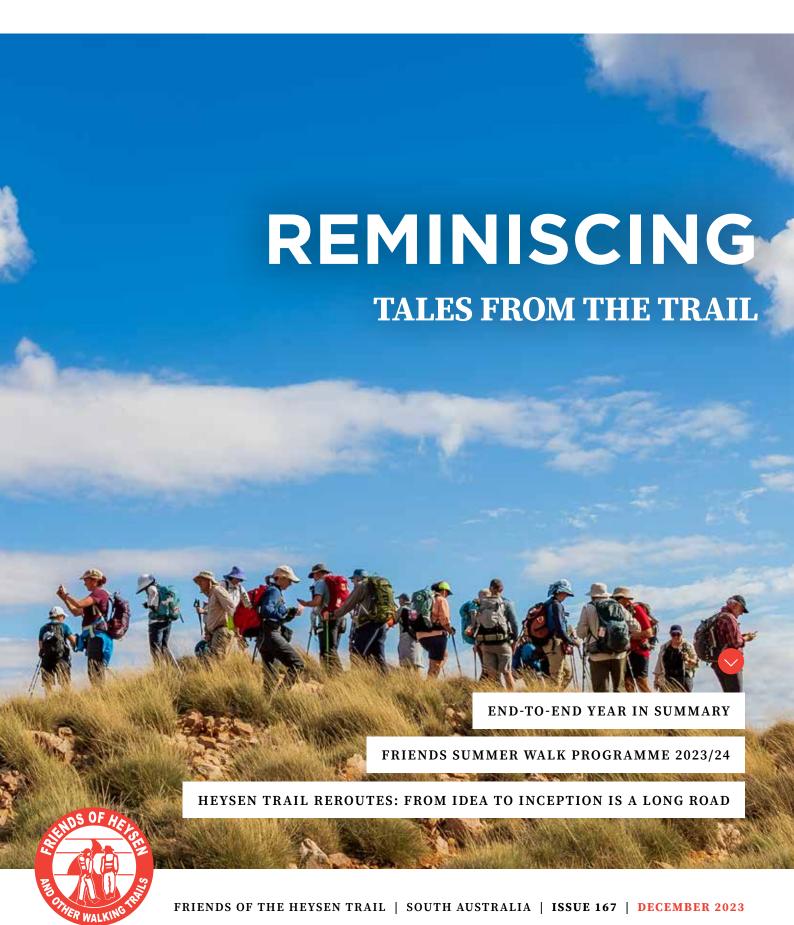
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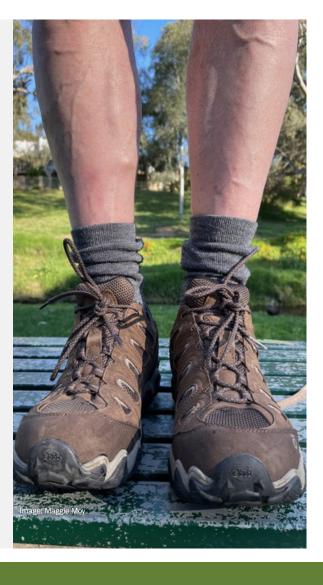
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TRAVELLING TO BLINMAN?

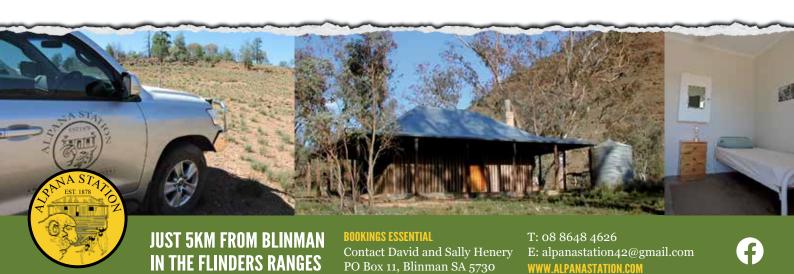
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- Quality self-contained guesthouses:
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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

SINGLE \$25/year

FAMILY \$40/year

SCHOOLS/ORGANISATIONS

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





Cover: This little rise provides great panaromas to the south, west and north. Section 49 (Dutchmans Stern to Eyre Depot) Photo by David Roberts

Trailwalker welcomes photo submissions suitable for the magazine cover. Please email your high-resolution images to trailwalker@hevsentrail.asn.au

About the Friends

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TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

Paul Bond

WALKING

Mark Fletcher

OFFICE & ADMINISTRATION

Dom Henschke

PROMOTION: **MEMBERSHIP &**

MARKETING Barbara Deed

FINANCE & AUDIT

Basia Samcewicz

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Neville Haar

MID NORTH

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John Wilson Margaret Fletcher Roslyn Rubarth

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C Warren Bonython AO*

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E2E13 Vicki Barrett

E2E14 Mark Fletcher

E2E15 Mark Curtis **E2E16** Kathy Wright

E2E17 Paul Frost

E2E-2 Julian Monfries

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S2A Jon Westover

S2B John Newland

S3 Hermann Schmidt

(Wandergruppe Bushwalkers)

S4 Robert Smedley

S5 John Babister

S6 Robert Ruediger, Ken Smith

\$7 Carl Greenstreet

S8 Chris Finn

\$9 Jerry & Michelle Foster

S10 Peter Deacon

S11&12 Dom Henschke

S13 Hugh Greenhill \$14-18 Daniel Jardine

Coordinator*

S17B Simon Cameron *assisted by Retired Active SA Bushwalkers

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TUESDAYS

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THURSDAYS

David Andrewartha Erica Gordon **Julian Monfries** Jane Mathews Jackie Westover

FRIDAYS

Cathy Bowditch Peter Clark Adele Gatt Julia McLachlan

RELIEF TEAM

Jan Ellis Iane Mathews Chris Porter **Elavne Sanders**

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EDITORIAL

Articles, reports and other submissions by members and interested parties are welcome. Article guidelines are available upon request. Contact the *Trailwalker* Editor at trailwalker@heysentrail.asn.au

Deadline for the next issue (April 2024):

9 FEBRUARY 2024

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 minimum of 1800 copies printed for each edition. The estimated readership is in excess of 2500.

Contributors are urged to contact the Editor to discuss their article prior to submission. The submission deadline is approximately 6 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

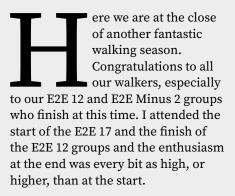
A commitment for 12 months advertising (three issues) will attract a 10% saving.

Advertising specifications are available from the Advertising Officer at: trailwalker.media@heysentrail.asn.au

President's Report DECEMBER 2023 • 5

Paying It Forward By Giving Back.

NEIL HENDRY



Talking with some of the finishers, the question often comes up "what now?". It is a bittersweet moment when you realise that the accomplishment of finishing the Trail, with the highlights and hardships turning into a memory and the friendships and shared camaraderie built over time, goes hand-in-hand with an uneasy feeling of emptiness, of something missing, now that the Trail is done.

Many tell stories of new adventures, new walks here, interstate and overseas. Evocative names are scattered into the conversation; El Camino, Larapinta, Bibbulmun, Kokoda, Coast to Coast. Many more just find that local walking has become part and parcel of daily life, of personal wellbeing. There are many beautiful walks around Adelaide. Belair, Cleland. Heritage, city and beach walks abound. There's no doubt that walking gets into your blood.

There is another group, though, who just want to stay connected to the Friends. Some of these Trail addicts

go right back out and start again! The whole leadership group of this year's E2E 17 came out of last year's finishing E2E 11 – you have to admire that! Others make up the E2E Minus groups that walk the Trail from north to south. Still others enjoy giving back to the Friends what the Friends have given them, a network of friends and commitment to the Trail itself. These are our wonderful volunteers. Without them the Friends and, in fact, the Trail itself would not work as the iconic walking trail that it is.

Thank you to the office crew who answer the phone and supply the maps and keep the website running; to the builders and fixers of the maintenance crews, who travel out to erect the shelters and toilets and stiles, maintain the huts, and cut new trails; to the Trail section teams who walk their parts of the Trail to make sure that markers are in place, vegetation trimmed, landholders onboard, reroutes mapped. And so much more!

We are always on the lookout for people willing to donate some of their time and energy back to the Friends. Volunteers are our lifeblood. Do you have a bit of time and think you might like to help in any of the ways above? If you do, please chat with your walk leaders, or call the office, or get in touch with any of the various committees (Office, Trail Development, Walking, Finance,



Marketing & Membership). We hope to hear from you!

I have really enjoyed my first six months in office. It has been a steep learning curve into the details of how the FoHT gets the job done, especially around governance and our working relationship with DEW. It isn't all work though. One highlight was being invited to represent the Friends at the unveiling of a new statue of Sir Hans Heysen on the main street of Hahndorf in August. Check it out next time you are up there.

I wish you all a bright and cheerful festive season and New Year, and hope you will be refreshed for the new walking season in 2024.

Welcome New Members

The President and the Council would like to extend a warm welcome to the 61 members who have joined the Friends since the April edition of Trailwalker.

