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The Latest Footsteps Newsletter from South Australian Recreation Trails Incorporated (SARTI) and the Lavender Federation Trail

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Footsteps Newsletter



Volume 15, Issue 3 - June, 2016

Dear Footsteps Followers,

We have a new Footsteps Newsletter for you. Footsteps is the Newsletter of the South Australian Recreation Trails Incorporated (SARTI) and the Lavender Federation Trail.

Banner Photo: Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP addresses the crowd before unveiling the interpretive sign at Webb Gap (composite photo).

In this issue:

- ***Lavender Federation & Heysen Trails join.***
- ***Jailbreak Trail opened***
- ***Sanderson Trail.***
- ***Bits and Pieces.***

Lavender Federation & Heysen Trails join:-

On a sunny calm day on Sunday 17th April, approximately 200 people celebrated the joining of the Lavender Federation & Heysen Trails at a ceremony at Webb Gap on the eastern side of the Tothill Ranges. From a base at Peppermint Springs, organized walks and vehicle transport together with Heysen Trail walkers arriving through Webb Gap congregated at midday to officially commemorate the event. Several local landowners together with representatives from Walking SA and Local

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of Friends of the Heysen Trail, Chris Bushell, President of SARTI who both spoke on the importance of both the trails, the linking together of two long distance walking trails both involving the same person, Terry Lavender.

Special guest, Ann Lavender, patron of SARTI, spoke of the work of her late husband Terry over several decades planning and constructing the 1200 kilometre Heysen Trail before turning his attention to the Lavender Federation Trail. The result of decades of work instigated by Terry can be seen with the linking of the two trails.



*Left: Terry Lavender wearing his “trademark” hat
Right: Grandson Jack Terry Lavender, custodian of Terry’s hat.*

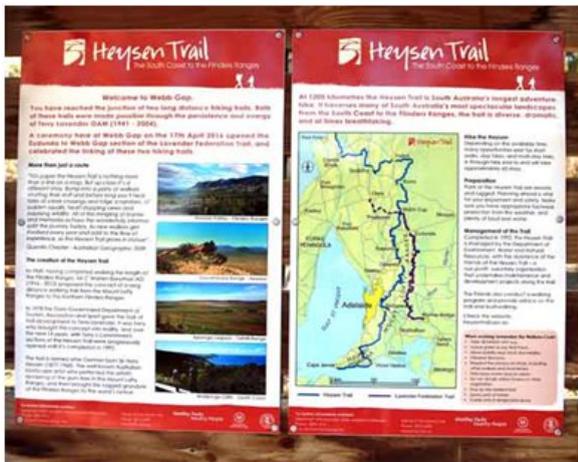
Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP, Member for Stuart then officially opened the new 31 km section of the Lavender Federation Trail from Eudunda to Webb Gap and unveiled an interpretive notice board located at the intersection of the trails. Dan commented on the work of the volunteers who had built the new section and the support given by local & State Government to enable the trails to be connected. Dan had earlier taken part in one of the organized walks to the event from Peppermint Springs.



200 plus people gathered at the Official Opening of Webb Gap



Celebrating the Opening of the Webb Gap section. Lavender Family, son Antony, Ann, grandchildren Haylee & Jack Terry, SARTI Chairman Chris Bushell and Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP.



Travelling north on the Lavender Federation Trail, walkers will see details of the Heysen Trail and a map of both trails. Heysen trail walkers are faced with Lavender Federation Trail details including distances to major towns. Both signs feature

After the opening, all returned to Peppermint Springs for lunch. The Robertstown War Memorial Committee catered with an excellent lunch from a wide choice ranging from BBQ, baked potatoes, sandwiches, wraps and drinks. Trevor Rowland "Digger" entertained us with song. Displays from SARTI, Friends of the Heysen Trail and Walking SA, while maps and books from Carto Graphics, native foods from Footeside Farm, olive products from Tothill Olive Groves and local wines from Mocandunda Wines were available for sale.

Publicity about the event prior to the opening included interviews on the breakfast program on ABC Radio Riverland and with Ashleigh Walsh ABC Radio 891 Adelaide as well as local media. For details access the links:-

<http://burrabroadcaster.com.au/news/iconic-walking-trails-come-together-in-mid-north/>

<http://www.northernargus.com.au/story/3857900/the-joining-of-two-trails/>

<http://www.greatwalks.com.au/news/heysen-and-lavender-federation-trails-meet>

<http://www.murrayvalleystandard.com.au/story/3897317/trails-join-at-webb-gap/?cs=1023>

(Excellent article on the history of both trails)



Morning walkers from Peppermint Springs to Webb Gap.



Afternoon walk from Inspiration Point to Peppermint Springs.

