

FREE

TR↑ILWALKER

HEYSEN TRAIL STORIES

2024 END-TO-END REPORTS

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NORTHERN TRAILHEAD REJUVENATION OPENING





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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.

TRAILWALKER

EDITOR/SUB EDITOR

Tammy Main/Barbara Sedgley



Cover: *Descending, Section 31*
(Hallett to North Booborowie)
Photo by Lance Perryman.

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

WHO ARE THE FRIENDS?

The Friends of the Heysen Trail is a voluntary organisation established in 1986, dedicated to the maintenance, development, and promotion of the Heysen Trail and other walking trails in South Australia.

The Heysen Trail is a long-distance walking trail in South Australia, running from Parachilna Gorge in the Flinders Ranges via the Adelaide Hills to Cape Jervis on the Fleurieu Peninsula, spanning approximately 1,200 kilometres in length.

The Trail is managed in partnership between the Friends, relevant Government Departments and through agreements with private landowners.

Members of The Friends can actively contribute to the development and maintenance of the Heysen Trail, participate in leadership roles in the regular walking program (catering to beginners and experienced walkers), provide a valuable information source for hikers and help promote the volunteer organisation and the benefits of walking.

New members are always welcome.

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(temporary appointment)

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WALKING
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E2E14 Mark Fletcher
E2E15 Mark Curtis
E2E16 Kathy Wright
E2E17 Paul Frost
E2E18 Paul Delaine

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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
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S7 Carl Greenstreet
S8 Chris Finn
S9 Jerry & Michelle Foster
S10 Peter Deacon
S11&12 Dom Henschke
S13 Hugh Greenhill
S14-18 Daniel Jardine
Coordinator*
S17B Simon Cameron
*assisted by Retired Active
SA Bushwalkers

KEY DATES

December

1st - End of Year Bash (Main Pavilion, Belair NP)

18th - The Friends Council Meeting

January

15th - The Friends Council Meeting

February

2nd - Day Walk Planning Lunch

19th - The Friends Council Meeting

March

19th - The Friends Council Meeting

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Photo: Lance Perryman
Kooringa (the Burra Hills)

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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 2025):

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

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Celebrations and more

NEIL HENDRY



How lucky am I that, as President, I travelled to my favourite part of South Australia not once but twice in the last few months! I'm talking about the Northern Flinders Ranges. I was there to celebrate with End-to-End 13 completing the Trail and, just a week later, to cut the ribbon to open the new Northern Trailhead. Both great events, and well done to everyone involved.

Speaking about celebrating the Trail, we've received many glowing comments about the ABC Backroads episode on the Heysen Trail. It really highlighted for me the impact that the Trail has, and can have, on people who walk it, whether by themselves or with a group. I'm only sorry that the single episode did not have time to get further north than Hahndorf, to celebrate the many other small towns that the Trail passes through and who support the Trail and the Friends.

Although the Trailhead project is complete, there is still plenty happening. The Governance review has almost been completed, and we will examine the final report at length to see how the recommendations impact the management of the Trail and the operation of FoHT as part of the Heysen Trail Partnership.

Acting on the recommendations is a crucial step in securing the future of the Trail. Our other project, the Friends' website redevelopment, is well underway although you won't see any signs of it until it is ready in the second half of next year. So far, involving months of fruitful discussions, we have agreed on the "look" of the website, as it will appear when you visit. There is still much to be done to tame and prune our sometimes-rambling site to make it more user friendly, to transcribe the useful information, to delete or archive a lot of pages, and test its operation against our current use before we will make it public.

In early planning is our walks program for next year. Unfortunately, we don't yet have anyone to take on the walk coordinator role for End-to-End 19. We will not operate the walk without this position in place, so it is a concern. If you have organisational and walking experience and might be interested, please get in contact with Mark Fletcher on 0402 085 880 or through the Heysen Office email; heysentrail@heysentrail.asn.au.

Although our walking year is coming to a close, there is still plenty of walking to be done. As I write this, the fire season closure dates for different parts of the Trail have already

been posted. Please respect private landholders by not walking across their land when the Heysen Trail is closed for the fire season. While most National and Conservation parks and Forests remain open, you should check the relevant websites for closures due to severe conditions or maintenance operations happening in the Park or Forest.

Meanwhile, have a safe and happy time for the rest of the year and festive season and see you out walking next year.

Welcome New Members

The President and the Council would like to extend a warm welcome to the 127 members who have joined the Friends since the August 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, Kurna, Peramangk, Ngadjuri, Nukunu and Adnyamathanha peoples.

FoHT Holidays Office Closure

Please note that the Office will close for a holiday break from 2.30 p.m. on Friday December 13th, 2024.

While the office is closed, the online shop will continue to operate on a limited basis. A few volunteers will attend the office in the endeavour of dispatching shop orders within 5 working days of being received.

If customers want to shop for last minute Christmas purchases, we undertake to dispatch any orders received by midday on Wednesday, December 18th on that day.

Our volunteers return to attend the Office Volunteers' Information day on Monday Feb 3rd 2025.

The Office will re-open for normal business at 10.30 a.m. on the following day, Tuesday February 4th, 2025.

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

Friends of the Heysen Office
Suite 203, Epworth Building
33 Pirie St, Adelaide SA 5000

Open Mon – Fri
10:30am – 2:30pm

T (08) 8212 6299

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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 heysentrail.asn.au/shop/

Has your membership lapsed?

Thank you for being a friend, but please take a moment to reflect.

Did you know that many of our members don't walk our trails but their financial contribution (only \$25 a year for singles and \$40 for couples) goes a long way to help our volunteer organisation?

Your contribution allows us to:

- **HELP OTHERS WALK THE ENTIRE TRAIL as many of you have done, with leaders and buses**
- **OPEN AN OFFICE 5 DAYS A WEEK with volunteers to answer questions and sell maps and other material**
- **MAINTAIN AND REDEVELOP THE 1200KM TRAIL with markers, stiles and toilets.**

Rest assured, your \$25 is very well spent. We hope your time with us was enjoyable; we would love you to stay.

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 long-term 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)



Photo: Stephanie Ashby, Through Hiker 2024



Heysen Trail is Closed during the Fire Season

The 1200km Heysen Trail is closed during times of high fire risk - called 'Fire Danger Season' - when the **threat of bushfire** affects large areas of south-eastern Australia. Heysen Trail huts/shelters and hike-in sites are also closed in fire danger season.

Ongoing access to the Heysen Trail depends upon continued co-operation with private landholders and support from National Parks & Wildlife SA, ForestrySA and SA Water so it's essential that walkers adhere to closures.

Shooting Risk: some landholders may use the summer period to carry out feral animal control, so not only is the Trail closed but you may put yourself at risk if closure signs are ignored.

The **SA Country Fire Service (CFS)** assess risk and declares dates annually. CFS dates override any dates on printed maps or local Heysen Trail signage. The Trail crosses several Fire Ban Districts.

CFS DECLARED FIRE DANGER SEASON DATES 2024-2025

THE CFS CHIEF OFFICER HAS DECLARED THE FIRE DANGER SEASON DATES FOR 2024/2025: www.cfs.sa.gov.au. It is essential to check the CFS end of season dates closer to April 2025.

Fire Ban District	Fire Danger Season	
	From	To
Flinders District	15 October 2024	15 April 2025
Mid-North	1 November 2024	30 April 2025
Mount Lofty Ranges	15 November 2024	30 April 2025
Adelaide Metro	1 December 2024	30 April 2025

WHERE CAN I WALK THEN?

Even in summer it's great to keep the legs moving and get into nature. If you have itchy feet there are plenty of options in Parks or Forests and a few longer Trails remain open for the avid explorer.

- ✓ Heysen Trail Wild South Coast 74km section between Cape Jervis and Victor Harbor is open all year round except on Total Fire Ban days: parks.sa.gov.au/experiences/wscw/
- ✓ Willunga Basin Trail offers 130km along southern beaches and hills noting it is closed on days of extreme/catastrophic heat and Total Fire Ban: willungabasintrail.org.au/
- ✓ Yurrebilla Trail at 53km mostly traverses national parks so is open all year round, except Total Fire Ban days: walkingsa.org.au/walk/find-a-place-to-walk/section-1-belaire-national-park-to-eagle-on-the-hill-yurrebilla-trail/
- ✓ Adelaide 100 (partly complete) taking in 7 sections around the Adelaide hills, suburbs and beaches: adelaide100.com.au/
- ✓ There are a myriad of choices for walks across South Australia listed on the Walking SA website: walkingsa.org.au/



Trailthinker Quiz

1. What class of the Australian 2156.1-2001 walk track classification is the Heysen Trail considered, for the most part?
2. Who was the first female political candidate in Australia? (tip - A South Australian)
3. Name a town along the Heysen Trail beginning with the letter, G?
4. Which was the first elected town council in Australia?
5. What is the Ngadjuri name for Burra?
6. Between which two mountains was the pilot trail for the Heysen Trail first constructed by Terry Lavender?
7. Which of Hans Heysen's paintings is said to have inspired Warren Bonython's vision of the Heysen Trail?
8. What is the name given in 1902 to the obelisk that serves as a surveying reference point at Mt Lofty Summit?
9. Name the final hut on the Trail before reaching Parachilna?
10. Name the disease spread by moist soil sticking to hikers footwear and responsible for killing native plants in SA?

