

Footsteps

Newsletter of the Lavender Federation Trail
South Australian Recreation Trails Incorporated

Volume 12 Issue 4 November 2013



In this issue:-

- *Lavender Federation Trail volunteers win award.*
- *SARTI Federal Grant.*
- *Trail Extension to Eudunda Update.*
- *Back in time.*
- *Bits and pieces*

Lavender Federation Trail volunteers win award:-.

The Lavender Federation Trail was nominated in two categories, "Tourism" and "Community Group", in the 2013 "Brand SA" South Australian Regional Awards for the Murraylands and Riverland regions. There were 186 nominations in thirteen categories, an increase of over 50% from last year. At the presentation dinner held at the Murray Bridge Community Club on Friday 25th October, SARTI volunteers were presented with a plaque as one of three finalists in the Community Group section.

Well done to all SARTI volunteers; trail maintenance individuals & groups, those involved in trail planning & building, Board members, and all who are involved in assisting the work of SARTI.



Regional Awards Presentation L to R: Barry Stacey, George Adams, Graham Hallandal, Isobel Barrett & Ian Poole.



Trail maintenance volunteers aren't all walkers. David Clark maintains the Murray Bridge/ Monarto section uses a mountain bike towing a trailer loaded with tools and maintenance materials.

SARTI Federal Grant:-

SARTI has been awarded a grant from the Federal Government “Department of Housing, Families, Community Service and Aboriginal Affairs” as part of the “Volunteer Grants 2013” scheme. The grant will assist in defraying the increasing costs of travel, often a three hour round trip, and accommodation of volunteers as the trail moves increasing distances from their homes.

Trail Extension to Eudunda Update:-

Work is progressing on the Truro to Eudunda Trail Route. To date, in the Goyder Council area, over 75% of the trail has been completed with 37 stiles and 160 markers already installed along the 36 km of trail. Five separate sections of private property have been made available to access some wonderful bushwalking terrain and landscapes. The introduction of these more picturesque sections, not always accessible by vehicle has involved foot/back-packing of materials (always upwards) on occasions. Fortunately we were assisted by landowners making time available to guide our vehicles through the deepest gullies and creek beds to get close as possible to our work sites.

In addition to the use of 126 hours of voluntary labour to fabricate and assemble stiles in Adelaide, approaching 400 hours have been spent on site work and associated travel. Coordinating the availability of helpers and weather conditions 100 km from home has had its problems, affecting progress.

With the hot weather/fire season already threatening we are anticipating there will be some work carry over into the autumn. In the meantime, it has been planned to install the post markers in the townships over the summer period. Additionally our locals have indicated that they can take advantage of suitable weather breaks matching their time out to spend a few hours working on the trail, close to home. If all goes to plan the trail can be finished for use by the end of autumn which is when the landscapes really start to bloom and needs to be seen.

Many Eudunda businesses are benefiting with the purchasing of materials, as well as food and accommodation for volunteers.



Trail marking materials-steel droppers, timber and tools carried into position by SARTI volunteers on the Dutton-Eudunda section.



Gale force winds of over 100 kph swept volunteers off their feet at an exposed location while trail marking. The force of the wind was blowing marker posts over.



View over the surrounding countryside in the Dutton to Eudunda section of the LFT on private property. The property owner assisted in getting trail marking materials to this area. Originally planned to be part of a loop trail, this will now part of the main trail.

Back in time-Part 1:-

Who thought of the idea of having a walking trail in that area of South Australia? How did the Lavender Federation Trail start? These are some of the questions we are sometimes asked at displays and through the web site so, after 12 years of “Footsteps” newsletters, it may be interesting to go back in time with a brief history of the Lavender Federation Trail.

The idea of the Lavender Federation Trail came about in 1999 when Terry Lavender, the man behind the building of the Heysen Trail, was walking through the Ferries Mc Donald Conservation Park at Monarto when heavy rain intervened. Deciding to return to his home in Adelaide via the eastern side of the Mount Lofty Ranges, he was surprised to find the area was not all flat, uninteresting country but a wealth of good walking country with high ridges, gorges and sweeping panoramas never explored by walkers before. With the assistance of well-known identity, George Driscoll, it was decided that it was feasible to build a trail from Murray Bridge to Clare. A public meeting was held in Adelaide with invitations sent out to Local Government, walking clubs, bike and horse groups to attend resulting in-principle support of Walking SA. It was decided to call the new trail, the “Federation Trail” as it was intended to open the first section in 2001, the Centenary of Federation in Australia, to start the trail at Murray Bridge because of the support of the Rural City of Murray Bridge representative at the meeting and to form a steering committee. This committee eventually became an



incorporated body, South Australian Recreation Trails Incorporated (SARTI). On Sunday 26th September 1999, the first public walk took place with a group of around 150 taking part in a walk from Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge to the Monarto Recreation Reserve. Shuttle buses returned participants back to Sturt Reserve for afternoon tea and the presentation of an “Inaugural Walk

Certificate”. The first steps had begun.

