

GDTA POST



Members Dinner Guildford Hotel

Saturday 23 June 2007

A Walk on the Irishtown Loop will precede the Annual Members' Dinner on Saturday 23 June 2007.

Meet Richard Piesse at the Guildford Hotel at 3.30 pm for the walk (5-7 kms, easy-medium).

Then back to the Guildford Hotel for drinks and dinner commencing 6.00 pm

Main course and dessert for \$26.00 per head

Drinks @ bar prices

Guest speakers: Anne Beggs-Sunter and David Bannear.

Phone bookings to Liz Burns on 5348 5667 and then please post your cheque by Friday 15 June to Pat Hope, GDTA Treasurer, PO Box 349 Daylesford 3460.

**Newsletter of the
Great Dividing
Trail Association**

<http://www.gdt.org.au>

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DEVELOPMENT OF THE GREAT DIVIDING TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS.

- 1992 First gathering of people interested in developing Trail.
- 1993 Launch of Trail Wombat Forest
- 1996 Opening of Dry Diggings Track at Castlemaine by Governor Sir James Gobbo.
- 1999 Opening of Federation Track at Creswick by Geoff Howard MLA.
- 2003 Opening of Leanganook Track at Bendigo by Premier Steve Bracks.
 - 2005 Opening of Lerderderg Track at Blackwood by Patron Governor John Landy accompanied by Steve Moneghetti Trail Ambassador.
 - 2005 Planning Commences on Buninyong and Mt Macedon Extensions.
- 2005 Announcement of State and Federal Government Grants to appoint development consultant.
- 2006 Opening of Mt. Buninyong to Ballarat section by Steve Moneghetti Nov. 23rd.
- 2007 Opening of the Gold Museum Exhibition.

GDTA Archivist Appointed.

See Article page 3.

WORKING BEE

Today on the track

If you weren't with us today you missed a treat.
We had the best time.
We were at the working bee.
Where were you? We missed you.

A working bee is every bit as good as a walk.
You get that feeling of satisfaction.
Of having achieved something with your mates.
We chat and we laugh on our walks.
It's the same when you've got a rake in your hand.

Today we raked for a while near Jubilee Lake.
There were six of us. Five committee members and
Chris from Castlemaine. Good on you, Chris, thanks
for coming along.

It would have been good to have a few more walker-
workers. It's our track – to walk on and to work on.

So how about coming along next time?
You'd be very welcome and you'd enjoy putting in.
But I can't promise it would be as good as today.
Why not? Because today it rained

It rained.

Suddenly we smelt the eucalypts. We got wet.
And it kept raining. Out came the coats.
Then out came the brollies – oh, what a hoot.

We weren't rained out, we just got wet
What a pleasure to hear it and to see it and feel it
out on the track.

We did well. We raked and tidied a bit of our GDT.
It felt good to clean it up a bit.
Nothing like a walk and some work in the bush to
know that it's great to be alive

So how about coming along next time?
With a bit of luck it might rain.

Ali Lanigan

New Hidden Treasures Map

The popular and free Hidden Treasures brochure
has been revised and reprinted and is being
distributed to various tourism outlets

New Wallaby Map issued

A new Wallaby Track map which covers the former
Federation Track and the new Buninyong Extension
has been published and is available for sale from
local Visitor Information Centres and via the GDTA
newsletter or website. The improved map is the
work of Gib Wettenhall our publications officer
whom has contributed many voluntary hours to the
drafting and writing. Neil McCracken and Ed Butler
have also contributed towards this excellent
publication

Walk Donations.

The current minimum contributions towards the
GDTA maintenance fund are financial members \$3
and visitors from other Clubs \$5. Potential
members can attend their first walk free, the
second walk \$2 and then need to join the GDTA to
continue walking with the group.

Stretched out Committee members.

Ed Butler performed handstands and other tricks in
the Beer and Breakfast shop in Daylesford recently
whilst Neville Fraser did pushups in front of a
group of admirers.

New Trailer

The GDTA now possesses a very strong lockable
trailer with removable tool canopy for carrying
tools, posts and other materials to working bees
and maintenance operations on the GDT. The trailer
which will be kept at Neville Frasers was funded by
an \$1870 Commonwealth small equipment grant. The
GDTA is grateful to the Commonwealth and to
Senator Julian McGaurhan for facilitating this
useful item. We are arranging a GDTA logo to be
placed on the trailer.

Track Maintenance

A few weeks ago, GDTA member, Ron Pearce,
reported there were several trees across the GDT
either side of Whisky Gully. Ron has since met with
DSE's Rod Hawkesworth and accompanied him to
the site to point out the problems. At last report, I
understand that the offending trees on one side of
the gully had been dealt with by Rod.
Thanks to both Ron and Rod.

