

Footsteps

Newsletter of the Lavender Federation Trail
South Australian Recreation Trails Incorporated



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Successful Grant Application

The SARTI has been notified that it has been successful with its most recent application to the Office for Recreation and Sport "Active Club Program". The funding will allow the Lavender federation Trail to be extended from its current termination point at Keyneton, to Truro a further 34 kilometres. When completed, currently expected to be in early 2012, the length of the main trail, excluding loop and spur trails, will be 170 kilometers in length. The major expenditure in this grant will be the production and printing of "Map 3- Springton to Truro". The new map will include the Springton, Eden Valley and Morculta Loop Trails and will follow the same standard and design shown in maps 1 and 2.

Although the cost of this next section is not totally covered by the grant, it has been made possible by using trail markers in stock, generous donations from individuals and walking groups, topped up by income from map sales. This project will use all most trail markers in stock so future extensions to the Lavender Federation Trail will require considerable financial outlays.

Within days of receiving notification of the successful grant, SARTI board members George Adams and Ian Poole together with some supporters were out on the proposed route of the trail and even placing markers on a section of public road where the route has been finally determined. We believe that walkers will really enjoy walking this next section when completed. The historical areas alone will probably mean a lot of stops and time out to fully investigate everything. Historical buildings, cemeteries, ruined buildings and mines are all easily accessible from the LFT and Moculta Loop Trail. Map 3 will incorporate extensive historical information.

Letters have been sent to all landowners along the route of the trail adjacent to road reserves in locations where the final route has been determined and sections already confirmed are being GPS recorded for the new map.

Ivan Venning MP, Member for Schubert, presented a cheque for \$8,000 to SARTI Chairman, Chris Bushell on Thursday 14th April. (See photo in this newsletter)



SECTION OF KEYNETON TO TRURO SECTION. KIDMAN & LAVENDER FEDERATION TRAIL WILL SHARE SEVERAL SECTIONS.

Local Community Meetings at Truro and Burra

On Tuesday 12th April, SARTI made a PowerPoint presentation to the Truro Community Association at their monthly meeting. The meeting followed a Mayor's reception at Truro where SARTI Board members were able to meet with many local people. The Community Association Meeting presentation gave an outline of the history and aims of the Lavender Federation Trail, loop and spurs trails, steps from planning through construction and opening of a section of trail and how local communities can become involved. Truro has a lot of history that SARTI hopes can be fully utilized as we construct the LFT through the town. Talks are proceeding with local historians and locals so that in the future, interpretive signs and perhaps a local historically orientated loop trail constructed linked to the main trail. Two days after the Truro meeting, another presentation was made to the Goyder Tourism Working Party at Burra.

All these meetings and presentations have been at the request of local communities keen to enjoy the benefits that the Lavender Federation Trail gives their local towns and district. Last year a similar presentation was made at Eudunda and following this meeting, a decision made by the SARTI Board that Eudunda would be the next destination after completion of the main trail to Truro. Trail Planner, Ian Poole and Trail Manager, George Adams, have already made several trips into the areas between Truro and Eudunda and report that the most difficult decision is going to be where to place this section of the trail. Both have been amazed at the scenery and have made the bold claim that this will be one of the most scenic sections of trail between Murray Bridge and Eudunda. (Photo in this newsletter)

Given finance, the SARTI Board believes they could plan and construct up to 50 kilometres of trail per year and produce a new map for each of the 50 kilometre sections.



IVAN VENNING MP, PRESENTING A CHEQUE ON BEHALF OF THE SA GOVERNMENT TO SARTI CHAIRMAN, CHRIS BUSHELL WITH TRAILS MANAGER, GEORGE ADAMS LOOKING ON.



SECTION OF THE KEYNETON TO TRURO LAVENDER FEDERATION TRAIL CURRENTLY BEING INVESTIGATED FOR INCLUSION AS PART OF THE MAIN TRAIL.. THIS IS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY WITH THE PROPERTY OWNER GIVING PERMISSION TO BE USED AS PART OF THE LFT.

Trail Reroute Has A Short Life

Last year a section of the main trail near the Mannum Road Wetlands and Hume Reserve at Murray Bridge was re-routed to a more picturesque area and to avoid using a road near grain silos that has heavy vehicle usage during harvest time. Unfortunately, early this year, the rock weir used to cross from Hume Reserve onto a levy bank was removed to allow the wetlands to be flushed by flood waters flowing down the River Murray.

This section has again been remarked using most of the original route.

