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HEYSEN TRAIL HAPPENINGS



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WALKING ON KAURNA COUNTRY

OLD MOUNT BRYAN EAST SCHOOL





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A green rectangular box containing the signature 'Paddy Fallin' in white cursive script.

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**PUBLISHED BY THE
FRIENDS OF THE HEYSEN
TRAIL AND OTHER
WALKING TRAILS**

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CITY OFFICE

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

SINGLE \$29.50/year

FAMILY \$49.50/year

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

TRAILWALKER

EDITOR/SUB EDITOR

Tammy Main/Barbara Sedgley



Cover: Title. Section 51 (Warren
Gorge to Buckaringa Gorge)
Photo by Mark Scicluna.

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

About the Friends

AUGUST 2025 • 3

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 Department for Environment & Water (DEW) is the authorised manager of the Heysen Trail on behalf of the SA Government. The Friends volunteers undertake operational maintenance, development and promotion of the Trail in partnership with DEW.

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.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS
2024**

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Neil Hendry

VICE PRESIDENT
Melanie Sjoberg

SECRETARY
Vicki Stewart

TREASURER
Rudy Pieck

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Margaret Fletcher
Mark Fletcher
Judy McAdam
Ross McDougall
Kathy Wright
Daniel Jardine
John Wilson

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OF COUNCIL**

HONORARY MEMBERS
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RECONCILIATION
Chair Vacant

**STANDING COMMITTEE
CHAIRS**

FINANCE & AUDIT
Rudy Pieck

**OFFICE &
ADMINISTRATION**
Julian Monfries

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MEMBERSHIP &
MARKETING**
Nick Gray

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT
Melanie Sjoberg

WALKING
Mark Fletcher

**MEMBERSHIP
SECRETARY**
Judy McAdam

FOUNDING PATRON
C Warren Bonython AO*

**END-TO-END WALK
COORDINATORS**

E2E14 Mark Fletcher
E2E15 Mark Curtis
E2E16 Kathy Wright
E2E17 Paul Frost
E2E18 Paul Delaine
E2E19 Kristyn Willson

**TRAIL DEVELOPMENT
SECTION LEADERS**

S1 Glenn Chambers
S2A Jon Westover
S2B John Newland
S3 Hermann Schmidt
(Wandergruppe
Bushwalkers)
S4 Robert Smedley
S5 John Babister
S6 Robert Ruediger, Ken
Smith
S7 Carl Greenstreet
S8 Chris Finn
S9 Vacant
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

<i>August</i>	20th - Council Meeting
<i>September</i>	17th - Council Meeting
<i>October</i>	15th - Council Meeting
<i>November</i>	19th - Council Meeting



Photo: Phillip Bell

View towards Red Range and Elder Range

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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 (December 2025):

13 OCTOBER 2025

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 1500 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 7 weeks prior to the month of publication.

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

ADVERTISING RATES (EX. GST)

1/8 PAGE \$180 per 3 issues
1/4 PAGE \$270 per 3 issues
1/3 PAGE \$315 per 3 issues
1/2 PAGE \$450 per 3 issues
FULL PAGE \$660 per 3 issues
FLYER (supplied for insertion) \$265 per issue

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

"Zeee-Zeee-Zeee"

NEIL HENDRY



Try not to groan as the alarm goes off at 5:30 in the morning, in the dark. You just want to lie there a bit longer in your toasty bed with the blankets pulled up around your ears. Come on! Just hop out of bed and get dressed. The walk starts at 7:30 and your boots and pack are waiting for you at the front door. You know you will feel better once you are on the Trail. The weather forecast says 50% chance of rain but that's all part and parcel of being a walker.

Hello everyone. I was reintroduced to this morning ritual by joining a couple of E2E groups for walks during June, including the new E2E19. I joined them on their second walk from Cobbler Hill to Tapanappa. There were lots of smiles and happy chatter when we finished. Despite the record-breaking floodwaters coming through from Queensland, down here it has been very dry which meant a delayed start to the walking season. The rains have finally arrived over most of the Trail and the first green flushes of new growth are showing.

I am heartened by people stepping up to take on roles in our volunteer-run organisation. Many members just want to walk the Trail, and that is great! The small walk fees paid by so many members go a long way to raise the funds we need to carry out our role in maintaining the Trail. Many also give their time to support

our enthusiastic teams that carry out the work along the Trail or run the walk programs. This time last year, we had vacancies in key positions on Council and several committees, and walk programs that required larger commitments of time and skill and, I'm pleased to say, these positions have been filled. I will have to admit, though, it does seem to be getting harder. If you have some time up your sleeve and a desire to pay it forward for the Trail, please get in touch.

On the Governance front, the first preliminary steps are underway for a funding request from the Trail Partnership to government. The request covers many aspects from our 5-Year Plan and the Review. It's now in the works. At the same time, Council has accepted a proposal from "Brave and Curious" to develop a concept plan for a new Southern Trailhead that takes into account the expansion of the ferry precinct at Cape Jervis. B&C is the same group which planned and oversaw the construction of the Northern Trailhead, so we are confident and excited by what is to come.

The days are getting longer, now the solstice has passed, and the Trail awaits. Safe walking.

Neil Hendry
President

*"Leave the road. Take the trails."
- Pythagoras 45*

Welcome New Members

The President and the Council would like to extend a warm welcome to the 136 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, Kurna, Peramangk, Ngadjuri, Nukunu and Adnyamathanha peoples.

Our New Council

The Friends AGM on 16th April 2025 at the Torrens Rowing Club was well attended. The reports were well received, and members stayed to chat socially after the event.

Please welcome the incoming Council Members listed below, who will continue that commitment.

President – NEIL HENDRY

Joined FoHT in 2016 and completed the Heysen Trail in 2022 with E2E11. Neil joined the Council as President in 2023 and is continuing in his second term in that role.

Vice President – MELANIE SJOBERG

Joined FoHT in 2008 and completed the Trail in 2014 with E2E4. Elected to Council and the President's role in 2017. In addition, Melanie continues as a member of the Trail Development Standing Committee and a generous contributor to the Friends Trailwalker and social media.

Honorary Secretary - VICKI STEWART

Joined FoHT in 2014 and completed the trail with E2E9. She then joined E2E14 and is completing the trail for a second time. Vicki was a walk leader of the Walk the Yorke trail in 2021/22. Vicki was elected as Secretary in 2022 and is continuing in her second term in that role. Vicki is the initial point of contact for members interested in volunteer activity with FoHT.

Council Members

MARGARET FLETCHER: Joined FoHT in 2013. Completed the Trail with E2E8 in 2018, before starting again as a Walk Coordinator with E2E14 and then in 2022 became Walk Coordinator for the Willunga Basin Trail walks. Margaret was appointed to Council in 2019, elected in 2020 and is a member of the Finance Team.

MARK FLETCHER: Joined FoHT in 2013. Completed the Heysen with E2E8 in 2018, before volunteering as a Walk

Coordinator with E2E14. He was elected to Council in 2023 and accepted the Chair of the Walk Committee at this AGM.

JUDY McADAM:

Joined FoHT in 2011. Starting the Trail with E2E6, she walked with 2 groups in the first year and completed the Trail with E2E5 in 2015. She helped lead E2E10 and took over the Coordinator's role for the last two years completing the Trail a second time in 2021. She was elected to Council in 2021 and is the Membership Secretary.

ROSS McDOUGALL: Joined FoHT in 2019 and is currently walking the Heysen with E2E14. Ross was elected to Council in 2021 and is a member of the Trail Development Standing Committee.

KATHY WRIGHT: Joined FoHT in 2015. She completed the Trail in 2021 with E2E10. She is currently Coordinator for E2E16, a member of the Walking Committee and walking with E2E15 and E2E-2.

Council Members - Newly Elected

Treasurer – RUDY PIECK

Joined FoHT in 2023. Will complete the trail this August, having commenced with an independent group in 2017. Appointed as Treasurer in February this year.

DANIEL JARDINE: Daniel joined FoHT in 2008 and after a couple of walks with E2E3 joined and completed the Trail with E2E4. He has been a member of the Trail Development Committee since 2018 where he coordinates maintenance



Clare Valley
WINE AND WILDERNESS WALK
SATURDAY 30TH AUG TO SATURDAY 6TH SEPT
Join 24 fellow Heysen walkers, exploring and walking the beautiful Clare Valley!
Every walk starts and finishes at a winery.
Go to the Heysen Calendar to register.
Only 9 seats left on the bus, Be quick!
Any enquiries contact Paul DeLaine
heysene2e18@gmail.com

work for the northern half of the Trail. He is also a leader of E2E18.