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

Thank you!

The Friends of the Heysen Trail acknowledge and respect the Traditional Custodians of the ancestral lands we traverse along the Heysen Trail, embracing the Ngarrindjeri, Kaurna, Peramangk, Ngadjuri, Nukunu and Adnyamathanha peoples.

Friends News DECEMBER 2023 • 6

FIRE DANGER SEASON – HEYSEN TRAIL CLOSED

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

Access to much of the Heysen Trail is dependent upon cooperation with private landholders. Adhering to fire danger season, closure information and private property signage is essential to protecting the Trail.

The Trail crosses three different Country Fire Service (CFS) Fire Ban Districts which each have different closure dates. CFS has brought forward dates for regions following reports which indicate that the 2023-2024 summer may be a high-risk period.

CFS Fire Danger Season Dates Announced:

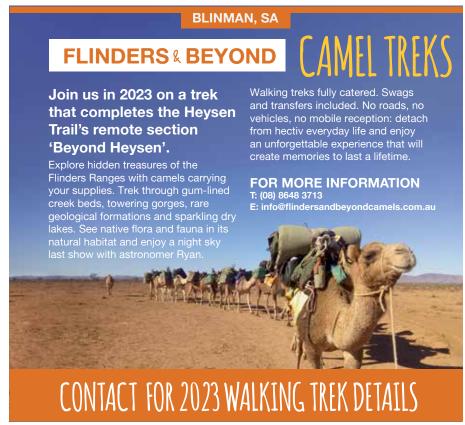
- Flinders District commenced 16 October 2023
- Mid North District commenced 1 November 2023
- Mt Lofty Ranges commenced 15 November 2023

The Heysen Trail is closed from those dates. Access to Huts and Hike-in overnight campsites on private land & ForestrySA are also closed during fire danger season.

The Wild South Coast Way on the Heysen Trail between Cape Jervis and Victor Harbor is the exception and remains open all year: except that it is closed on days of Catastrophic Fire Danger.

Walking trails in National & Conservation Parks and Reserves, Forestry SA land and SA Water Reservoirs are all available for walking during fire danger season: except that closures apply on days of Total Fire Ban or Catastrophic Fire Danger. Walkers should check the relevant Parks/Forestry/SA Water websites before heading out.

END DATES? While the CFS end dates usually occur mid-April in the Flinders and 1 May in other regions, walkers are strongly encouraged to check the CFS website before planning a hike as these may change in 2024 depending on CFS assessment of conditions.



2024 Calendar available now



Looking for a last minute Christmas or end-of-year thank you gift? Buy online now and support the maintenance and promotion of the Heysen Trail.

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

FoHT Holidays Office Closure

Please note that the Office will close for a holiday break from 2.30 p.m. on Friday December 8th, 2023.

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 5th 2024.

The Office will re-open for normal business at 10.30 a.m. on the following day, Tuesday February 6th, 2024.

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

Nominations for Honorary Membership

Do you know someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the Friends? Honorary Membership may be awarded to recognise those members who have made longterm and significant commitment in undertaking activity across The Friends objectives.

Members may submit confidential nominations for Honorary Membership to Julian Monfries, Chair, Honorary Membership sub-committee of the Council: email julian.monfries@bigpond.com. The sub-committee will consider any nominations and then provide recommendations to the Friends Annual General Meeting.

An Honorary Member shall be an individual who is elected as such at a General Meeting of the Association because of distinguished service rendered to the Association or for any other reason deemed appropriate.

Requirements:

Membership of the Friends, and

10 years service (cumulative)

- Executive
- Council (active participation)
- · Chair of a committee
- Section Leader (showing an active commitment to management of their section. Organising review and work parties in accordance with FoHT and DEW requirements including use of the TDC Database.

- Activity Leader (leading or coordinating several activities)
- Other (distinguished service to the Friends not covered above)

Celebrating 30 years of service

On October 10th, at the annual Walk Planning Meeting and Volunteers 'Thank You Gathering', the Friends celebrated the 30+ years of service from Colin Edwards.

Colin has been a member and contributor to the Friends organisation since 1990. He has had an active involement in the organisation's evolution, starting as President of the Friends Council in 1993, then as a day and extended trip Walk Leader, producing a guide for walk leaders and co-editing, 'Push the Bush', a book of extended day walks.

In 2003, Colin was granted Honorary Membership of the Friends for his contribution to the Friends and walking in South Australia.

Moving into the management role of the Friends Shed, Colin utilised his draftsman skills to design valuable infrastructure, while also taking on the role of Section leader through the Adelaide Hills.

Since 2009 Colin has been a key organiser of new infrastructure programs.

In 2010, Colin became the Trail Development Coordinator, overseeing and scheduling work for approximately 70 volunteers. In 2013-14 he assisted Walking SA re-establish Mt Lofty Trails, as a member of their sub-committee and organising workgroups for trail marking etc.

In 2016, he was awarded, by Walking SA, for Longstanding Contribution/ Distinguished Service to walking.

Colin was awarded an Order of Australia medal in the 2020 Queen's Birthday Honours.

There is no doubt that Colin was a worthy recipient of the celebration. When you are out on the Trail next, spare a moment of thought for all that





Trail Development DECEMBER 2023• 8

Development News

MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CENTRAL FLEURIEU PARKS 2023 - DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT & WATER (DEW)

The Friends responded to a consultation paper from DEW about its review of management for Parks in the Central Fleurieu Peninsula. Parks traversed by the Heysen Trail include:

- Eastern Finniss; Kyeema & Mt Magnificent
- Western Myponga & Yulte

The Friends noted and supported references to Parks affirmation that management of high conservation is valued and that low impact activity, such as bushwalking, is approriate.

Of particular interest is that Parks identified the importance of management of phytopthera through containment measures and hygiene.

The Friends maintenance volunteers practice biosecurity measures. Parks were requested to provide further advice about any proposals to improve management and training around hygiene. The Friends walk program already emphasises biosecurity awareness and places priority on boot cleaning.

THE BLUFF MASTER PLAN

In July, The Friends became aware that Victor Harbor Council had adopted a new "Master Plan" for The Bluff. It is understood it will include funding to upgrade trails and a viewing platform overlooking Petrel Cove and Kings Beach.

The Heysen Trail spur that now forms an extension for the Wild South Coast Way traverses The Bluff area. DEW officers have advised that it was consulted and any upgrades will not have a direct impact on the Heysen Trail.

CAPE JERVIS PORT UPGRADE

An ABC news item in September alerted The Friends to potential changes to the ferry and port area of Cape Jervis. The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) will commence work in 2024 to upgrade Cape Jervis and Penneshaw ports to improve facilities for the ferry service.

The Friends has requested clarification from DEW about whether the planned upgrade will impact on the Heysen Trail's southern trailhead or sections.

BIG BOLD IDEA FOR THE NORTHERN TRAILHEAD

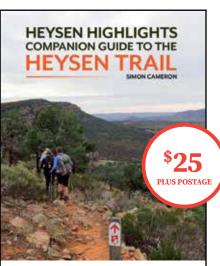
Do you remember the feeling as you started or completed the Heysen Trail at the Parachilna Gorge trailhead? Many have described the climb over that Trailhead stile as "underwhelming" – for such a grand occasion.



Existing Heysen Signage



Existing site with final stile



The perfect Heysen Trail Companion Guide

Heysen Highlights

Order on the Friends' website heysentrail.asn.au/shop

In 2022, The Friends Council supported a proposal to investigate ways to give the 30+ year old Trailhead a makeover. The Friends sought tenders from organisations with the skills and creativity to deliver something interesting.

We envisaged a gateway offering a greater sense of significance and a place of arrival or launching for the 1200km Heysen achievement.

In early 2023 The Friends engaged Landscape Architects to work with us to consult local landholders, community organisations, and local Adnyamathanha representatives, about a suitable concept – a concept that The Friends Council has now endorsed.

The proposed new design -



The northbound view



The southbound view

After preliminary discussion with senior staff at the Department for Environment & Water (DEW), The Friends are optimistic that the go ahead for the concept will be forthcoming. We now need to await formal approval processes within the Department.

Feedback to date suggests that members are enthusiastic about this exciting project.

Ross McDougall & Melanie Sjoberg are leading the project for the Trail Development Committee and will provide updates as soon as we can take the next steps.

Heysen Trail Reroutes: From Idea to Inception is a Long Road

Daniel Jardine shares the work behind the Bundaleer Reservoir reroute.

Many of us have great ideas about getting the Heysen Trail off a road or onto a more friendly alignment but it takes time and patience to deliver.

Up front there are a few authorisations to be gained. Any proposal requires the approval of the landholder – whether that is on private land, a road reserve, Forestry SA, SA Water or Parks. Then, the Department for Environment & Water (DEW), as the authorised manager of the Heysen Trial on behalf of the SA Government, needs to give the final approval for any concept. It is only after those pegs are in place that The Friends volunteers may put in the posts and marker plates.

