

Footsteps

Newsletter of the Lavender Federation Trail
South Australian Recreation Trails Incorporated



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In this issue:

- *Additional Sections of the Lavender Federation Trail near completion.*
- *Opening of the 2012 Walking Season.*
- *Truro to Eudunda.*
- *SARTI Board for 2011/12.*
- *Walkers Participation in Exercise, Recreation & Sport.*
- *Murray Bridge Council Funding for LFT.*
- *Message from the SARTI President Chris Bushell.*
- *Bits & Pieces.*

Additional Sections of the Lavender Federation Trail near completion.

Work is now over 90% complete on a further 26 kilometers of the main section of the Lavender Federation Trail from Keyneton to Truro. When the next section is open (see next item for details), the main trail will be 170 kilometers in length with two completed loop trails at Tungkillo and Eden Valley.

Between Keyneton and Truro can be seen the historic Whealbarton Copper Mine, buildings in the Truro Township dating from the 1840s and the Sturt Memorial Cairn on the route of Captain Charles Sturt's Central Australian expedition.

In addition, two more loop trails are planned at Springton and Moculta. The Moculta Loop Trail consists of 7 kilometers unique to the loop trail plus 3.5 kilometers shared with the main trail. This area was settled in the 1850s entirely by German immigrants, and their heritage is reflected in the buildings that remain, including the original blacksmith shop, Lutheran school and former post office/general store. Moculta is unique among Barossa townships in that it has no church, the community choosing to worship at either of the nearby Gruenberg or Gnadenberg churches.

The Springton Loop Trail has changed somewhat from its original concept. Resulting from discussions with local historians who approached SARTI for assistance with their plans to create a historical walk, the Springton Loop Trail now covers both sides of the township and although 17

kilometers in total, allows several short sections to be covered easily on either side of the township.



VISITORS FROM SWEDEN STAYING IN MURRAY BRIDGE LAST MONTH EXPERIENCED THE AUSTRALIAN COUNTRYSIDE WITH A WALK THROUGH ROCKY GULLY ON THE LAVENDER FEDERATION TRAIL.

Opening of the 2012 Walking Season.

Put into your diaries Sunday 1st April 2012 for the opening of the 2012 Walking Season. Next year's opening will be at the Truro Oval. Currently, walking groups are planning to organise walks to arrive at the oval for lunch at noon and the official opening of the 2012 walking season.

This event will also celebrate the opening of new sections of the Lavender Federation Trail including Keyneton to Truro and the Mocolta Loop Trail. This event will also see the release of a new Lavender Federation Trail map. Map 3-Springton to Truro which will also include details of the Eden Valley, Mocolta & Springton Loop Trails will be available at the opening from the SARTI stand.

Walks of one hour will be organised regularly during the morning for those interested and will; include sections of the LFT.

It is anticipated that outdoor shops, map shops, walking clubs, Heart Foundation and others will have displays.

Truro to Eudunda

Forward Planning Manager, Ian Poole & Trails Manager, George Adams have spent 100s of hours investigating possible routes of the next proposed section of the LFT between Truro and Eudunda.

As Ian stated in his report to the SARTI AGM, "As anyone driving through from Truro to Eudunda will have observed there are many areas of tree-less hill faces and paddocks across the landscape. This with the limited number of road reserves many of which are completely unrecognizable on the ground, some are cropped over, others which are acknowledged by the landowner but exact whereabouts unknown does not promise any easy passage. Despite all this it has been possible to find and

walk through very suitable trail routes.... On the Eastern side there are some recognizable road reserves which can be followed. There are road reserves on the map leading to the summit (Leakes Lookout) from the north and west, while these are readily identified from the road after a short distance all evidence of their location disappears. On the third attempt we finally made it to the summit but not unassisted as the landowner came along and gave us a lift to the edge of his property from which there was a clear path to the top. The views are fantastic and the western side of the range is well covered with trees and scrub.

The local community at Eudunda is extremely supportive of the Lavender Federation Trail and is keen for it to proceed to their township as soon as possible. The Eudunda Community organization ECBAT and on their recommendation to the Goyder tourism working party, have indicated they have a nominated subcommittee to work with SARTI on this trail development.

The SARTI Board is currently investigating possible funding sources for this project.