JOHN WILSON: Joined FoHT in 2021 to commence the Trail with E2E15. Due to finish in 2026. Joined FoHT's Finance and Audit Standing Committee in 2022. Joined FoHT's Reconciliation Committee in 2023.

Council also wishes to express our thanks to the following outgoing members from Council:

Basia Samcewicz, Paul Bond, Barbara Deed, and John Babister.

We appreciate the time and effort they provided over many years and know that they leave the Friends in a much better position to continue its role in developing and maintaining the Trail.

Join Our Team: Office Finance Coordinator Spotlight

If you're passionate about keeping the gears turning behind the scenes and enjoy working with numbers, we'd love to introduce you to an exciting opportunity at The Friends of the Heysen Trail. We're on the lookout for a part-time Office Finance Coordinator to help keep our small but active office running smoothly.

A Day in the Life

Every Friday, our friendly coordinator dives into tasks that keep us ticking: managing finances, reconciling accounts, and helping our team stay organised. Whether you're updating invoices, tallying petty cash, or balancing the weekly bank deposits, your role ensures that our operations remain transparent and efficient.

Key Responsibilities

Financial Oversight – Organise and maintain records: invoices, receipts, sales sheets and petty cash.

Payments & Banking – Prepare and process payments, then bank and reconcile funds weekly.

Digital Data Management – Download and track daily figures from our cash register and EFTPOS systems.

Team Collaboration – Link with the Treasurer and office staff to ensure seamless workflows.

The Ideal Fit

We're seeking someone who is:

- Comfortable with general office processes,
- Proficient in MYOB AccountRight, Microsoft Excel and Word,
- Experienced with bank reconciliation and financial record-keeping,
- Detail-oriented and proactive—someone who loves structure and reliability.

This position is ideal for anyone looking to apply their financial skills in a friendly, community-focused environment on Fridays from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm at our office in Suite 212, Epworth Building, 33 Pirie Street, Adelaide.

Why Join Us?

You'll become a vital part of a volunteer-led team passionate about maintaining and promoting the iconic Heysen Trail. In this behind-the-scenes role, your expertise helps us stay on track and focused on what we do best—supporting walkers and stewards of this incredible natural asset.

Want to Learn More?

Rudy Pieck, our dedicated Treasurer, is happy to chat about this role and answer your questions. Get in touch at email: rudy.pieck@bdo.com.au



Trailthinker Quiz

This year we are celebrating the 25th year of the End-to-End program. Do you know...

1. When was the idea of an E2E walk first proposed to the FoHT committee?
2. What was the first E2E walk originally known as?
3. Who proposed the first E2E walk and who helped with planning the route and logistics?
4. How many walkers were booked to start E2E3 at Cape Jervis, and how many turned up?
5. What year did E2E walks start to run consecutively?
6. Which bus company has provided the longest service to the E2E program?
7. Who is known for wearing a kilt and playing the bagpipes at various hill tops on the Trail?
8. When was the first E2E minus walk?
9. When was the first TRAILWALKER published?
10. Who was the Patron of FoHT 2016 - 2021?

Attention Landholders

Heysen Trail Landholder Agreements Notice

The Department for Environment & Water (DEW) has advised The Friends that the Landholder Licence Agreements (5-year) will need renewal before December 2025. The DEW Leasing Team has started work on mapping and updating information needed to issue new Agreements.

Previously, Licence Agreements were issued through standard mail. If you would like to receive the new Agreement via email please send your details to DEW Officer Carla Montgomerie. Carla is also happy to answer any questions or issues about the process. Email: Carla.Montgomerie@sa.gov.au.

Reminder that the DEW State Trails Officer, Jarrah Bailey is available if you need to discuss Heysen Trail management issues (other than general maintenance that The Friends volunteers carry out). Email: Jarrah.Bailey@sa.gov.au or Mobile 0448 363 263



End-to-End Awards

Congratulations to the walkers who received End-to-End awards for completing the Trail up until the **end of June 2025**.

Wendy Cleggett

Sarah Coolen

Bronwyn Copestake

Richard Connolly

Barbara Deed

Jo Evans

Jeanette Gutekunst

Glenys Hunt

Nicki Jackson

Malcolm Kite

Sian Lloyd

Alex Molloy

2025 Honorary Membership Awarded to John Babister

We're thrilled to share that John Babister has been awarded Honorary Membership of The Friends of the Heysen Trail – a fitting recognition of his years of generous service, warm leadership, and deep commitment to our community and the Trail.

Since joining The Friends in 2012, John has brought not only energy and enthusiasm but also a steady, thoughtful presence across so many areas of our work. He began as a keen walker, quickly stepped into leadership, and has been making a lasting difference ever since.

John led the E2E11 group from 2016 to 2022, helping the group navigate everything from remote trail sections to the disruption of the COVID break. He earned a strong reputation as a collaborative, supportive leader who quietly encouraged others to get involved—many of whom have since taken up volunteer roles themselves.

His passion for walking has seen him complete over 300 walks, spanning groups E2E5 through 14 (and even the quirky “Minus 2”!). He's led day walks, supported other groups, helped members catch up sections, and served on the Walk Committee for six years, where he was also instrumental in training new walk leaders.

Away from the walking program, John has made equally valuable contributions in trail maintenance. Since 2016, he's been a dedicated

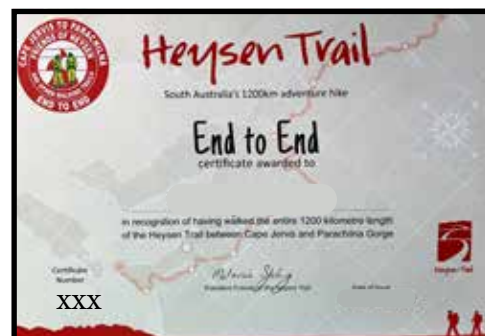
Section Leader, helping maintain parts of the southern Mount Lofty Ranges and building respectful relationships with landholders along the way—an often unseen but vital part of keeping the Trail open and safe.

John joined The Friends Council in 2020 and has been a thoughtful voice on a wide range of issues ever since. His encouragement played a quiet but important role in supporting our current President to step into leadership, reflecting the way John uplifts those around him.

He's also been a wonderful ambassador for The Friends, regularly volunteering at the Hiking Expo and other outreach events, where he has helped attract new members, walk leaders, Section Leaders, and even our current Trailwalker Editor.

Perhaps most importantly, John is widely respected for his personal qualities—his calm integrity, his compassion, his selflessness, and his ability to tune into a group's energy and needs. These intangible qualities are at the heart of great leadership and a healthy, connected volunteer community.

We're all so pleased to see John's contributions acknowledged with this well-deserved Honorary Membership. He truly embodies the spirit of The Friends, and we thank him wholeheartedly for everything he's done.



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).

Mark Your Achievement and Help The Friends Advocate for Improvements.

heysentrail.asn.au/friends/end-to-end-certificate/

2026 Calendar



Photo Submissions

Want to share that special moment you captured on the Trail? Submit your photos to the Trailwalker editor for a chance to feature in our Heysen Trail 2026 calendar. If we include one of your photos, you'll receive one free of charge.

Handy Hints:

Must feature the Heysen Trail. Trailmarkers are a great way to include the logo. Hikers in the shot are good for showing context, but probably not close ups. Landscape only shots are also valued. We like to show off the whole Trail and often get a lot of submissions from the two ends of the Trail. Maybe consider something from middle or one of our hospitable towns?

We are looking for a maximum of four photos to be submitted per person.

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

Email submissions NOW to:

trailwalker@heysentrail.asn.au

Last chance for submissions will be **Monday 1st of September.**



Accommodation Nunn Road, Myponga along the Heysen Trail

2 self contained cabins with queen bed and single sofa ~ Reverse cycle air-conditioning
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

Heysen Trail Maintenance Updates from *Melanie Sjoberg*, The Friends Trail Development Committee.

The Friends volunteer Trail Development Committee (TDC) and Activity/Section Leaders have been dedicated to improving the Heysen Trail since 1986. There are several changes and snippets of information for walkers looking to walk part or all of the Trail during the 2025 season.

The next generation of volunteers continue to make plans to implement core maintenance and add improvements where funds allow. Say hello if you come across them on the Trail.

See an Issue? Please notify The Friends (heysentrail@heysentrail.asn.au) if you do find something that needs fixing. Along a 1200km trail it's a big help to our volunteers if you supply a photo with location.

MT REMARKABLE AFTER THE FIRES

The Heysen Trail on Nukunu Country/ Mt Remarkable National Park was severely damaged during the February bushfire that closed the park. Once the CFS assessed it was safe to enter, a team of The Friends volunteers inspected and reinstated markers and arrows between Grays Hut, Alligator Gorge and Stony Creek.