Back in 2019, then Environment & Water Minister David Speirs started to open SA Water reservoirs to the public. The Friends Heysen Trail Development Committee volunteers kicked off the idea to negotiate access to the Bundaleer Reservoir for the Trail.

Even after SA Water installed short walking trails within Bundaleer reservoir The Friends volunteers still faced some hurdles as our initial aim was a route that travelled close to SA Water assets.

Through perseverance and discussion among the Heysen Trail Partners [DEW, Forestry SA, SA Water and FoHT] we eventually achieved a meeting on site with SA Water representatives including the local SA Water Ranger.

Talking through options on the ground helped reach a compromise route away from the SA Water assets but still allowing walkers across the Reservoir wall. Unfortunately, we were unable to access the SA Water land on the channel that runs from the NW corner of the reservoir to the Aquaduct. An

alternative arose from one of the many supportive landholders in the area who agreed to access on the adjacent property so that the Heysen Trail could follow the fence line outside the SA Water land.

The new re-route was installed in August 2023 by Kevin Ward, Peter Deacon and Daniel Jardine. It included installing 4 stiles along with new signage and the removal of signs directing walkers to the old route.

The route through the reservoir has great views, particularly from the reservoir wall. There is also access to a toilet and car park that was installed by SA Water at the NW corner of the reservoir.

The Friends appreciate the cooperation of SA Water and local landholders in allowing us to implement the new

route that improves walker safety and amenity by getting the Trail off the road.

Feedback from walkers taking the reroute has been overwhelmingly positive.

The gpx for the Trail re-route can be accessed from the Friends of the Heysen Trail website.

heysentrail.asn.au/news/category/ heysen-trail/re-routes/map-5spalding-to-wirrabara-forest/



Peter Deacon, Kevin Ward and Daniel Jardine (behind the camera) with the newly installed stile near the Aquaduct at Bundaleer.



A peek into the Promotion: Membership and Marketing Activities

ROLE OF COMMITTEE

The Promotion: Marketing and Membership Committee is one of the Standing Committees of Council whose role is to promote both the Friends and the Trail, to monitor membership growth and satisfaction and to prepare strategies to achieve sustainable membership growth. This year has been another busy year for the Committee.

MEMBERSHIP

With over 1500 active memberships, we monitor trends in these numbers and offer a range of communication and other services for members.

We have just commenced a brief survey to give us some insight into why people join the Friends and equally importantly why they decide to cease being involved.



PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

Our key promotional tool is our website. After a survey seeking members views of the current website, we have begun working with consultants to review ways in which the website provides information to the broader community and to our members. This review will consider not only the appearance of the website but how the financial and membership data can best serve the needs of the organisation into the future. It

is a significant task which needs to consider not only promotional impact, but costs and demands on our volunteers.

We participate in the Hikers Expo at Belair National Park in April each year. This is a big logistical exercise, involving setting up the display with our promotional material and most importantly the presence of volunteers who spend time explaining the role of the Friends and our Walking Program to the general public.



We are funding the replacement of Heysen Trail promotional signs which have become damaged by the elements. This involved negotiations with regional communities to confirm locations and to enlist their help in erecting the signs.

Our other promotional materials include the Trailwalker and the Calendar. Some of the costs for printing and postage of the Trialwalker, to those members who choose to receive the magazine this way, are offset by advertising. Our dedicated Trailwalker and Calendar Editor coordinates the whole process from planning to design to printing. One of our volunteers coordinates our advertising approach to businesses and liaises with the Finance team to ensure effective billing and payment.

The Calendar has many purposes - a promotional tool for the Trail, a forum for our many talented photographers to display their skills and a fundraiser.

We have a dedicated team of social media posters who regularly provide updates and promotions on the Friends Facebook and Instagram Page.

The Committee does not have a budget for clever ads or glossy publications.

What we do have is a group of people who are prepared to give it a go on every task from organising the End of Year bash to debating the potential contribution of different promotional activities.

In the end though, our greatest and most effective form of membership promotion is from within our own ranks. Our members are our best ambassadors for the Trail and for the Friends. Our volunteers, especially those in the Office are the 'face' of the organisation. Our amazing walk leaders give years of their time to enable people to experience the Trail safely, and our Trail Development team make sure we can find our way along, up and over the Trail safely.

If you want to be involved or have good contacts with people or businesses that can support us give us a call.

Barbara Deed - Chair

Enquiries to the Friends PM & M Committee 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



Friends News DECEMBER 2023 • 11

Remembering Dean with gratitude and appreciation

Dean Killmier, long time member of the Friends, and dedicated leader in maintenance and development of the Heysen Trail, passed away peacefully at his home in Perth on July 19th, 2023.

Dean became a member of the Friends in 1994 on his retirement from his electrical contracting business, and immediately joined Doug Leane's team of volunteers who spent each Thursday working on Section 10 of the Heysen Trail, between Cudlee Creek and Bethany. With his

enthusiasm and ability, Dean soon played a leading role in the team including projects such as the rebuilding of the Rossiter Hut (opened in 1998), renovation of the Freeman Hut, and construction of circuit hiking tracks in the Warren and Hale Conservation Parks.

As with all his other activities, Dean made a strong commitment to the Friends of the Heysen Trail, joining the Council in 1997 and was Vice President from 2002 to 2005. His contribution to the Friends covered a diverse range of activities including taking charge of the BBQ at social events in Enterprise House, and delivering Trailwalker magazines

to libraries and visitor centres in outer suburbs of Adelaide.

In 1999 Dean was appointed Co-ordinator of maintenance and development for the whole of the Heysen Trail and turned his attention to that role. I supported him in forming the nucleus of a "flying squad", spending each Thursday in areas of need in the southern section of the Trail. Further afield, he made a number of extended trips of a week or more, mainly in the Flinders Ranges, and usually accompanied by Arthur Smith, a former President of the Friends.

Dean was elected as an Honorary Member of the Friends in 2006.

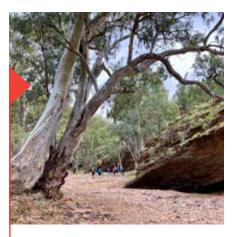
Dean was equally active in support of other community organisations. He was a Life Member of the Gaza Sports and Social Club, a Member of the Controlling Committee for the Klemzig Recreational Grounds, and at one stage was President of the Enfield and District Historical Society, responsible for The Heritage Museum at Sunnybrae Farm, Regency Park. He received a number of awards and

recommendations in recognition of his service to the community including Citizen of the Year (1999) from the City of Enfield Council.

In early 2007, Dean moved to Perth to support his family there, and retired from all his activities in Adelaide. He continued to maintain his interest in the Friends from reading the Trailwalker and with regular contact with his colleagues here

Dean will be remembered as a strong leader, a great mate, and was highly respected by all those who knew him.

John Wilson (Honarary Member)



Trailthinker Quiz

- Which SA Premier officially opened the Trail on April 4th, 1993?
- 2. Can you name a NT trail starting with the letter J?
- **3.** Which town can be seen from Jarvis Hill?
- **4.** In which Section is Horsnell Gully?
- **5.** Which Hut would you find in Section 35 of the HT?
- **6.** What is currently the fastest time to complete the HT?
- 7. Who was the elected President of the Friends council from 1993 to 1994??
- 8. What is the name given to the first five sections of the Heysen Trail, northbound?
- **9.** Who was Australia's first Indigenous Governor?
- **10.** In which State were they Governor?

ANSWERS PAGE 30



Friends Summer Walk Programme 2023/24

| JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH |
|--|--|--|
| WED 03 SW HISTORICAL WALK GLENELG Julie Testi | | |
| WED 06 SW ANSTEY HILL Julie Testi SUN 14 SW MORIALTA MORNING John Babister | WED 7 SW MANSIONS & PARKLANDS Lyndon Grimmer | WED 06 SW ANSTEYS HILL Karin Agostino |
| | FRI 9 SW SEMAPHORE STH Bill van Riet | SUN 10 SW NORTH HAVEN AND FORT LARGS Bill van Riet |
| WED 13 SW HAPPY VALLEY RESERVOIR Noeleen Smith WED 17 SW WILD DOG GLEN Olga Volodicheva SUN 21 SW CLELAND LOOP David Roberts | WED 14 SW CARRICK HILL LOOP Lisa Duffield | WED 13 SW WILD DOG GLEN Peter Clark & Tracy Evans SUN 17 |
| | SW WAITE CP John Babister | SW GREENHILL RES John Babister SAT 16 - SAT 23 |
| | | GREAT SOUTH WEST WALK (EXTENDED) Bill van Riet |
| WED 20 SW TENNYSON GRANGE Lyndon Grimmer WED 24 SW SEMAPHORE HYSTERICAL WALK Julian Monfries | WED 21 MOONLIGHT WALK - GLENELG BY NIGHT Simon Cameron | WED 20 SW BRIGHTON TO HALLET COVE Paul Gill |
| | | SW CLELAND LOOP David Roberts |
| WED 31 SW PORT NOARLUNGA Melanie Sjoberg | WED 28 MOUNT OSMOND John Babister | WED 27 TBA |
| | SW HISTORICAL WALK GLENELG Julie Testi WED 10 SW COBBLER CREEK Julie Testi SUN 14 SW MORIALTA MORNING John Babister WED 17 SW WILD DOG GLEN Olga Volodicheva SUN 21 SW CLELAND LOOP David Roberts WED 24 SW SEMAPHORE HYSTERICAL WALK Julian Monfries WED 31 SW PORT NOARLUNGA | SW HISTORICAL WALK GLENELG Julie Testi WED 10 SW COBBLER CREEK Julie Testi SUN 14 SW MORIALTA MORNING John Babister WED 17 SW WILD DOG GLEN Olga Volodicheva SUN 21 SW CLELAND LOOP David Roberts WED 24 SW SEMAPHORE HYSTERICAL WALK Julian Monfries WED 24 SW SEMAPHORE HYSTERICAL WALK Julian Monfries WED 28 WED 28 WED 28 MOUNT OSMOND |

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

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The Lavender Federation Trail Extended Walk

In 2024 the Friends of the Heysen Trail will be offering the Lavender Federation Trail as an extended walk.