There's a track

The following article was featured in RoyalAuto, April 2007. Reproduced with permission

People are coming from all over the world to help make Victoria a better place for those who love a good walk in our great outdoors

Kris from the Scilly isles in the UK, Marlene from France and Alex from Macau gave up part of their holidays Down Under to build two bridges on a bush track that will benefit thousands of walkers tramping the Great Dividing Trail through the goldfields of the Central Highlands.

The bridges, near Daylesford, link to another section of what will become an iconic 235km track along 150-year-old walking paths and water races largely etched out by miners.

This great walk will run from Bacchus Marsh to Bendigo and is one of seven tracks and trails throughout the state that are this year benefiting from RACV's Community Partnerships Program. The program supports Conservation Volunteers Australia, which works to engage the community in practical conservation projects.

Thanks to this community partnership and links that Conservation Volunteers Australia has with community groups, important tracks and trails will be improved.

Conservation Volunteers Australia will co-ordinate volunteers, including enthusiastic RACV staff, on these projects.

So why do volunteers roll up their sleeves?

Kris Webb, 34 has twice come to Australia to work with Conservation Volunteers, "to see the other side of Australia and to socialize with the people here".

He has pulled weeds near Geelong and on the Great Ocean Road, cleared a rainforest path near Cairns, and watered plants in Bendigo. "I meet different people and I always feel good when I'm doing this," he says.

Marlene Turgis, 30, from Normandy in France, has met Aussies, Belgians, Scots, Chinese and Koreans on her tour of conservation volunteering. "It puts you in a special state of mind in special places - you feel good at the end of the day," she says.

Alex, from China, brought two school friends, aged 17 and 18, with him to Australia for his summer break. He is entranced by our plants and animals, the climate and the weather.

The Ballarat-founded and based Conservation Volunteers Australia has been welcoming volunteers from across Australia and around the world for 25

years, over-seeing an almost unquantifiable practical contribution to the environment.

In the past decade, volunteer teams have planted more than 10 million trees. The organization has grown from a handful of Ballarat farmers in 1982, to a not-for-profit body employing 160 staff in 25 offices, with a new one just opened in New Zealand. CEO Colin Jackson says the organization identifies projects which link people to conservation and finds funds to make that happen.

"This is a great example of how a partnership with a supporter such as RACV - combined with our skills in volunteer management - can result in beneficial outcomes for the environment and the community."

... Jenny Brown

Welcome Mine Loop - Eganstown area Saturday 9th June

The walk will take in the Welcome Mine, Charlesford Mine, various heavily mined gullies and various ruins. Distance 12 to 14 km and will be of medium grade. Contact Ron James 5345 7539

GDTA to reduce Climate Change Impact?

To reduce the impact of climate change it is proposed the GDTA plants trees. When we drive to our regular walks we contribute to global warming through the pollution caused by our cars. It is suggested that walkers contribute \$2 each to a special environment fund the proceeds of which will be used to plant indigenous trees along the trail.

The trees will be planted by arrangement with the appropriate land manager by either GDTA members on a working bee or by contracting Ballarat Environmental Network, regional Landcare Groups or Conservation Volunteers Australia to do the work. The sites selected may be on degraded land near or on the Trail or elsewhere by arrangement.

Growing trees soak up gasses which contribute to global warming.

This suggestion will be discussed at the forthcoming members meeting. In the meanwhile any comments or suggestions can be sent to the GDTA feedback column on www.gdt.org.au or discussed with any committee member.

Wombat Barkstead Loop

Wombat Barkstead Loop Saturday 14th April saw 14 walkers commence this walk. After a walk up a gully north of Wombat station the walk joined the GDT at the intersection of Railway Track and White Point Track and proceeded back to the railway cutting for morning tea. Shortly after this two walkers left the main group and walked back down the road to Wombat station. The walk then continued to Mullins Dam for lunch. At this point Gib produced a bicycle he had hidden in the scrub and pedalled back to Wombat station. After lunch the rest of the group continued south to an old goldmine which appears to be used as the local tip, from there we continued along Slaters Road to Andersons Tramway and followed the GDT back to Wombat station, a walk of approximately 16km. Refreshments were taken at the Swiss Mountain Hotel at the conclusion of the walk.