More photos of the opening from the LFT web site can be accessed on the links:-

<http://lavanderfederationtrail.org.au/web/photos/photo-gallery-opening-webb-gap-2016/>

<http://lavanderfederationtrail.org.au/web/photos/more-photos-grahams-webb-gap-2016/>

The next map to be published, Map 5 Eudunda to Manoora will be released when the next section of trail is officially opened later this year. If you planning a walk along the Eudunda to Webb Gap section of trail in the coming months you can download a map covering the open section from our web site. On the home page, click on “maps” and download the map you require.

Jailbreak Trail Opened:-

The weekend following the Webb Gap opening, Sunday 24th April, a network of trails near Murray Bridge was opened. These trails, the “Murray Bridge Hills Trail Network”, run from the Lavender Federation Trail at Rocky Gully in the north to the Old Princess Highway in the south. Only the Jailbreak Trail has been named officially with other trails identified when the area is declared a conservation area sometime in the future. All are marked with colour coding matching those on the map can now be downloaded from our web site.



Volunteers & NRM staff cut the ribbon to open the trails.

A group estimated at around 200 were able to take part in organized walks and mountain bike rides of various lengths and difficulties. Displays from SARTI, Friends of the Heysen Trail and Natural Resources which included native animals together with a supplied BBQ lunch, yoghurt and coffee accompanied by a music group made up the day.



Mountain bikers enjoy the ride and views to the Murray River & beyond.

Opening the trails network, Sarah Lance, District Manager Ranges to River of Natural Resources gave tribute to the volunteers who had worked hard over the past 18 months to construct the trails. It is a good example of walkers, mountain

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community.

Warning sign on Maurice Road. Trails cross the road at two locations.



Above: Two walking groups pass at "Getaway Car" corner.

Additional photos from these links:-

<http://www.murrayvalleystandard.com.au/story/3872379/jailbreak-trail/?cs=1527>

<http://lavenderfederationtrail.org.au/web/photos/photo-gallery-opening-jailbreak-trail-2016/>

Sanderson Trail:-

Work continues on this trail and resume after new fencing is completed. Trail markers and interpretive signs are still to be installed and a map produced. This trail is, for the most part, on private property with a 2 metre wide access negotiated with the land owner.

It is disappointing to hear of walkers on the property before the trail is open for public use and walking on private property.

Please wait until the trail is completed & officially opened, expected to be in

SARTI has developed good relations with local communities over many years and the result has been access to areas of the countryside that would not have been known or available to walkers.

Please don't jeopardise this for others by attempting to walk on private property.

Bits & Pieces:-

- **Welcome to the new SARTI Trail Manager:**

Ian Richardson will be responsible for coordinating the trail maintenance groups that maintain sections of the trail network. If you, your family or a group of you and friends would like to assist in trail maintenance, leave a message on the web site and we will contact you and work out an area you may wish to help. All materials are supplied.

George Adams who undertook this job for many years has eased off with his involvement but is still very involved in SARTI with building stiles and trail construction.

- **SARTI AGM**

The AGM of South Australian Recreation Trails Incorporated will be held at 11.30 am on Thursday 14th July at the Manoora Football Clubrooms. This will be followed by a Board meeting at 12 noon. All welcome to attend.

- **Trail negotiations continue in Manoora area**

Trail Planning Manager Ian Poole is currently negotiating with local landowners, community and organizations between Webb Gap and Manoora for an agreed route of the next section of the Lavender Federation Trail. The public meeting at Manoora earlier this year resulted in suggested alternative routes that Ian has followed up. Current plans are to open the Webb gap to Manoora section of trail and release Map 5, Eudunda to Manoora by September.

- **Have you checked out our Facebook page:**

at <https://www.facebook.com/lavendertrail/> yet? Well worth a look at the information, photos, videos and comments from trail users.

- **NEW MAPS ONLINE:**

Maps of the Jailbreak Trail network at Monarto and the recently opened section of the Lavender Federation Trail between Eudunda and Webb gap are available to download from our web site. Access from the home page or <http://lavenderfederationtrail.org.au/web/maps/>

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and follow the links. You can also download previous newsletters here too.

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Sincerely,

Graham Hallandal

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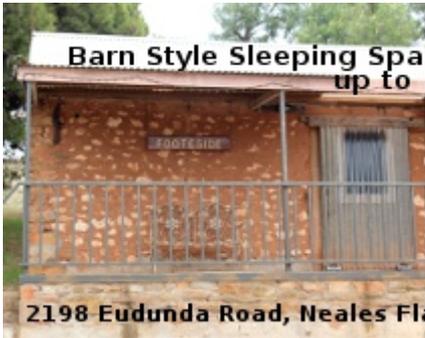
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