National Parks has reopened the Park and Trail. Walkers should exercise caution as the burnt areas may be slippery, damaged trees remain in spots and the Trail is harder to locate visually. In early June a team of volunteers from Retired Active Bushwalkers SA spent several days on more detailed maintenance through Mt Remarkable as well as moving a stile at Huddleston on the trip up.

Stony Creek Walk-in Site: through-hikers should note that the infrastructure was badly damaged so there is currently no water tank and the ground is charred. The Friends will liaise with Parks about reinstating infrastructure, although it is unlikely to be completed this season. Hikers



are encouraged to divert to Wilmington to resupply and stay overnight, which also supports the town.

NEW MYLOR HIKE-IN SITE

Through-hikers have been challenged for overnight options after camping was no longer allowed at Mylor Oval. The Friends are incredibly grateful for an offer of space from a supportive local landholder. After safety checks and finalising arrangements, our volunteers are busy clearing vegetation and installing a tank and platform. Details will be available on The Friends website when the project is complete.

CHAIN OF PONDS

Patience and grit are key ingredients for Heysen Trail volunteers. In 2021 volunteer Section Leader Peter began planning a Chain of Ponds reroute to skirt an upgrade along part of North-East Road. Delay ... delay ... delay: due to land access, design and engineering, approval processes and volunteer availability.

In 2025 our hardy shed volunteers constructed the approved structure; then a second team with support from crane contractors eased it into its final resting place. Peter hopes it will last a long time. Please show your gratitude as you next cross this addition to assist access to the Trail.

WATER TANKS

South Australia is in one of its driest periods since records began according to the Bureau of Meteorology, so it's essential that hikers respect these conditions.

Did you know that The Friends



volunteers have funded and installed more than 15 rainwater tanks over the last decade? During the past 2 years enthusiastic volunteers have now funded and rolled out remote tank monitoring. During 2025, The Friends volunteers will continue to roll-out monitoring on more tanks thanks to grant funding received from the Friends of Parks & Nature.

It's now simpler to check the levels for many of the tanks - just scroll down to the red banner on The Friends website and click on the link: heysentrail.asn.au/heysen-trail/water-tank-levels/

STILES & MAINTENANCE

With the Trail traversing much private land stiles are essential to keeping walkers on track and protecting farmers' fences. The Friends trail volunteers are gradually replacing old wooden stiles with galvanised metal for a longer life. Thanks to the many teams of volunteers who've been carrying out general maintenance in the lead up to the walk season so the rest of us may enjoy the Trail.

Activity/Section Leaders organising these trip include: Adam Matthews, Carl Greenstreet, Chris Finn, Daniel Jardine, Dom Henschke, John Babister, John Newland, Peter Deacon, Peter Simons, Robert Smedley, Rod Ruediger, Simon Cameron, and a group from Retired Active Bushwalkers led by Don McDonald.

REROUTES: LATEST UPDATE TO THE HEYSEN TRAIL GPX AND INTERACTIVE MAP

The Heysen Trail gpx file has been updated to include all reroutes since



the last release in February 2024. The Friends website has instructions for downloading the updated file: see "maps and gps page".

Trail changes include five reroutes and a new spur trail:

- Mapsheet 1D: Willowburn reroute of 1.1km which takes the Trail along a series of fence lines on the Willowburn property.
- Mapsheet 1D/2A: permanent re-route at Chookarloo Campsite, Kuitpo Forest.
- Mapsheet 2B: a minor re-route of the Trail through Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens.
- Mapsheet 3B: a new spur trail north of Kapunda to a campsite and pub at Allendale North.
- Mapsheet 4C: a re-route on Olive Road, Spalding East to get some of the Heysen Trail off of the main highway.



- Mapsheet 5B: in August 2024 a re-route was created to get some of the Heysen Trail back on land it was previously on prior to May 2021.

Please note the revised gpx file does not include temporary reroutes such as:

- Around Forestry SA logging operations in Kuitpo and Mt Crawford Forests (Mapsheets 1D, 2A & 2D) that arise frequently at short notice.
- The Maryvale reroute, south of Hamilton (Mapsheet 3B)
- The Goyder Windfarm reroute, east of Huppatz Hut (Mapsheet 3D)

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Apart from the Annual Fire Danger Season closure, there may be local temporary closures in place for other activities such as feral animal control,



prescribed burns, logging or special events. The Friends list those reported to our Office, however it is a hiker's responsibility to check sources.

- Heysen Trail website: heysentrail.asn.au/friends/closures/
- Parks: parks.sa.gov.au/know-before-you-go

SOUTHERN OCEAN RETREATS

Deep Creek Conservation Park

Renowned as the crown jewel of the Fleurieu Peninsula, Deep Creek National Park offers spectacular coastal views, tranquil forests, and abundant wildlife. Make the most of your visit by staying in one of our charming cottages nestled within the park. With easy access to a variety of graded walking trails - including the iconic Heysen Trail - you can explore at your own pace. From cozy retreats to family-friendly stays, there's a cottage to suit every style and budget.



- Forestry SA: forestrysa.com.au/
- SA Water: sawater.com.au/reservoir-reserves/activities/walking
- Lastly, please respect signage displayed by Private landholders: important information on biosecurity, gates, lambing or related farm activities.

WEBSITE

The number of people hiking the Heysen Trail has grown rapidly since covid and along with this a significant rise in searches on The Friends Heysen Trail website. The Friends Council has allocated funds to engage consultants that are tasked to review the operation and accessibility of the website. It will hopefully deliver a new design and updated functionality in time for the 2026 Walk Season.

In the short term, there are improvements to the Walk Selector Pages, including:

- Re-routes – current re-routes (permanent and temporary) are listed for each of the 61 'day walks' between Cape Jervis to Parachilna. Please check the relevant Walk Selector page for any reroutes before you go.
- Vehicle access to End to End points – some suggested day walk 'start and finish' points don't have close access to a public road. The Walk Selector pages now include an advisory note about options for walkers wanting to locate close vehicle access points.

HELP THE FRIENDS TO KEEP THE TRAIL ALIVE

The Heysen Trail has survived and improved thanks to dedicated volunteers and funds from members and supporters. If you are walking the Trail or thinking about a future hike on the Trail, please contribute to this special nature experience in the diverse landscape of SA.

VOLUNTEER: email interest to The Friends: heysentrail@heysentrail.asn.au

JOIN: heysentrail.asn.au/friends/membership/

DONATE: heysentrail.asn.au/shop/donation/



Photo: Simon's team with 4WD access to Mt Arden.



Photo: Simon's team working on a stile at Mt Arden.



Photo: Simon's team Mt Arden water tank being fixed.



Photo: New stile installed at Huddleston by Retire Active SA

Friends Season Walk Programme 2025

	1ST WEEKEND	2ND WEEKEND	3RD WEEKEND	4TH WEEKEND	5TH WEEKEND
AUG	SAT 2 AUG Sanderston Trail Adam Matthews	SAT 9 AUG Cleland Paul Gill	SAT 16 - SUN 17 AUG Lavender Trail Gillian Stevens	SUN 24 AUG Mark Oliphant CP Rosemary Hayward	SAT 30 AUG - SAT 6 SEP Clare Wine & Wilderness Trail 2025 Paul Delaine
	SUN 3 AUG Torrens Valley Peter Clark		SAT 16 AUG Hallett Cove Karen Baker		
	SUN 3 AUG Wattle Park to Horsnell Gully Kristyn Willson	SUN 10 AUG Deep Creek Circuit Judy McAdam	SUN 17 AUG Sea to Summit Paul Frost	SUN 24 AUG Three Parks Panorama Dean Mortimer	SUN 31 AUG Cleland Peter Deacon
SEP	SAT 30 AUG - SAT 6 SEP Clare Valley Wine & Wilderness Trail 2025 Paul Delaine	WED 10 SEP Summertown John Babister	SUN 21 SEP Willunga Noeleen Smith	SUN 28 SEP Montacute John Babister	N/A
	SUN 7 SEP Scott Creek Noeleen Smith	SAT 13 SEP Blackhill CP Paul Gill			
	SUN 7 SEP Sturt Gorge River Kristyn Willson	SUN 14 SEP Jupiter Creek & Kuitpo Adam Matthews	SUN 21 SEP Tungkillo Loop Adam Matthews		
OCT	N/A	SAT 11 OCT Belair Paul Gill	N/A	N/A	N/A
		SUN 12 OCT Cleland John Babister			

● TRAIL WALKER
 ● TRAIL STARTER
 ● SPECIAL EVENTS
 ● LAVENDER TRAIL
 ● WILLUNGA BASIN TRAIL

Version released 20th July 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

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End-to-End Season Programme 2025