Federation trail opened

Walkers young and old turned out to give the new Federation Trail a warm welcome to the region on Sunday.

About 150 people made the most of the perfect spring weather to walk the 17 kilometres from Sturt Reserve to Monarto - the first stretch of the trail to be unofficially marked.

Spokesperson Graham Hallandal said so successful was the walk that many people have already volunteered their time to help officially mark the trail which, on completion, will span 500 kilometres from Murray Bridge to Clare.

"It was excellent. We had just over 150 walkers.

The youngest was about nine and the oldest 74 years old who did the whole walk," Mr Hallandal said.

"We had two young people who, when they got to the end of the walk, decided to keep going to Callington."

Mr Hallandal said Murray Bridge Council had organised a "faultless" walk, with many favorable comments received.

"Even from some of the local people, they were saying 'I didn't realise we had scenery

like this so close to home'."

Already people are asking when the next part of the trail will be completed, with organisers now looking to neighboring councils for support.

Behind the Federation Trail are the same names responsible for the famous Heysen Trail.

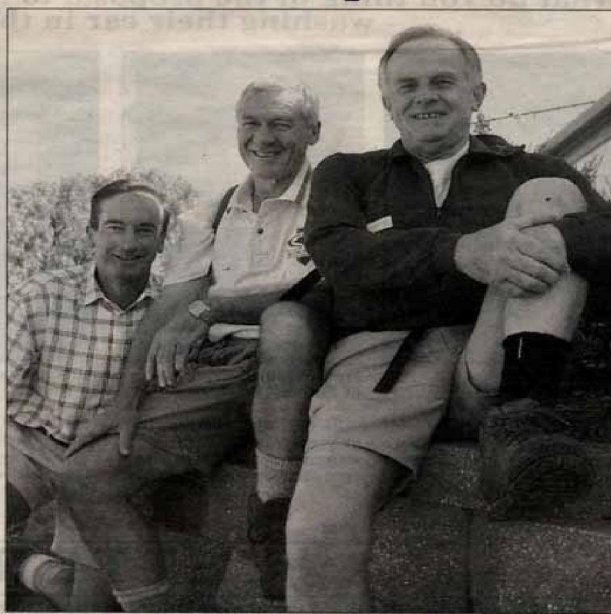
Mr Hallandal said one commented that it took them nine years to negotiate with the State government for a small section of the Heysen Trail and it only took eight weeks to get the 17km of the Federation Trail opened.

In addition to the many walkers, mountain bike riders and horse riders also turned out to take part.

Mr Hallandal said quotes were currently being obtained in readiness for the official marking, which will include a Murray Bridge-designed Federation Trail logo, adopted as the symbol by the Bushwalking Federation.

"When a few more sections are done I think it will bring some more tourists into the town," Mr Hallandal said.

Murray Bridge councillor Fred Sanders informed council at last night's



Before setting out from Sturt Reserve at the walk to launch the trail ... local organisers Tony Budarick, Malcolm Blight and Graham Hallandal.

meeting that about \$500 was raised for the trail along the way.

"People were asking when we were going to do another one."

WEEKEND PLUS

Trailblazers' first walk

OUTDOORS

By KYM TILBROOK

THE first walk on the planned Federation Trail will be held near Murray Bridge on September 26. The walk will start at 10am at the Murray Bridge Community Club on Sturt Reserve by the River Murray.

The 500km trail, to run from Clare in the Mid North to Murray Bridge, has been proposed by bushwalkers Terry Lavender, of Lavender Trailmasters, and George Driscoll, of Snowgum Adelaide.

It will follow public road reserves and will be for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

Mr Driscoll says members of the public are invited to take part in the first walk which will cover 8km to 10km.

He says the walk will finish about 3pm at Sturt Reserve for afternoon tea.