ANSWERS PAGE 30



Northern Trailhead Rejuvenation Opening

Photos: Robert Alcock

- ◀ New Northern Trailhead Ribbon Cutting
- ◀ New Trailhead Plaque
- ◀ Northern Heysen Trail Group Shot

Final project reflection from Melanie Sjoberg and Ross McDougall

Perfect weather brightened the new Northern Trailhead for our Opening celebration on 2 September 2024.

There was an enthusiastic vibe among the fifty plus attendees. Many Friends of the Heysen Trail (FoHT) members were joined by our landscape architects Brave & Curious and the Prestwoods of Wilmington construction team and family.

Representatives included the Blinman community, Department for Environment and Water, National Parks Rangers; Outback Communities Authority; Mt Frankland & Alpana Stations, Angorichina Village and Friends of Ikara-Flinders volunteers.

The local member of Parliament, the Honourable Geoff Brock expressed his appreciation to FoHT volunteers for the initiative before sharing the ribbon cutting with FoHT President Neil Hendry.

A stunning bronze plaque (see image) was unveiled to acknowledge the contributors that helped us achieve this outcome and especially those FoHT members who were designated 'Heysen Heroes' for their significant donations.

We are very pleased that the largest single project undertaken by FoHT has successfully delivered on the key project goals:

- A striking, attractive, new trailhead structure that is in harmony with its location and reflects the natural environment and beauty of the lands that the Trail traverses.
- Upgraded the rest area parking, improved stile access, designated photo locations, renewed signage to enhance the walking experience and to increase promotion of the Heysen Trail.
- Extensive sustainable landscaping including the planting of native plant varieties to complement the Trailhead's natural environment.
- Community sensitive before/after-hike gathering spaces including a yarning circle and seating.

Every member of FoHT can feel proud that as a volunteer organisation we have been able to initiate, plan, fund and deliver such a fabulous addition to Heysen Trail infrastructure and a benefit to the wider walking



community. The new Northern Trailhead truly is an impressive gateway; creating a landmark destination for hikers starting or completing the 1200km Heysen Trail.

Other Individual Donors

Jennifer McKay, Anne Kirk, Kathryn Lymn, Josephine Chesher, Ian Budenberg, Mary Lane, Jillian Rowe, Kathy Harbison, Tricia Curtis, Paul Garner, Rosemary Haywood, Robert Alcock, Felicity & Tom Gerschwitz, Michael & Moira Donald and Karen & Philip Buckner.



News from the FoHT Trail Development Committee

The Friends of the Heysen Trail maintenance volunteers are a hardy bunch of quiet achievers.

Before stepping onto the Trail, the Activity Coordinator checks the FoHT database for reports from walkers about issues that need rectifying. Planning what, how, when and who is all ticked off before launching into any

of the physical work. Sometimes the volunteer Shed Team also needs to be involved if a stile replacement or extra equipment is necessary.

A small team undertakes an Annual Hut Survey to check for repairs, safety and changeover fire extinguishers. Most huts are in remote locations so rely on hikers to keep them clean.

HERE IS A SAMPLE OF WHAT OUR TEAM HAS BEEN UP TO THIS YEAR?

CAPE JERVIS – safety check on temporary reroute.

CAPE JERVIS TO COBBLER HILL – replacing several marker posts.

DEEP CREEK TAPANAPPA/TRIG SECTIONS– dense vegetation cleared.

NEWLAND HEAD CONSERVATION PARK – trail clearing & pruning.

MYLOR CONSERVATION PARK - replaced signs.

MT COMPASS/NANGKITA – pruning and marking.

WOODHOUSE – stile replacement.

ROSSITERS HUT – painted.

GERKIE GAP TO SMITH HILL – installed 5 new stiles.

KAPUNDA – replace markers and signage.

SPALDING – installed new signage.

CURNOWS HUT – windows painted.

BOWMANS HUT – cleared vegetation and cleaning.

CRYSTAL BROOK – assessed and marked reroute.

WAUKERIE CREEK – clearing overgrown trail.

MT BROWN - clearing, markers and posts.

MAYO HUT TO YOURAMBULLA RANGE- checked and replaced marker posts.

BUNYEROO GORGE – replacing several marker posts and plates.

Attention Landholders

CLEANING MATERIALS:

FoHT volunteers passed on feedback from some landholders that it may be useful to have materials to help ensure biosecurity compliance when walkers cross their property. Cleaning and disinfecting materials are available from the Department for Environment & Water (DEW). Supplies can be obtained from DEW Senior Project Officer Statewide Trails (Heysen Trail): email Jarrah.Bailey@sa.gov.au or phone M 0448 363 263

TRAIL CLOSURE SIGNAGE:

FoHT requested clearer signage from DEW to help improve awareness not to enter private land during Fire Danger Season. Please contact the Friends Office Volunteers if you would like additional signs for your property. Email heysentrail@heysentrail.asn.au or phone 82126299 Mon-Fri 10.30-2.30. Note Office closed December & January.



Accommodation Nunn Road, Myponga along the Heysen Trail

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



New to Heysen's Rest 4 brand new single rooms on the Heysen's Trail
Rooms include Ensuite, TV, fridge, king single bed, reverse cycle air conditioning and tea and coffee provided

Contact Zac & Bec
0499 629 252

Email: info@heysensrest.com.au
www.heysensrest.com.au

Northern Heysen Trail Maintenance Work

Daniel Jardine explains what you do when a new build is getting too much attention from the neighbours.

The tank at Hawks Nest, just north of Wilmington, was installed April 2022 and has been troubled by cattle ever since, so 2024 was the year that the FoHT would do something about it.

The Retired Active maintenance group volunteered to perform the work. Kevin Dennis took on the planning of the fence and through his contacts sourced 6 inch diameter steel pipe to use as posts, 10 mm steel cable and a gate.



Site as work was commenced.

Having previously passed through the site and actually camped there I knew it was covered in rocks and expected the digging of any holes to be impossible by hand, so we needed some form of mechanical post hole digger.

Kevin and I had a site visit in July on a cold, windy and wet day. We were joined by the earthmoving contractor, Brad Saal Excavations and the landowner Micheal Battersby, to assess the planned compound design and site access.

A month of preparations and we were back on site in mid-August. Weather was spectacular, clear skies, sun was shining, a little chilly and a fog was shrouding the valley below.

The drive up to the site was particularly difficult for the truck and excavator, but we made it.



Excavator in action digging holes.

We collectively crossed our fingers, unloaded the excavator and started to dig. First hole down to 800mm, no rock. Second hole down to 800mm, no rock. All nine holes, no rock. It must be the only place on the hill that has a covering of dirt. We were extremely fortunate. Posts were cemented into the holes and we were out of there by lunch. A big thank you to Stormy, from Flinders Supplies, who made 2 trips from Wilmington (through 3 closed gates) to get the crusher dust to the site.

There were two strands of steel cable installed with the intention that it would keep the cattle out until we could put in some ringlock fencing, particularly as we had covered the fenced area with crusher dust... unfortunately that didn't work as expected.



Unexpected campers.

A couple of weeks later when life had settled down, a final trip to install the ringlock fence was arranged, it went off without a hitch while the cattle watched on with interest trying to work out the best way into the compound.

Thanks to Peter Noll a local resident and end-to-end walker who supplied the cyclone fencing and the straining equipment.

Many thanks to the contributors, Brad Saal (BSS Excavations), Michael Battersby and Michael Voigt (gracious landowners and supporters of the Heysen Trail), Peter Noll (generous fencing supplies and knowledge), Mark Hilder, RXG Drilling, Hawker (generous donation of the steel cable), Department of Environment and Water for the posts and Flinders Supplies for the crusher dust.



End of the first day of work.

Finally a special thanks to Kevin Dennis whose work on this project was so extensive that it is now know as the "Kevin Dennis Enclosure". Kevin also contributed to this article.

Interested in helping with Trail development and maintenance? Enquiries can be made in person, by phone or email:

Friends of the Heysen Office
Suite 203, Epworth Building
33 Pirie St, Adelaide SA 5000

T (08) 8212 6299

E heysentrail@heysentrail.asn.au



Enclosure completed.



Photos: Melanie Sjoberg

Eagle Waterhole to Wandillah - Recycle & Reuse

By Trail Development Committee Adam Matthews, Paul Bond and Melanie Sjoberg.