SARTI SECRETARY BARRY STACEY NEXT TO THE NEWLY ERECTED "EDEN VALLEY LOOP TRAIL" INTERPRETIVE SIGN IN THE MAIN STREET OF EDEN VALLEY. THE SIGN WAS FUNDED BY THE BAROSSA COUNCIL.

SARTI Board for 2011/12

The Annual General Meeting of South Australian Recreation Trails Incorporated, (SARTI), was held on Thursday August 4th at the Natural Resources Centre, Mt Pleasant. The SARTI Board for 2011/12 is:-

Chairman- Chris Bushell

Secretary- Barry Stacey

Treasurer- Bob England

Membership Secretary- Isobel Barrett

Trail Manager- George Adams

Forward Planning-Ian Poole

Funding Manger & Publicity-Graham Hallandal

Council Representatives:-
Barossa Council-Michael Seager
Mid Murray Council-Inez Bormann
Murray Bridge Council-Bob England

Regional Representatives:-
Roger Lillecrapp-Keyneton
Tom Woolford-Springton
Reg Munchenberg-Truro

The major sections of Chairman Chris Bushell's report presented to the meeting were:-

The trailhead sign funded by the Barossa Council for the Eden Valley Loop Trail will be shortly installed in Eden Valley. We have the commitment of the Mid-Murray Council to fund two more trailhead signs probably to be placed at Tungkillo and Truro.

We are currently working with the Truro Residents Association to work out the best way through the town. Our next destination is Eudunda. The residents there are very enthusiastic. We also have the support of the Goyder Tourism Working Group.

Our progress this year has been made possible with the generous assistance of the Barossa Council, the Mid Murray Council and the Office of Recreation and Sport. We have been more successful this year in raising funding for the trail.

The Board of SA Recreation Trails Inc. thanks those volunteers who build the trail for their continued dedication. Primary amongst those are Ian Pool for his efforts in planning the trail and discussions with local landowners. While most of these are rewarding, we empathise with some unpleasantness he has experienced. George Adams has continued to manufacture and install his stiles. We recognise the generous time and effort that George has contributed. The Board of SA Recreation Trails Inc. thanks the volunteers who maintain the trail for their continued assistance. Again we thank George for coordinating their efforts.

I thank the Board for their efforts. Graham Hallandal continues to produce excellent copies of our newsletter, Footsteps. We continue to be grateful for the ongoing support in all its forms from the Barossa Council, the Mid Murray Council and the Rural City of Murray Bridge. Chris Bushell.

Walkers Participation in Exercise, Recreation & Sport

The Australian Sports Commission recently released its "Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport" Annual Report 2010 State and Territory Tables for South Australia and it makes very interesting reading.

An excerpt of selected sections of the table titled "South Australian participants-total participation in specific activities by type of activity" clearly indicates that walking is, by a huge margin, South Australia's most participated physical activity. Bush walking alone rates 7th in % and "Walking-other", Number 1.

Walking is free & environmentally friendly. It does not require participants to be a member of a club, pay membership fees, restricted to specific age groups or gender or to be able to participate, require attendance at set times or days. For these reasons, it suits the busy lifestyles of the modern community and allows people of all ages, gender and financial status to take part in a healthy activity. Walkers do not need expensive facilities; have groups congregating in one location or large groups of non-participating onlookers.

With 96.4% of walkers participating in an unstructured manner walking does not always have the profile or funding success of less popular physical activities. See next item for details of great news from the Murray Bridge Council who recognize the benefits of walking to the community.

ACTIVITY	ORGANIZED	NUMBER(,000) NON-ORGANIZED	TOTAL	TOTAL % PARTICIPATION RATE ORGANIZED #	TOTAL % PARTICIPATION RATE NON-ORGANIZED #	TOTAL % PARTICIPATION RATE TOTAL #
AFL	51.1	22.3	68.6	3.9	1.7	5.2
CRICKET	35.2	22.1	54.4	2.7	1.7	4.1
CYCLING	16.5	147.7	150.4	1.3	11.3	11.6
CRICKET	35.2	22.1	54.4	2.7	1.7	4.1
GOLF	36.8	44.4	69.7	2.8	3.4	5.3
HORSE RIDING	5.0	4.5	7.9	0.4	0.3	0.6
WALKING-BUSH	7.9	55.1	60.8	0.6	4.2	4.6
WALKING-OTHER	22.2	509.3	514.5	1.7	38.8	39.2

For any group, the total participation rate is the number of persons who participated in the activity at least once in the last 12 months expressed as a percentage of the population in the same group



SIGNS SIMILAR TO THE EXAMPLE SHOWN ARE NOW IN POSITION AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE EDEN VALLEY LOOP TRAIL AND MAIN TRAIL BETWEEN SPRINGTON AND KEYNETON (SIX SIGNS). THE LFT INTO SPRINGTON AND SPRINGTON BY-PASS TRAIL HAS SIMILAR SIGNS INSTALLED.