	1ST WEEKEND	2ND WEEKEND	3RD WEEKEND	4TH WEEKEND	5TH WEEKEND
AUG	N/A	E2E 14 SAT 9 - SUN 17 AUG Old Wonoka - Parachilna Gorge		E2E 15 SAT 23 - SUN 24 AUG Dutchman's Stern - Eyre Depot - Warren Gorge	
		E2E 15 SAT 9 - SUN 10 AUG Woolshed Flat - Quorn - Dutchman's Stern	E2E 16 SAT 16 - SUN 17 AUG Oban - Bundaleer Reservoir - Curnows Hut	E2E 17 SAT 23 - SUN 24 AUG Kapunda - Hamilton - Peters Hill	E2E 19 SUN 31 AUG Balquhiddie - Waitpinga
		E2E 17 SUN 10 AUG Tanunda - Kapunda		E2E 18 SUN 24 AUG Mylor - Cleland	
SEP	N/A	E2E 15 SAT 13 - SUN 14 SEP Warren Gorge - Buckaringa Gorge - Calabrinda Creek	E2E 16 SAT 20 - SUN 21 SEP Curnows Hut - Raeville - Locks Ruin		
		E2E 17 SAT 13 - SUN 14 SEP Peters Hill - Gerkie Gap - Webb Gap		E2E 17 SAT 27 - SUN 28 SEP Webb Gap - Burra Rd - Worlds End	N/A
		E2E 18 SAT 13 - SUN 14 SEP Cleland - Montecute - Cudlee Creek	E2E 19 SAT 20 - SUN 21 SEP Waitpinga - Dump Rd - Inman Valley		
OCT	E2E 16 SAT 4 - SUN 5 OCT Locks Ruin - Bowman Park - Mt Zion	E2E 19 SUN 12 OCT Inman Valley - Myponga	N/A	N/A	N/A

heysentrail.asn.au/walks

Version released 20th July 2025



SOUTHERN OCEAN WALK
the Wild South Coast Way specialists



We specialise in small group pack-free walks along one of the most spectacular sections of the Heysen Trail. If you've always wanted to experience this stunning stretch of coastline in comfort why not join one of our bespoke tours. Our walks include return Adelaide transfers, comfortable homestead accommodation each night, gourmet meals & regional wines, local guides & use of equipment. A proud SA family owned business with over 30 years experience on the Fleurieu Peninsula.



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, what to bring and details of walk grades, visit heysentrail.asn.au/walks

Walks Registration

Register for a walk either online at heysentrail.asn.au/walks or by phoning the office on 8212 6299. Walk registration closing dates and times are listed on each walk event page, accessed via the website walk calendar.

Walk Cancellations

If you need to withdraw from a booked walk, please notify the leader or the office as soon as possible. The easiest way is to login to your account and withdraw from the walk.

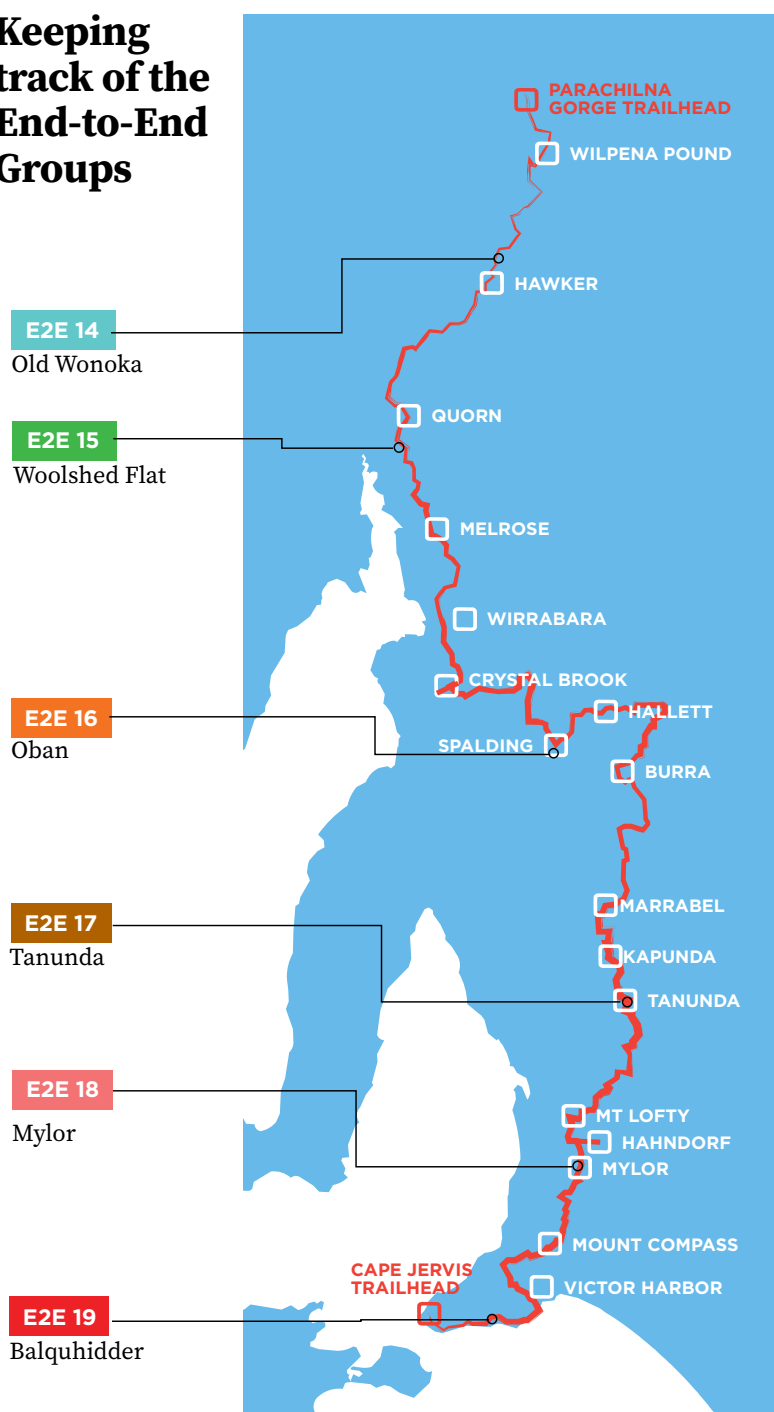
End-to-End walks are not subject to a weather forecast temperature limit, however the walk leader may decide to cancel or amend the event if a weather event is deemed to present a high risk.

Trail Starter, Trail Walker and Trail Rambler walks will be cancelled if the forecast temperature for Adelaide is equal to or higher than 32°C. Be aware that walks are automatically cancelled when the forecast weather on the day of the walk is for severe storms with damaging winds as per the 7pm ABC News on the day prior to the walk. Refer to abc.net.au/news/weather or bom.gov.au/sa. Your Walk Leader will send an email to all walkers to advise of the cancellation. We suggest you check your emails before leaving to join the walk.

Bushfire policy

If a Total Fire Ban is declared by the CFS in the Fire Ban District where the walk event is being held, the walk event will be cancelled. In such a case walk fees will be refunded.

Keeping track of the End-to-End Groups



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hours
throughout 2024

A Year of Connection and Care on the Heysen Trail

NEIL HENDRY & TAMMY MAIN

*Views to the Red and Elder Ranges
Photo: Phillip Bell*

CELEBRATING OUR 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

We kicked things off with a look back at the major moments of the past year. Here's a snapshot of what we achieved together:

WHAT WENT WELL

- Northern Trailhead was completed and officially opened—a huge win!
- Work on our website redevelopment got underway, bringing us closer to a refreshed digital home for the Friends.
- The Heysen Trail had a moment in the spotlight on ABC's Backroads, showcasing our trail to a national audience.
- A governance review was completed, paving the way for stronger leadership structures.
- We saw better communication between Friends and government departments—especially around trail closures.
- And how's this for community spirit? We welcomed a new Heysen Friendly Pub in North Allendale!

WHAT CHALLENGED US

Like any good trail walk, there were a few uphill climbs:

- After a theft at the Shed, we had to invest in new equipment and upgrade our security.
- Ongoing issues like biosecurity, out-of-season use, and feral animal control created some uncertainty around trail access.
- Rising costs meant we needed to think carefully about our funding.
- And we're still finding it tough to recruit enough Walk Leaders—a vital part of what keeps our walking program thriving.

VOLUNTEERS: THE HEARTBEAT OF THE TRAIL

One of the most inspiring parts of the AGM was hearing just how much time our volunteers have given.