Mt Alexandra to Harcourt Nth Sat. 28th April

This walk saw several new faces from the Castlemaine area turn up, and we hope this will not be the only time we see them. The walk was organised by Barry Hunter who unfortunately had to attend another engagement that afternoon, so Dane Boag capably led us down Mt Alexandra from which we enjoyed great views across the surrounding countryside. Morning tea was taken at the base of the Mountain and then followed the Water channel toward Bendigo. Along the way we passed two tunnels through the hills (we unfortunately had to walk over the hills). While we enjoyed our Lunch break a curious Wallaby kept a wary eye on us for most of the time before slowly hopping away. At this time a group of walkers coming the other way began to pass us and informed us that they were doing 100km in 24 hours! After lunch we climbed a hill which gave us Panoramic views West, North and East, we then followed the Water channel to the dissapators. As there was a flow in the channel this provided an interesting show as to how the dissapators worked. After an enjoyable walk participants adjourned to the Harcourt Hotel for refreshments.

Map Sale

We have produced new Dry Diggings and Wallaby Track maps and a few copies of the original maps[still accurate and useable] are available for sale at a much reduced price of \$3 each plus 50c postage per item. Order P.O BOx 429 Daylesford

Vic 3460 or from Pat Hope at the start of most GDTA walks[whilst stocks last]

GDTA Archivist Appointed.

The GDTA has appointed Dr Anne Beggs-Sunter a well known regional historian and history lecturer at the University of Ballarat as its archivist. Anne who is a member of the GDTA has arranged to store the GDTA historical records in the archives of the Buninyong Historical Society at the Buninyong Town Hall. She is a committed heritage environmentalist and has been involved in many regional preservation issues.

Anne will collect documents and memorabilia relating to the development of the GDT over the past 15 years for future research and retrieval purposes.

Members are invited to search their records for items such as photos, press clippings and other memorabilia which they are willing to donate to the archives.

Gold Museum Display Extended.

The popular GDTA display at the Ballarat Gold Museum Sovereign Hill has been extended from May until June and it is recommended that members who have not yet seen the display take the opportunity to view the excellent work of Clair Muir, Roger Trudgeon, and Gib Wettenhall and the contributed display items from Bushwalking Victoria, Parks Victoria, the Daylesford Historical Society and the Bendigo Chinese Heritage Museum. The display features a video comprising of snippets on the trail and interviews with well known people. Following the closure of the exhibition the display panels can be borrowed by local groups for their own displays.

Sponsor the Newsletter.

The GDTA Post offers businesses with an opportunity to promote their services by advertising on the front page of the newsletter. The cost is \$120 and only one advertiser is accepted for any one newsletter. Contact the Editor Ron James or Patrick Hope pathope@netconnect.com.au for details.

2007 GDTA Walks Program					
Date	Event	Length	RATING	Contact	
Sat 14 April	Wombat Barkstead loop	10-12	MED	Ron James	5345 7539
Sun 22nd Ap	Creswick Miners Bike Ride	40k	MED, RIDE	Pat Kelso	5341 3711
Sat 28 April	Mt Alexander Harcourt Nth Non-loop 9.30	10-12	EASY MED	Barry Hunter	5449 3286
Sun 6th May	Daylesford - Sailors Falls Loop	15k	MED	Sue Cooper	5348 7550
Sat 12th May	Enfield Walk	16km	EASY/MED	Neil Campbell	9478 7995
Sun 20 May	Castlemaine Heritage Walk Poverty Gully channel, Eureka Cambel Channel loop	14k	E-MED	Richard	0407087319
Sat 9 June	Welcome Mine Loop	12	E-M	Ron James	5345 7539
Sat 23 June	Members Dinner Guildford- speaker 1 risk loop	5-7	E	Richard P	0407087319
Sun 8 July	Browns Gully Loop	12-14	MED	Ed	5348 3059
Sun 22 July	Firth Park Loop	12k	E-MED	Richard	0407087319
Sat 11 Aug	Cobblers Gully Chewton	12	E-M	Bill Casey	5330 2296
Sun 19th Aug	Hepburn Walk around	10-12	MED	Ron James	5345 7539
Mon 20 Aug	Nth Harcourt - Springs Rd 9.30	5km	E	Barry Hunter	5449 3286
Sun 2 Sept	Fathers Day Jubilee Mine - Scarsdale loop	10-12	E-M	Judy Murray	5335 5324
Sat 15h Sep	Porc ridge Browns Gully	15k	MED	Ed	5348 3059
Thurs 27 th Sept	Quarry Hill Spring Gully 9.30	6-7 k	EASY	Barry Hunter	5449 3286
Sun 30 Sept	GDT ToeRag Nolans	15-18k	MED H	Richard & Ed	5348 3059
Sun 7 Oct	Joyces Crk, Plaistowe via Newstead		EASY	Alison	5345 2958
Sun 14 th Oct	VicWalks Day				
Sun 21 Oct	Slatey Creek Loop	12	E-M	Sue Cooper	5348 7550
Sat 3 Nov	Nature Walk Creswick	5-7	E	Alison	5345 2958
Sat 17 Nov	Essendon Marathon	42km	VERY HARD	Bill Casey	5330 2296
Sun 25 Nov	Ballarat Town Walk	5-8	EASY	Neville Fraser	5331 1840
Sat 8 Dec	Twilight Mt Franklin - Jim Crow	8-10	E	Barry Golding	5345 6343

