

# Footsteps

Newsletter of the Lavender Federation Trail  
South Australian Recreation Trails Incorporated



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## **New trail upgrades completed:-**

During the 2010-11 financial year, Murray Bridge Council completed stage 1 of a plan to upgrade the Lavender Federation Trail from the trail head at Sturt Reserve Murray Bridge to Cypress Terrace near the entrance to Rocky Gully. The plan involves upgrading this section to a standard suitable for bikes/strollers/runners/ casual walkers with the major section from Cypress terrace to Netley Road completed last year with the final work involving planting of 1200 natives plants (details in Footsteps Volume 11 Issue 3).

Council has in the 2012-13 budget \$100,000 for Stage 2. Part of this project was completed late last year with the completion of a bridge across the inlet at the River Murray to the Rocky Gully Wetlands at Hume Reserve, access across Preaminna Creek adjacent to the T & R Pastoral factory, extensive earthworks including previously hard to access levy banks and the creation of a new LFT Loop trail.

SARTI was successful in obtaining a Rural City of Murray Bridge Community Grant late last year to, in conjunction with Council, upgrade trail marking of new and existing sections of trail from Sturt Reserve to Cypress Terrace with wooden posts concreted into the ground and new metal trail markers. The first part of this work was completed by SARTI volunteers in December. Working in conjunction with RCMB staff, around 55 holes were bored, wooden posts

concreted in place and markers attached. The following day markers and posts along the previous route on Hume Reserve and Swamp Roads were removed. The route of the main trail now crosses three waterways, accesses a bird hide and gives extensive views of the wetlands & wildlife.

Volunteers last year planted several hundred native trees & plants along the edges of the levy banks.

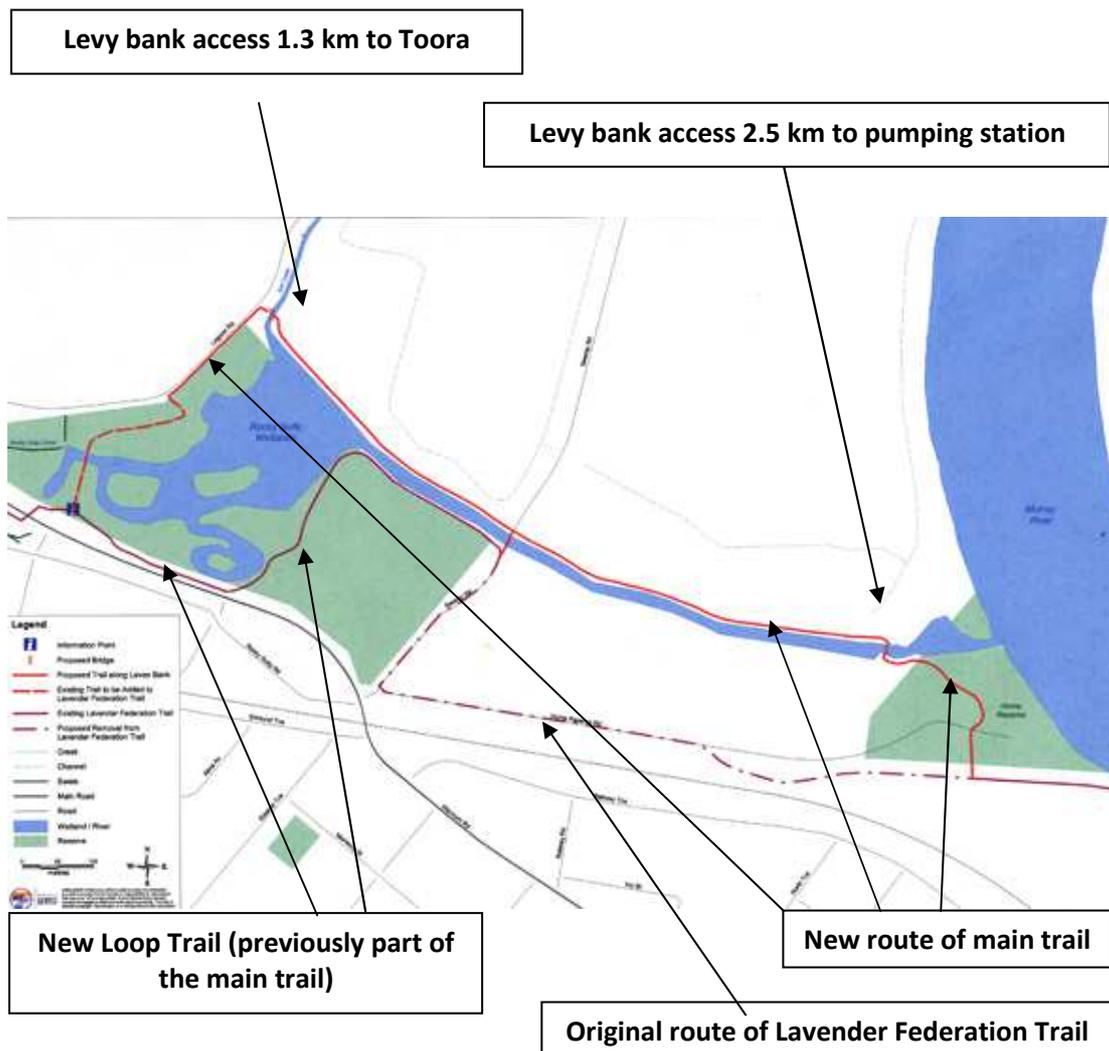
A bonus with the new section now opened is access to two sections of levy bank, one section from Hume Reserve to the pumping station 2.5 km in length and the second along the eastern edge of Preaminna Creek from the new creek crossing near T & R to Toora Road of 1.3 km.

