

# Footsteps

Newsletter of the Lavender Federation Trail  
South Australian Recreation Trails Incorporated



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## **Urgent-Extensive Track Closures due to bushfires:-**

Bush fires during the past weeks have affected several sections of the Lavender Federation Trail resulting in an indefinite closure of these sections. Remaining spot fires, fallen trees and destruction of fencing mean that it is dangerous to access the areas affected by these fires. It is believed that most trail markers (wooden posts on star droppers with aluminum markers), trail intersection signs and stiles over fences are unlikely to have survived due the ferocity of the fires. SARTI personnel, when safe to do so, will make “on-site” assessments of the damage commencing with the more easily accessible areas.

Our initial estimate of replacement costs of destroyed infrastructure along the estimated 25.3 km of trail affected in the Barossa and Rockleigh areas is approximately \$10,000. The SARTI Board at its next meeting at Eudunda on the 6<sup>th</sup> February will discuss how we can obtain funding to finance this project, resources to rebuild the destroyed sections while completing the Truro to Eudunda section.

Realistically, some of the sections may have to stay closed for all of the 2014 walking season until all fencing has been replaced & new stiles installed.

*Regular updates will appear on the Lavender Federation trail website*  
[www.lavenderfederationtrail.org.au](http://www.lavenderfederationtrail.org.au)

Trail sections closed:-

### **Rockleigh Fires**

#### **Rockleigh/Monarto Area:-**

Trail within the fire area extends from 500 m east of Critchley Road, along Pannican Hill Road, NW along Spring Gully Creek to Critchley Road, north to Bondleigh Road and 400 m north towards Rams Road (9.0 km).

Area marked “Alternate Route” for entire length of Bondleigh Road through to Rockleigh Road (2.5 km).

A fire in the Rockleigh area several weeks ago bordered the Lavender Federation Trail west of Preamimma Road but did not affect the trail.

## **Eden Valley Fire**

### **Springton –Eden Valley area:-**

#### **Springton Loop Trails:-**

No affect

#### **Lavender Federation Trail:-**

1.0 Km west of Moss Smith Road (towards Shearers Road), Moss Smith Road/Rhine Park Road/Keynes Gap/north of Pub Road to 1 .0 km north of Murray Road. (10.5 KM)

#### **Eden Valley Loop Trail:-**

Rushlea Road 300 m from intersection with main trail , entire length of the section past Keynes Gap (part of main trail) to Murray Road 200 m from intersection of main trail.

### **Truro Area:-**

#### **Lavender Federation Trail**

Corner of Copper Mine Road and Mine Road through Truro Gorge, north to the Sturt Highway (5 km).

#### **Truro Spur Trail**

Corner of Copper Mine Road and Mine Road west towards Truro. (300 m)

### **Moculta Loop Trail & Keyneton Spur Trails not affected.**

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**The Eden Valley fire has burnt more than 24,000 hectares of grass and damaged numerous structures.**

### **The CFS have a map showing the Eden Valley fire area online**

[http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/home/eden\\_valley\\_fire\\_information.jsp](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/home/eden_valley_fire_information.jsp)

(this may be removed at any time)

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### ***CFS Website a Valuable resource for everyone***

"One of the things that have come out of the recent fires which reached the Truro area, where the trail goes to at the moment is that of 'knowing what is happening'" said Peter, one of the land owners in the Truro to Eudunda section.

"Our area was not affected directly, but was in line to be next and thanks to the magnificent efforts of all the fire-fighters/volunteers and supporters and the good fortune of the winds calming in the evenings and nights they kept it to the Southern side of the Sturt Highway. And for the Eudunda area the fact none of the spectacular lightening caused any trouble on that Friday night. We were very lucky!! We also feel much sympathy for all those who have suffered from the fires.

**WARNING: Low Phone Coverage.**

"When you come into the area North of Truro you can find many spots that are not covered by mobile phone reception. The townships of Truro and Eudunda are fine for the main mobile phone providers but people do sometimes have trouble with some 'budget' providers who aim at only services in the city.

"Can I suggest that before going for a walk in any area (or any trail) to check the CFS website to see if there are any incidents reported. The URL is [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au) (I must admit it is something I had never thought of before).

"Another thing that can help you while planning or even out on the trail is the CFS have developed some 'Apps' to keep 'Smart Phone' users informed of the latest incidents. You can download them via links at the bottom of the CFS website.

"Please be aware that because you may be in a Low or No reception area the apps may not work. Your own 'senses' and 'playing safe' will be more important.

**Phones go flat quick in low signal areas**

"Another issue with being in a 'low signal' area is that your mobile phone battery can go flat very quickly. This is caused by the technology continually trying to 'poll' for a signal from the nearest tower. It seems that many phones poll more often when they can't 'talk back' to the tower and the phone goes flat much quicker.

*Ones that usually last over a day can go flat in a few hours.*

So please monitor your battery level. In an emergency most times people can get enough signal to at least SMS from some of the higher or more open areas, so keep them charged as best you can. SMS is much more reliable and uses the battery less!"

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