In 2024, Friends members contributed over 8,500 hours of their time—that's a whopping \$422,490 worth of value, based on Volunteering SA & NT's hourly rate.

TRAIL WORK: KEEPING THE HEYSEN IN TOP SHAPE

Our dedicated maintenance crews were out in force again this year. Some of the highlights:

- Wandillah Shelter was completed.
- Toilet upgrades rolled out at Mt Elm, Blackjacks, Huppatz and

Wandillah.

- Protective fencing installed at Hawks Nest.
- Regular upkeep at Rossiters Hut and Bowmans Hut.
- 35 new stiles built, plus platforms, tank stands and more.

We also continued the tank telemetry rollout (now up to 25 units!), cut back vegetation, refreshed signage, and handled reroutes in areas like Spalding, Kuitpo Forest, Mt Compass and Crystal Brook.

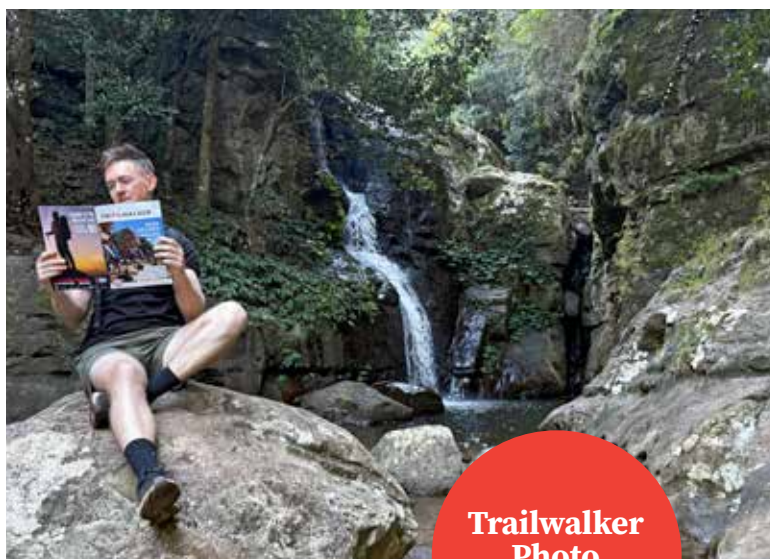
WALKING TOGETHER IN 2024

Our walking program remained a cornerstone of our community. With more than 1,400 walkers across all programs and a whopping 190 walking days, people truly embraced the trail for fun, health, and connection.

End-to-End groups continued their northward journeys, and we also ran:

- Two Lavender Trail walks
- Willunga Basin Trail
- Two Clare Valley Wine & Wilderness groups
- Great South West Walk

...plus our Trailstarters, Trailwalkers, Summertime walks, and Walking Expo.



Trailwalker Photo Competition

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

Josh West catching up on Heysen Trail news while at Cascade Falls, Macquarie Pass NP.

GETTING THE WORD OUT

Spreading the love for the Heysen Trail is something we care about deeply.

- We published three issues of Trailwalker magazine (1,500 printed, 900 digital).
- Our 2025 calendar sold 243 of its 400 copies (the rest are now helping promote the Trail!).

Social media continued to grow:

- Facebook: 10,771 followers

- Instagram: 2,368 followers

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

The coming year promises to be just as full of adventure. Some of our big goals include:

- Completing the website and logo refresh ahead of the 2026 walking season.
- Completing a new campsite at Mylor.

- Replacing damaged infrastructure after the Mt Remarkable bushfire.

- Adding another 15 tank telemetry units to help manage water supplies more efficiently.

Here's to another great year of walking, volunteering, sharing stories, and looking after the trail we love.



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 Fiftener 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



Old Mount Bryan East School (mid-north/Ngadjuri Country)

A glimpse into the Trail's legacy by *Melanie Sjoberg*.

Have you experienced the old Mt Bryan East School on your Heysen Hike?

Arriving on a misty, wintery afternoon as low grey clouds roll down nearby Mt Bryan the school building is a welcoming sight and equally enjoyable on a balmy day although that's much less common in this windfarm region. Apart from the decaying church next door, the school is surrounded by long stretches of farmland and an occasional sheep may graze near the fence as you shake off the pack. If you're on a full through-hike the spirits really lift as you realise it's roughly halfway and you can nestle overnight in relative calm.

But how did this delightful hiker hut appear in an undoubtedly isolated mid-north spot?

BACKSTORY

The Mt Bryan East School was built in 1884 under the SA Education Department and opened in 1885. The school then operated for 62 years until, like many small regional towns, a declining population in the area forced its closure in 1947.

The building remained vacant for many years, until it was acquired by the Burra Branch of the National Trust

in the early 1970s. Sadly, the Trust lacked the funds to undertake any restoration, so it remained desolate. In 1990 it was then transferred to the (former) Department of Recreation and Sport which coordinated renovations with grant funding from the SA Department of Health. The Hallett District Council and The Friends of Heysen Trail volunteers also supported the project.

On 27 May 1995, the (then) Minister for Health and Aboriginal Affairs, Dr Michael Armitage, officially opened the Mt Bryan East School for overnight use by Heysen Trail hikers and Mawson Trail cyclists.

The schoolhouse has continued to shelter hikers for 30 years and of course been tenderly maintained by Friends of Heysen Trail volunteers. In 2022, the Burra Men's Shed assisted The Friends with repairs to windows and fittings.

As part of the Heysen Trail, the old schoolhouse now falls within the management authority of the Department for Environment and Water in partnership with The Friends.

Did you know the school has another claim to fame?

SIR HUBERT WILKINS

The Wilkins family was one of the first European settlers in the area and produced the school's most accomplished student, Sir Hubert Wilkins (31/10/1888-30/11/1958). His remarkable achievements include: war correspondent, photographer, polar explorer, naturalist, geographer, climatologist and aviator.



Wilkins' incredible life story is captured in an exhibition launched at the National Motor Museum, Birdwood on Sunday 22 June 2025. The centrepiece is Wilkins' 1939 Chevrolet "Woody" and polar exploration sled along with fascinating images from his diverse career. Several books have been written about his inventive and adventurous life and he is listed in the Australian Dictionary of Biography: <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/wilkins-sir-george-hubert-9099>

Walking on Kurna Country

By *Simon Cameron*

When British colonists arrived in 1836, they weren't the first outsiders. Sealers and fur traders had already left their mark — and their scars. Stories like that of “Sally,” a Kurna woman taken across to Western Australia by sealers, underscore why the Kurna may have been cautious when ships anchored at Holdfast Bay.

For weeks, they stayed out of sight. But the newcomers had landed on rich tidal grounds — Patawilya — and eventually, contact was inevitable. Initial encounters were surprisingly positive. The colonists, many of them idealistic men with a philanthropic view of Indigenous peoples, wrote admiringly of “noble savages” and “manly bearing.”

South Australia's colonisation was unique. It was the only Australian colony created by an Act of Parliament, and its charter explicitly promised protection for Aboriginal inhabitants. For a time, goodwill held. Historians such as Skye Krichauff report that Kurna families even camped alongside the settlers at Holdfast Bay and in the area that became the City of Adelaide.

CONFLICT AND COMPLEXITY

Despite these hopeful beginnings, tensions simmered. Six months after

settlement, two colonists were taken before a magistrate for stealing spears. The magistrate didn't hold back, chastising those “who call themselves civilised” for exploiting the Aboriginal people.

Accidental injury also occurred. One settler, out hunting, scattered buckshot over two sleeping Kurna men. The colonists compensated them with twenty loaves of bread — a gesture that, surprisingly, was accepted. Such exchanges highlight how quickly the Kurna adapted, recognising value in the settlers' goods: flour, clothing, metal tools. They learned English, engaged with newcomers, and in return, expected fair treatment.

But new alliances brought new problems. Wealth and novelty attracted neighbouring groups from the east and north, leading to intertribal conflict that the settlers neither fully understood nor recorded in detail.

While direct conflict between Kurna and settlers appears minimal, it's difficult to know whether this was due to Kurna diplomacy, low population numbers, or devastating early waves of disease. Smallpox scars were already visible in 1836. By 1840, Kurna people were being pushed out of Adelaide by vagrancy laws.



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The Heysen Trail follows alongside
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DISPERSED, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

The following decades were unkind. Missions relocated the Kurna far from their country, mixing them with other language groups. Cultural identity became blurred. By 1929, the last fluent speaker of the Kurna language had died, and many believed the Kurna people to be extinct.

But language, culture, and identity are not so easily erased. German missionaries had recorded Kurna vocabulary and stories in painstaking detail. And although early settlers didn't even bother to record what the Kurna people called themselves — a silence that still stings — neighbouring groups referred to them as "Kurna," meaning "person."

