

HANDOUT- OVERVIEW

HEYSEN TRAIL END TO END 2014 -2018 **Proposal**

Some members doing the first two walks in September have expressed an interest in walking The Heysen Trail, End to End. It is proposed that we continue to Parachilna over a period of 4 years ending in November 2017 (2014-2017). The trail is normally walked over 65+ days and can only be walked during the walking season, April to November. This assures property owners that walkers will not be on their property during Fire Ban Season and this must be observed to have their continuous cooperation. I have walked the trail before and am familiar with the logistics involved but would prefer to have a second leader engaged for some support. Notwithstanding this, I encourage all walkers to carry a map and compass and use them, it can be a great learning opportunity and will provide a greater level safety for the group and enhance the personal achievement over such a long distance.

The Walks

- The walking season lasts 6 months so I propose that we walk every month making 5 weekends a year with a week long camp around September/October however this can be flexible. It may be less pressure if we do 3 weekends and one camp per year and finish in 2018.
- The trail will not necessarily be walked in order as we need to take advantage of the week away to cover the northern most aspects each year with the final camp ending at the last style at Parachilna Gorge. So basically we will be moving from south to north in a disjointed sort of way.
- The walking will consist of pack carrying, car based camping and day walks from a base camp such as a caravan park. If a large group commit we can do crossover walks saving time and fuel expenses. Crossovers mean a designated driver takes someone else's car to one end of the days walk, the owner walks from the opposite end towards his/her car and drives home from there. Ideally, two sets of car keys are brought along or you swap keys when crossing over. This also means some members will walk north to south while the other half walk south to north on the same stretch of trail.
- To walk the trail in sequence, given that most of you work, it would take twice as long and would be more expensive engaging longer car shuffles.

Walk Programme

- In the attachment "Heysen Trail Walk Plan" a draft programme is made up to take us to Chain of Ponds for the start of the next walk season.
- There are two car based camps in October and November to bring us to Kyeema Conservation Park, south of Kuitpo Forest.
- From Kyeema CP to Chain of Ponds is mostly public land with only 2-3 kilometers over private property which I have obtained permission to enter. We can walk these as day walks on Sundays over summer.
- Distances may vary and do not often correspond with information in the guide book.
- I will put out a programme early each year so you can plan your year in advance.
- The programme will require some flexibility to suit the majority and unforeseen circumstances but it is basically a guide to get started while the enthusiasm is there.

Catch-up Walks

- It is probably impossible to attend all walks as designated so catch-up walks are done to keep everyone up to date. This is ad-hock when the person doing a “catchup” can summon a few others to do a particular walk that was missed. This is where team work helps.

Transport

- Transport will mostly be in private cars with the normal fuel reimbursement by passengers to the rendezvous point.
- The car shuffles will be an additional cost, trip meters zeroed and I propose that each car will be paid 50cents per km divided among all participants. This system has worked fairly in other walking clubs.
- The second camp may involve the hire of a bus as it is not wise to leave cars parked for two nights unattended in the south coast area.

Expenses

- Fuel cost
- Accommodation- cabins/caravan parks
- Camp fees in parks
- Parks passes

Water

- Pack carrying sections will only be walked when water is available on the trail from designated tanks provided by Friends of the Heysen Trail or where potable water is available.
- Supply our own water when car based camping to ease the demand for water on the Heysen Trail tanks.

Maps

- Trail maps 1 to 8 are available from the Friends of the Heysen Trail website or office. You are encouraged to buy your own copy and support the ongoing expenses of the trail maintenance.
- Be sure to visit the website http://www.heysentrail.asn.au/heysen_trail/re-routes.php for up to date re-routes before each walk as these are ongoing.

All walkers are responsible for carrying a map, digital or paper and know how to use it.

Safety

To ensure the safety of participants the following strategy will apply:

- All participants will be accepted on the basis of their physical capacity to attempt the walking aspects of the Trail.
- All participants will be encouraged to navigate the trail for added security of walkers.
- We will carry PLB's and/or SPOT radio beacons and GPS units to ensure accurate transfer of location in an emergency.
- I am requesting that the club purchase 2 UHF radios to maintain contact between the lead and the tail or cross over groups, particularly if we have a large group.
- Occasions on which emergency medical assistance or search party is called ABW committee will be advised when possible.
- Emergency Procedures will be followed as per ABW Policy.
- It is expected that several walkers will have current senior First Aid Certificates.

- All participants will be strongly encouraged to ensure that they have Ambulance and/or Health cover, carry personal First Aid kit and carry a medical information and Next of Kin details as per ABW Guidelines.
- A trip intention itinerary will be lodged with Park Rangers where required.

Commitment

The Heysen Trail demands a huge commitment in your *time, finances, fitness* and *team work*. Ideally a core group, dedicated to the whole trail, works best.

Registration

- Please advise me by return email as soon as possible if you intend to be part of the core group.
- All members are invited to join the activities but core group members will be given priority.
- I am also interested in your comments about the schedule and any aspect, is it too much?