It will be completed in 16 walks, taking place over 3 single weeks of walking.

The Lavender Federation Trail is a 325km long walking trail through diverse countryside traversing the eastern flanks of the Mt Lofty Ranges.

It begins at Murray Bridge and traverses the Barossa, Goyder, Mid North and the Clare Valley regions to Clare through the townships of Murray Bridge, Tungkillo, Dutton, Eudunda, Waterloo, Manoora, Mintaro and Watervale.

Though mainly easy, the walks are between 5-6 hours long – about 20 km each and there are some sections that traverse steep rocky, uneven ground and many creeks (usually dry).

A solid level of fitness and experience walking over consecutive days is necessary.

Dates:

- Week 1 May
 Saturday 4 Friday 10
 (rest day on Tuesday). Based from Murray Bridge with a move to Mannum on the rest day.
- Week 2 July
 Monday 1 Saturday 6
 (rest day on Wednesday). Based from Kapunda.
- Week 3 August
 Sunday 4 to Friday 9
 (rest day on Wednesday). Based from Clare.

If you register for this walk you will be required to attend at least 2 pretraining walks.

Participants will need to book their own accommodation.



Registrations for the walk open on Tuesday 6 February.

For more information and to register see the walk program descriptions: heysentrail.asn.au/walks/calendar

Great South West Walk



Come and join us for a week of hiking the 'interesting bits' of the Great South West Walk.

Saturday 16 March - Saturday 23 March, 2024.

Two days of travel and six days of hiking fun. Plus a rest day with a planned fun activity.

Travel to Portland is in your own vehicle, but we will be transported to and from each walk from the NRMA Cliff-top Caravan Park. On the final Saturday morning as you drive home, you may like to join us to see some additional sites in Mount Gambier.

Some of what we might encounter are - The Blowhole Lookout, Petrified Forest, Bridgewater Bay, Seals, Whales, Dolphins, Cape Nelson – coastal cliffs, diverse birdlife, picturesque walks, Gannets, Cape Nelson Lightstation, Soap Mallee, Rufous Bristlebirds. See Victoria's floral emblem – pink or white heath, Old timber milling history signs, colourful fungi (autumn and winter growing), Surry River, Rufous Fantail, Rose and Pink Robins.

A much needed, fun-rest day, then a one day walk in a rain forest where you

will likely come across animal scats and scratching (Echidna & Potoroo) in the soil along the track edge, Powerful Owls roosting in Blackwood trees, Potoroo (dusk to dawn), bleeding trees with scratched sap patches (feed posts for gliders). Signs of past fires: Silver Banksia – older woody cones burnt and open/closed, different seed pods and how they may have responded to bushfire, blackened bark and fresh green growth of forests regenerating from bushfire, older trees and burnt bark, hollows burnt out used to create homes for wildlife to shelter or breed in

Be quick to book as numbers are limited due to coach size.

For more information and to register see the walk program descriptions: heysentrail.asn.au/walks/calendar



'What a fantastic first year the End-to-End 17 group experienced on the Heysen Trail from Cape Jervis to Myponga', says our newest End-to-End Coordinator, *Paul Frost*.

What a fantastic first year the 'Endto-End 17' group experienced on the Heysen Trail from Cape Jervis to Myponga. I am not sure which part was more exciting, the group's much anticipated first steps at Cape Jervis, or the equally anticipated thirst-quenching end of season drinks at the Smiling Samoyed Brewery, Myponga.

Sunday May 14 saw 70 participants with 6 leaders gather on a cool morning at Cape Jervis, eager to commence a 6-year journey together, covering 1,200km over 61 sections. Before setting off up the steps across the trailhead at Cape Jervis, we were fortunate to have the President of the

Friends Neil Hendry and his wife Jill present. Neil spoke to the group, summarising Jill and his personal Heysen experiences, recounting the tremendous adventure that awaits the group, including the challenges they may encounter but also overcome together. Neil's words were wonderful and somewhat

stirring. After the obligatory photo, 76 of us set off accompanied by the spectacular Kangaroo Island across the water. Our first day on the Trail was a cracker of a day and a perfect way to start. One participant removed their boots for a wade through the water at Blowhole Beach. The day finished with everyone ascending from Blowhole Beach at their own pace, back up to the cars.

End-to-End 17s have adopted the Golden Gaiter as our award for anyone doing something notable that requires recognition. Our first recipient was awarded for being the earliest registered walker, 1 minute after registrations opened. The second was the person who decided to wade through the crystal blue water at Blow Hole Beach.

Typically, as with other End-to-End groups, it was a year not without challenges, but none that could not

be overcome. Due to road works along Tappanappa Ridge Road and the volume of rainfall at the beginning of the year, we could not access Tappanappa Camp Ground area to park cars for our second section. There was also no access to Section 3 for a bus drop off, which meant we were unable to walk in sequential order.

So, we went forward to Section 4, walking from Balquhidder to Waitpinga.

Again, the weather was more than fitting for the walk and the group was treated to a large pod of dolphins showing off their surf skills during our lunch break at the western headland of Parsons Beach.



And so it begins... DECEMBER 2023• 15

Walk three along Section 5 had us continue from Waitpinga through to Tugwell Road. Of course, the cliffs from Waitpinga never cease to amaze. This was another near perfect day for walking that had us lunch at Kings Beach with a curious seal with calf not far away off the rocky shoreline. Someone had left some walking poles behind during the previous walk and they were awarded the Golden Gaiter for walk 3.

Due to the ongoing rain, Tappanappa Road was still unsuitable for bus access so we continued from Tugwell Road to Inman Valley, our fourth walk. The day was overcast with cool temperatures and a fresh wind. Following our previous walk along the Waitpinga Cliffs, a number of photos were shared on social media, with one person's contribution earning them the coveted award. While enjoying a short break in a sheltered hollow of Robinson Hill, the group almost adopted a local kelpie from a nearby farm, until the owner showed up and took Coco home. An enjoyable short walk saw us finish at Inman Valley mid afternoon, in time for the group to support the general store. I believe the coffee machine was under duress and has not been the same since.

Our fifth walk was somewhat of an exciting day, knowing we were back to finishing off Sections 2 and 3 before concluding at Myponga. An overcast day with cool conditions stayed with us for the entirety of the walk. However, after walking through the Cobbler Hill campground and meeting with the Heysen Trail, a leader forgot to turn left, resulting in a small group of walkers following them down towards Blowhole Beach. It wasn't long before the entire group was reunited and



headed in the right direction. The second section of the Heysen Trail can be tricky in parts with a couple of our walkers feeling some strain along the way. Nonetheless, I believe the group appreciated the diversity this section has to offer. The group walked an extra 3.5km out to the bus pick up location. A great effort by the group after an arduous day. The Golden Gaiter was awarded to a previous recipient for again leaving their poles behind.

Our sixth walk was Tappanappa to Balquhidder, along Section 3 and a sensational day for a meander through a wooded hillside and a pleasant stroll along a beach. All before ascending a 'reasonable' hill, back up to the cars.

The Golden Gaiter was awarded to a member who was overseas during the time of registrations for our last walk. From overseas, they contacted the office and made all necessary arrangements to register late for the walk, cutting their holiday short and leaving family members behind, just so they could walk with us. For their commitment to our group, they were without a doubt a worthy recipient.

Section 7 Inman Valley to Myponga, was our seventh walk for the year. It commenced on a cool morning which soon warmed up as we summited Sugar Loaf Hill. Several undulations later, after exiting Myponga Conservation Park, we made our way back to the cars and rehydrated at the Smiling Samoyed Brewery. The Golden Gaiter for was award to the Leader who made all arrangements for our final post walk drinks & nibbles for the year.

It has been an absolute pleasure leading the always cheerful 'Everkeen' 17s over our first year, and having the support of co-leaders who know what is required and how to look after their walking family. I guess, since we didn't leave anyone behind, break anything or anyone, or have anything that was truly detrimental affect us, it has been a notable year on the Trail that we hope to replicate next year.