A much-needed boost to a popular walk-in site along the Heysen Trail has been completed at the Wandillah site in the mid-north. Friends of Heysen Trail (FoHT) volunteers invested energy, skills and many hours ensuring hikers can find some comfort and escape from wind and rain.

The original small pine shelter was installed in the mid-1990s by the former Burra Branch of the Friends of Heysen Trail and it was showing its age.

WHERE DID IT BEGIN?

Who remembers the cosy hut that overlooked the creek at Eagle Waterhole on the south coast section of the Heysen Trail? For 20 years it welcomed independent hikers and chattering school groups. Design of new walk-in sites along the rebranded Wild South Coast Way (WSCW) section along the

Heysen Trail meant this little hut was destined for the scrapyards.

Back in 2021, discussion between FoHT volunteers and Department for Environment & Water (DEW) senior staff agreed that, as Eagle remained a sturdy structure, it was sensible to remove and recycle. Hence, the WSCW redevelopment project included deconstruction of Eagle Hut ready to move to another site. Sadly, early attempts to identify an alternative site were unsuccessful, so the component parts were delivered to the FoHT Work Shed at Cobbler Creek to await news of its rebirth.

Eventually, FoHT and DEW agreed on the Wandillah site so phase two commenced.

SOMETHING NEW FROM OLD BITS

After sorting through the component parts and matching to site constraints, it was determined that a slightly smaller version of the Eagle Hut would be suited to Wandillah. DEW agreed that FoHT could proceed with the first stage subject to obtaining an approved engineering design.

The volunteer team at Cobbler Creek shed commenced sorting and cleaning up the components for reuse. The engineering design called for the installation of tie down rods within the wall panels to counter the gale force winds that howl across the valley. This required creating a channel through the central internal noggin, which the volunteer team delivered efficiently.

BLINMAN, SA

FLINDERS & BEYOND

CAMEL TREKS


Join us in 2025 on a trek that completes the Heysen Trail's remote section 'Beyond Heysen'.

Explore hidden treasures of the Flinders Ranges with camels carrying your supplies. Trek through gum-lined creek beds, towering gorges, rare geological formations and sparkling dry lakes. See native flora and fauna in its natural habitat and enjoy a night sky last show with astronomer Ryan.

Walking treks fully catered. Swags and transfers included. No roads, no vehicles, no mobile reception: detach from hectic everyday life and enjoy an unforgettable experience that will create memories to last a life time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

T: (08) 8648 3713
E: info@flindersandbeyondcamels.com.au



CONTACT FOR 2025 WALKING TREK DETAILS



Other work at the shed included:

- Welding tie down rods for inclusion in the concrete footings.
- Painting timber roofing members.
- Making brackets.
- Assembling material for reuse and acquiring new required materials.
- Installing tie down rods to wall panels.
- Plenty of measuring and re-measuring!

The two “Colins” led the FoHT design thoughts, with support from Rob S and Rick P, then Tai, and later Kay, managed the painting. It’s fair to say that while many volunteer hours have been dedicated to this job, it was the planning and design phase that consumed the most hours and challenges.

The site presentation was not at its finest for quite some time as the work progressed when volunteers and equipment were available. Through-hikers often felt they were staying on a building site as it awaited phase three.

RECONSTRUCTING A SHELTER

FoHT Trail development and maintenance work relies on volunteers; especially the skills of someone prepared to be an “Activity Leader” who plans and coordinates the order of project work and tasks. This meant it was the latter part of 2024 before the final stages fell into place.

Sounds simple enough: there were still several steps in the dance that required Activity Leader Adam M to make a total of four trips to get to the finish.

In mid-July, a team of three volunteers travelled to the site, where they were joined by the local landholder, Chris. The team needed to mark out positions for the footings and dig six deep holes. Lucky for all concerned, Chris had his tractor fitted with an augur: [to the uninitiated it’s a rotating metal shaft with a blade at the end that scrapes or digs]. The team then fitted steel posts to the repositioned frame.

At the end of July, Adam transported a rented cement mixer to Burra. Meanwhile, local landholders Chris and Maria had carted the materials order of cement, gravel, and sand to site. The volunteers successfully shored up the footings with concrete over two days.

Another two days in mid-August required volunteers to transport floor panels and fit them to the base. The trailer was then put to good use by bringing old materials and tyres back to Adelaide.

The grand final event in late September was a mammoth exercise over four days. This time a large load of wall panels and roof materials were transported to site. Three volunteers commenced site preparations as well as replacing the old rainwater tank stand.

Inspired
Artistic Wandering

MOROCCO
with Niccy & Ayoub

Email us to find out more about our unique 14 day wander April 2025.

niccypallant@gmail.com

On day two another three volunteers joined the team to erect all the wall panels amidst ever changing conditions: wind, rain, sun, humidity ... and repeat. Despite these hurdles, it was a success as all walls were up and braced. On day three, a three-person team put in a huge 10-hour day to attach all top plates and roofing timbers.

The final day found three volunteers facing a freezing morning under crisp blue skies, yet ready and willing to affix the guttering before the roof panels were installed. The final tasks were to simply connect the rainwater tank and, following the principles of “leave no trace” a thorough clean across the site before departing.

A long but satisfactory process to recycle an older hut, refresh it and reinstate at a new site.

FoHT encourages all walkers to reflect on the resources, funds and especially the extensive hours of volunteer time, thought and energy that goes into every activity aimed at keeping the Heysen Trail alive.

Donations help keep the Trail in good shape: heysentrail.asn.au/shop/donation/

A 'Pub-Less' Problem in the Mid-North

JULIA PATTEN

properly cold and wet, looking for a pint and a Parma, and to dry out by a fire, was gone. And this was happening on my stomping ground!

As a publican's daughter from the area, I feel very much at home walking into a country pub; especially if I've had a few days walk since the last one. Kapunda has the Caravan Park and Lil'Mo's Bakery which are beacons for the hungry hiker. Burra has the famed Royal Exchange Hotel with their legendary hiker's rooms and meals - but what could fill the void created by the closure of the Marrabel Hotel?

A few years had passed but my sadness remained and I decided that enough was enough, there was a problem to be tackled. I knew I needed to write to The Friends and not only express my sadness of my beloved pub-less section; but use my local knowledge to propose a solution.

Within 3kms or so of the existing Trail from Marshall's Hut to Kapunda, sits the Wheatsheaf Hotel - but it is not on the Heysen Trail. However, I know that hungry and cold hikers would be welcomed here with not one, but two fireplaces and if arriving outside of kitchen hours, the hungry hiker can call ahead and order for a meal to be put aside for their arrival. After 6 days on the Trail (SOBO), this is a great example of country hospitality.

To the credit of the Trail Committee and in particular Dom Henschke and Julian

Monfries, my conundrum was heard. A Spur Trail had been decided upon and The Wheatsheaf Hotel has now filled the void of a true country hotel to be appreciated and welcomed to, after many days along the Trail. (Or, a great introduction to outback hospitality if you are NOBO/Northbound.)

So, to my hiker friends out there, next time you are hiking the mid north sections, the Wheatsheaf Hotel is an excellent option for your Kapunda - Marshall's Hut leg. My friend Liza and I recently enjoyed being amongst the first hikers to walk this spur. Fittingly, we arrived cold and wet after days of proper winter on trail. The fireplace and hospitality warmed us and I felt very proud of the joining of my hiking and home-ground communities.

☐ *Mid North, Heysen Trail*
Photo: Julia Patten

☑ *The Wheatsheaf Pub, North Allendale*
Photo: Julia Patten



As a mid-north girl growing up where the Heysen Trail weaves its way through the community, it is not surprising that my awareness of this Trail would lead to a fascination of it and the people seen walking along it with strange looking packs on their backs.

In the years to come I would end up hiking the length of the Heysen in full (SOBO/ southbound) and of course, the section near my home village of Allendale North, was the section I became most familiar with.

I have to confess though, as much as I felt a great love for all seasons in the mid-north, the closing of a country pub in my area diminished my adoration of this hiking section. Planning a few days of walking without a pub in sight of the Trail for 6 days felt like such a disappointing let-down. This is especially true when pubs such as The Spalding Hotel where publicans Fletcher and Angie bring together the support, warming fires and hospitality that the humble hiker seeks.

