroads for our amazing photographers.

“

We are appreciative of the work done by volunteers of the SA Recreation Trails Inc....

”

Mount Beevor, just south of Tungkillio was our first challenge with a long approach and a very steep ascent at the end. The reward was magnificent 360° views across the Murray Plains. From here we meandered through grazing land, along many scenic back roads and small towns including Tungkillio, Springton, Keyneton, Moculta, Truro, and Dutton to just south of Eudunda in our first year.

The section from south of Truro to Dutton was done in reverse to avoid a car rally! The benefit of this was to see active wombats around their burrows. This walk also included the beautiful Truro Creek Gorge.

In May this year we commenced our second and final year of the Trail with a long and very windy day walking into Eudunda with its magnificent silo art and home to author Colin Thiele. Ironically our bus pick up was in the centre of the town by a community garden filled with lavender!

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By this stage of our adventure we had a steady group of 25-30 walkers. As the walks progressed the friendship and camaraderie in the group grew significantly with our own Facebook page for posting of photos and other comments as well as communications within the group for catch up walks.

Our last few walks took in the intersection with the Heysen Trail at Webb Gap, the Tothill Ranges, walking extremely close to wind turbines, and the historic towns of Manoora and Mintaro of Martindale Hall fame as well as the changing landscape of the Clare Valley and vineyards.

We were fortunate to be blessed with good weather for the majority of our walks with only one bucketing near Monarto (after our knowledgeable walk leader said “it never rains out here!!”) and the aforementioned memorable last day.

The final walk into Clare was celebrated with champagne at the Lavender Trailhead as wet and weary walkers crossed the finish line, as well as with a memorable dinner at the Clare Hotel.

The many highlights of the Lavender Trail have included walking along the River Murray, walking adjacent to Monarto Zoo, some magnificent views over the regions from some of the higher points (Mt Beevor, Leake Lookout, Mt Horrocks), rare sightings of wombats out during the day as well as plenty of kangaroos, crops of various ilk, pastures of sheep and cattle and as we moved further north the iconic vineyards of the Clare Valley.

The latter walks have also had a fun element with the embracing of various themes which challenged but did not deter the creativity of all the walkers. The themes have been “Lavender”; “King, Queen, Prince, Princess”; “Red and White” and concluded with our final walk theme “Over the top”.

We are appreciative of the work done by volunteers of the SA Recreation Trails Inc. in developing/maintaining the Trail. FoHT has made a donation to them in support of their work.

As newbie leaders we send a huge vote of thanks to the amazing bunch of walkers who made this journey one to cement long lasting friendships.



Trailwalker Photo Competition



Neil Teasdale reads the Trailwalker at Kopra on day 7 of a 12 day trek on the Annapurna/Dhaulagiri circuit. Dhaulagiri can be seen in the background.

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



Above/Left: Wet, but triumphant on the finish line.

Photo: Philip Bell

Above: Getting into the "Red and White" theme for the weekend.

Photo: Liz Bowey

Below/Right: Country road walking, near Kyneton.

Photo: Anne Barnet

Below: Approaching Mt Beevor summit near Tungkillo.

Photo: Liz Bowey



End of the Trail, or Simply the Beginning?



*Bunyeroo to Trezona
Photo: Tammy Main*

The final year on the Heysen Trail for E2E 11 and Tammy Main shares the experience.

Year six on the Trail with the Friends consists, generally, of two six-day walks. Our trips away were in June and August of 2022. As we all know, it's been a wet season...no, a wet year. But every wet week that passed, in the lead-up to our first week away, only delighted me as I hoped it would mean a bounty of beautiful vegetation. I also had an inkling that our intrepid leader, John, had for the past six years been making secret offerings to the Gods to secure us amazing weather, for the most part, successfully. It was as anticipated.

Except, I suppose, for the first morning as the rain dried up, leaving an ethereal mist that meant slippery rocks to contend with, and a simple

fall broke all of our hearts as one of our favourite characters on the Trail was forced to withdraw. I know he was grateful for the care he received that day, and it was a reminder to us all that this was no simple undertaking.

Happily, I can tell you the remainder of the walks passed without major incident - we are long past considering blisters or an unseen branch to the head as major. The weather was perfect and the landscape breathtaking.