2 self contained cabins with queen bed and single sofa ~ Reverse cycle air-conditioning Complimentary beer and wine upon arrival ~ Provisions for a cooked breakfast BBQ & outdoor setting ~ Mention this ad and get 10% discount



Rooms include Ensuite, TV, fridge, king single bed, reverse cycle air condtioning and tea and coffee provided

Contact Jayne & Greg 08 8558 6397 or 0417 889 128





Waitpinga Cliffs: Ngarrindjeri Country

I confess to initial reservations about opening the south coast section of the Heysen Trail all year, as walking in high temperatures is unpleasant: yet we've experienced enjoyable overnight hiking in January.

Petrel Cove or Kings Beach to Waitpinga is a wonderful summer walk. Especially late afternoon when light burnishes the crenelated cliffs dotted with tenacious clinging plants. We've gazed at the impressive thermal soar of white-bellied sea eagles. Meandering through Newland Head transports you into curious sugar gum curvatures and lush understory that encourages images of secret hideaways. Take a slow pace to linger.

MELANIE SJOBERG

Vice President FoHT



Stub Trail's gentle climb, A heathy forest woodland trail, Kangaroos, cockies and

Kangaroos, cockies and views abound, A shady refuge from summer's heat.

BARBARA SEDGLEY

E2E 12 Hiker



The Adelaide beaches provide many kilometres of firm sand and are popular for morning or evening walks. My favourite stretch is from Henley Square to Grange jetty. A coffee stop at Grange is obligatory, and watching the sunset over the sparkling sea is lovely. There's the optional jetty walk at either end and a Golden North ice-cream to finish off.

ROBERT ALCOCK

Honorary Member



Living at the top of Springbank Rd, we are spoiled for choice to walk in Randall Park, Lynton and O'Deas Reserves. These lead up towards Windy Point and Belair along narrow trails through open woodland and quiet gullies past old quarries and views of the city and sea.

JILL & NEIL HENDRY

E2E 11 Hikers & President FoHT



A close to home stroll that I like is a circuit of the Torrens Linear Park in Fulham & Lockleys.

It isn't a hilly walk, but it is a nice place to take our dogs. The newly renovated section west of Henley Beach Rd is particularly good. Take care, be on the lookout for cyclists

DOM HENSCHKE

Office Chair



My favourite summer walk is the Wine Shanty before sunrise. There is something magical about walking the trail while watching the sun rise up over Mount Lofty ranges. Challenging with some shally declines and a decent 10-12 kms.

Importantly I can knock it off and get home before the household of teens have risen and noticed I have left the building!

MONIQUE PERCY

E2E 11 Hiker

Trailthinker Quiz Answers

- 1. Rev. Dr Lynn Arnold, AO
- 2. Jatbula Trail
- 3. Hawker
- 4. Section 13
- 5. Curnow's Hut
- 6. 12d 8h 20m July 2022 Simon Duke, Rurik Symon and Dan Camac
- 7. Colin Edwards, AO
- 8. Wild South Coast Way
- 9. Sir Douglas Nicholls
- 10. South Australia

Five Senses on the Heysen

Rin Green, E2E 16 member, offers a sensory diary on the Sweet Sixteens' year.

MAY

Our first E2E 16 walk of the year! It is great to be back on the Trail, catching up on what everyone did over the summer. This month we are walking from Inman Valley to Myponga, catching up on a postponed walk from last year.

- See: Two glorious rainbows as we set out from the bus.
- Hear: A mysterious sound, maybe target practice in a field, echoing throughout the valley.
- **Smell:** Fragrant eucalyptus trees.
- Touch: Wood of the stiles and paths provided by the Bushwalkers of the SA German Association, and the 100km post!
- Taste: Delicious scones with jam and cream at our post-walk "High-sen" Tea Party.

JUNE

Would you believe it? Our walk this month is postponed due to weather! This is the third time in two years that has happened, maybe we should be the "Stormy Sixteens" instead?! We keep our sunny dispositions as the "Sweet Sixteens", change our pre-walk preparation of water to wine, and look forward to the next month's walks. We'll catch up on Myponga to Mount Compass later in the year.

JULY

We have our first back-to-back days of walking. Earlier than usual for End-to-End groups as we continue to catch up on the walk schedule. We are walking from Mount Compass to Kyeema (Saturday) and Kyeema to Dashwood Gully (Sunday).

- See: Rolling hills hidden by misty rain, and a sea of colourful pack covers.
- **Hear:** Good-natured grumbling as we retrace our steps to pick up the Trail again, excited calls of "See you tomorrow!" at the end of Saturday, and general agreement on Sunday that "It's been a walk in the park!"
- **Smell:** Delicate wattle blossoms, and not-so-delicate cow pats.
- Touch: Sludgy mud and wet socks.
- Taste: Delicious cheese for our post-walk afternoon tea. Thanks to Udder Delights and Tracey Evans.

AUGUST

We have b-e-a-utiful weather for this month's walk from Dashwood Gully to Mylor.

- **See:** Lots of wattles in bloom who knew they come in so many yellows.
- Hear: Baas from many ewes and lambs, alongside the squelch of mud and the gasp of the 'almost' fall.
- Smell: Campfire at Rocky Creek and the sweet aroma of field garlic.
- Touch: Gravel at the lunch spot felt less by all those carrying sit pads!
- Taste: Honey joys, Twisties, and Prosecco to celebrate gold fever as we walk through the Jupiter Creek Goldfields.

SEPTEMBER

Lovely weather for this month's walk from Mylor to Cleland, although a touch on the warm side with a few tough climbs.

- See: Ten young ducklings and their protective parents at the Bridgewater Mill.
- Hear: Lots of twittering birds throughout the walk.
- Smell: Sunscreen and sweaty bodies.
- **Touch**: A glorious breeze (ever so fleeting) through some of the wooded sections.
- Taste: Well-earned ice-creams at Mount Lofty Summit!

A big thank you to Kathy Wright and the team of leaders and support crew who always lead us in the right direction (even if Michael Weinel takes a wrong turn or two), fill our days with fun, and make such delightful post-walk celebrations.



Meander through the landscape changes over a year on the Trail with E2E 15s Wayne Miller.

In a moment of reflection as I sat down to write about our third year on the Heysen Trail I asked myself why am I doing this?

Initially it started as a challenge to walk the iconic Heysen Trail, which happens to be right here in our backyard, but it soon became more than that. Apart from the physical challenge there is the chance to see our countryside at close quarters - "the bush" - the flora, the fauna and the geography, which is just a fleeting glance from a car on the roads. And getting to know 60 or more likeminded people as time goes by, thanks to the fun-loving Social Committee, is gold. The organisation of the walks is faultless - so many things to love about the Fearless Fifteens.

The ten walks we completed this year took us from Cudlee Creek to Burra Road – from the Southern Mt Lofty Ranges to the Mid North of the state. The last six walks took place over three weekends since it's too far to drive to the walks for a single day.

Section 15 took us from Cudlee Creek to Nugget Rd on the coldest day of the year, so far, but with plenty of steep hills and deep gullies we were soon shedding layers of clothing. Simmond Hill, Tunnel Hill and Mt Gould were high points, literally and scenically. After the walk we celebrated the King's Coronation with a Garden Party with a Regal Red theme. Leader Mark declared all his clothing was red but we didn't challenge him to substantiate his claim for the bits unseen.

Section 16 was from Nugget Rd to Mt Crawford. We adopted a new ritual to start the walk which combined the Grand Prix with the Bull Ring. Confused? A red Muleta, used by matadors to excite the bull, was used to flag off the Fearless 15s by a walker who had been singled out for previous heroics or misdemeanours. We tracked single file through the pristine scrub of Warren Conservation Park up Tower Hill and on through flatter Pine Forest country. After lunch at Chalk Crossing a gentle ascent up Little Mt Crawford completed the day.

Section 17 From Mt Crawford to Pewsey Vale. As expected the 560m Mt Crawford got our legs pumping but the descent on the northern side down 100 steps, but who's counting, tested our knees. Pushing north along Wirra Wirra Peaks we were ambushed by a blood thirsty band of Scottish Highlanders, brandishing swords and battle axes. We placated them with an impressive line dancing number and we parted on good terms after they offered us a wee dram of Whiskey. Apparently they were E2E Minus 2 group heading South along the Heysen Trail. Continuing our walk the temperature was dropping as wind gusts tried to blow us off the ridge.

Section 18 from Pewsey Vale to Tanunda was postponed until season end by foul weather.

Section 19 & 20 took us from Tanunda to Kapunda to Hamilton. This was our first weekend away based at Kapunda. A tidy little town with a strong mining history. The walking was easy over rolling hills. Over the two days we saw vineyards give way to cropping with canola, grain and broad beans offering a patchwork vista from the Light Range, Light Valley to our east and Gilbert Valley to the west. Saturday night we descended upon the Kapunda Trotting Club for a BBQ dressed with a cricket theme to support Australia's quest to win the Ashes [except for Chris who was supporting the Poms].