RELOCATING CONCRETE STEPPING BLOCKS UNDER THE RAIL TRACK AT THE ENTRANCE TO ROCKY GULLY SHIFTED BY VANDALS.
L to R TRAILS MANAGER GEORGE ADAMS, SECTION 1 TRAIL MAINTENANCE LEADER DON WOOD AND SARTI BOARD MEMBER GRAHAM HALLANDAL.

Murray Bridge Council Funding for LFT.

Work has commenced by the Rural City of Murray Bridge on upgrading of the Lavender Federation Trail & environments from Sturt Reserve to the Rocky Gully Wetlands on Mannum Road.

The trail will be upgraded to a surface suitable for baby strollers and cycles and may in the vicinity of Hume Reserve, have separated walking paths and cycle/roller blade/scooter sections. A bridge will be constructed over the wetlands outlet/inlet in the vicinity of the recently removed rock wall to the levy bank. Council has already graded the top of the levy bank and sprayed weeds. Another bridge adjacent to the T & R facility consisting of concrete pipes with earthen top across Preamimma Creek to join an existing trail will complete a loop trail around the wetlands using part of the existing Lavender Federation Trail.

Interpretive signs, lighting from the wharf along the river edge to the shipyards and other upgrades including additional environmental work around the wetlands are part of the project to be finished this financial year.

Total budget for the project is \$45,000.

Message From SARTI President Chris Bushell

Congratulations to Graham Hallandal who was recently presented with an Advantage SA (formerly SA Great) Regional Award for the Murraylands and Riverland. Graham was the individual winner of the Elders Community Award. The citation mentioned Graham's long voluntary service in Rotary, Monarto Zoo and of course towards the

Lavender Federation Trail through his work for SARTI. Graham has been a major contributor to this project from the first meeting seeking interested people convened by the late Terry Lavender. In addition to physically working on the trail he has used his considerable skills in assembling grant applications and has regularly produced this publication. I understand Graham used the presentation ceremony to highlight the progress and opportunities of the Lavender Federation Trail.

Congratulations Graham SARTI Board believes that this is recognition well deserved.



SARTI BOARD MEMBER GRAHAM HALLANDAL WITH HIS ADVANTAGE SA AWARD TROPHY AND FINALIST PLAQUE PRESENTED AT THE MURRAYLANDS-RIVERLAND DINNER RECENTLY.

GRAHAM COMMENTED THAT THE AWARD WAS ON BEHALF OF ALL VOLUNTEERS IN THE COMMUNITY.

Bits and Pieces

- Easy access by vehicles to the eastern end of Rocky Gully has been a problem for many years. A vehicle track alongside the rail line has resulted in unauthorized rubbish dumping and considerable vandalism over many years. The Railtrack Corporation, the Federal Government authority in control of the rail line, has recently fenced off all vehicle access from public roads but leaving pedestrian access for Lavender Federation Trail users from Netley Road into Rocky Gully. The Rural City of Murray Bridge on behalf of SARTI has a lease agreement with the Railtrack Corporation to allow walkers to walk on their land adjacent to the rail line. This agreement costs Council \$400 per annum in fees. The Railtrack Corporation required additional trail marking before renewing the lease & this work has been carried out recently by SARTI volunteers.
- License renewal by the Railtrack Corporation on their land for the Lavender Federation Trail to access Rocky Gully has resulted in a review by the Murray Bridge Council of the section of trail between Cypress Terrace & Netley Road. Currently the trail is marked along the edge of the rail line but investigation

has shown there is a road reserve on the northern edge of Railtrack land. This road reserve is currently not easily accessible. The Council is to take steps to ensure that in the near future, this road reserve will be used as part of the LFT.

- 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. Membership assists SARTI in providing trails by not only purchasing equipment but assists in the securing of funding. A membership application form is attached with this newsletter.

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 email address.

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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.