Over our first six days, we walked from Eyre Depot, through Warren Gorge, past the Mount Arden South campsite and climbed Mount Arden for expansive, pastel-coloured views. An extra offering that day, perhaps, John? We were given a perfect rainbow to celebrate arriving. Back down we went through Buckaringa Gorge and across the Willochra Plain, although there was nothing plain about it. I won't describe it, I wouldn't do it justice, it is a treasure

to be discovered. Up we went again, rock hopping on the spectacular Jarvis Hill. Down again into Wonoka Creek, where history is etched into the side of the creek beds with exposed roots and rusting metal laying about as dictated by the powerful flooding waters, long gone. We finally found ourselves at the quiet Mt Little Station property, just past Mayo Hut, to finish out the first week.

We talked about what comes next after finishing the Trail. The responses varied from settling into FoHT Trail Walker & Trail Starter walks, more



*Tarsh & Nigel celebrating in September
Photo: Simon Cameron*

luxurious guided tours, to grittier overnight hiking along the Trail and trails further afield. Then there were the emerging leaders, for whom the Heysen Trail has become a passion. Subtly we saw the shifting of focus from participant to leader, and I can whole heartedly recommend each and every one of them to the role.

With all that forward gazing done, in the second week we were left with quiet contemplation, reminiscings and the realisation that these simple, familiar relationships were about to change. A bitter/sweet week to be sure.

We started with a massive 30+ km walk back into the Flinders creeks, along Mernmerna and Slaty Creeks, with the Elder Range and Mt Aleck looming over us. With that walk under our belts, we felt like it was all downhill from there; figuratively, certainly not literally as the very next day we were climbing Bridle Gap to peak over into Wilpena Pound. A leisurely day walking the length of Wilpena brought us to Bunyeroo Valley and then onto the geologically significant Trezona area, where we

had the bonus of several experts on hand to share the meaning. The next day was one of my favourites on the Trail, from Trezona to Aroona Hut, we added in Red Hill and it was worth EVERY step, so when they give you the option...do it!

Aroona Hut had my imagination going wild walking around the old homestead ruins. One of those places where the natural beauty comes balanced with untold hardships. What a choice that would have been.

Finally, we were left with our last day on the Trail. Leave nature to her own devices and she is the supreme gardener, flowers were aplenty. The final stile had been spruced for our arrival and the sparkling wine was flowing and maybe a tear or two. Thank you to the Friends volunteers for orchestrating the celebration of our completion of the Trail.



*E2E 11 Final Section Walkers
Photo: Tammy Main*

Congratulations to Peter who did not miss the role call for one ETE11 walk over the six years; to Dom for completing his second length of the Trail and for not losing any of us along the way; and to John for his determined third 'official' length. Many thanks to Helen, whom I would follow anywhere and one last shout-out to Marlene, Ross, Andrew and Chris for supporting our journey.

I titled this piece, End of the Trail or just the beginning, because I like to think the volunteer leaders offered us an apprenticeship on trail walking, which we have now completed.

Like any apprenticeship, it is simply the beginning of a journey...

The efforts of the E2E 11 leadership group; John Babister, Dom & Marlene Henschke, Helen & Ross Morgante, Andrew MacDonald and Chris Gower were greatly appreciated. The E2E 11 group raised in excess of \$2600 to be spent on contributing to significant upgrades at Marschalls Hut, near Peters Hill, Riverton in the Mid North. A plaque will be placed in honour of their generosity of spirit, friendship and time.



*Heather determinedly crosses the last stile
Photo: David Thompson*

End-to-End 11 Awards

Taking that final step over the stile at Parachilna Gorge is quite an achievement. Even better to do it with friends who have shared the long journey. Congratulations to the following 36 E2E 11 members who completed the Trail in 2022.

Andrew Potter	Pam Woodburn
Anthony Matas	Paul Frost
Catherine Baldwin	Peter Nation
Chris Young	Phillip Milford
Cindy Anderson	Richard Bourne
Erica Gordon	Rosalind Miles
Glenn Chambers	Rosie Burn
Heather Neilsen	Susan Matas
Heather Thompson	Susan Potter
Helen Jurgens	Sue Mausolf
Jones	Tammy Main
Jackie Westover	Tarsha Basheer
Jeannie Sirona	Tiziana Saffi
Jill Rowe	Tom Gordon
Jonathan Westover	
Julie Signoriello	2ND TIME COMPLETED
Martin Chapman	Dom Henschke
Melanie Fischer	
Monique Percy	3RD TIME COMPLETED
Nigel Smalls	John Babister
Neil Hendry	



BILL VAN RIET

Favourite Short Walk

The Mylor Loop

Photos: Bill van Riet

My favourite shortish 10+ km walk would be the Aldgate loop, with a few variations. I like to think of it as the Mylor loop but then I'm a bit biased.