Section 21 & 22 from Hamilton to



Peter's Hill to Gerkie Gap. Based at Kapunda again, we headed further North. Colonel William Light surveyed the area in the 1830's after recognising the potential of this prime farming land and walking through the green and gold fields on a tee shirt perfect day confirmed that he was right and we were here at the best time of year.

Saturday night we were back at the Kapunda Trotting Club for a rodeo night as a nod to the now defunct Marrabel Rodeo.
Costumes included cowboys and

girls but also cows and horses, all good gear to boot scoot in. Sunday's walk took us through Marrabel to a marker telling us we'd walked 400km. Good! Only 800 to go?

Section 23 & 24 from Gerkie Gap to

Webb Gap to Burra Rd. Northward we walked along the Tothill Ranges crossing them five times along the way. The weather was forecast to be warmer on Sunday so the leaders decided to switch the walks so we did the longer walk 24 on Saturday. That proved a good call. Along the way we observed the same cropping land we've become

familiar with but also some degradation caused by early settlers. Apionga Lagoon, once a haven for the local Ngadjuri people, is now a lifeless saltlake on a treeless plain. The Peppermint gum forest was cleared to support the local copper mine at Burra.

Section 18 was revisited. Pewsey Vale to Tanunda. This was the walk that was postponed due to inclement weather on the planned walk date. It turned out to be a fitting finale to the season. The wind was chilly and the

air was damp at the start. A steady climb took us to Kaiserstuhl CP and spectacular views over the Barossa Valley. Along the way we travelled through pine forests and bushland in flower. Keen naturalists spotted a number of orchids. The long descent into Tanunda tested a different set of leg muscles, which in my case, were complaining a couple of days later. To celebrate our last walk we took over Rehn's Brewery to rehydrate, feast and sing along with some new lyrics to old songs. A new Super Group was unveiled, the FFS, which may stand for Fearless Fifteen Seekers, but may not.

During this year we've seen great changes in the land use of the country we have walked. From the orchards and forests of the Southern Mt Lofty Ranges, through the grape vines of the Barossa, then the cropping lands of the Northern Mt Lofty Ranges and finally giving way to grazing lands. But my favourite places are the conservation parks which punctuated our walking trail.



Thinking of adding the

"Down the Aisle" walk to your walks

calendar?

Let me be your guide. Your trailhead is at jwilsoncelebrant.com.au

I'm currently a Fearless Fifteener on E2E15 and can also help you with renewals of vows, funerals, and other of life's celebrations.

John Wilson, Civil Marriage Celebrant 0417 862 702





Volunteer Profile DECEMBER 2023 • 21

Volunteer Profile: Kathy Wright

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE FRIENDS?

I joined the Friends of the Heysen Trail (FoHT) in 2015 when I commenced walking with E2E10. I had read about the End-to-End program in an SA Life article and seen Heysen Trail markers in the Flinders Ranges.

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

I volunteered to be a Leader on the E2E16 group on the completion of E2E10 walks. I wanted to give back to the FoHT for the amazing experience I had with E2E10 and gratitude for the support that the leaders had given me.

WHAT ARE SOME ACTIVITIES IN WHICH YOU HAVE VOLUNTEERED WITH THE FRIENDS?

I am the Coordinator of E2E16, involved with the Walk Committee and the governing Council.

In 2024 I will also be the coordinator of an extended End-to-End of the Lavender Federation Trail.

In 2023 I worked with several members of the Walk Committee to run the

Leadership Training Program with a varied focus and format. I find FoHT to be an amazing organisation to be involved with and I value the opportunity to share the Heysen Trial experience with others.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE HEYSEN TRAIL TOWN/REGION?

I am in awe of the panoramas of the Flinders, as well as the many creek beds and gorges with their rocks carved from ancient times. To be at the top of Jarvis Hill and discover wave rock was a significant highlight for me.

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

My walking Poles. There was one morning I accidentally left my poles in my car. Luckily for me, I was able to borrow some from a couple of generous fellow walkers. It is an understatement to say I felt grateful.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE WALK ASIDE FROM THE HEYSEN TRAIL?

I have done Three Capes (twice) and in January 2024 I will do The Overland with amazing fellow Heysen women

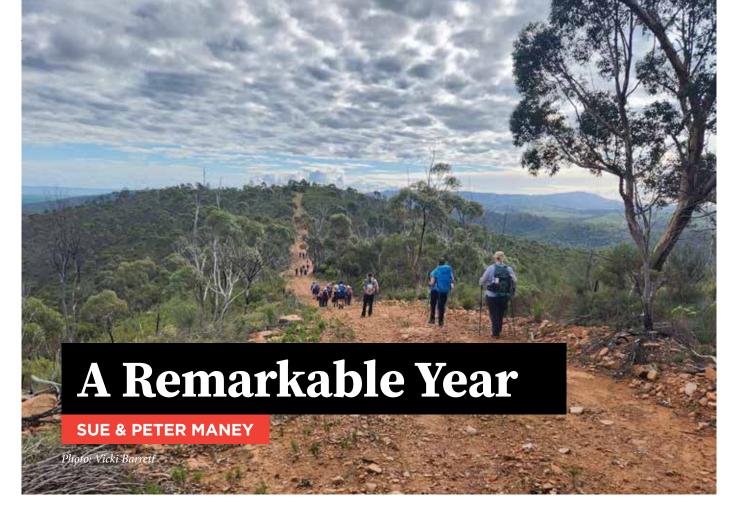


- the power of growing friendships. I love walking through the diversity of the Tasmanian landscape. The amazing feeling of being amongst the ancient fallen trees all covered with fungi and moss is magical.

WHAT IS YOUR FONDEST MEMORY ON THE HEYSEN?

It is hard to pick one memory of an End-to-End experience but the huge sense of achievement when you walk over the final stile is the BEST feeling. I truly value the friendships and relationships that developed whilst walking the Trail. The shared experiences, I won't forget.





E2E 13 members, Sue and Paul Maney share their experience of the 5th year in the Friends' End-to-End walking program.

The start of the Heysen Trail walking season brings both excitement and a little fear. Fear that we may not be as walk fit as we need to be. The question we ask ourselves is: Have we done enough training over the summer? Are we really ready?

There is a growing excitement about renewing the friendships that have been formed over the past four years. The return of Steve and Jo was happily celebrated as was the reappearance of Jennine and Bill back from Scotland.

As with most walking groups our numbers fluctuate with the addition of those from other groups completing catch up walks and the absence of others with family commitments or injuries.

Our first walk was Melrose to Alligator Gorge, out of order because of the pressure of finding accommodation over the busy Melrose Mountain Biking Festival. Everyone enjoyed the straightforward walk up to the summit of Mount Remarkable but the steep and often slippery descents, closely followed by another steep uphill made this our hardest walk of the season.

Sunday's walk from Murraytown to Melrose was leisurely, along lightly undulating back roads. This was enjoyed by all as a pleasant wind down with views over the surrounding farmland, finishing with time for a group photo and the opportunity for a drink at the Jacka Brothers Brewery before heading home.

Our June Long Weekend meeting place, Wirrabara Forest Nursery, was well worth a visit with its box hedges and history of tree planting in bamboo tubes. This walk started with a few missing the bus as Google Maps led them astray. Luckily, those that were lost kept in contact with the group's leaders and we picked them up at the Soldiers Memorial Hall at Stone Hut, cheeky banter soon replacing the morning's stress.

We began the walk on an access road and spent most of the day walking first up, then down a fire track with bush on either side. The TV towers were always on the next hill but the views to the coast were worth stopping for. Sunday's walk to White Park Road followed the ridgeline through the dense natural scrub of the Telowie Gorge Conservation Park and we enjoyed the outlook over Port Germein and across the gulf to Whyalla and Port Bonython. After descending steeply we followed Sheepyard Track to Rocky Ridge, then turned north through old harvested pine forests before a steep climb to Sugargum Lookout. The day rewarded us all with many spectacular vistas.

Monday's walk to Murraytown was along back roads and road reserves, through undulating farmland. It allowed us to catch up with our walk companions and finished early enough for us all to be heading home sooner than expected.

Our July walks started with a tough climb out of Horrocks Pass to the ridge, where we experienced amazingly beautiful scenery over the Willochra Plain and Spencer Gulf. As many parts of the Heysen Trail cannot be directly accessed from public roads we are always grateful to those landowners who allow us to traverse their land. On Saturday this meant leaving the Trail and walking across private property for a number of kilometres.

A Remarkable Year DECEMBER 2023• 23

The true spirit of Heysen Trail walkers comes to the fore in these situations and the trudge back to our cars was full of conversations filled with laughter and real regard for all walkers who form part of the E2E 13 group. The day finished with drinks and nibbles back at the cars - a great tradition.

On Sunday we returned to Alligator Gorge Road for the walk over Lavender Peak to picturesque Stony Creek. From there, tracks, back roads and a walk next to the highway took us to the memorial of explorer John Horrocks. Before we knew it, we were heading for home with another two parts of the Trail done and dusted.

