

Parish Walking Group



Belair National Park



Urrbrae House Gardens

In the January Newsletters 2025

Our first walk for 2025 will be on Tuesday 21 January at Somerton Park at 9.30am for a walk along the Esplanade towards Glenelg. Turn off Repton Road at Jack Fox Drive (which is also the entrance to the Dunes Apartments) towards the Minda INC Café and park behind the café or in the general carpark. There will be a short and long walk or just join us for coffee at 10.45am

The Parish Walking Group undertake walks in local parks or gardens on a Tuesday once a month. The group finishes off with coffee and cake at various locations.

Please join us. We welcome everyone and provide a suitable walk for all.

Parish Walking Group 2024 - Report to Parish

Thank you to everyone who has enjoyed walking with the Parish Walking Group in 2024 which celebrated 8 years of walking this year. We welcomed a number of new members, and we made a number of changes which everyone appreciated - new walk locations, introducing a shorter walk option and a number of people joined us just for coffee and conversation after the walk.

We continued our Gold coin donation for charity and presented Foodbank with a total of almost \$500. Beth Campbell-Bruce from Foodbank spoke to us after our last walk about how our donation would enable Foodbank to assist the most needy across a broad community and to thank us for our donation.

This year we had new walks around the recently opened Happy Valley Reservoir Walk, a walk around the gardens of Urrbrae House, and new walks at Glenthorne Farm, and Brownhill Creek. Thank you, Clem & Barb Colla and Phil and Lynne Doyle, for planning and leading walks. Thank you also to Mario Frosco and Barb Colla for great photographs. Thank you all for suggestions for future walks.

There are many benefits in walking. Besides fitness and health aspects, we learn about the environment for which we are all responsible and offer opportunities to view beautiful native flora and, sometimes, our unique fauna. We are fortunate to live in a Parish with such a beautiful environment so close. A most satisfying aspect is the companionship we enjoy, from the time we gather in the Car Park until after coffee & cake. It is an opportunity to meet and to get to know other parishioners in a friendly and beautiful setting.

Our walks are arranged to suit everyone in the group on the day as we take into account those resuming from injuries and illness. Our walks are on firm surfaces and are advertised in the Parish Bulletin. They are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 9.30 am. We encourage new walkers to join us to enjoy the benefits of socialising in such a beautiful environment. If you would like to participate please call Bob McEvoy on 0412 310 947 or Clem Colla 0417 832 172 or Phil Doyle 0417 844 004.

Our walk leaders are experienced walkers. Here are 2 profiles;

Bob McEvoy, Walk Leader

Bob has been a bushwalker for 14 years completing the Heysen Trail in 2012 and leading walks in Adelaide Hills, Victorian Alps and Tasmania East Coast. He also instructed on GPS navigation courses conducted in Belair National Park for the Active Over 50s Walking Group.

Bob began the Blackwood Parish Walking Group in 2016 in an effort to bring people from two churches together, actively and socially.

Walks are generally held on flat surfaces and are comfortable for all levels of walking.

Clem Colla and Phil Doyle, both active regular walkers are fellow leaders in the Parish Walking Group.

Bob McEvoy 0412 310 947

Philip Doyle, Walk Leader

Phil has been a keen hiker and camper for over 50 years since he was a youth in scouts. Today Phil is Group Leader and Assistant Scout Leader with the Blackwood Scout Group. Phil has hiked extensively in the southern and northern Flinders Ranges, Fleurieu Peninsula, Adelaide Hills, Victorian Alps (summer & winter), Kakadu and Litchfield NP's. Phil, with his wife Lynne, enjoy taking their two dogs for a walk in Belair National Park, along the Sturt River Linear Trail and on their 45 acre property.

Phil joined the Blackwood Parish Walking Group when he retired late 2022. He has found the church walks provide a great opportunity to better get to know our fellow parishioners and enjoy nature and a coffee at the same time. The walks cater for all comers.

Photos from 2024 Walks



Some wildflowers and orchids from the September walk in Belair National Park



Glenthorne National Park



Coffee at Brownhill Creek

Thank you to all our walkers during the year. To Phil Doyle, for organising our last walk for the year, a pleasant walk along the Sturt River Linear Park. And for coffee at the Bake Bakery.

More Thank you: Michael for collecting our Gold coin donations through the year which raised a total of \$498.80, a wonderful donation to Foodbank which we learnt with Foodbank's buying power with

supermarkets is worth seven times that amount; June and Peter for arranging Beth from Foodbank to speak to us about their work; and Clem and Barb Colla for leading walks during the year.

Our next walk will be on Tuesday 21 January on the Esplanade at Somerton Park with coffee at the Minda INC Café. Details to follow. Bob McEvoy 0412 310 947.



Beth from Foodbank accepts our charitable donation November 2024