The word survived. The culture endured.

THE TJILBRUKE REVIVAL

In the early 1970s, a quiet cultural revival began. Journalist Bill Reschke launched the Tjilbruke Appeal, aiming to raise awareness of Kurna history through a Dreamtime story about Tjilbruke, a creator ancestor who carried his nephew's body along the coastline, shedding tears that formed freshwater springs.

Reschke enlisted sculptor John Dowie to create a memorial. Dowie found a set of stones in a paddock near the Adelaide Hills — "waiting for me to pick up," he said. These stones became the Tjilbruke Megalith, placed on a cliff overlooking Tulukudangk Spring at Marino. Though the Kurna name was missing from the inscription, Kurna elders later embraced the site as a marker of their enduring presence.

As Reschke wrote, "For the first time in Australia, we stand on the threshold of creating a worthwhile memorial to the proud people who owned the land before us."

A LIVING LEGACY

Today, Kurna people live and work on their ancestral land. In 1987, Kurna Plains School opened to teach Kurna language and culture. In 2021, Ngutu College followed with a vision to embed Aboriginal knowledge in modern education.

That same Kurna language — once declared extinct — now has over 100 fluent speakers, enough to carry it forward. The megalith at Marino stands not just as a monument to the past, but a symbol of renewal.

As I walk the Heysen Trail and pass by my local Tjilbruke memorial, I remember not just the stories of loss, but those of resilience. I remember a culture that nearly vanished — and is growing once more.

When I acknowledge Kurna Country, I pay respect not only to their ancestors, but to their survival.

TRAVELLING TO BLINMAN?

ALPANA STATION

EST. 1878

TRANSPORT SERVICE AND ACCOMMODATION

David and Sally Henery of Alpana Station Blinman offer a friendly, flexible and accredited **transport service** to the best end of the Heysen Trail: Wilpena, Blinman, Parachilna Gorge Trailhead, for individual walkers or groups. Transfers to other destinations by arrangement.

Alpana Station offers:

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- **Powered sites** with ensuite bathroom facilities for caravans/campers
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'Boot Camp' for New Heysen Trail Maintenance Volunteers

Compiled by Adam Matthews, Activity Leader.

The annual Trail Development Committee (TDC) Section Leaders gathering in March 2025 also invited newly interested volunteers to attend an introduction to trail maintenance and to meet existing Activity and Section Leaders. It proved to be a highly positive exercise, as all attendees were connected with a project or section and quickly got involved.

What might they be doing? Anything from trail marking, stile building, pruning vegetation, installing tanks and shelters — or even replacing toilets that blew away!

One group was offered the chance to attend a “boot camp,” tackling much-needed work along a large section of the trail between Crystal Brook and south of Burra. The Friends’ Annual Hut and Infrastructure Survey had identified a number of smaller issues spread across several huts and hike-in sites. A plan was developed to spend four days addressing these.

Volunteers soon discovered that it wasn’t all work and no play — the trip began with a traditional bakery stop before heading to Bowman’s Hut, on the outskirts of Crystal Brook. A cleaning blitz, inside and out (including gutters and downpipes), got things off to a strong start.

Next stop: Curnow’s Hut, located near Bundaleer Forest south of Jamestown. Volunteers quickly adapted to assigned tasks: cutting out termite-damaged timber and replacing bunk parts, digging out a blocked kitchen drainage

pipe, and reconnecting new sections with proper fittings. The toilet roof and guttering also needed repairs, likely due to a fallen branch.

On Day 2, at Mt Bryan East, the team undertook a general clean-up and removed rubbish from the main building. At the toilet block, gutters and downpipes were cleared of leaves. Two new whirlybirds were installed, replacing broken plastic ones on the toilet vent pipes.

Day 3 saw the team at the old Hallett Railway Station. This site is kindly monitored by the friendly folk from the Hallett Store, who had reported a Soapberry Bug infestation. The team wasn’t sure what to expect — but apart from a few stray bugs, the site was almost spotless. We suspect the trail angels from the store had been at work! A general tidy-up followed, and then we moved on.

Wandillah, north of Burra, was our next stop. Here, a new leaf strainer was installed on top of the rainwater tank and new signage was placed on the shelter.

Huppatz Hut, south of Burra, was our final destination for the trip and required yet another set of skills. Some carpentry work was completed, and a new leaf strainer was added to the downpipe system. The main task, however, was to re-lay loose slate flooring to reduce trip hazards and improve amenity. The more we looked, the more we found — but with limited materials and time, we focused on the most urgent repairs. After cleaning and rebedding the loose slates, we returned the next day to mortar them in and complete the job.

This trip covered a mixed bag of tasks that help keep the huts and hike-in sites at a humble but comfortable standard. Led by Adam M., the new volunteers showed great interest and energy — with Steve, Peter, and Dirk all pitching in with skill, enthusiasm, and a can-do attitude.

VOLUNTEER: email interest to The Friends: heysentrail@heysentrail.asn.au



What hiking book are you reading?

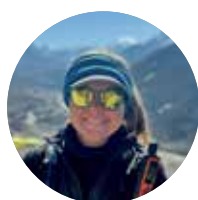
ASK A HIKER



'Bewildered' isn't your typical adventure memoir. Laura Waters tells it straight—warts, worries and small wins. This is a story of the emotional terrain walked before and during her Te Araroa hike, where anxiety and self-belief collide. Expect more Bridget Jones than John Chapman.

JOSH WEST

Friends Volunteer



I am loving this Matt Collins book, **'Fifty Things To Do With A Penknife'** I'm reading at the moment! I'm taking it away with me to a little cabin in a vineyard in the Barossa this weekend! When I come out I will be lining up to be on the 4th Season of ALONE AUSTRALIA~!

JULIA PATTEN

Friends Volunteer



'The Salt Path' by Raynor Winn is the story of the author and her husband as they hike the South West Coast Path in England, and come to terms with her husband's terminal illness, their homelessness and poverty. It is a story of resilience, overcoming adversity, the joy, the beauty and healing power of nature.

BARBARA SEDGLEY

Friends Volunteer



'Grandma Gatewood's Walk', by Ben Montgomery, a true story of a 67yr old woman who after looking after her grandchildren for many years decided she'd walk the Appalachian Trail. Set in 1955 without any flash hiking equipment and no previous hiking experience she took on one of the longer trails in the world. An easy read that once I started reading found hard to put down.

ADAM MATTHEWS

Friends Walk Leader



I reread Rebecca Solnit's **'Wanderlust - a History of Walking'** this year. She examines how walking changed from the major form of transportation to a search for the sublime escape, starting in the 18th Century. Who couldn't be impressed by the estimate that Wordsworth walked 180,000 miles in his lifetime. Suburbanisation and retreat from the wild prompting a new romance with stepping out to rediscover it is the current phase.

SIMON CAMERON

Friends Volunteer



'Wanderers - A History of women walking' by Kerri Andrews. What a wonderful gift for a girl hiker! I got to follow the footsteps of Dorothy Wordsworth, Virginia Woolf, Anais Nin and other luminaries through the poetry and passion of the ancient tradition of finding your own path. Highly recommend!

NICCY PALLANT

Friends Member



If Sherlock Holmes went hiking, this would be his bible. **'The Walker's Guide to Outdoor Clues and Signs'** turns every twig, cloud, and bird into a breadcrumb of brilliance. Tristan Gooley makes nature feel like it's whispering secrets—just don't be surprised if you start talking back to the moss. Note: it was written in the northern hemisphere.

TAMMY MAIN

Trailwalker Editor

Trailthinker Quiz Answers

1. 1999 2. Millennium Walk 3. David Beaton and Julian Monfries 4. 144 and 121 5. 2009 6. Genesis 7. Simon Cameron 8. 2012-2015 9. July 1986 10. His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le Governor of South Australia.

Volunteer Profile: Glen Chambers

WHEN DID YOU FIRST BECOME INVOLVED WITH THE FRIENDS?

I joined the Friends back in 2015, and kicked off my walking with the E2E11 group the following year, starting down at Cape Jervis. Before that, I'd done a few bits and pieces up around Aroona and Parachilna, mostly with the Adelaide Bushwalkers, and some solo sections here and there too. Just always had a love for getting out on the trail.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER WITH THE FRIENDS?

When you've had the chance to be part of something pretty special, you naturally want to give a bit back so others can enjoy it too.

WHAT ARE SOME ACTIVITIES IN WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN INVOLVED?

After finishing the Heysen Trail, I put my hand up to help look after the first couple of sections, from Cape Jervis through to Tapanappa. That stretch gets a lot of families and new walkers, so I figured it's a good place to lend a hand and help folks get off to a good start.