Part of the joy for me as a hiker is the rolling-hill remoteness of the Trail from Burra through to Kapunda. The Marrabel Hotel closure brought a sadness; where was the comfort and welcome? The ritual of being welcomed to a proper country pub, arriving

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Friends Summer Walk Programme 2024/25

DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
	THUR 02 SW RIVER TORRENS / KARRIWIRRA PARRI Rin Green		
WED 04 SW MANSIONS & PARKLANDS Lyndon Grimmer	WED 08 SW GLENTHORNE Karen Baker THUR 09 TS WILD DOG LOOP Paul Gill	WED 05 SW ONKAPARINGA Simon Cameron THUR 06 TS ANSTEY HILL LOOP Paul Gill	NO WALKS
TUES 10 TS PENGANA LOOP Paul Gill SW PINGLE FARM & THE RIVER Vicki Stewart WED 11 SW HAPPY VALLEY RESERVOIR Paul Delaine SUN 15 TW MORIALTA Rin Green TW COBBLERS HILL TO TAPPANAPPA Peter Clark	WED 15 SW MOONLIT GLENELG Simon Cameron FRI 17 TS CARRICK HILL LOOP Kathy Wright SUN 19 TW BELAIR ADVENTURE LOOP Rin Green TW TAPPANAPPA TO BALQUHIDDER Peter Clark	SUN 16 TW MORIALTA Rin Green TW BALQUHIDDER TO WAITPINGA Peter Clark	THUR 13 SW SEACLIFF / HALLETT COVE Paul Gill SUN 16 TW BELAIR ADVENTURE LOOP Rin Green TW WAITPINGA TO VICTOR HARBOR Peter Clark
WED 18 SW MARINO Karen Baker	TUES 21 TS CLELAND LOOP Paul Gill WED 22 SW WAITE CONSERVATION RESERVE Olga Volodicheva	SAT 22 TS MYLOR / ALDGATE LOOP Kathy Wright	NO WALKS
NO WALKS	WED 29 SW PORT ADELAIDE WONDER WALLS Julian Monfries THUR 30 SW RIVER TORRENS / KARRAWIRRA PARRI Rin Green	TUES 25 TW BLACK HILL LOOP Paul Gill THUR 27 SW RIVER TORRENS / KARRAWIRRA PARRI Rin Green	THUR 27 SW RIVER TORRENS / KARRAWIRRA PARRI Rin Green

● SW SUMMER WALKS
 ● TW TRAIL WALKER
 ● TS TRAIL STARTER

Version released 27th October 2025

Walking with the Friends

Check the online walk calendar for the latest updates to the program. For details about each walk, the hot weather policy, what to wear and what to bring, and details of walk grades, visit heysentrail.asn.au/walks



Heysen 160 - Challenging, Inspiring, Developing the next Generation

LIZA MCNALLY

In the late afternoon on Thursday 26 September, 28 students, and their support crew, set off on a daunting 160km relay run that would take them almost 24 hours to complete.

The Heysen 160 is a joint initiative between Prince Alfred College and Seymour College whereby 14 Year 11 students from each school came together to do something epic, all to raise much needed funds for mental health charity, the Black Dog Institute.

Each school ran a selection process to identify students with the fortitude and enthusiasm to undertake months of early morning trainings and numerous fundraising initiatives.

Together, the students held tennis fundraising events, BBQs, bake sales, an online auction and spoke about their passion project at multiple school functions.

Heysen 160 commenced at the gates of the Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens in the late afternoon. In rotating small groups of runners, the team ran through the Adelaide Hills along the Heysen Trail towards Mt Magnificent. At this point the group turned back towards the city through Kuitpo Forest and down into the foothills.

The Heysen 160 team were cheered on by staff and students as they ran through the beautiful grounds of Seymour College in Glen Osmond. They then made their way to Victoria Park on the city fringe before finishing to a loud and welcoming crowd on the grounds of Prince Alfred College in Kent Town.

Amelie Coleman from Seymour shared,

“
It was amazing. You felt that you were running in a dream at 3am through rocky and often muddy terrain. We felt so proud of ourselves, not just undertaking the event itself, but for all the hours of training we put in and the fundraising efforts we undertook.
”

Throughout the journey, the students learned valuable skills about teamwork, communication, commitment, resilience, motivating others and leadership.

Upon finishing the event, PAC student Petey Flower said,

“
It was a bit surreal when we finished but we all felt such a huge sense of pride for what we had accomplished both individually and as a team.
”

We each ran between 20-40km and we really pushed ourselves, but we knew it was for a really important cause – mental health. Managing our mental health, especially for teenagers, is so important so if our 24 hours of struggle can help one young person, it will have been worth it.
”

Amelie summed it up with,

“
We learnt so much about each other and spending time through the night thinking about why we were running – for the Black Dog Institute - made it all worthwhile.
”

The students collectively raised over \$30,137 for the Black Dog Institute, and for that they should all feel immensely proud.



Photos reproduced with permission from Prince Alfred College, Kent Town and Seymour College, Glen Osmond.



Who are the E2E18s?



RIN GREEN

Photos: Alan Kull

Rin Green, a leader of the “Legally Eighteen”, E2E18 group, shares some insights into the newest Friends of the Heysen Trail (FoHT) group on the Heysen Trail.

A new batch of walkers met at Cape Jervis at the end of May this year, excited to start our 6-year journey to Parachilna. Over the walking season we’ve bonded well as a group while getting to know each other, and the Trail!

Most of us are women (over two-thirds of the walkers, and half of the leaders), and when we’re not walking most of us are working or volunteering (with a few retirees in the group too).

We’re mindful walkers, taking care to leave no trace. We acknowledge the Country we’re walking on and, as we put one foot in front of the other, we reflect on how many others have done the same before us.

We’re creature spotters, keeping our eyes open as we walk! We’ve so far been rewarded with kangaroos, a baby brown snake, some stumpy tail lizards, a fox, lots of ants, a pod of dolphins, and the skeleton of something woolly. We’ve looked for whales, and echidnas, and koalas too.

We’re stile counters, celebrating each one and ranking our favourite stile

styles. We’re grateful to those who have built them and maintained them, and to the landowners who let us cross their fields.

We’re eager walkers, setting a good pace. We value our leaders and tell them so often. We appreciate the logistics and organisation of walking with the Friends of the Heysen Trail. We feel safe walking as a group.

We delight in the glorious weather – including the wind, sideways rain, and hail that graced our walk across Waitpinga Beach! We celebrate the end of our walks with drinks and delicious contributions of scrolls, chocolates, brownies, cookies, and cakes.

We decided to start walking the Heysen Trail with this group for a variety of reasons. Some have walked the Trail before; some have seen the marker posts while on other adventures. We’ve been inspired by other walks (like the Camino, or walks in Tasmania), and we want to explore our own backyard and connect to nature.

We’re walking to tick an item off our bucket lists, and because we don’t want to save things for retirement – saying if not now, then when?! We’re doing it to keep fit, and because we love to take on a challenge. We’re making ‘time for me’ while walking in a group of 50+ and making friends along the way too.

We’ve followed the recommendations of others to be here, and even good-naturedly blamed them – “It’s Carol’s fault!” “It’s Judy’s fault!” “It’s Sarah’s fault!” “It’s Yo’s fault!” “It’s Kathy’s fault!”

We have loved walking together on the Trail this year!



Second Year on the Trail



GLEN CHAMBERS

Photos: Connie Yeung

A day on the Trail with Glen Chambers, E2E17 leader and all round good guy.

The day started like many others on the Trail, scenic bus trip, time to catch up with the comings and goings of walking buddies, a leaders induction then, well a hill to climb, funny about that. At least being greeted by the enthusiasm of the farm dogs, out to alert the neighbourhood of our passing, was a good distraction from this early morning workout. Over a stile, and down a path that led us into another world, far removed from an hour ago. The natural bushland surrounding us was full of early morning activity. The conservation parks are the pressure release valves we have come to respect and protect, and for this brief encounter it keeps re-setting our internal compass and keeps drawing the trail walker back to visit more places over the horizon.

A ridge line path provides the views over the valley and farmlands bordering the park, always a pleasant vista and photo to record this moment in time. The southerly chill keeps the outer layer on a little longer, morning tea break comes and goes as we steadily traverse the undulations

mentioned earlier, but this group of eager walkers is like no other.

A highlight of the day is awarding the Golden Gaiter. Some participants try to keep a low profile, but the informants evenly spaced in this gaggle keep the awards list overflowing with suggestions of honourable mention. But ultimately there can be only one awardee. Often a tricky choice. In the recent walks, outstanding mention



has included – a wedding ceremony celebration and venue on the Trail, I think hiking boots were optional and accepted attire for dancing, foot stomping and merriment. The photographic team is always nominated for composition, depth of field, focus and bloody good shots. Contact with low branches, loose gravel, that mud puddle was wider than expected. Also, a combination of reasons from - didn't have time to register, was travelling, was busy, my walking buddies were going to, link didn't work and can I come anyway,

I won't be any trouble. And our favourite, google maps took me up a dirt road. Did anyone come across a jacket, walking poles, hat, sunglasses, no one has immunity from this position of merit.