Providing finance can be obtained, it is the intention of the SARTI Board to construct a bridge over the wetland channel and go back to the route announced last year. It is hoped that this can be done in conjunction with a wetlands loop trail originally proposed by the Murray Bridge Council in 2007. On behalf of the Murray Bridge Council, SARTI applied for private funding which was unsuccessful.

Presentations to Local Government.

The SARTI Board has commenced a new round of PowerPoint presentations at Local Government meetings. The first of these were to the Mid Murray Council on Tuesday 15th March at Cambrai. SARTI believed that because of the number of changes to local government officers and councilors as well as progress made on extending the Lavender Federation Trail and construction of additional loop trails since the last round of presentations, it was vital that Local Government, as partners in the Lavender Federation Trail project be fully informed of what had been happening.

Over the coming months, it is planned to make similar presentations to Barossa and Murray Bridge Councils.



DONORS OF STILES HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED BY PLAQUES AT EITHER END OF A SECTION OF TRAIL BETWEEN SPRINGTON AND KEYNETON. MANY THANKS TO OUR FINANCIAL DONORS.

MENTIONED EARIER IN THIS NEWSLETTER IS A COMMENT REGARDING THE WEALTH OF BEAUTIFUL SCENERY BETWEEN TRURO AND EUDUNDA. SHOWN BELOW IS A SMALL SAMPLE OF WHAT WALKERS CAN EXPECT TO WHEN THIS SECTION IS CONSTRUCTED WITH GORGES, WATERHOLES AND SWEEPING VISTAS.

MANY THANKS TO THE LOCAL LANDOWNERS FROM TRURO TO EUDUNDA WHO HAVE ASSISTED SARTI IN SUGGESTING LOCATIONS AND HAVE MET WITH US TO SHOW AREAS THEY BELIEVE COULD BE SUITABLE FOR A WALKING TRAIL.



Bits and Pieces

- Have you ever come across a section of walking trail that has made you hesitate before proceeding? Maybe it was close to the edge of a gorge or a steep descent. Whatever it was, I don't think it came close to this walk. Click on the link http://www.angelfire.com/ak2/intelligencerreport/scariest_path.html (right mouse click). When it opens, click on the arrow to pause the video to allow the video clip to load. Progress can be seen on the red bar under the picture. This is a video well worth watching. This walkway now serves as an approach to Makinodromo, the famous climbing sector of El Churro in Spain's Andalucía and it is the hairiest path. The area of El Churro situated in the south of Spain is renowned amongst travelers and mountain hikers for its stunning scenery and climbs, yet this is not the main attraction on offer. El Churro is host to one of the most dangerous walkways in the world, built by workers to transport materials between the Churro and Gaitanejo Falls.
- Following the PowerPoint presentation to the Mid Murray Council last month, Council approved funding for two interpretive signs similar in design to the Trailhead sign at Sturt Reserve at Murray Bridge. Currently it is planned to install these at Keyneton and Truro.
- An unauthorized fence across a road reserve near Critchley Road, Bondleigh blocking access along the road reserve has been removed after an approach to the landowner by the Murray Bridge Council.
- Groups and individuals who have undertaken to maintain a section of the trail met at the home of Trails manager, George Adams recently for a barbeque lunch. All these groups were presented with a maintenance pack and shown tools that were available to them to use in trail maintenance. The tools were purchased as a result of a successful Commonwealth Government Grant. There are still sections available to undertake maintenance and more will become available as the trail extends. Contact George at 82622611 or email cg.adams@optusnet.com.au
- Are you a member of SARTI? Membership is only \$10 PA for individual members or you may choose to pay \$50 for 5 years or for groups/ clubs/ organizations, membership is \$100 PA. This year, SARTI will be conducting a special Keyneton to Truro preview walk prior to the official opening next year exclusively for financial SARTI members. An membership application form is attached with this newsletter.
- The Annual General Meeting of SARTI, South Australian Recreation Trails Incorporated, will be held on Thursday August 4th at 10.00am at the Natural Resource Centre, Mt Pleasant-Keyneton Road, Mt Pleasant. Anyone interested in the projects of SARTI is invited to attend. Only financial members are eligible to vote.

Are you receiving this newsletter indirectly via a club or friend? Why not receive a copy direct? That way you won't miss out or get news of happenings too late. Email asta@lm.net.au giving your name, email address and contact details but don't forget to tell us if you change your details.

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To report trail damage, enquire about assisting on trail maintenance or to make suggestions on improving the Lavender Federation Trail, email Trail Manager George Adams at cg.adams@optusnet.com.au.