

# Footsteps

Newsletter of the Lavender Federation Trail

South Australian Recreation Trails Incorporated



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## Opening of the 2012 Walking Season:-

This is a **“DON'T MISS”** event on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April. Location is the Truro Oval which is situated two streets to your left as you enter from the Barossa direction.

Too far to go? It will take you ***under 55 minutes to get there*** if you live in the northern suburbs and travel via the Northern Expressway. This was how long it takes from Prospect on a weekday. Expect even less travel time for this event on a Sunday morning.

This will be the first opportunity to see some of the magnificent walking country in this region. Guided walks will commence at 10.30 am and available to anybody wishing to participate. A walk of 4 km across private property will include views over the surrounding countryside and through a gorge along Truro Creek (photos below).



Displays from walking clubs, outdoor centres showing new release clothing and walking equipment, maps, local information and many displays of interest to walkers and outdoor enthusiasts can be seen. The SARTI stand will display a map of the proposed next section of the

Lavender Federation Trail through to Eudunda with photos of this section as well as the new sections of main, loop and spur trails. Food is available at the venue, nearby local bakeries & take-away shops.

Truro, the location for this years "Opening of the Walking Season" is organized by Walking SA and is the gateway of the Barossa from the north-eastern end of the region. Lying in the ranges, 14 km NE of Nuriootpa, the town is situated on the Sturt Highway, which connects Adelaide with the Riverland and Sydney.

The town was laid out in 1847 and 1848 by John Howard Angas, the son of George Fife Angas who had bought the land in 1842. *Truro* is named after the city of Truro in Cornwall, United Kingdom.

The town was settled in 1850 by Cornish miners keen to make their fortunes from copper found nearby. The town has recently become a focus for lovers of olives- a thriving new Barossa industry-and a convenient stop for visitors. History buffs can visit the "Sturt Memorial Cairn" in the main street on the route of the famous expedition to Central Australia led by Captain Charles Sturt or explore the interesting buildings dating back to the 1840s.

### **Another 63 kilometers of Trail Open:-**

SARTI has been busy over the past 12 months with Trails Manager George Adams and Trail Planning Officer Ian Pool in particular covering thousands of kilometers and wearing out a lot of boot leather while marking another 66 kilometers of trails for walkers.

New trails now open include:-

- A continuation of the main Lavender Federation Trail from Keyneton via Moculta to the Sturt Highway NE of Truro (31 km).
- Truro Spur Trail of 3 km linking Truro to the main trail traversing past the Whealbarton Copper Mine.
- Keyneton Spur Trail (3.5 km) linking Keyneton to the main trail past a number of historic buildings through quiet back roads.
- Moculta Loop Trail, 10.5 km in length and a must for those interesting in history. Interesting features include the Shannon Mausoleum, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, and Gnadenberg Cemetery with its fascinating gravestones and insight of the German influence of the Barossa region. Gnadenberg is German for "Hill of Grace". The district was settled in the 1850s entirely by German immigrants, and their heritage is reflected in the buildings that remain, including the Lutheran school and former post office/general store. Moculta is unique among Barossa townships in that it has no church. This loop trail includes sections along the main Lavender Federation Trail, Kidman Trail and a short spur trail of ½ kilometer to some ruins.

- Springton Loop Trail offering the option of 17 km walks to South Rhine or shorter 8 km walk closer to Springton. This is another trail which includes some relatively unknown historic sights. These include the South Rhine Church, ruins of Miss Bakers School, Friedensburg Church & cemetery, original Springton Town Centre, old Butter Factory and many other fascinating buildings.

### **New Map Now Available:-**

The opening of the walking season for 2012 marks the release of a new Lavender Federation Trail map and will be available at Truro from retailers who stock LFT maps at their retail premises.

Map 3-Springton to Truro follows a similar format to maps 1 & 2 being in full color with photos, elevation charts, suggested parking spots, food & toilet locations, points of interest and adds for the first time, CFS map boundaries plus much more. The map also shows two new loop trails at Mocolta & Springton (with a short & long option), the Eden Valley Loop Trail (opened in 2010) and two new spur trails at Keyneton and Truro connecting these towns to the main trail.

### **All new website:-**

SARTI has released a completely redesigned and greatly expanded web site of the Lavender Federation Trail. The new site includes details of the trail, its history, an events calendar, past issues of "Footsteps", accommodation enquiries for groups or individuals, a link to the Walking SA website, map retailers, comprehensive photo album, video, and downloadable maps of the four loop trails. The downloadable maps do not have the detailed information of the printed maps and are mainly designed for the casual walker.

The website will now be the contact location with SARTI for any enquiries, trail maintenance issues or offering to help or assist with maintenance. In the past personal emails addresses of the SARTI Board were used. Our thanks to Peter Herriman of Web South at Eudunda for his work on the new website.

To access the website, click on either of the links below & open a hyperlink to the new website.

<http://lavenderfederationtrail.org.au> or  
[www.lavenderfederationtrail.org.au](http://www.lavenderfederationtrail.org.au)

### **Bits & Pieces:-**

- New interpretive signs have recently been funded by the Mid-Murray Council for installation on the Lavender Federation Trail. The first sign is being manufactured and will soon be installed at Tungkillo at the front of the Memorial Park. Design work is underway for the second sign to be installed at Keyneton at the commencement of the Keyneton Spur Trail.

- The Rural City of Murray Bridge, on behalf of SARTI, has a lease agreement with the Railtrack Corporation (Federal Government Authority controlling the interstate rail lines) allows the Lavender Federation Trail to use railway land from Cypress Terrace, across Netley Road into the east end of Rocky Gully. The lease fee is \$400 PA.

Investigation by the Murray Bridge Council has revealed an unused road reserve adjacent to the rail line between Cypress Tce & Netley Rd.

Council notified affected land owners that this road reserve will become part of the Lavender Federation Trail, cleared the land of rubbish, much of it buried, erected fencing with a walk-through at both ends and constructed a hard surface pathway suitable for walkers, strollers & cyclists. Total project cost will be approximately \$5,000 and is now completed ready for use with around 1,000 native trees & shrubs still to be planted along this section.

This is part of the upgrade of trail from Sturt Reserve to Rocky Gully by the Murray Bridge Council which will include a loop trail around the Rocky Gully Wetlands.



NEW SECTION OF THE  
LAVENDER FEDERATION  
TRAIL NEAR MURRAY  
BRIDGE



SCENES FROM THE NEW KEYNETON TO TRURO SECTION OF THE LAVENDER  
FEDERATION TRAIL & MOCULTA LOOP TRAILS.

- Regional newspapers are an important means of getting news to local residents. At the start of the recent school holidays, the Murray Valley Standard in an article “Top 15 Free Activities” listed as #3 “Walk or bike ride the (Lavender) Federation Trail on Rocky Gully.

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. Go to the web page, “CONTACT US” section at [www.lavenderfederationtrail.org.au](http://www.lavenderfederationtrail.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.