

Footsteps

Newsletter of the Lavender Federation Trail
South Australian Recreation Trails Incorporated

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August 2012



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Successful opening of the 2012 Walking Season :-

The opening of the 2012 Walking Season at Truro which coincided with the opening of new sections of the Lavender Federation Trail was a very successful event with about 400 taking part in the day's events and on the organized walks through Kinsley Munchenberg's property (see photos). Most walkers were surprised to find such amazing scenery in the area and delighted to hear that this section is part of the main Lavender Federation Trail and not just available on the day. The event was also the release of a new LFT map, Map 3 Springton to Truro which also includes maps of the two Springton Loop trails, Eden Valley and Moculta Loop Trails and Keyneton and Truro Spur Trails.

If you have not yet obtained a copy of the new map, map outlets are listed on the website www.lavenderfederationtrail.org.au.

The day was officially opened by Ivan Venning MP and attended also the shadow minister for Recreation and Sport, Dan Van Holst Pellekaan MP who, several days later on the 3rd April spoke in the SA Parliament about walking, the local community and the Lavender Federation Trail. You can read the comments on a separate attachment.

The event resulted in a lot of publicity in the local media and a full page of photos in the Winter Edition of "Barossa Living" magazine which is distributed throughout the State. The spring edition of "Barossa Living" is scheduled to feature an article on the Lavender Federation Trail.

SARTI Board for 2012/13:-

Chris Bushell- Chairman
Barry Stacey- Secretary
Bob England-Treasurer/Murray Bridge Council observer
Ian Poole- Trail Forward Planning
George Adams-Trail Manager/Map & Brochure distribution
Graham Hallandal-Funding Manager/Publicity
Isobel Barrett-Membership Secretary
Inez Bormann-Mid Murray Council representative
Michael Seager-Barossa Council representative
Peter Dunn- Goyder Council representative
Regional Representatives-
Roger Lillecrap-Keyneton Region
Reg Munchenberg-Truro Region



GROUPS OF WALKERS CAN JUST BE SEEN AT THE BASE OF THE GORGE ON THE MUNCHENBERG PROPERTY AT THE OPENING OF THE 2012 WALKING SEASON



EUDUNDA COMMUNITY, BUSINESS & TOURISM COMMITTEE STAND AT TRURO

**DAN VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN MP,
MEMBER FOR STUART and SHADOW
MINISTER FOR RECREATION & SPORT
SPEAKING AT TRURO.**

A Year of Exceptional achievements:-

At the recent SARTI Annual General Meeting, Chairman Chris Bushell presented his annual report which summarizes the progress achievements of SARTI over the past 12 months. After reading this report, I think you will agree that the Lavender Federation Trail has leaped ahead in the past 12 months.

Chairman's Annual Report 2012

This year has been the most successful since I joined the Board. I am really proud of what we have achieved in increasing the official length of the trail by 50% to over 150 km. The section of the Lavender Federation Trail between Springton and the Stuart Highway east of Truro was officially opened at the Opening of the Walking Season in April at Truro. In addition we opened 2 new loop trails at Moculta and Keyneton and a spur trail into Truro.

SARTI hosted the Opening of the Walking Season on 1st April at Truro together with Walking SA and Truro and District Community Association. The success of the day was a tribute to the enthusiasm and involvement of all parties. However I would like to recognise particularly how much we appreciate the enthusiasm of the local community both for that event and for the development of our trail. In both respects our additional thanks go to Reg Munchenberg and we all got a great kick from seeing how much people enjoyed the section of trail through his family property.

We thank Ivan Venning MP for his continued support and his presence to formally declare our new trail section open. In addition we were very pleased to welcome Dan Van Holst Pellekaan MP to the event and thank him for his kind words on the day and subsequently in Parliament where they are recorded in Hansard. Truro is in his electorate but we recognise that it was a major trip for him to get there.

Map 3 covering this section and associated loop trails was produced in time for the event and sales were good on the day. I commend Carto Graphics for their excellent work and thank all those who submitted material.

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

Our next destination is Eudunda probably via Dutton, Leakes Lookout and Mount Rufus. The residents there are very enthusiastic. We welcome Peter Dunn to the Board as a Councillor from the Goyder Council the as representative of the Goyder Tourism Working Group.

Peter Herriman has taken over and redeveloped our website. We thank him for the excellent work and for his interest in our project.

Again we thank the Barossa Council, the Mid Murray Council and the Rural City of Murray Bridge for their continuing support and belief in the value of our work. We could achieve far less without the active participation of our council representatives Bob England, Inez Bormann and Michael Seager.