I like to start my walks early, in Mylor by the bakery for very good reasons.

I then follow the Heysen Trail, through the Mylor Conservation Park, almost to Aldgate.

This gives a challenging mostly uphill workout pretty much all the way to Aldgate Cemetery. (You can if you choose, walk to Bridgewater from the Mylor/Heysen trails Junction.)

The Cemetery Trust/Council has built a beautiful shelter complete with table, seats and roofing. It's situated near the walkway going through the

Cemetery, almost exactly the half-way point between Mylor and Aldgate, very convenient.

From here I go via the Aldgate hills, then along a section of the Aldgate creek, alongside Warawong wildlife park and into the rugged Mylor valley.

This walk always presents some fantastic challenges plus visual gifts, lovely reflections, wildflowers, valley views etc.

At one time some chairs and a table, complete with drinking water were placed under shady trees, as a beautiful rest point.

Then as good management would have it, I end up back at the bakery for a bit of sinfulness.

And yes this walk is programmed in June of 2023 and you are welcome to join us!

Do you have a favourite short walk you'd like to share? Please send your article to The Editor at trailwalker@heysentrail.asn.au



Kath Palyga

It is with sadness we report on the passing of one of our early volunteers, Kath Palyga, on 14th August, aged 92.

Kath was bookkeeper for the Friends from the early 1990's until retirement in 2006. She was confident, capable and quickly had our finances and accounts running smoothly.

Things were different 30 years ago. Although she could use a computer, Kath preferred the double entry bookkeeping system using large ledger books. While credit cards were available, we had no electronic funds transfer capability, only using a mechanical roller to imprint the cards and Kath would head off to the bank each Friday afternoon with a sheaf of card dockets, cheques and cash.

Kath was meticulous in her work and occasionally took it home to sort out any problems with the balances. Although she took her work seriously, she could still enjoy a joke.

Kath was extremely reliable, hardly ever missing a week in the office, and was greatly respected by the other volunteers.

In 1999 Kath was made an Honorary Member of the Friends in appreciation of her great contribution. She will be remembered with fondness and respect by all those who knew her.

John Wilson

Trailthinker Quiz Answers

1. 1986
2. Dog
3. Kapunda (1842)
4. 3km west of Georgetown/10
5. Near Crystal Brook and the Morgan/Whyalla Pipeline
6. Kangaroo Island
7. The Flinders Ranges
8. Great Victorian Desert
9. Panda
10. Close to Willochra Creek



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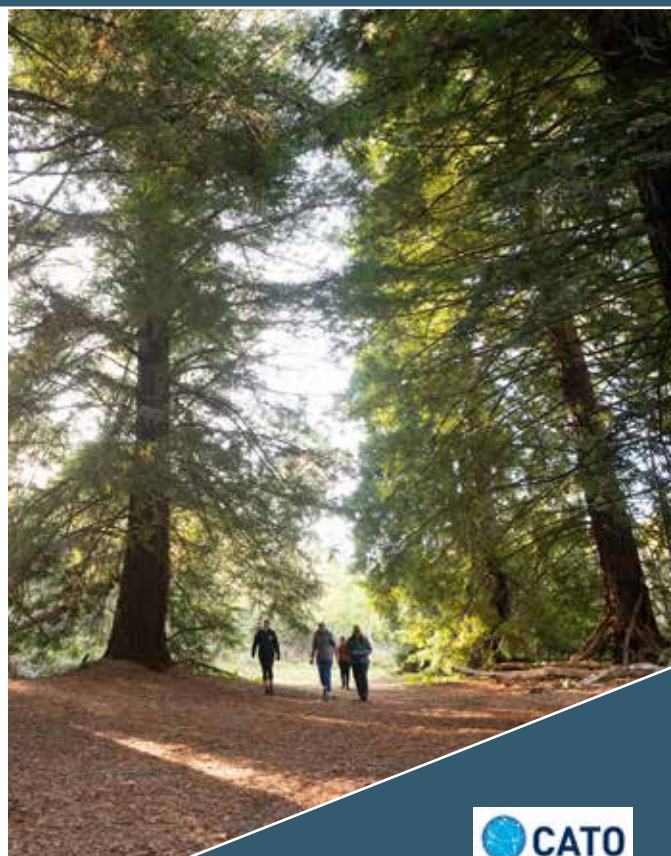
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