As the Trail twists and turns and makes its way up the next hill, there is always a conversation to be had with someone, a common interest is found, people and places to include on the next adventure, a lasting memory. The group of like minded people that have been there, done that that, helps to build confidence in getting to the start or making it to the destination, this is an added bonus and distracts the mind from aches and pains of the day.

The Trail this year has included, spectacular views of the Fleurieu

Peninsula, the southern ocean and gulf waters; including Lake Alexandrina. Two mountains, many more hills, pine forests, native woodlands, conservation parks, flowing creeks and rivers, waterfalls, farmland with the odd quizzical looks from livestock as a group of walkers with multi coloured waterproof pack covers pass by. Wet and windy days, glorious sunny days, smiling faces that say, wouldn't miss this for quids, and we will be back for more when we get the notification that registrations are open for our next day on the Trail.



Sweet Sixteen Highlights

Photo: Ingrid Castle

E2E16 walkers share thoughts from their year.

“What was fascinating was to move off the Mount Lofty Ranges and come into the Barossa Valley. That change in landscape is quite marked, and walking through the settlements you really get to understand a lot about the communities and the history.” (Amanda)

“Highlights for me were Mount Crawford, that area, with those hills, Montacute... They were challenging walks, they were pleasant environments, lots of bush. Lots of monoculture, like forestry, but it was being in the forest, that was nice.” (Ian)

“The beautiful yellow fields of canola. And last walk seeing the little baby canola, and this walk seeing it flowering.” (Emily)

“The canola has been spectacular, and the wind in the weeds has made the fields look like velvet.” (Alison)

“We're new to Adelaide; it's great to walk in areas we hadn't gotten to yet.” (Dianne)

“My highlights this year are the hidden gems, the mural under Union Bridge, Cudlee Creek, the lovely Sixth Creek and the old stone buildings scattered through the hills. And the season changes. Starting off in dry dusty conditions, progressing to green grass, and the perfumed wattles, and then the stunning canola fields.” (Ingrid)

“I loved walking through the pine forests. I'm enjoying it here around Kapunda. I found some of the 'undulations' back in the Hills challenging, to say the least.” (Carolyn D-Z)

“I like the slow tourism. I like being connected to the seasons, and the weather, in a way that we're not in our office-bound, city-bound lives. The rain, and the wind, and the sun, and the sweat, and the flies, and the mud on your shoes.” (Mark T)

“I really like the sense of community. There's the physical walking, but it's the emotional, mental benefit and social aspect.” (Fiona)

“Making new friends – it's a very social group.” (Julie)

“Wonderful people you meet along the way.” (Greg)

“Learning everybody's name, that's my favourite bit! Developing my own profile of different people.” (CJ)

“All the friendships have bonded really well this year.” (Carolyn D-Z)

“It is good walking with the same group of people that you gradually get to know more about.” (Judy)

“It's a really nice group. When CJ forgot her lunch one day, all of a sudden she was inundated with love and food. In saying that, we're not this tight-knit little group; we love and embrace visitors too. In a nutshell, it's the people of the group that's been a highlight.” (Carolyn W)

“Grateful for the way that, when I've been going through challenges this year, the group has stepped up and helped out. I feel very nurtured and cared for. It feels like a community.” (Kellie)

“Starting our weekends away has been lovely. I feel everyone getting closer, as predicted! That's lovely, having those two days together.” (Kat)

“Having the weekends away, because you do spend more time, having a meal together” (Jill)

“Loving the themed dinners and weekends away!” (Cathy P)

“Having little traditions that we do as a group.” (Carolyn W)

“Thanks Matilda for our hoodies!” (Paul S)

“The leaders are amazing, the hard work and coordinating.” (Jim)

“I love that it's a predominantly female-led group! There's an element about it that's quite obvious.” (Nicky)

“I deeply appreciate the leaders! They are wonderful humans, and Kathy sets a marvellous tone as the E2E16 coordinator.” (Rin)

“The confidence from doing the weekend walks – it's more outdoors activity than I've done before!” (Alison)

“The sense of accomplishment! The terrible up and down that we had to Sixth Creek. We did it!” (Fiona)

“A highlight is the satisfaction of having done each leg.” (Judy)

“One of my biggest things is I feel like I've evolved from Cape Jervis through the city, and now we have moved a little bit bush, and I feel that Parachilna is now in our grasp.” (Carolyn W)

“I'm a slow realiser, but I think I've figured out that I'm really on the Heysen Trail this year. We're through Year 3, maybe the big thing though was passing the 400km mark. Highlight for this year was realising, I think I'm going to finish it!” (Richard)

The Fearless

Fourth year impressions from *Wayne Miller*.

For E2E15 year 4 of our quest was a year of transition. We completed walking to the north of the Mt Lofty ranges and took a step to the left to start the southern section of the Flinders Ranges.

This metamorphosis affected different fearless walkers in different ways. Some felt the urge to walk in Tutus. Fortunately decorum has been restored.

Our 14 walks for the season took us from Burra Road [#25] to Mt Zion [#38] in the Mid North of S.A. To give us a taste of what lay ahead the Trail took us from Burra Rd straight to the top of Bluff Range and down the other side. This was followed by some pleasant gorge and road walking. This really set the themes for the season.

Water. From early days we could see the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline snaking across the landscape which was the latest attempt to secure water for the Mid North and beyond. First nations people, the Ngadjuri, had an appreciation of the importance of water, giving names ending in 'owie' to places where water could be found. Caltowie, Booborowie are examples. Later we were to follow many kilometres of concrete lined drains, a 1902 attempt to fill a hand dug reservoir at Bundaleer.

Views. The designers of the Heysen Trail were keen to include spectacular views. These come at a price – elevation means effort. We got plenty of views from the bald hills of Burra and the best of all from Mt Bryan – the highest point of the Mt Lofty Ranges.

Gorges. A preview of the Flinders ahead of us was provided by the Burra and Tourilie Gorges, complete with massive River Red Gums. We were lucky that the weather gods were kind and no water hazards confronted us. However the drought year had an unexpected adventure for us in Crystal Brook. The Trail crosses the brook in nine or ten places. The powers that be decided to send down an environmental flow, from Beetaloo Reservoir, to relieve the stressed vegetation downstream so we encountered a number of creek crossings. Wet feet and great fun!

Wild life. Apart from the ubiquitous kangaroo we now saw evidence of wombat occupation and a mob of feral goats for the first time. On warm days

shinglebacks – sleepy lizards – were sunning themselves on the track.

Land Use. From our vantage points on the ridges we could see a variety of crops on the plains. Canola, broad beans, lentils, clover and grain crops stretched out. Early in the season we watched farmers dry seeding in expectation of rain. We saw the seedlings turn the landscapes verdant. However later, without backup rain they suffered. A local farmer told us they only received a third of the average rainfall this winter.

Social. One of the highlights of our weekends away was the social activities arranged by Jo and her helpers. Themes like the Olympics, Book week and the Grand Final fuelled our enthusiasm for dressing up and we bonded more closely as a group. Lots of laughs.



Trailwalker Photo Competition

Leanne & Philip Bell West Highland Way on Conic Hill, Scotland

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





E2E14 - Toughest Year on the Trail

MARK FLETCHER

Photos: David Roberts

When asked the question what was unique about Year 5 on the Trail, Mark Fletcher responded...

Year 5 on the Heysen Trail has several of the toughest walks and E2E14 completed them all without a hitch. All within expected time frames and with several exceeding finishing ETAs.



All Heysen Trail walks have a degree of difficulty, but this toughest year started in earnest for E2E14 from Mount Zion to The Bluff Lookout. You encounter the TV Track which is known fondly (actually, maybe not so fondly) as the Roller Coaster. I recall that at morning tea break I pointed to the TV Tower in the distance and said to the group, "See that Tower? It looks pretty close

doesn't it? Keep an eye on it as it won't seem to be getting any closer for a long while yet!" and sure enough, the "straight line of sight" distance was just an illusion, as all the ups and downs tackled on the Roller Coaster turned it into a long slog. After a few hours we were breaking for lunch with still quite a way to go.

On the very next walk along the Heysen Trail you kick off on the Go

Kart track and the relentless ups and downs continue. Then a reprieve for a couple of easier walks. Then bang! You are hit with a 6:10am check-in with head torches on and an early morning climb up Mount Remarkable. The climb is the easy

part of this walk, it is what comes after that which is tough. Starting with a very steep descent on a loose surface, followed by another series of tough, (yes, you guessed it) ups and downs.

Next challenge is Horrocks Pass to Broadview followed by Broadview to Woolshed Flat, and this last one includes a relentless steep ascent of Mount Brown. Just to make it a bit tougher you clamber over boulders as you near the summit, and then all discomfort is forgotten as the stunning views from the Tower are taken in.

Reflecting upon our journey to date, I remember in Year 1 warning the E2E14 group about Year 5's toughness, and reminded them every year on of the need to get their walk fitness up to a good standard in those preceding years. Not only in the walking season months but also in the warmer months. They have taken this on-board and have clearly done what is required and that is a real credit to all E2E14 walkers. It has been a pleasure!