The Murray Bridge Council will provide a shuttle bus between Murray Bridge and Callington during the day for people who want to do a shorter walk.

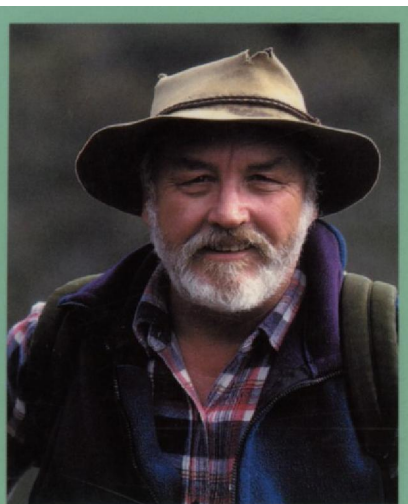
Mr Driscoll says certificates will be presented to people completing the walk.

"A donation to assist in marking the route of the trail is requested from all walkers," he says. "This can be paid on the day or at the Snowgum store in Rundle St."

Details of the walk are available from Snowgum, on 8223 5544. Bookings are requested so that enough leaders can be provided. But walkers are welcome on the day and should book at Sturt Reserve at 9.30am.

Mr Lavender says the aim is to open the trail in 2001 to mark the centenary of Australia's Federation. The trail will follow disused dirt roads from south of Clare to Kapunda and through the Mt Lofty Ranges to Murray Bridge. "It will be a really varied walk through vineyards, farms and the ranges where there will be spectacular views," Mr Lavender says.

Terry Lavender OAM,
Churchill Fellow,
Inaugural Chairman of
SARTI.



Bits and Pieces:-

- Proposals for alternative routes for the Lavender Federation Trail onwards from Eudunda are already underway including the use of a disused railway corridor. The Eudunda Working Group which includes SARTI Board members and locals are investigating various options past Eudunda as well as planning the Dutton to Eudunda section currently underway.



Eudunda Working Group.
L to R Trevor Mathews, Ian Poole (SARTI Trail Planning Manager), Julie Mathews, George Adams (SARTI Trail manager), Peter Dunn (Goyder Council SARTI Rep)

- Well respected Truro identity, Reg Munchenberg, has resigned from the SARTI board. Reg has been a valuable contributor to SARTI with his intimate knowledge of the Truro area and its history. Reg, a member of the Truro Progress Association, with his local knowledge has been able to assist in planning the route of the LFT in the Truro area. With his assistance, the trail goes through the gorge on his son's property between Truro and the Sturt Highway. This section was one of the walks used at the opening of the 2012 Walking Season at Truro.
- Walking the LFT is a breeze compared to this trail in China. Hover mouse over web address below, right mouse click, down to "open hyperlink". View the photos & the video. There is a longer version video at the end of the video available by clicking on the photo at the top RH side.
<http://twistedrifter.com/2013/09/cliffside-plank-path-hua-shan-china/>
- The LFT web site www.lavenderfederationtrail.org.au is continually changing with news items, events and photos added. You can now subscribe to Footsteps more simply on the home page. Businesses such as accommodation providers near the Lavender Federation Trail, walking clubs or businesses associated with walking are now able to advertise on our web site with details and photos and provide a web site link to their web site. The first example of these adverts, a "Walking Tour of the UK" in 2014 has recently been added. This service is free to SARTI corporate members as a membership bonus offer for this financial year. The web site host, Web South at Eudunda provides a web design service. This year the web site has indicated increased usage of +156% in visits and +279% unique visitors.

- Three new information signs will shortly be installed in the Barossa area. All signs have a map of the immediate area and the main Lavender Federation Trail. The Keyneton sign will be located at the start of the spur trail; the Springton sign near the Herbig Tree and details both Springton Loop Trails and main trail. At Moculta, the sign will be located at the entrance to the oval and car park. Many thanks to the Mid Murray Council and Barossa Councils for funding these signs. To get the full benefit of walking the spur, loop or main trails, details of point of interest, distances and other information, "Map 3 Springton to Truro" should be obtained and carried on the walk. Map outlets are listed on the web site.
- SARTI has recently lost a longtime supporter of the Lavender Federation Trail, Fred Sanders, who passed away on the 7th October. Fred, who is mentioned in the newspaper articles earlier in this newsletter, was often at SARTI Board meetings, working days on the trail and donated and installed a rain water tank on the trail at Trevelen Park, Monarto. With Fred's guidance, the Rocky Gully Wetlands at Murray Bridge was transformed from a deteriorating swamp to the 14 hectare wetlands we see today surrounded by the Lavender Federation Trail & Loop Trail, over 3000 trees planted, several islands constructed, birdlife, bridges and seating. RIP Fred.