The next stages will involve trail upgrading from the trail head at Sturt Reserve to Hume Reserve, bollards separating vehicle traffic from the trail and solar lighting. From the wetlands to the trail crosses Mannum Road and off road to Cypress Terrace. This section is still to be upgraded with a new surface and a volunteer group planting more trees & shrubs. New wooden posts & markers were installed with the other markers around the wetlands.

A map showing these changes is included in this newsletter.



**TOP PHOTO**-New Bridge near Hume Reserve across wetlands inlet to the Murray River.  
**BOTTOM LEFT**-New marker post at the intersection of the main & loop trails.  
**BOTTOM RIGHT**-Earth works across the Preaminna Creek adjacent to T & R. This construction had its first major test weeks later when a major pipe burst near the filtration plant and water banked up to the top of the pipes.



An official opening of this section of the trail is currently being planned with an interim date of Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April which will coincide with the fun run/walk. (See later section)

### **Opening of the 2013 Walking Season:-**

Put into your diaries Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April for the opening of the 2013 walking season. This year's event will be held at Elder Park with the official opening at 1.00 pm by Lord Mayor Stephen Yarwood. Why not bring along a non-walking friend or family members to try one of the ranges of walks organized by Adelaide Bushwalkers & the Heart Foundation? Displays from walking clubs, walking equipment and walking trail information including maps of the Lavender Federation Trail will be available.

SARTI is planning to have a stand at the event so call in & look at the photo display and talk to the SARTI members about planning a walk and future plans of the route as we make our way towards Clare.

### **Fun run/ walk to use the Lavender Federation Trail:-**

A fun run & walk event will be held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April at Murray Bridge commencing at 9.30 am with lengths of 1/5/10 km plus a 1 km children's race. Longer sections of the event will use a section of the Lavender Federation Trail and travel over the Murray River from the east side with all sections finishing at Sturt reserve. Healthy food stalls, coffee and face painting & entertainment will be available at Sturt reserve. The entry fee will assist in diabetes research. Details at the web site [www.murraybridgefunrun.com.au](http://www.murraybridgefunrun.com.au).

### **Maintenance assistance needed:-**

Members of the SARTI Board spend hundreds of hours each year in the planning/building/financing and operating the week to week jobs required for the Lavender Federation Trail & the associated loop & Spur trails. With over 200 kilometers of trail now constructed and more planned, it is important that regular maintenance be carried out.

We are very grateful to those clubs/ families/individuals that have taken on the job of maintaining a section of trail. These people involved, with the assistance of Trail Manager George Adams, do a great job in ensuring that trail markers are in place, fallen brush is cleared and other jobs that assist walkers & others using the trail. Maintenance people have access to tools and equipment supplied by SARTI.

Currently, we have two sections of trail not allocated. One is in the Truro area, the other is at Murray Bridge/Monarto where the group leader can no longer be involved. This area is being increasingly used by cyclists, runners and casual walkers so it would be timely if we could get involvement from other than walkers to assist in trail maintenance. It is not a big job, just a day or so a year would suffice. Contact George Adams at 82622611 or [cg.adams@optusnet.com.au](mailto:cg.adams@optusnet.com.au) to find out more or leave a message on the web site.

### **Truro to Eudunda trail extension update:-**

Plans are well advanced with the route of the main Lavender Federation Trail from its current finishing point on the Sturt Highway near Truro. Local support has been fantastic with a Eudunda group formed from all parts of the community who, with the assistance of local landowners, are investigating options to route the trail through the most picturesque and interesting locations. These include creeks, "summer only" roads and wooded and historic areas. One deviation from the originally planned route already agreed on is near a farm property so the trail will not intrude on the owner's lifestyle.