Volunteer Profile: Peter Nation



WHEN DID YOU FIRST BECOME INVOLVED WITH THE FRIENDS?

I became interested in the Heysen Trail when I noticed trail markers in the Flinders Ranges on various trips. I then had a brief encounter with the Friends in 2005 with a view to joining E2E3 in 2006 but that fell through when our family relocated to Queensland. When we returned in 2015 I joined a Twilight Walk as a guest and then officially 2016 when I started with End-to-End 11 at Cape Jarvis.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER WITH THE FRIENDS?

As we progressed north I could see the effort and commitment that went into the organising and leading of walks but also the maintenance of the Trail. I wanted to give back to the organisation even in just small amounts.

WHAT ARE SOME ACTIVITIES IN WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN INVOLVED?

I joined the E2E17 leadership group in 2022. I have been able to assist with some Trail maintenance including spending a weekend helping to renovate Marschalls Hut, just off Peters Hill. I've also helped lead walks in the Belair National Park over the last 3 years at the Walking Expos, and spent time in the pavilion talking to others interested in the Heysen Trail.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE HEYSEN TRAIL TOWN/REGION?

From Crystal Brook to Parachilna? I would pick Quorn as my favourite town. We stayed just outside of the town at the Dutchman Stern's Shearers Quarters and Station House. It was quiet, had beautiful scenery and plenty of wildlife. There was an abundance of things to do and see in Quorn. Plenty of choice for hotels and cafes, great accommodation and walking trails. We had our group dinners at Emily's. It was a quirky venue that was an emporium in a former life.

WHAT WAS YOUR FONDEST MEMORY ON THE HEYSEN?

My fondest memory is back in September 2019 when E2E11 walked sections 36 & 37. We stayed in the Gladstone goal and while the walking was good, the time at the goal was better. It was the first opportunity we were able to spend time socially but not walking. I got to know the group better and came out of my shell.

WHAT IS YOUR TOP PIECE OF ADVICE FOR WALKERS?

My advice is, "The fitter you are the more you will enjoy the hiking". That piece of advice, given to me by another, made the biggest difference and gave me the confidence to get into multi-day walking, both solo and with friends.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVOURITE WALK ASIDE FROM THE HEYSEN TRAIL?

The Larapinta Trail. I hiked this end to end in June with friends. A very hard trail but spectacular scenery to be enjoyed. I had become interested in the Larapinta at the same time as the Heysen. So it had been some time coming. Our trek culminated after 18 months of planning, training and purchase of gear. It was a rewarding experience.

WHICH OTHER VOLUNTEER HAS INSPIRED YOU AND WHY?

John Babister, amongst others. His encouragement helped me through my first traversing of the Trail.

He is reliably present to coax people through a hard patch, he doesn't stand for any nonsense and is always looking for the potential in individuals. These are the qualities that inspire me.

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The VERY Lucky Thirteens!

NICK GRAY

Photos: Dianne Ford, Nene Vine, Vicki Barrett, Jeanette Gutekunst & Kathryn Lynn.

Final year impressions from Nick Gray.

Two trips away and that's it !!??

It can't be. We'll be ... finishing in August !! Oh no!!

But wait... we want to see our Heysen buddies every month in winter like we have for the last five years. (Well – excluding THAT year filled with Covid). Thankfully there were several training walks led by our wonderful leadership team for the conscientious amongst us. As always, it has been lovely each year to renew our Heysen friendships.

Many of E2E13 completed catch up walks to ensure they would finish with the group. Given the location of some of these walks, it required travel and co-ordination. As usual there were volunteers to help out and Janet (returning from a broken leg), Jo (recovering from Covid) and Peter B (planter fasciitis) were three examples of team members that put in huge effort to complete all their catch-up walks. A great achievement in itself.

By the time June came around we were ready. E2E13 are blessed with most walkers maintaining the same pace. Eileen, Julie, Rosie and Harry were often in the lead group but barring injuries most of the team kept up pretty well.

The June walking program required us to stay in Quorn for four nights and Hawker for four nights. The team members chose a variety of

accommodation and tried to stay warm on the very cold nights. Quorn has a well stocked supermarket and the welcome respite of two pubs for meals when needed. It was great to bump into E2E13 friends to share a meal and a drink on many occasions. Hawker's Flinders Food Co was a great venue and the Jeff Morgan Gallery entertained many of the group.

Our leader Vicki warned us that the June walks had some challenges and she was right!

The early start and long bus ride out to the walk-in point for Eyre Depot was slow due to a massive number of kangaroos out and about in the early morning. Gavin, our trusty driver, negotiated the risks beautifully and we were happy to get walking. We welcomed the return of Voldemort our mascot to the team after an absence.

The big climb up towards Mt Arden blew out any cobwebs in the legs. Trail maintenance at the exit to Warren Gorge saw the screwdrivers come from everywhere as our multi-skilled leaders lept into action. The long walk out to the bus through Warren Gorge was exciting with the narrow gorge presenting some challenging climbs.

A long day of 24 kilometres saw us hike from Warren Gorge to Buckaringa Gorge. The windy ascent to the summit of Mount Arden presented panoramic views and a special treat of Golden North ice-cream from our reliable support driver, David.

Light rain ensured the hiking through Buckaringa Gorge became slippery and unfortunately Liz fell

down a particularly treacherous section. The combined efforts of our leadership team showed their skill and compassion and everyone was able to complete the walk safely. A late finish due to the tricky terrain and walker care meant we were very happy to see Gavin and the bus for the ride back to Quorn.

Another solid day of 24 kms from Buckaringa Gorge to Calabrinda Creek on reasonably flat terrain, in open country with lunch at the strange moonscape along the Willochra Creek. It was lucky it was Schnitzel night at the Trans so we could regain our strength for our rest day ahead.

The rest day provided an opportunity to visit Jeff Morgan's Gallery and later a small gathering in the sisters' room (of course) was a fitting way to relax and get ready for the second half of our week.

The Calabrinda Creek to Jarvis Hill walk saw us pass the 1,000 kilometre marker which was celebrated with a photo, a muesli bar and a water and we were on our way again. Light rain meant the track out was muddy and heavy feet made the final ascent to the base of Jarvis Hill tricky.

The Jarvis Hill to Leigh Creek Road walk had stunning views out towards Hawker. Nibbles and drinks at the ruins near Leigh Creek Road was a lovely highlight.

Our clever leadership team had us complete the Mount Little Station to Moralana Scenic Drive, thirty two kilometre walk when we were in the

groove for walking. It was a long day with stunning views of the Elder Range easing the pain. The car shuffle out to the bus was very much appreciated. Thanks to the drivers!

A dinner to celebrate the completion of our June hikes at the Flinders Food Co. in Hawker was highly successful. The food and company were excellent and the theme of Tour de Flinders saw some nice outfits. It was a battle between Janet and Harry for first prize and Janet's accessories saw her take the award from our version of Easy Rider, Harry.

Our final week in August with walks from Leigh Creek Road to the end of the Trail was met with much excitement but a sadness in the realisation of finishing our wonderful experience.

Our accommodation at Upper and Lower Rawnsley Park Station was excellent and many of the group met at the Woolshed Restaurant for a first night dinner and catch-up.

Our first walk of the week was Wilpena Pound to Bunyeroo which provided beautiful views of Ngarri Mudlanha (St Mary Peak) and the north east edge of Wilpena Pound from the outside. It was great to be getting some gentle kilometres in the legs.

The car shuffle, due to poor road conditions, to our starting point for the Moralana Drive to Wilpena Pound walk meant splitting the group in two.

The fast walkers caught up at the top of the rise into the Pound at Bridal Gap for morning tea and after descending



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into the Pound, we had a flat walk to lunch at the homestead. The short stroll to the shop at the Pound was rewarded with ice-creams and coffee.

On day three of our last week we finally got to do the Leigh Creek Road to Mount Little Station section. A fast initial section, followed by a walk along Wonoka Creek until lunch at the lovely Mayo Hut. The young through hiker impressed us with her tale of walking thirty kilometres before 11am! No wonder she needed a rest day. The walk out was extended past Mount Little Station to the bus due to those poor road conditions.

Our August rest day was a great chance to visit local tourist spots. People headed off in many directions. Our drive through Brachina Gorge to lunch at The Prairie Hotel was special.

Day one of our final charge to the finish was Bunyeroo to Trezona. On the drive in, Razorback Lookout gave us a chance to snap the amazing scene



in front of us. Once at our walk start we then climbed up the hill past the lookout and stopped at Yanyanna Hut for morning tea. A quick drink at Trezona Campground at the finish was appreciated on a warm day.