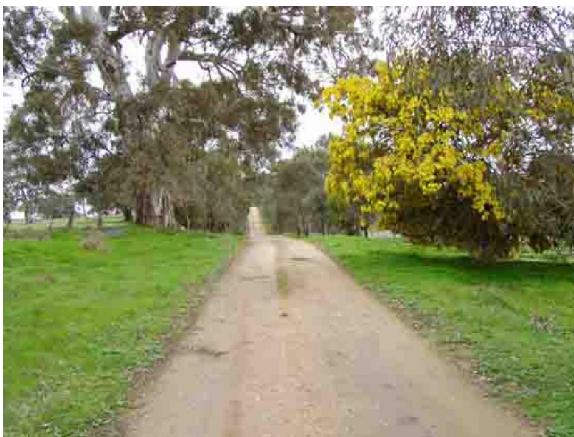


Trail users; please keep a look out.

Assistant SA Police Commissioner Linda Williams said communities needed to be aware that seemingly innocuous or isolated minor burned spots on walking trails, trees or shrubs could be highly significant when it came to preventing fires and catching

arsonists. She said it was important that isolated burn spots be reported to police immediately because bushfire arsonists often practiced by lighting small fires before moving on to set larger, more damaging blazes. "These practice runs can appear as random patches of burned earth or trees along walking trails, or local parks, or even a scorched fence," she said. "We want to know where they're appearing. "This information may lead us to the arsonist before they do the type of damage we have recently witnessed across NSW."

- Suggested walk. The Tungkillo Loop Trail is a walk of contrasting countryside with a suggested start/finish point on Harding's Road a few minutes' drive north of the Tungkillo Township. An easy walk, the height varies from 330 metres to 450 metres above sea level and is a 17 km loop incorporating part of the main trail. The northern part of the trail has many large rocky outcrops, the eastern leg, views across to Mount Beevor, few trees and old sheep pens which contrasts with the area around Willow Brook with more lush vegetation in winter. A great finish to the walk is a cold drink or meal at the Tungkillo Hotel. Several B & Bs are at Tungkillo and groups and clubs may wish to use the nearby Tungkillo Hall for accommodation. (Details on the web site).
Map 2 Mount Beevor to Springton gives all details of the walk.



Tungkillo Loop Trail.



- Congratulations to long serving SARTI Board members Roger Lillecrap, Barry Stacey and Bob England who were awarded SARTI Life Membership by Chairman Chris Bushell on October 1st at the Board meeting at Eudunda.



Newest SARTI Life Members.
L-R: Bob England, Barry Stacey, Chris Bushell, Roger Lillecrap.

- SARTI volunteers met for an informal “thank you” lunch at Footeside Farm near Eudunda on Sunday 24th November. The event was attended by 25 volunteers who maintain sections of the trail, serve on the SARTI Board and members of the “Eudunda Working Group” who assist with planning and building the Eudunda section. All enjoyed a lunch using many Australian native foods such as wattle seed, quandong and bush tomato. This is the first occasion when all volunteers had the opportunity to meet and socialize and prior to the lunch, observe a Board meeting and the organization and work behind the scenes. Footeside Farm has been used for overnight accommodation on several occasions by those involved in building the Dutton-Eudunda section of trail. Located next to the main trail, which goes through the property, this location will make an ideal base for groups when the new trail section opens next year.



SARTI volunteers lunch at Footeside Farm near Eudunda.



Ann Lavender presented with her “Lavender Federation Trail Patron” Certificate by SARTI Chairman Chris Bushell.

*Are you receiving this newsletter indirectly via a club or friend? Why not receive a copy direct and get all the latest news direct to your computer. The Lavender federation Trail web site home page www.lavenderfederationtrail.org.au gives easy access to subscribe or unsubscribe. Don't forget to tell us if you change your email address - you can change this online via a link in your newsletter. **The “Footsteps” Newsletter is free.** Reproduction of all or part of this newsletter by any organization may be permitted providing permission is first obtained from SARTI.*

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.