14th Annual Great Divide Marathon - Saturday November 17

L Essendon Bushwalking Club's 42km GDM will this year start at the summit of Mt Tarrengower, and travel via Maldon, Muckleford, Castlemaine, Chewton, Spring Gully and Fryerstown to the finish at Vaughan Springs. The walk will incorporate the new Chewton - The Monk section which enables GDT walkers to avoid going into Castlemaine if they so wish. Entry will be available only to Essendon and GDTA members until September, after which visitors will be accepted subject to the limit of 55 walkers not having been reached. Further details from Bill Casey via email bill@wtcasey.com

Federation Walk - Healesville 2007 Sunday 21 October 2007

Hosted by Diamond Valley and Koonung Clubs

Healesville is located to the northeast of Melbourne. It is 60 km by road from central Melbourne. It is situated on the Watts River, a tributary of the Yarra River. It is well known for the Healesville Sanctuary, a nature park with hundreds of native Australian animals displayed in a semi-open natural setting and an active platypus breeding program. Much of what is now Healesville lies on the ancestral land of the Wurundjeri people.

Healesville has long been considered as the gateway to the Victorian Alps and as such it provides a great base for this year's Federation Walk. We are planning to have around 25 walks ranging right through from easy to hard. Many of the walks will be within the Yarra Ranges National Park and the Cathedral Range State Park.

To help in your club's participation please:

- List this event in your club calendar
- Have your Club's Federation Walk coordinator contact Fred Bover (fbover@ozemail.com.au or 94397092)

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS AND RENEWALS	AMOUNT
• Family Membership two family members, \$45-00 per annum (plus \$17-00 additional persons)	
• Additional participating family member \$17.00	
• Walking Club, Businesses, Other Organisations \$45-00 per annum	
• Single Membership \$30-00 per annum	
• Concessional Membership \$25-00 per annum	
PUBLICATIONS	
• DRY DIGGINGS TRACK MAP (Daylesford-Castlemaine) \$6.00+\$1.00 postage (Suggested Retail \$7.50)	
• Wallaby TRACK MAP (Bunninyong - Ballarat - Daylesford) \$6.00 + \$1.00 postage (Suggested Retail \$7.50)	
• LERDERDERG Track Map (Daylesford - Bacchus Marsh) \$5.00 + 50c postage(Suggested Retail \$7.50)	
• LEANGANOOK TRACK MAP (Castlemaine-Bendigo) \$5.00+50c postage (Suggested Retail \$7.50)	
• WOMBAT STATE FOREST Touring Guide \$12 posted	
• CD promotional CD \$5.00 + \$1.00 postage	
• Hidden Treasures Promotional Brochure, free	
• GDTA CLOTH BADGE (logo for sewing on clothing) \$6.00 + 50c postage	
DONATION TO GDTA for Track Construction and Maintenance	
TOTAL ENCLOSED	

GDTA MEMBERSHIP DETAILS FOR OUR RECORDS, MAILING / EMAILING NEWSLETTER

MEMBER NAME

- **Other Member Names** (if *Family Membership*)

Other member 2.....	Other Member 1.....
Other Member 4.....	Other Member 3
	Other Member 5

MAIL address.....

Postcode

Telephone

Mobile

Email

Would you like to ...

- *the regular newsletter to be sent to you on Email rather than posted?* Yes/ No
- *regularly participate in GDTA activities and programs?* Yes/ No
- *help the GDTA by arranging walks & other activities?* Yes/ No
- *help the GDTA with maintenance, marketing, track development etc.* Yes/ No

Queries on Membership, please phone Dane Boag 54432435 or email cboag@netcon.net.au

Post Remittances to:

Treasurer, GREAT DIVIDING TRAIL ASSOCIATION INC, P O BOX 429, DAYLESFORD Vic 3460



Newsletter of the Great Dividing Trail Association
po Box 429 Daylesford **3460**

Member Name
Street Address
City, Postcode