



Friends of Parks Inc

Walking Trails Support Group

NEWSLETTER Winter 2008

Our motto: Reliable and sustainable access to natural areas.

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Where can we walk? – A case for government addressing Public Liability

It's getting harder! Gone are the days when it was relatively easy to plan a walk almost anywhere in the Adelaide Hills on Public or private land. In fact, in the early 1960s there weren't the number of National Parks and Council Reserves that exist today. Bushland was much more extensive, private properties were much larger, making it relatively easy to negotiate permission to walk across a landholder's property.

Widespread land clearing and the break up of large farms into smaller parcels have made access for walking more difficult to organise. I feel that there should be wider network of walking opportunities across the Hills so that people are encouraged to walk for the good of their physical and mental health. Research into the value of walking supports this conclusively.

Yet in this time of Global Warming we still find governments pouring money into freeways and super venues for spectator sports. Surely the health of the majority should be the number one aim of governments? A relatively small amount of money put into walking access, and development of walking routes would achieve much more benefit to the population at large than the extravagant schemes mentioned above.

A final dream. Wouldn't it be great if legislation could be passed to introduce a scheme similar to that to that which exists in Sweden, where subject to strict codes of practice, the public has a right to walk any where, whether the land is in public or private ownership?

Peter Beer
President

How do we make moves to realise the President's dream? How has Sweden overcome the spectre of Public Liability? ...Ed

Farewell old Nudlamutana

In late May, occupants of Nudlamutana hut were roused from sleep by fire in the roof. Roof fires aren't easily controlled and the result is shown in the picture. A very sorry event for those of us who have been pleased to unwind there after hard work and cold days working on walking trails.

The hut was built in 1954 as an outstation of Balcanoona. An excellent stonemason built this hut, the Balcanoona woolshed and the house at Grindell's hut. Split creek stones were often used for the solid walls, which are still upright at Nudlamutana. As we used to sit around the fire, looking at the concrete floor and bare walls we would say that if a log rolled out of the fire (which it never did) there was nothing to burn. How wrong we were.

NPWS bought the Balcanoona lease from B H MacLachlan for dedication as an addition to the Gammon Ranges National Park in 1980. Since then Nudlamutana hut has been used by pest controllers, maintenance teams (including the Walking Trails Support Group for 15 years) and fee paying visitors who like seclusion in natural places.

A sad loss.



Activity to date in 2008 – a lot of input by willing hands and minds

Generally

- the quality of map presentation on our web (walkingtrailssupportgroup.org.au) has stimulated the interest of the Office for Recreation and Sport who manage Trails SA.
- we have recently installed checkpoints with maps in Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park and at Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary.
- Flinders Ranges Bush Walk interpretive leaflets for the seven most northern walks have been or are in the process of being reduced to A4 format in line with the economic reality of printing funded by donations
- Site work was greatly facilitated by prior asset checks, inspection and reporting

V-GRNP, Arkaroola and Moolawatana

- The Weetootla Hike Network benefitted from a DEH VSU 2007 Grant which could not be applied in FRNP due to current planning process
- We were able to install eight checkpoints with maps and one topograph. A further topograph was installed on Mount Warren Hastings.
- Five new checkpoints were also installed on Arkaroola and a topograph on Acacia Ridge, the latter funded by Skyline Walkers
- Revised leaflets were installed at Terrapinna Tors with the help from the lessees of Moolawatana

Flinders Ranges National Park

- With a DEH Trails Master Plan 'work in progress' we were unable to do more than improve track quality of the tracks we maintain

Southern Flinders

- Significant track improvement was achieved on the Dutchman Stern direct track to Checkpoint 3 by seven members
- Removal of a number of fallen trees was good outcome of prior inspection and the chance encounter of walker on Mt Brown who had just scored a few scratches scrambling through a fallen tree
- If any one is keen there is a need for a couple of 12 km walks to retrieve and replace damaged interpretive signs and a bronze plaque on Mount Brown, please let us know ...



These oyster shells at Herons Bend are 2 million years old

Overland Corner Walks

- An opportunity for a quasi-commercial exercise upgrading and regularising some 8.4 km of walks for the National Trust South Australia resulted in good local outcomes and funds for the Group. Numbered posts were installed alongside interesting features.

Barossa

- Monthly Traker checks
- Effective track maintenance in Hale and Warren Tower

Burnside Walking Trails

- Perhaps an obvious outcome for peri-urban walks, the more there are and the better they are the more they get used!

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