Bit of work involved – walking the track regularly, replacing any dodgy posts or markers, fixing up stiles, clearing fallen branches, that sort of thing. There's always a bush or two getting a bit overfriendly, so we trim things back to keep it safe and easy to follow.

I don't always do it on my own. We've got a Facebook group where we post upcoming maintenance days and see who's keen to come along. Walkers often let us know if they spot a problem on the trail, and the End-to-End walk leaders also report back after each section.

Our E2E11 group chipped in to say thanks to the leaders who guided us over the years – we raised enough to help restore Marschalls Hut and put up a commemorative plaque. It's been a good little project, guided by a skilled craftsman, with us lot doing the heavy lifting. Spent a few nights out at the Hut with mates during that job – great memories.

Now I've signed on again, this time to help guide the E2E17 mob from Cape Jervis all the way up to Parachilna. We're aiming to finish in 2028. Should be a good journey.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE HEYSEN TRAIL TOWN/REGION?

Favourite region? That's a tough one. I've got a real soft spot for the Flinders – there's just something about that sense of remoteness that gets under your skin. But I also really enjoy the stretch from Kapunda to Burra – walking through the Tothill Range and Hallelujah Gorge is something else.



WHAT WAS YOUR FONDEST MEMORY ON THE HEYSEN?

So far, I'd say it was the celebration dinner on the last day of finishing our first Heysen Trail journey. We all got dressed up in our penguin suits and just sat back, letting it all sink in – the walking, the laughs, the whole experience. A pretty special moment.

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

Up in South East Queensland, it's got to be Lamington National Park. That place is magic – ancient rainforest, ridgeline tracks with cracking views, waterfalls around every corner. You can really lose yourself up there in the best kind of way.



Located in the Hallett Township, adjacent to the Hallett Country Store.

Two self-contained rooms with queen bed, single bed, ensuite, reverse cycle air conditioning, microwave, toaster, kettle, fridge, TV with tea, coffee and milk provided.

Onsite kitchen/laundry with washer and dryer, benchtop oven, utensils and fridge.

Enquiries: Chris & Susan
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Six Days in SA's 'Badlands': A journey Through Grit and Grandeur

AMANDA HOFFRICHTER

*Photos: Amanda Hoffrichter
Sunrise at Dutchman Hut.*

When volunteer hiker Simon Cameron calls a stretch of the Heysen Trail “South Australia’s Badlands,” he’s not exaggerating. This is a rugged and remote slice of the outback, brimming with natural drama and history, but not for the faint-hearted. For others, like myself, it’s a challenging, beautiful, and deeply rewarding six-day trek through some of the most underappreciated terrain in Australia.

This adventure began on a whim—spurred by a Facebook post from the Heysen Trail community. Our plan? Hike from Wilmington to Bobby Creek Road, just north of Quorn. Two days walking northbound (NOBO), then four days southbound (SOBO) back into Quorn.

DAY 1: WILMINGTON TO CATNINGA SHED

The first challenge was simply reaching the trailhead: a stretch of sealed road from Wilmington. Once on the Heysen Trail proper, we traversed farmland, sheep yards,

and dusty tracks beside the highway toward Horrocks Pass Memorial. An unexpected medical emergency near the memorial (thankfully within mobile range) meant an ambulance was called, and only two of us continued.

With dry tanks at Hawks Nest, we were glad we’d brought a full day’s water. The landscape—rolling hills, fence lines, and dry farmland—was as exhausting as it was picturesque. We pushed through into dusk, grateful for the FarOut app and reflective trail markers to guide us to Catninga Shed. The shed offered water, shelter, and basic amenities—luxuries after a tough day.

DAY 2: CATNINGA TO QUORN VIA MT BROWN

From the start, it was a stiff uphill to Mt Brown Tower, scrambling rocks along the fence line. The views were incredible, and the history palpable—interpretive signs shared stories of European explorers and the Aboriginal people who had lived there for millennia.

Downhill, the Trail guided us to the historic Pichi Richi railway. We stopped under the old bridge for lunch, imagining the steam trains of a bygone era. After crossing Flinders Ranges Way, we navigated a rugged ridge past Pichi Richi Park (with optional water access), eventually descending to the Pass and following the train line toward Quorn. Ruins, overpasses, and gravesites peppered the route—a haunting reminder of the region’s colonial past.

We spent the night at the Flinders Ranges Motel, known as “The Old Mill.” Highly recommended.

DAY 3: BOBBY CREEK ROAD TO BUCKARINGA NORTH

After brunch at Quandong Café and a ride from trail angel Paul Drake, we were back on Trail, this time starting from the vast Willochra Plain. The early kilometres were flat and dusty. As we turned off the main road and followed station tracks, the terrain shifted—rocky outcrops, dry creek beds, and sweeping views over Willochra Creek.

A highlight was a lookout platform reflecting golden hues in the late sun. We made camp at Buckaringa North, just off the Scenic Drive, with water and phone reception available via a nearby hill climb.

DAY 4: BUCKARINGA TO EYRE DEPOT VIA MT ARDEN

We left before dawn, and the first light bouncing off the red rocks was unforgettable. After a break at the dramatic Buckaringa Gorge, we faced the grueling climb up Mt Arden. The Trail was rough, winds fierce, and the water at the summit needed filtering. No water awaited us at Mt Arden South camp.

We decided to push on to Eyre Depot. This section, mostly creek and gorge walking, was both the most beautiful and the most difficult. Narrow gorges, hidden waterfalls, and near-vertical climbs made for slow progress. With the help of digital maps and keen eyes for trail markers, we finally reached the open expanse of Eyre Depot—complete with water tanks, a toilet, and flat camping ground.

DAY 5: EYRE DEPOT TO DUTCHMAN HUT

This was one of the easier days, mostly following fences, access roads, and gentle creeks. The trail eventually brought us into Dutchman's Stern Conservation Park. We had the time to enjoy the scenery and take things slow.

Dutchman Hut was a welcome sight: spacious, with a large table, sleeping platforms, and good facilities. We saw no mice, only a curious kangaroo. A nearby shearing shed provided toilets

and a sink. A side trip to Dutchmans Stern summit is optional here—we skipped it in favor of rest.

DAY 6: DUTCHMANS TO QUORN

The final day saw us weaving along old water catchments, over paddocks and creeks, and eventually onto roadways. The Trail ended where we'd passed days earlier at the Pichi Richi junction. After 140 kilometres, we walked the final stretch into Quorn, eager for hot showers and celebratory cake at Scruffy Fellas café.

WHAT I TOOK AWAY

This journey left me with more than sore feet and dusty gear. I learned that longer days, while efficient, can rob the joy of soaking in the landscape. The drought-hardened Flinders Ranges felt like a different world compared to my wetter 2024 walk to Parachilna.

The rocky terrain was more brutal than anticipated. But the reward? Jaw-dropping vistas, fiery sunrises, and the camaraderie of trail mates and strangers alike. My gear mostly held up—though it's clear a few pieces need an upgrade before the next outback test.

And most importantly, I was reminded: everyone walks their own kilometres. No two journeys are the same.



- ⑦ Top, right: Six days on the Heysen Trail - made it!
- ⑦ Middle, right: The ridge line walk at Pichi Richi.
- > Bottom, right: Sunset at Eyre Depot.

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Reflections of a Heysen Trail Walker

Richard Connelly
illustrates for us that
walking the Trail reaches
beyond simply the
person walking the trail.

Hiskeys Hut, oil on canvas.

In 2019, when I planned to walk my first section of the Heysen Trail as a circuit walk from Wilpena to Parachilna and back, I did not realise the hold the trail would take on me! I returned feeling excited by my first solo hike in many years and was soon planning to walk the next section south to Quorn. However, the COVID pandemic soon stymied my plans when the Victorian and South Australian borders were closed; I would have to wait until 2022 for my next Heysen adventure. This year, and five sections later, I finally fulfilled my dream of walking the entire length of the trail from north to south.

I used public transport to travel to and from the trail at the beginning and end of each section. As an interstate walker, I now feel well acquainted with the public coach and bus services that intersect the trail at various locations.

In the northern sections, this can be quite a challenge, as services are fairly infrequent. On occasion, I had to walk from the nearest town to access the trail; one such walk was from Riverton to Marschalls Hut, where I had the pleasure of meeting the landowner, Mr Huppatz.