We decided this year that "membership of SARTI" lacked charisma so we have decided to remodel that support as "Friends of the Lavender Federation Trail". We thank all those who support us through their membership. We thank the volunteers who maintain the trail for their continued assistance.

The work put in this year by Ian Pool and George Adams has been staggering. Our special thanks go to Carmel and Esther for their understanding and endurance.

When I retired, I decided only to be involved in activities which gave me pleasure. The reason I'm still involved is because we are really doing something useful and this Board works hard. I thank the Board members for their efforts. We recognised the excellent contribution of Graham Hallandal by awarding him Honorary Life Membership of SARTI. He continues to produce excellent copies of our newsletter "Footsteps" and manages our funding applications. I wouldn't be able to continue without the persistent contribution, patience and wisdom of our valiant secretary, Barry Stacey.

And the final word is addressed to our government supporters at all levels. We have spent all the money that you wisely gave us. In deed we have spent a great deal more. The labour and financial contribution of the Board and our workers far exceeds that of government. We are ready to get on with the job; all we need is the widow's mite.

Chris Bushell.

Trail vandalism a continual battle:-

The trails network constructed and maintained by SARTI volunteers is now over 200 kilometers long with the combined lengths of the main trail from Murray Bridge to the Sturt Highway near Truro plus three loop trails and three spur trails.

It is very disheartening to these volunteers to find all their hard work destroyed by needless vandalism. Volunteers carted heavy wooden posts into Rocky Gully fixing firmly into the ground in an attempt to eliminate problems but many have been removed and in several cases found hundreds of metres from the trail. Trail bike riders are still managing to get into this area even though the Railtrack Corporation has placed secure fencing and locked gates in an attempt so eliminate trespassers using the rail track land to access areas such as Rocky Gully.

A "tracker" people counter installed at the western end of Rocky Gully in a metal housing believed to be a "vandal proof" has ceased to give meaningful readings from early this year after a lighted cigarette was pushed into the lens. Readings showed a 26.6% increase in trail users past the Tracker counter during 2011 compared to 2010 with over 400 users in a month during the peak walking season.

No replacement is available from Walking SA at present unless funds can be found for a replacement.

Re-vegetation project enhances the LFT:-

On Sunday 29th July approximately 50 volunteers in the Murray Bridge area took part in National Tree Day by planting 1200 native trees and plants along the Lavender Federation Trail adjacent to the new 1.5 kilometer section between Cypress Terrace and Netley Road. Organized by Murray Bridge Toyota & sponsored by Planet Ark and Toyota, volunteers from Toyota, Planet Ark, Murray Bridge Scouts, Murray Bridge Council employees and the public assisted. Council assisted by drilling holes for planting in the days leading up to the planting day. The planting will greatly enhance the area as the plants

grow and develop.

This section of trail is shown on Map 1 Murray Bridge to Mount Beavor. You can find out more about this section of trail in Footsteps Volume 11 Issue 1 & other back issues available on the website.



Truro to Eudunda takes a step forwards:-

Last edition of Footsteps reported *“An application for funding through the State Government “Open Space” grant scheme by the Goyder Council as lead council together with the Mid Murray Council has unfortunately been unsuccessful under the current round of funding. This grant would have allowed the Lavender Federation Trail to be extended a further 54 kilometers from Truro to Eudunda and the production of an additional map for this section”*

Both Councils involved are keen to keep this project moving. This has resulted in the Mid Murray Council offering a \$1500 grant to investigate and plan a route for the trail within their area provided it is matched with a similar investment. “Friends of the Heysen and other Trails “have come to the rescue and have offered to fund the matching \$1500.

Goyder Council has also offered “In kind” funding to allow SARTI to commence route planning and identification of road reserves from their boundary with the Mid Murray Council through to Eudunda.