SARTI Trail Planner, Ian Poole who together with George Adams, has been involved with the Eudunda group, commented, that walkers will be amazed at the fantastic scenery in this section of trail.

The Lavender Federation Trail is fully supported by the two Local

Government authorities, the Mid-Murray and Goyder Councils, as well as the Goyder Tourism Working Party, Eudunda Community, Eudunda family Heritage Gallery as well as many individuals and businesses.

The Regional Council of Goyder on behalf of both Local Government Authorities are seeking funds through the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure "Open Space Grants" scheme to enable the trail to be built to Eudunda and a new map for this section to be produced. In addition, an application is being prepared for a "Community Recreation and Sports Facilities Program" funding if the Council application is unsuccessful.

SARTI is ready, the local community is ready. All we need is the funding.

### New Interpretive Signs:-

A new interpretive sign, financed by the Mid-Murray Council, has been installed at Tungkillo on Brinksworths Road adjacent to the Tungkillo Hall which is 100 metres from the Adelaide-Mannum Road.



Under construction are signs similar in design to the Eden valley Loop Trail sign at Eden Valley be installed at Springton (funded by the Barossa Council) and at Truro and Keyneton (funded by the Mid-Murray Council).

## Bits & Pieces:-

- Signs are soon to be installed between Truro & the Sturt Highway on the Munchenberg property directing walkers to a lookout. The short detour of several hundred metres to a view overlooking Truro Gorge well worth the effort. If you haven't walked this section yet, put it on the list for some off road walking with great views.
- The new Lavender Federation Trail web site is proving to be a hit. During 2012, the site recorded 129,756 hits and 9,011 visits. Not unexpectedly, Australia recorded the most interest but some other surprises. Second was the United States followed by Ukraine, China, Russian Federation, Latvia, Germany, Taiwan, Great Britain, New Zealand Japan and France. Who said trails don't result in tourists?
- SARTI has been involved in preliminary discussions with Murray Bridge Council personnel regarding the establishment of a trails network for walkers, runners & cyclists. It is planned to have an interlinking network utilizing river levy banks and off road sections many directly connected to the Lavender Federation Trail.
- A reminder to trail users not to park in a location that blocks a gate. It sometimes appears that a gate is not being used and may have grass growing around them. Some gates are only used rarely but they do need to be kept clear to allow access for farm machinery. Access also may be required by the CFS or other emergency services.  
Please also remember not to park on dry grass as you may start a fire with the hot exhaust, not only destroying crops but your vehicle as well.
- The Adelaide Hills Council has released information relating to the Adelaide Hills Trails Strategy Plan. Open hyperlink at <http://www.ahc.sa.gov.au/page.aspx?u=100&c=11106> to look at details including detailed maps. You can input your views in the on-line survey open until March 18<sup>th</sup>.  
SARTI believes there are several locations to build link trails between the Lavender Federation Trail and existing and planned trails in the Adelaide Hills and Barossa Regions opening up an expanded trail network for walkers/runners/cyclists.  
Letters have been sent to various State and Local Government authorities and many other involved parties expressing interest.
- Walk suggestion. Try some great walks with views around the Mount Beevor area. From Mt Beevor on a clear day, to the north, the bush clad summit of the Wirra Wirra peaks and the Barossa Range break the skyline while to the east you catch

glimpses of the River Murray. On the horizon to the south, the waters of Lake Alexandrina stand out against the sand hills of the Coorong National Park and the Southern Ocean. To the west, Mt Lofty, Mt Barker, Harrogate and the Bremer Valley complete the scene. An interpretive sign at the summit describes the main points of interest that can be viewed from the summit.

Map 2 Mount Beevor to Springton gives details of the Mt Beevor area.

Map outlet locations available from the web site

[www.lavanderfederationtrail.org.au](http://www.lavanderfederationtrail.org.au)



**Walking up to Mt Beevor summit  
from Fendlers Road.**

## Stay safe, Bushwalkers!

Places are limited!

Anthony from Electric Bug will teach you how to use these technologies to keep yourself safe in the bush:

- SPOT
- EPIRB/PLB
- Satellite Phones
- & More!

**RSUP NOW!**

Guest Speaker:  
Anthony  
Date: 12/3/12 7pm  
Venue: Walking SA Meeting room

Organized by:

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 events too late. Go to the web page, "CONTACT US" section at [www.lavanderfederationtrail.org.au](http://www.lavanderfederationtrail.org.au), under "SUBJECT" state Footsteps and in the "message" section request to be put on direct distribution of the newsletter. Don't forget to tell us if you change your email address.

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To report trail damage, enquire about assisting with trail maintenance or to make suggestions on improving the Lavender Federation Trail, use the web site "CONTACT US" section.