As well as the wonderful scenery and expansive views, I was captivated by the diversity of birdlife along the trail. Given the great change in habitat from one end of the trail to the other, there are a large number of species to be seen. My total count for the trail was over one hundred species. Although I try to keep my gear weight to around 10 kg, I allow myself the luxury of carrying a small pair of 7x20 binoculars. Some of the most memorable encounters with birds occurred in the Flinders Ranges. Near Aroona, I saw an emu shepherding

his chicks to safety on my approach. At Buckaringa campsite, the strange, eerie sound that I heard at night I later discovered to be made by Spotted Nightjars. I spotted my favourite bird, the diamond firetail finch, at two locations where native grasses provided their preferred habitat. There is nothing more comforting when camping than to be lulled to sleep by the plaintive call of a Boobook Owl!

Given the association between the trail and the German painter Hans Heysen, I thought it appropriate to present a talk about the trail to my U3A German class recently. This created considerable interest and hopefully helped spread the word about this wonderful trail.

I would like to thank the Friends of the Heysen Trail for their unstinting commitment to improving and maintaining the camping and hut



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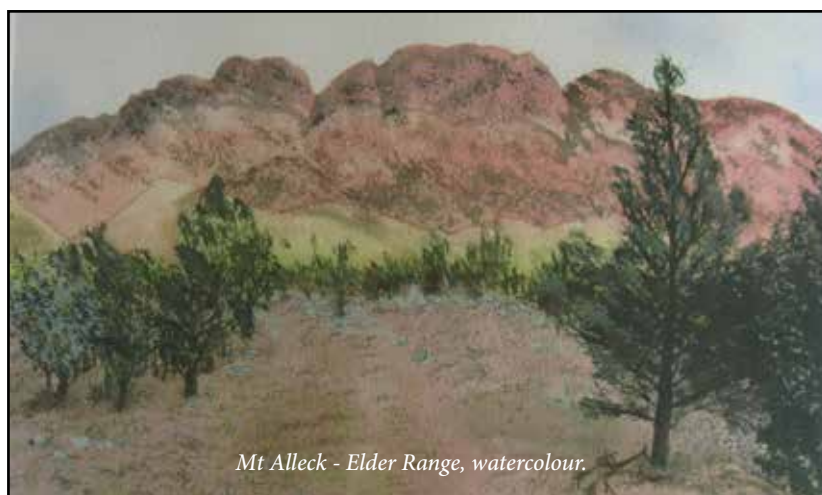
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facilities along the trail. I also found their website to be extremely useful in planning my hiking trips.

The accompanying illustrations were painted by Richard's wife, Karen, from photographs he took while walking the Heysen Trail.



Sunset at Hallett, watercolour.



Mt Alleck - Elder Range, watercolour.



Sunrise at Aroona, acrylic.



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West Highland Way

PHILLIP & LEANNE BELL

Photos: Phillip Bell

Views over Loch Lomond

Phillip and Leanne Bell walked Scotland's iconic West Highland Way. This is a day-by-day account of their unforgettable journey.

The West Highland Way (WHW) is Scotland's most famous long-distance walking trail. It stretches app. 155km from Milngavie (pronounced Mill-guy) to Fort William. We chose to walk it self-guided over 8 days in early August 2024, using a company that booked our accommodation and transported our luggage.

DAY 1 (20KM):

Milngavie is a town 10km from Glasgow's CBD and was easy to access via one of Glasgow's suburban trains. In true Scottish style, we set off in drizzly weather through the rural scenery of the Earldom of Lennox. Lunch involved a minor detour to the Glengoyne whisky distillery. The afternoon saw us following an old railway line and lane, with our first glimpses of the Highlands.

An unexpected treat was a piping band playing in Drymen before our evening at The Clachan — the oldest licensed pub in Scotland, established in 1734.

DAY 2 (24KM):

From Drymen, we walked through a pine forest before ascending Conic Hill. After a long and fairly steep climb, we reached the summit for morning tea and were rewarded with fantastic views over Loch Lomond, Britain's largest body of freshwater. After a slow, steep descent, we reached the lake shore and had lunch at a lovely beach. The path to Rowardennan alternated between loch shore, natural forest, and rocky headlands.

DAY 3 (21KM):

With Ben Lomond on our right, we followed the winding banks of Loch Lomond, passing an Honesty Box filled with local snacks. This was one of those character-building walks—scrambling over rocks, tree roots, then repeat, repeat—through woodland and past waterfalls. We were walking in the steps of Highland hero Rob Roy and passed his one-time home in Inversnaid and supposed cave hideout.

As our accommodation that night at Ardlui was across the top of the loch, we had to summon the ferry by raising a ball to the top of a pole.

DAY 4 (24KM):

After our return boat ride to the east side of Loch Lomond, we walked parallel to the River Falloch, heading up a rural valley into Beinglas, a popular campsite. We crossed a variety of stiles and gates towards Crianlarich, the halfway mark of the WHW. In fine weather, we continued through woodland, past forest plantations and farmland, with views of the West Highland Railway Line and A82 highway, which we crossed under on our way into Tyndrum.

DAY 5 (13KM):

We chose a shorter walk this day, allowing for a late start and early finish. There was supposed to be stunning scenery, but due to low cloud and misty rain, we only saw the valley as we walked along the military roads built by the Jacobites in the 1700s. The trail followed the A82 and the Highland Railway Line into Bridge of Orchy.

West Highland Way

DAY 6 (19KM):

This day began with a steep climb, but we were rewarded with some of the best views of Scotland's Highlands. After a short descent, we followed military and drovers' roads over Rannoch Moor — once covered by a giant icecap, now a bog. We finished at the Glencoe Ski Resort before being transported to the historic Clachaig Inn.

DAY 7 (15KM):

After being driven back to the trail, we prepared for a wet walk. Although the weather was miserable, the mountainous terrain was still spectacular as we zig-zagged up the Devil's Staircase to the highest point on the WHW (548m). Following military roads once again, we descended through the Highland landscape, crossing streams on a 4WD track into the planned town of Kinlochleven — originally designed to supply water to the hydroelectric plant powering an aluminium smelter, which no longer operates.

DAY 8 (26KM):

Our last day took us up ridges overlooking Kinlochleven before walking along a winding pass with great views of Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the UK. For the final stretch, we followed plantation roads down to Glen Nevis and then along the busy road into the town of Fort William.

Two days later, we climbed almost to the summit of Ben Nevis, revealing panoramic views south over the Highlands we had just traversed.

Overall, the WHW was an enjoyable adventure through the spectacular and varied scenery of the Scottish Highlands. Highly recommended.



⤴ Above: Leanne and Phillip pose beside the West Highland Obelisk, Milngavie.

⤵ Below: Highland cattle grazing alongside the WHW, affectionately called, 'coos' in Scotland.

⤵ Bottom: Leanne crossing a stream on the way to Kinlochleven.



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JIM MCLEAN

A Tucked Away Delight

Wirraparinga Trails

*Jim McLean & Max Holbrook
meet up at the Billabong and
Willawilla Karra Kuu*

Remember visiting Brownhill Creek? Like many of us, it was probably once—and long ago. If you're a walker, it's well worth a revisit.

Ron Bellchambers of the Brownhill Creek Association is a local resident and self-appointed 'Mayor'. Among his many good works in the area, he is responsible for a network of trails, signposted on the ground and electronically mapped. For the walking community, the trails take in the highlights of the Recreation Park, Carrick Hill and, by kind permission of the owner, an extensive private property.

Ron explains:

"Wirraparinga is the traditional winter camping area for the Kaurna people who lived along Brownhill Creek (Willawilla). 'Wirra' means forest, 'pari' means river, and 'nga' means place. Wirraparinga translates to Forest River Place, or Place of Forest and River."

Walk as the Kaurna did, and imagine their rich cultural heritage.

European settlement also left its mark. You can visit Carrick Hill House, the Tom Price Avenue of Trees, Mitcham Water Works, Wheal Grainger Mines, and see the historical remains of quarrying and market gardening. Landholders throughout the trail network include the Carrick Hill Trust, the University of Adelaide Waite Campus to the north, City of Mitcham to the west, National Parks and Wildlife Service SA (Brownhill Creek Recreation Park) to the south, and Springwood Park Estate through the middle.

Enjoy hilltops with commanding views, scenic creek-lined valleys, and remnant native flora and fauna, including majestic river red gums and a southern brown bandicoot colony.

The trails are structured into a main loop route of 6km, with several spurs, loops, and links that allow for full appreciation of the area's offerings. Multiple public car parks provide convenient access points to the trail network.



Top: Max Holbrook on trail in the Waite Conservation Reserve.

Middle: Ron Bellchambers venturing from the Waite CR into Springwood Park.

Bottom: Jim and Max on the Wirraparinga trail, crossing Brownhill Creek (Willawilla).

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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Image: Maggie Moy

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