August saw us journeying to Quorn with Saturday's walk requiring us to walk-in to re-join the Trail where we left it in July. However, one noticeable absentee was our group mascot – VOLDEMORT!

66

As many parts of the Heysen Trail cannot be directly accessed from public roads we are always grateful to those landowners who allow us to traverse their land.

"

The Trail climbed through grazing land and natural scrub to Mount Brown. At 964 metres altitude, Mount Brown is one of the highest peaks in the Southern Flinders Ranges. The lookout at Mt Brown commemorates Robert Brown, the naturalist aboard Matthew Flinders' Investigator, the first ship to circumnavigate Australia. The group enjoyed the views while eating lunch.



A pretty, single file descent led down to Waukarie Creek and a classic Flinders Ranges creek walk followed.

Sunday started with a steady climb, taking us to the top of the range and views over Pichi Richi Pass. Wildflowers added extra colour and the company of a farm dog, who befriended the group on the descent into the pass, added to the group's enjoyment. Once down, we followed the historic Pichi Richi railway line, passing the remnants of deserted sidings and settlements back towards Quorn.

September was to be our last weekend of walking for 2023 and still NO VOLDEMORT! Saturday's walk provided a bit of everything – undulating firetracks with spectacular scenery, a rocky gorge and a gibber floodplain. The bus ride back to Quorn was memorable for just how

long it took. It certainly made us appreciate the support from the bus companies that transport us each time we walk.

Sunday's walk passed the outskirts of Quorn before climbing gradually towards The Dutchmans Stern. The scenery was some of the most spectacular of the whole Trail and brought with it anticipation of what is to come in 2024.

Many of our group took the detour off the Heysen Trail to walk the 6km Dutchmans Stern loop which provided us with a memorable highlight.

What remains for some, including VOLDEMORT, is the completion of catch-up walks so we can all celebrate the finish together in 2024. Many are now up-to-date and we wish all those still working on them all the best. We look forward to walking again in 2024.

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In the face of the majestic Flinders Ranges temperament, sometimes you have to bend a little. Ruth Vasey shares what that looked like for E2E 12 in their last year.

So, we finished walking the Heysen Trail. Somehow this came as a bit of a surprise, as we traversed the last stile. We had been focused all year on staying fit, avoiding Covid, getting up on time, keeping our feet, and not "disappointing" our leader, Adam – and then there we all were at Parachilna Gorge, being cheered over the line by Em and David's excited grandkids. Posters were waved, streamers flew and a bugle played. It was epic!

Gradually it dawned on us that after seven long years we would not be walking as a group again, and a little bit of unexpected grief crept in. End of an era, that's for sure.

When the E2E 12s were first starting out, the large group dynamic took a bit of getting used to. Adam assured us that "they will be like family at the end" (presumably for better or worse). Seven years later, sure enough, people have formed lifelong friendships on the Trail, and even up to the last walk we were still making new connections. For the first five years we had spontaneously sorted ourselves into 'Fast' and 'Slow' Groups, and sometimes it had seemed like never the twain would meet. But in the last year, walking together, we finally got to know the whole varied crew. We had a doctor, a geologist, a disco dancer, a historian and a bagpipe player - and that was just Simon!

Our wonderful Social Committee brought everyone together with parties, dinners and special occasions, culminating in our joyful, funny and



Ancient Gums line Mernamerna Creek Photo: Philip Bell

Are We There Yet?

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moving final dinner (shout out to Janette, MC extraordaire!).

Because some access tracks had been washed out in 2022, our June walks were somewhat out of sequence. We had traversed the spectacular Buckaringa Gorge to Calabrinda section the previous year, but still needed to hike the section from Dutchman's Stern to Eyre Depot. This walk introduced us to one of the principal themes of the year: rocks! Rocks above and below: cliffs, gibber plains, gorges, boulders, slabs, ripple rocks, fossils. Fortunately we had our resident polymath on board to help us to "read" the rocks, even as we stumbled over and between them. We were gradually initiated into the mysteries of ancient seabeds, meteorite ejecta layers, the Great Adelaide Rift and more, culminating eventually in the geological wonders of Trezona, and the magical "Golden Spike."

Some of us tail-enders had approached the final year with some sense of trepidation. Adam had been telling us sternly for six years that we would need to shape up for the later stages of the Trail, using words such as "remote", "inaccessible", "hard", and (worst of all) "very long." While all these descriptors turned out to be accurate, it soon became clear that the remoteness and ruggedenss of this area was exactly what made it such an extraordinary privilege to experience.

All the old hands say that the first of the two weeks away is the most challenging, and "if you make it through that you should be right". The walk from Eyre Depot to Warren Gorge is famously difficult, and famously beautiful. Everybody will cherish different moments that have delighted them on the Trail, but I will never forget the experience of turning a bend in Depot Creek and suddenly being faced with the blazing red walls of a towering gorge. This walk is challenging in many ways - most obviously because there is a long climb out to Warren Gorge at the end of the day - but we all made it out in the end with the trademark calm, patient and cheerful support of our leaders.

The next section, Warren Gorge to Buckaringa, takes in very different



 (\land)

E2E 12 Walkers congregate together to celebrate crossing the final stile.

country, but is equally impressive. The initial focus is on achieving the summit of Mount Arden, where you are rewarded with unparalleled 360-degree views of the plains and rolling ranges; far views persist throughout the day as you follow the undulating ridgeline down towards Buckaringa Creek. We started off as two groups that day, with us slowcoaches getting an early start on the spur trail before we all converged at the summit. The weather was windy and misty, which added to the drama of the setting, and the slow reveal of the landscape as we followed the undulating track made this walk a real highlight.

The next section from Calabrinda Creek to Jarvis Hill started off on dirt tracks, but then was all about keeping one's feet (because sometimes rocks are fascinating geological time travellers, but sometimes they're just annoying). Happily, the Trail returned

to form for the last two walks of the week. The first, from Jarvis Hill to Leigh Creek Road, was tricky underfoot, but offered exceptional views over the Hawker district from the ridge of the Hill. It also offered probably the most "instaworthy" lunch spot of the the entire Trail. We walked in perfect conditions, and many in our group said later that this was their very favourite walk of the year. My own nomination would be the section that we covered the following day, from Leigh Creek Road, to Mount Little Station. It was a lovely, moderately-paced walk beside Wonoka Creek, a classic Flinders Ranges creek bed, amongst ancient river red gums and pebble shoals, with delightful views at every turn. Bliss! And so ended our June week.

Since the first week is generally acknowledged to be the toughest,



View North East from Mount Arden Photo: Lance Perryman



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it is possible to be a bit overconfident about August, so it comes as something of a reality-check when you realise that the first August walk is indeed very long: 32 km, no less, from Mount Little Station to Moralana Scenic Drive. The attractions of this walk tend to be overshadowed by its epic length. After following the Mernmerna Creek, the the Trail traverses the pretty Arkaba Station, and before emerging at Moralana Scenic Drive it rewards bone-weary walkers with some exceptional views of the Elder Range.

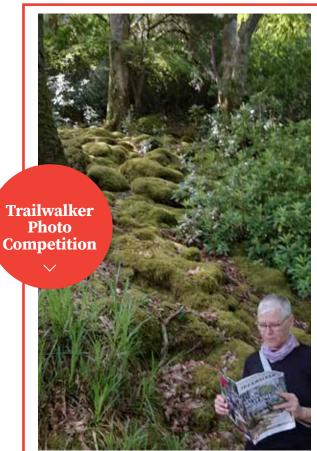
From this point there was a sense of excited anticipation growing amongst our group. Nearly there! All the famously challenging walks were behind us, although some people were carrying a few injuries.

The next day delivered a strenuous pinch up to the entry of Wilpena Pound at Bridal Gap, where a rocky eyrie provides the perfect spot to pause and contemplate the distances travelled. From there it is a moderate descent into the Pound, with greener vegetation reflecting the change in microclimate. We walked confidently into Wilpena, enjoying the novelty of mature native forests, and settling in for icecream at the Visitor's Centre at the end of the day. Next, Wilpena to Bunyeroo, enjoying clear views of the peaks encircling the Pound. A rest day, then three days to go.

Bunyeroo to Trezona went smoothly, taking us at last to the geological area of international significance at Trezona, and the fabled Golden Spike. Two days to go!

Prior to us tackling the section from Trezona to Aroona Hut campground, there were a few issues with the weather. Light rain overnight had made the Aroona slippery and unsuitable for access by the bus. No worries! A hasty plan saw several 4WD vehicles at our disposal dispatched to Aroona before the start of the walk. The walk was a big success, not least because we encountered (at a distance) a group of elusive yellow-footed rock wallabies, as well as some wedgetail eagles. Thank you, wonderful back-up drivers! One day to go!

We E2E 12s have been extremely fortunate with the weather throughout the years on the Trail. Once in Mt



Melanie Sjoberg caught up on the *Trailwalker* while taking a rest on a beautiful walk in Killarney NP, Rep of Ireland. Think the Otways but on a grander scale. Add it to your wish list!

