

Footsteps

Newsletter of the Lavender Federation Trail
South Australian Recreation Trails Incorporated

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SARTI Annual General meeting:-

The AGM of South Australian Recreation Trails Incorporated will be held on Tuesday 9th July 2013 at the RSL Clubrooms, Eudunda at 2.00 pm. Meeting of the SARTI Board will follow after the AGM. All those interested are invited to attend.

Trail Extension to Eudunda Update:-

Over 12 months ago the Regional Council of Goyder on behalf of Goyder and Mid Murray Councils applied for funding through the "Open Space Grants Scheme" to extend the Lavender Federation Trail to Eudunda from the current termination point on the Sturt Highway near Truro. This application was unsuccessful.

An application was again submitted early this year but was unsuccessful.

We planned to route the trail in this section solely using road reserves and minor tracks and roads. The "Lavender Federation Trail Development Team", a sub-committee of SARTI consisting of five local Eudunda and SARTI Board members meanwhile were hard at work looking at all options available for the route of this section of trail. Using local knowledge, contacts and offers by landowners to use their properties as part of the trail, the route now planned will cover more off-road and private land than any other section of the trail. The proposed revised route will be 51.5 km from the current finish point at Sturt Highway to Eudunda plus a 3.5 km loop trail to a lookout.

When will it happen? **Great news! During 2013.**

The Mid-Murray Council has allocated funding for stiles and trail markers from the Sturt Highway through Dutton to the Mid-Murray/Goyder Council boundaries and work has already commenced on this section.

The regional Council of Goyder at their meeting on the 19th March passed the motion *“Council approves the allocation of \$30,000 over two financial years 2012/13, 2013/14 to the South Australian Recreation Trails Inc., as a Council contribution to the construction of the Truro to Eudunda section of the Lavender Trail”*.

Thank you Regional Council of Goyder for your support and very generous offer. The funding is very much appreciated not only by the SARTI Board but also the local Eudunda Community who have worked very hard to get the trail to Eudunda and the walking community who have been supporters of the Lavender Federation Trail.

This funding will allow work to go ahead to complete this section of trail through the rural areas before the start of the 2013/4 fire season. Wooden trail markers and interpretive signage will be completed in Dutton and Eudunda and a new map, Map 4, Truro to Eudunda to be ready for the 2014 Walking Season. It is anticipated that around 50 stiles will be needed along this section and because of the large use of private land, more trail markers than usual.

On Tuesday 14th May, SARTI Board members Ian Pool (Route Planning Manager), George Adams (Trails Manager), Barry Stacey (Secretary) and Graham Hallandal (Funding Manager) met at Burra with Goyder Council staff and Goyder Council SARTI Representative Peter Dunn to discuss procedures involved in building the trail.

What can walkers expect to see on the next section? Most of you will be very pleasantly surprised at the excellent and interesting country in the area. This is what you can expect to see when the trail is open.



Bits and Pieces

- Many thanks to the “Friends of the Heysen & other trails” for their donation of \$1500. This donation will be put to good use to purchase trail markers & stiles for the next section of the LFT.
- A valuable but often overlooked benefit of walkers travelling through rural areas is the additional sets of eyes looking out for anything that may seem unusual. In the past we have had reports of walkers seeking out local landowners to report stock or wildlife caught in fences. More recently, in mid-April, walkers in the Rockleigh area reported distressed, dying and in excess of 26 dead sheep. With SARTI assistance, a RSPCA inspection resulted in feed being supplied saving some animals that had little hope surviving but unfortunately, several had to be destroyed.

If you see anything you are concerned about while walking, please report the matter to a local landowner, council or police.

- Murray Bridge Mayor, Alan Arbon officially opened the upgraded Rocky Gully Wetlands Trails at a ceremony at the information bay, Mannum Road, Murray Bridge on Sunday 7th April. A small group of Wetlands volunteers, SARTI board members and walkers attended a short ceremony where a plaque showing a map and details of the trails was shown. The plaque is to be installed on an angled mounting at the entrance to the trails adjacent to the information bay.
- Suggested walk; Eden Valley Loop Trail. Start and finish point is the interpretive sign in the main street adjacent to the hotel. The route is shown on “Map 3 Springton to Truro” together with a description of the trail. Map outlets are on the web site and the length of this trail is 18 kilometers. Major highlights are the panoramic views at various points, Keynes Gap, the cross overlooking Eden Valley (photos follow) and the quiet tracks and minor roads. One for the fitter walker but the length can be reduced if a second car is located part way through the walk.



- Interpretive signs are now in production to be installed at Moculta, Springton, Truro and Keyneton at the start of the loop and spur trails. Signs will give details and a map of the respective trails.

- The first of several interpretive signs planned for this year has been installed by the Mid Murray Council at Pioneer Park at the Hero's Park end on the Sturt Highway at Truro. The park, currently being redeveloped is the start point for the Truro Spur Trail which leads to the main Lavender Federation Trail 4 kilometers to the east. Details shown on Map 3- Springton to Truro.



- Our many thanks to Robert Winny who has volunteered to maintain the Keyneton to Sturt Highway section from July and David Clark who will look after the Murray Bridge to Preamimma Mines section.
- Are you a SARTI supporter? A contribution as small as \$10 annually will assist SARTI to maintain, improve and expand the Lavender Federation Trail, produce this newsletter, maintain & upgrade our web site, produce and distribute maps and the many jobs we undertake on behalf of the walking and increasing numbers of cycle users. We are all volunteers and public liability insurance to cover walkers & volunteers costs around \$1300 each year.

As an incentive to become a member of "Friends of the Lavender Federation Trail" and existing supporters to renew their membership, SARTI will conduct a walk open only to members on a section of the trail that will not be opened until 2014.

Register your interest in participating in this walk on the web site in the "CONTACT US" section indicating your interest in the pre-trail opening walk together with your name and email address. Places are limited so register soon. Application and renewal forms for membership can be downloaded from the website www.lavenderfederationtrail.org.au.

This is a sample of what you can see on the "Friends of the Lavender Federation Trail" walk: - rocky gorges, waterholes, ancient stone walls, waterfalls, wide panoramas.....



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.