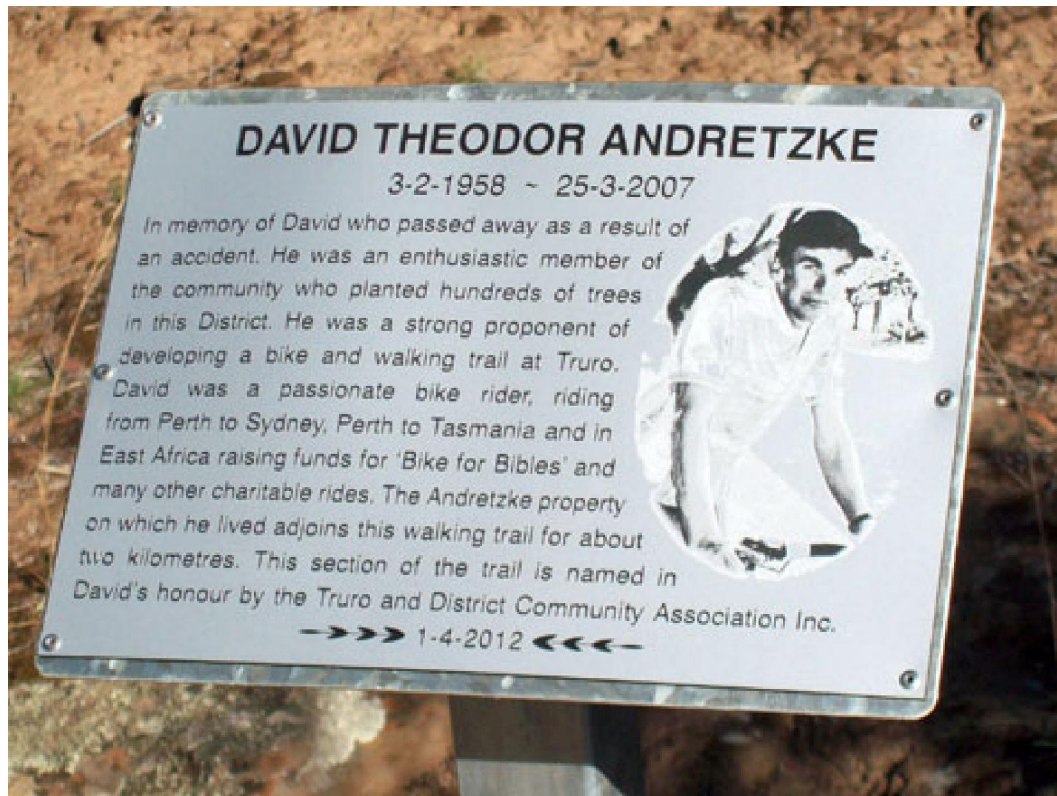
The SARTI Board is extremely grateful to the FHT for their donation as well as the Mid Murray and Goyder Councils. This will allow us to move the LFT forward and using materials set aside for maintenance, mark the trail from the Sturt Highway past Dutton.

To complete the trail through to Eudunda, replace maintenance materials and produce Map 4 Truro to Eudunda, substantial funding will be necessary. The new map alone is estimated at \$6.750.

To assist in this next phase, a SARTI sub- committee, the "*Lavender Federation Trail Development Team-Eudunda*" has been formed consisting of SARTI Board members Ian Poole, George Adams, Isobel Barrett and local Eudunda personnel.

Bits & Pieces:-

- There are now organized groups taking responsibility for maintaining a section of our trails system. One section of trail still remains unallocated with the recent opening of trail extensions. Volunteers are needed to maintain the Keyneton to Truro section of trail. If you can assist or would like more information on what is involved, contact Trail Manager George Adams at 82622611.
- Thank you to those who responded to our request in the last "Footsteps" regarding becoming a "Friend of the Lavender Federation Trail" by making a small financial donation. If you are not yet a supporter, remember that the whole trail network is planned, designed constructed and maintained entirely by volunteers for the benefit of all walkers, and an increasing number of cyclists and joggers. Multi-year, lifetime & corporate memberships are available.
A membership form is attached to this email.
- You may be aware of a proposal to build a drag racing strip at Monarto on the Princess Highway adjacent to the Lavender Federation Trail, Monarto Zoo and only several hundred metres from the proposed zoo expansion One reason bushwalkers enjoy their recreational activity is the quiet surrounding countryside and the wildlife. Let's hope the "Worlds Noisiest Motorsport" doesn't proceed & destroy the peace & tranquility of this area.
- At the entrance to the Munchenberg property at Truro, two plaques have been erected.
The first acknowledges donations from individuals & groups who have donated money for stiles or trail markers in this area. Listed on this plaque are Gully Environmental Network, Gloria Bristow, Reg Munchenberg & Faye Eaton. Many thanks from SARTI on behalf of all bushwalkers. Without your assistance and others who have made donations in the past, the LFT would not have proceeded as far as it has.
The second plaque has been erected in memory of David Andretzke; a photo of the plaque is shown below.



- Who reads the Footsteps newsletters? Your answer would probably be South Australians, maybe other Australian States but not internationally. Footsteps have readers in New Zealand, Chile and Alaska. If you are a Footsteps reader living outside of South Australia we would love to hear from you. Leave a message in the “Contact Us” section of the website www.lavenderfederationtrail.org.au.
- In the next issue of “Footsteps” we plan to include some photos of what you can expect to see on the next stage of the trail between Truro and Eudunda, news of the opening of another loop trail this year, and the upgrading of an existing section to cycling/ disabled standard.

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 , 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.