The Trezona to Aroona section started with Rob explaining the amazing Golden Spike. Clearly displayed layers of the earth's crust before and after the formation of life on earth were

fascinating. Other stops included further explanation of events from 600 million years ago including glacial action. Amazing stuff.

Our walk then took us to the top of a hill overlooking all the hills named after Johnson Hayward. The enthusiasts in the group opted to climb Red Hill for another beautiful view whilst the smart (tired) ones continued along the pretty re-routed Yuluna Hike.

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Getting to the start of our final day's hike from Aroona to Parachilna proved a small challenge as our bus couldn't get to our start and our car shuffle driver enthusiasm peaked. As usual, the leaders regrouped and sorted everything out and all walkers started together. A gentle up-hill for about six kilometres warmed us up and the weather was a bit warm but we sped down the long gentle hill to the finish line. Medication and strapping was needed by Mary and Rob but the adrenalin was enough to get everyone there. What a massive achievement. A beautiful arch created by hikers with poles extended was a fitting finish and created further excitement.

The vibe at the brand new beautiful Parachilna Trailhead was simply magnificent. A sip of celebratory champagne / beer was very much appreciated and the laughter, the cheering, the tears, the handshakes, the back slapping and the hugging were all heartfelt. Our shirts, designed by Kevin, were special and added to the momentous occasion. It was an absolute privilege to be the first End-to-End group to finish through the beautiful new Heysen Trailhead. A huge thank you to all who contributed to its creation.

A vote of thanks also to our awesome photographers in the group. Lots of brilliant photos and memories can be found on the Facebook group page. Thanks to Peter C, Kathryn, Nene, Karen P and all, for your contributions to helping us keep happy memories.

The celebration dinner was an absolute ripper. The Woolshed at Rawnsley put on a delicious spread. Our wonderful MC Sue led proceedings admirably. Vicki's thank you to the leaders brought tears. Rob's poem read by Stephen was clever and Alison's ditties about the leaders were a delight. Tracey's lovely painting of our experience was another wonderful tribute to the joys of this group.

The entire leadership group were simply awesome. Cohesive, kind, generous, diligent, help with everything; planning, leading, tailing, driving, helping with injuries, encouraging, knowledgeable and kind.

Bill's return from the UK was appreciated and his leadership noted on some of the more memorable events.

Nene overcame sore toes and shared her kindness and support. How lucky to have her there when Liz fell. Her calmness, her quiet manner and skill ensured everything was under control.

Peter D came back strongly after injury and assisted in catch up walks. Peter had the important role of buying and serving nibbles and drinks and he was a great host.

Rob's effort carrying Janet out of dense terrain was fantastic. His geology presentations were very informative and much appreciated.

Dean (our legendary five times Heysen walker!) facilitated several entertaining activities.

David was always willing to help with vehicle support. Repeatedly helping when people needed a catch-up walk.

Kevin was a brilliant foil for our fearless leader and always stepped up when needed. Such an incredible effort carrying Janet out. He also did a brilliant job with T-shirt design.

Vicki - our fearless leader, overcame migraines and worked very hard to ensure she caught up. A brilliant singer and dancer, it was inspiring to watch her develop her leadership skills and transform into the diva of delegation!! Her hard work herding all the cats was hugely appreciated. Vicki showed how passionate she is about leading with open shows of emotion, demonstrating how much she loves us. She created a culture of kindness and love that was an important part of our experience. Thank you, Vicki. We love you!

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 2024**.

Independent

Ava Pyke
Cambell John McKenzie
Caroline Sandow
David Crawford
Genevieve Blades
Grant Woolford
Jamie Sutton
Jonathon Symonds
Kara Skene
Karen Buckner
Kassie Kuhlar
Kylie Straney
Lisa Hall
Lorraine Horn
Marco Begni
Mel Kubank
Nicole Crawford
Norm Thirkell
Phillip Buckner
Rachel Roberts
Rob Blatt
Shane Hutton
Shawn Roberts
Simeon Finch
Simone Symonds
Stephanie Ashby
Steve Roberts
Steven Weinert
Sue Wise
Thomas Melios-Travers
Victoria Riggs

E2E 12

Michelle Carling

E2E 13

Alison Smith
Benjamin Mani
Cathy Davies
Corin Lang
Dianne Ford
Dianna Payne
Dean Mortimer (5th)
Fiona Crambrook
Janet Bartold
Karen Prior
Kevin Ward
Margaret Keelan
Martin Keogh
Meredith Gray
Paula Gray
Peter Crambrook
Peter Deacon
Peter Maney
Rosemary Wallis
Spencer Burgstad
Sue Maney
Tracey Kiobas
Vicki Barrett (2nd)
Wayne Turner
Wendy Hamood
Zoe Pennington

2nd Time Completed

Karen Baker

E2E 14

Mark Curtis
Monica Dollard

4th Time Completed

Richard Savage



I grew up in the Booborowie Valley which is situated between Hallett and Jamestown in SA's mid-north, on land purchased by my forebears in the 1870s. As a child I loved being outside – climbing hills and exploring creek lines. I grew up hearing stories about people and places and having a strong sense of my family's history in that place – all of which contributed to a deep sense of belonging.

Throughout my youth, in the 1970s and 1980s, we did not use or even know the word for the traditional owners of that area, the Ngadjuri. It was not until I was in my twenties that I came to understand that every feature of the land I had thought of as ours had been known, used, loved, named by Aboriginal people who had lived in the Booborowie Valley for millennia, and that the country and lifestyle we enjoyed was at the expense of their displacement and dispossession. Since that jolting awareness, I have sought to understand both what happened to the rightful owners and why I grew up unaware of that fundamental and enduring injustice of colonialism. For the past 20 years I have worked as an ethno-historian and oral historian in the field of Aboriginal-settler history – with Aboriginal communities, on Native Title claims and, most recently, on a project mapping frontier violence in South Australia.

When hiking the Trail, my mind is constantly thinking of the people who

lived on the land prior to and in the early years of European occupation, before their populations drastically declined due to introduced diseases, violence and dispossession. I think of their incredible knowledge of places, animals, plants, clouds, weather patterns and waters.

As an Australian who perceives the Uluru Statement from the Heart as a generous gesture of goodwill and hope for the future, I fully embrace the need for truth telling. As such, what follows are some stories dating back to the colonial era of events that occurred on Country traversed by the Heysen Trail. There are many, many more stories to tell, but the following seem to me pertinent at the time of writing.

Starting with the Southern Fleurieu, I am fascinated with the bilingual, bicultural people who had close links with the Ramindjeri of Encounter Bay but whose place names (Tunkalilla, Waitpinga, Tapanappa) are in the language of the people further north – today understood as Kurna. These people were the first to have contact with whites in the form of sealers and whalers. A settler named George Blakiston Wilkinson, who lived in South Australia for seven years before returning to England and publishing *South Australia in 1848*, noted the 'great diminution' in Aboriginal population numbers during his time in the new colony. He specifically referred to 'a part of the coast between Rapid and

Encounter Bays, called the Tunkalilla and Wipinga district'. The Aboriginal people he got to know told him that this 'was their country' and that 'their friends were "crack-a-back", meaning dead'. Wilkinson wrote that their numbers had reduced from thirty or forty people to twelve or fifteen.

When I hike the Myponga/Mount Compass section, I cannot but help think of Mullawirraburka, whose name mullawirra means 'dry forest' and burka 'adult man'. Mullawirraburka was known to the colonists as King John. His Country was the forest on the east side of the Aldinga Plain.

In 1837, Mullawirraburka guided interim Protector of Aborigines, Dr Wyatt, from Adelaide to Encounter Bay. In 1839, two Aboriginal men (Wunwitpinna and a man whose name was not recorded), guided Lutheran missionary Clamor Schürmann from Adelaide to Encounter Bay via Willunga and Mount Terrible. In July 1839, Schürmann wrote:

We followed through wood and plain the sure leadership of our aboriginal guides whose knowledge of the country we were forced to admire. Unbelievable is the certainty with which they could tell in advance where we would find water ... incidents such as the memories of their former hunting-life which were continually

Truth Telling Along the Heysen Trail

DR SKYE KRICHAUFF



revived all over the place either by hollow trees or old fireplaces or camping places etc., make such a journey with aborigines extremely interesting.

Schürmann was ‘simply amazed at their knowledge of the land, water, and winding creeks and the like’.

My mother’s family came out from Scotland and occupied land at Mount Crawford and Eden Valley in the early 1840s. When I go through Mount Crawford, past the cemetery where my mother’s forbears are buried, I think of them and wonder about their interactions with the local Aboriginal people. In the 1840s, Aboriginal population numbers were healthy, and their culture still intact. Aboriginal people were ever present, and it is highly likely that my maternal forebears would have had interactions with those whose lands they were invading. I have not been able to find any records dating back to that time written by them, but I like to hope that their relations were not hostile.