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

Please send your highresolution photos to The Editor at trailwalker@ hevsentrail.asn.au

Crawford Forest it rained all day, and when we assayed Mount Bryan we were forced to turn back by 130 kph winds. But mostly gorgeous. Unfortunately our luck ran out the night before our last walk. It rained just enough to make the roads in the Parachilna area impassable by anything. Our popular bus driver, Gavin, got us part of the way down the road from Blinman before coming to a halt. Shortly after that the roads in Ikara–Flinders Ranges National Park were officially closed.

No worries! After consideration of a number of possible scenarios, a deft reroute was deemed to be the answer. This "temporary reroute" took us from where we happened to be marooned, to Parachilna Gorge, slipping and sliding our way along the muddy road. We can definitely say that when we finished the Heysen Trail, we did it our way!

We are all immeasurably indebted to our extraordinary leaders: James, Kara, Robin, Suzanne, and most of all Adam, whose encouragement and support did so much to keep us on the track. Thanks also to our back-up crew, Mark and Phil; our Social Committee, our unofficial medical back-up team of Simon and Deb; and the talented photographers who documented our journey with such artistry. Finally, extra kudos to Phil, drone operator and cinematographer, who put the whole thing on the big screen.



With the towering peaks of Wilpena Pound in the background, walkers enjoy this relatively flat section.

Photo: David Roberts

End-to-End 12 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 35 E2E 12 members who completed the Trail in 2023.

Allan Kull
Annie Betham
Barbara Sedgley
Carolyn Wilson
David Roberts
David Wilson
Deb Lock
Donald Schumann

Pauleen Bond Rachel Innes Russell Foulis Ruth Vasey Shandelle Edwards Shaun Scheepers Steve Marshall

Em Wilson Eve Tancibudek Gillian Stevens Heather Jensen Helen Liu

Izabela Buick

2ND TIME COMPLETED

James Wenzel Kara Turner Suzanne Matthews

Janette Cheeseman Jayne Gregurke Julie Testi Julie Marshall

COMPLETEDAdam Matthews
Simon Cameron

3RD TIME

Julie Marshall
Kylie Gibbons
Kylie Shield
Lance Perryman
Lou Morris
Marilyn Tregilgas
Michelle Etheridge
Olga Volodicheva

Patrick Betham

Paul Bond

Paul Gill

TO BE FINISHED IN 2024...

Anne Lovat Barbara Deed Karen Johnston Leanne Bell Michelle Carling Robin Sharland Tim Hisgrove **Keeping** track of the PARACHILNA GORGE TRAILHEAD **End-to-End** WILPENA POUND Groups E2E 12 Over the last stile at Parachilna. Congratulations! E2E 13 Eyre Depot MELROSE ■ WIRRABARA E2E 14 CRYS AL BROOK Raeville BURRA E2E 15 MARRABEL Burra Road KAPUNDA TANUNDA E2E 16 Montacute Heights 1T LOFTY HAHNDORF E2E 17 Myponga MOUNT COMPASS CAPE JERVIS TRAILHEAD Arrived at Cape Jervis. Congratulations!





As E2E Minus 2 nears the end of their southbound journey *Teri McComb* gives an update on the year so far.

Most people walk the Heysen Trail – but the fabulous E2E Minus 2 group dance down the Trail! It has been a fantastic three years of walking, dancing, singing, bagpipe playing and camaraderie. It will be with mixed feelings that we cross the finish line at Cape Jervis on October 21 – excitement that we have accomplished this exciting journey and sorrow that the regular walking with this lovely group is ending.

We have had so much fun – and this has to be the best group ever on the Trail – lots of laughter, fun, enjoying each other's company, helping each other and caring for each other as we traversed hills, mountains and creeks together.

We have so many great memories! Who will forget when we danced in a conga line in and out of the pub at Crystal Brook with the bar staff joining in! Simon playing the bagpipes when we started at Parachilna, again on the top of Mt Bryan and in the fog on the top

of Mt Magnificent. Making plasticine models in the Shearer's Quarters in Willow Springs. Having dance lessons after a 32 km walk. The miraculous recovery of the mobile phone that fell in the weir and the wonderful "Ballad of Baderloo" that was penned to commemorate that event.

The epic Battle of Tower Hill, fought in our tartan and woad, and our convincing victory. The mixed voice choir on the summit of Mt. Cone singing a rousing rendition of "Climb Every Mountain".

The koala who joined our walk in Horsnell Gully.

Our spectacular "Nutbush Challenge" dance at Huppatz Hut. Turning up in country pubs in various costumes, much to the bemusement of the locals. And of course, our beloved mascot Morris Major, our "monkey on your pack", with his numerous outfits which have been immortalised in the artwork on our E2E Minus 2 T-shirts.

And all this with the background of the immense and beautiful scenery of South Australia, from the glorious arid landscapes of the Flinders Ranges, where Sir Hans Heysen so stunningly captured the superb light of the land and the majestic river gums, the lush green of the mid-north farmlands, the

hamlets of the Adelaide Hills and down to the blue sea and lovely coastal scenery of the Fleurieu Peninsula.

And of course, what makes any experience extra special is always the people. I have been so lucky to walk with such a lovely group of interesting, funny, kind, friendly folk. The leaders have been fantastic, organising things, looking after us on the walks, and doing much work behind the scenes to ensure

things ran smoothly. The bus drivers have been great, driving us safely and imparting local knowledge.

I am sure many of us will keep walking together, having formed friendships along the way. And we will be dancing across that finish line at Cape Jervis!



Morris as a Goth on the Dark Theme weekend

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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 2023**.

Independant

Alison Richards Anglea Meaney Debra Chapman Donna Peters Fiona Caulfield **Jake D'Amato** Jenny Geytenbeek Kim Sutton Mac Aird Madison Shepley Marilyn Tregilgas Mary Adams Nathan Prime Rebecca Wu Regan Birrell Stephanie Baines Thomas Goulden Vicki Shaw

E2E Minus 2

Andrew McComb
Dean Mortimer
Dianna Payne
Geoff Kay
Harry Gillespie
John Schumann
Julia McLachlan
Kevin Ward
Mal Cockburn
Patricia Montanaro
Peter Deacon
Rosemary Wallis
Simon Cameron



The Friends of the Heysen Trail issue certificates to people who have hiked the entire Heysen Trail from Cape Jervis to Parachilna Gorge (Northbound) or from Parachilna Gorge to Cape Jervis (Southbound).

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Anna van den Broek











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good friend asked if I wanted to go walking at Mount Lofty. Sure! She looked at me with a smile and said, "We can go find the Elephant". Now, I've seen koalas, kangaroos, lizards and an array of birds, but an elephant? I looked sideways at her, and watched her face light up with laughter, but she was good to her word. We did indeed find the mischievous Elephant who has been crashing about. I'll share the walk with you, but I will leave exactly where the Elephant is for you to discover.

Make your way to the Crafers Bus Interchange, just off the Freeway uptrack at Crafers. Plenty of parking. Cross the road to the Cleland Trails Info sign and walk up the stairs to Mount St. Following the Crafers Circuit markers, take a right onto Shurdington Rd. Opposite James St is Gate 18, enter and veer to the right onto the Spa Track. Follow the Crafers

to Mt Lofty Summit markers, along Birrlee Track, right onto Carro Track, then onto Reynolds Drive. When you near Mount Lofty Summit Road, take notice of the place as we now start a loop that will bring you back to this spot.

For now, turn left onto Nangare Track and stay true until after the Mt Lofty Cottage where the Waterfall Gully Trail joins for a short way, but continues on without us, as we stay on the Waterfall Gully Trail to the right and head up to the Mount Lofty Summit.

When you get to the Summit, if you have the time stop for the view, enjoy some refreshments and make the most of the facilities.

When you are ready to continue, go back to the track you left and continue to the right along the access trail that takes you past the Mount Lofty Summit carpark. Here's where we go a little rogue. When the track hits the

Summit Road instead of following the track on the other side, turn left and walk out via the main gates. Carefully cross Summit Road and you are now on Mount Lofty Summit Road and are walking towards the TV

towers. Now if you are doing this walk close to sunset, then stop here for a moment and I'm pretty sure you will be treated to quite a few kangaroos enjoying their supper as you look out at the setting sun. Spectacular.

But we digress, we are hunting an Elephant! Continue down Mount Lofty Summit Road, make sure you are on the right hand side of the road, past the TV towers, past Owens St and here is the tricky bit, there is a small opening in a thicket, behind a road barrier that you must slip into to find yourself back at Nangare Track, remember that spot you took notice of before? This is the thicket below:



Once back at Nangare Track, we trace our steps back to Reynolds Drive, along Carro and then Birrlee Tracks and then follow the Mt Lofty to Crafers markers back to Gate 18. Right onto Shurdington Road, left onto Mount St and at the bottom back down the stairs to the Crafers Bus Interchange.

It's roughly 8km, maybe a bit more.

I almost forgot, did you see it? Don't worry if you didn't on the first time round. It is an excuse to come back and do it again. But it is there...

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



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