Walking through the Burra, Mount Bryan, Hallett and Willalo sections, now no longer as a youth but as an adult who has researched the colonial history of the area, I think of how incredibly detailed the Ngadjuri people’s knowledge of place must have been, and how the settlers’ connection to place was so different and, comparatively, short. I think of my dear friend, Ngadjuri Elder Vince Copley (now deceased) whom I travelled with and had lengthy and

on-going discussions about many things, including Ngadjuri people’s experiences in the colonial era on this Country, Vince’s ancestral land. Vince was a visionary, a mover and shaker in a gentle unassuming way. He was the grandson of Barney Warrior, the last initiated Ngadjuri man. I wish that I could turn back the clock, meet Barney and his family group and, ideally, get to know them - to respectfully listen and spend time with them.

When I go past Bundaleer, I think of JB Hughes, the first pastoralist to occupy that well-watered, resource-rich Country in 1842, and his brother, HB Hughes, who occupied what became known as Booyoolee Station. Within a few years, the Hughes brothers’ stations seemingly became a sort of sanctuary for a number of employees of different cultural backgrounds. In the 1960s, historian Nancy Robinson was given access to the Hughes family records. She found that Aboriginal, Chinese, Indian and Afghan employees worked and lived together on the Hughes’s stations, that they got on well and were paid good wages.

This was not the case further north. As I reach Nukunu country (the southern Flinders Ranges) I think of the first manager of Pekina, JF Hayward, and how, in his written recollections, he referred to ‘campaigns against the n***s’ that ‘gave a zest to the wild life’ he led. I think how Hayward’s replacement at Pekina, Henry Swan, recorded in his diary the visit of Mr William Pinkerton on 10 August 1854. During a duck shoot, Pinkerton informed Swann ‘he never missed

a black that he got a chance to kill’. Swann subsequently wrote that ‘Pinkerton is said to have killed more blacks than anyone else in the colony’. Pinkerton held pastoral leases in the late 1840s-early 1850s on the west coast of Eyre Peninsula, where frontier violence was particularly brutal, intense, and long lived. It seems to me not too late to call out and condemn the atrocities of William Pinkerton and others of his ilk. At the same time, I like to think of an Aboriginal man of the Southern Flinders Ranges known to the Europeans as ‘Yellowman’ who fascinates me; he outwitted Hayward on numerous occasions, was thought of as troublesome by neighbouring pastoralists, and lived a long life.

When I get to Wilpena Pound, I feel grateful to know and work with incredible Adnyamathanha Elders who have told me stories – mainly of frontier violence, but also – and inseparably – of Country. They speak in language and, in their movements, voices and actions, they embody their deep connection to Country and their ancestors. I feel privileged to be with them on their land as I do with all Aboriginal people when out on Country.

There is so much more to learn, to contemplate, and so much that non-indigenous Australians can acknowledge and make amends for.

For me, walking the Heysen Trail, soaking up the surrounds, the sounds and smells is one of the best ways to reflect on the past, to realign in the present, and to re-envision a future in which Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people can truly walk together.

WEEK 1

The Lavender Trail starts on the banks of the mighty Murray and winds its way through Crown land on a track shared with horses and in part with bikes. It climbs Mount Beevor, one of the highest points on the Lavender Trail with spectacular views over the Bremer Valley. Week one was a hard week, due not only to the rugged, rocky terrain, but also the weather. This year's rainfall was lower resulting in dry and dusty conditions across the farmland. Sometimes it seemed as though they were farming rocks. The remains of settlers' homes was a stark reminder of the harshness of early life in a new country and the struggle with drought and the often fruitless attempts to bring their old life to a vastly different climate.

WEEK 2

The trail in week two was through the beautiful Barossa and the contrast between week one and week two was stark. Beautiful homesteads, green rolling hills, dry stone walls built on the backs of farm labour and the charm of small, once thriving but now sleepy towns like Kapunda, Truro and Eudunda. The trail magical moment in this second week was undoubtedly the moment when we topped a rise to find an incredible gorge with waterholes, native grasses, and great slabs of volcanic rock.

WEEK 3

Our third week took us deep into the wine country of the Clare Valley. Through the historic towns of Mintaro, Watervale and Manoora, past the magnificent Martindale Hall, and the equally magnificent wind turbines along the ridge looking back over the Gilbert Valley. The highlight of this week was the Tothills, particularly the section that runs alongside the Bushland Conservation area, with its dense native vegetation.

From wetlands to old copper mines, the romantic sounding Lavender Trail offered not only lessons in geography, geology, history, but an opportunity to experience a deeper connection with all the spirits that have been there.



The End-to-End Lavender Trail #3

**KAREN BARRETT &
AMANDA HARKNESS**

Photos: Peter Crambrook

A Week in the Clare Valley

JUDY MCADAM

One windy Saturday afternoon 27 walkers gathered at the Clare Valley Discovery Park for a welcome get-together for the week-long circumnavigation of Clare on the Clare Valley Wine and Wilderness Trail.

A couple of hours later the walkers left, old acquaintances renewed, new ones made and armed with nametags, wine-coloured gaiters, a mind challenging puzzle to solve and a better knowledge of the trail thanks to Katherine Nugent from the CVWWT Committee who came to speak to the group. Thank you, Katherine.

Sunday morning the group assembled to begin at stage 2 due to the winds that were challenging the whole state.

By the end of the day, it became evident that this group was social and keen to sample what the region had to offer.

This trend continued with many convivial post walk tastings at the winery where the days walk ended. Plus, our own wine guru Paul provided a wine tasting to those who wished to participate over two sittings due to the high demand.

Many meals were consumed at various eateries around the valley during the week.



Best of the Heysen Trail on Instagram

Check out this moody shot of an old home on the Trail, just before heading up to the Mount Lofty Summit.

We were very fortunate that a member of the group had a good understanding of the history of the Sevenhill settlement, the Clare Valley's first winery, St Aloysius Church and the Centre of Ignatian Spirituality that is now based in the old college. She happily shared some information with the group during our extended morning tea at the location on the final day. Thank you, Jacquie.

The week concluded with dinner at the Sevenhill Hotel on Saturday Night.

It is highly probable that this walk will be run again next year and the Bunch of Gratefulness (our mascot for the week) has been handed over to those who have expressed interest in leading the walk in 2025.



Thinking of adding the "Down the Aisle" walk to your walks calendar?

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MARGARET FLETCHER

Favourite Short Walk

Old Noarlunga & Onkaparinga River Loop

Photo: Margaret Fletcher

Submit your favourite short walks to the Editor

A.S. Perry Reserve where you can take a quick break and use the public facility if needed before heading back to Old Noarlunga. Around a hundred metres back along you will notice a Y junction, take the left fork and head away from the river taking the path to a boardwalk across the wetlands where you should spot some bird life and most likely a kangaroo. Off the boardwalk you turn right and go about 30 metres before turning left and following a path that eventually leads up a hill giving you a wonderful view of the wetlands.

Keep following the path back down the hill and you will come out of the wetlands where you entered to cross back over the Coast to Vines Rail Trail Bridge. Turn left and follow the river under South Road and back through the streets until you get to Patapinda Road. Cross the bridge and turn hard left onto Hall Cres and follow the river path until you are back at Market Square Reserve or stay on the main road to walk through Old Noarlunga passing the shops and perhaps stop at a café or the pub for a refreshment or meal.

This walk is comfortably easy and flat. The biggest risk is bumping your head if you don't duck low enough as you walk under the South Road Bridge.

The 9km walk starts at Market Square Reserve in historic Old Noarlunga. First cross the road to the Winnaynee Horseshoe Inn Reserve which has some plaques with the history of the site, well worth reading. I have fond memories of visiting the Horseshoe Inn in the early eighties before it was badly damaged by fire in 1988. Walking along Paringa Parade you

follow the Onkaparinga River on the left, passing the Old Noarlunga new suspension bridge. This bridge was replaced in 2019 after being destroyed by the 2016 flooding. As you meander along the river you will see a beautiful cliff face that gets higher as you pass by the Old Noarlunga sports oval.

You continue alongside the river until Patapinda Road where you will cross the main road bridge. After the bridge taking the first road on the right, you wander through the back streets to Onkaparinga Drive and follow the Onkaparinga River again. Ducking under the South Road Bridge there is a lagoon to the left where an abundance of bird life awaits.

Crossing the river again on the Coast to Vines Old Rail Trail Bridge, you turn left into the Onkaparinga River Recreational Park and follow the river to



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

Trailthinker Quiz Answers

1. Class 4-5
2. Catherine Spencer
3. Georgetown
4. The City of Adelaide
5. Kooringa
6. Mt Magnificent to Mt Lofty
7. The Land of the Oratunga
8. Flinders Column
9. Aroona Hut
10. Phytophthora



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Image: Maggie Moy

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