

GDTA POST



GOING FOR GOLD

THE FUTURE FOR THE GDTA.

**Newsletter of the
Great Dividing
Trail Association**

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

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The consultants report on strategic and business planning has been received by the GDTA. The 101 page report was prepared by Historical and Natural Heritage Solutions in conjunction with Lateral Projects and financed by grants from both the State and Federal Governments. The report sets the suggested directions for the Association for the next decade. For some time the GDTA Committee has recognised that the current organisation has reached its capacity and considerable change is required to further exploit the value of the existing trail and to expand the organisation to exploit the potential of future extensions. There are four pages of recommendations the key ones

- Improvements to the current trail's infrastructure and interpretation
- Consider future extensions to the network[see below]
- Develop the trail to include mountain cycle options
- Establish a new 10 person Committee comprising of a representative each from DSE, Parks Victoria Conservation Volunteers Australia, local government[2 representatives] representation from the local indigenous community and four members elected from the GDTA membership.[The current GDTA committee will change to an Activities Group]
- Membership of the GDTA to be substantially increased together with an increase in membership fees.
- Exploration of the possibilities of both health related and educational opportunities the trail represents.
- Development of local community based loop interpretative walks
- Greater liaison with the regional Dja Dja Warrung community
- Renaming of the current tracks The Goldfields Track to enhance marketing of the Trail
- Retaining the present name The Great Dividing Trail Association Inc
- Considerably expanding the marketing of the Trail to both regional and Melbourne people
- Seeking in total \$1 million from the State and Federation Governments to appoint two senior administrative officers for three years to co-ordinate the development and marketing of the Trail.

The consultancy process was handled by a steering committee comprising of Dr Barry Golding of the GDTA, Mr Peter Skilbeck ex mayor of Mt Alexander Shire, Mr David Bannear of Heritage Victoria, Mr Rod Thomson of Goldfields Tourism, Ms Alison Lanigan of the GDTA, Mr Chris McCormack of Parks Victoria and Mr Ian Smith of Conservation Volunteers Australia. CVA acted as the administrator of the funding. The consultants sought the opinions of a large number of regional and metropolitan individuals and organisations, met the GDTA committee twice and held a members presentation and consulted with interstate and overseas experts. Members of the steering committee will be discussing the report with the State Government over the next few weeks.

Opening of Buninyong Extension

The opening of the 20km extension from Mt Buninyong to Peel St Ballarat will take place on Saturday 11th November at 8.30am at the summit of Mt Buninyong to be performed by Steve Moneghetti the GDT track ambassador. The new replacement map which will include the whole track from Mt Buninyong to Daylesford is also planned. All members and friends are invited.

The GDTA is grateful for all the work put into planning and constructing the extension put in by Neil McCracken extension co-ordinator and the Association is also grateful for the co-operation and support of the City of Ballarat in particular to Ken Cox and Graeme Pike, to the Ballarat Regional Industries Inc, the Buninyong Ward Ratepayers Association, the Buninyong and District Historical Society and to Neville Fraser and Brian Gavan.

This extension starts at the top of Mount Buninyong follows a steep downward track through the reserve and along Granny Whites Lane to the highway. After crossing the highway the route is via a laneway to Hastie's Hill through the Buninyong Gardens to Buninyong. From there the track follows the bike path via Mt Helen and Mt Clear to Whitehorse Rd and from there a further 7km along the LINC's Yarrowee Trail into Ballarat.

After the brief opening which will be attended by members of the Essendon BushWalking Club before the commencement of their 42km Marathon walk to Creswick, participants are invited to attend a 90minute downhill walk into Buninyong followed by coffee in one of the local cafes.

Those attending who anticipate walking should register with Pat Hope on 53413711 or email pathope@netconnect.com.au.

Membership

The current registered membership of the GDTA is 147 which is similar to last year. The GDTA is keen to increase this number and invites current members to recruit others. A membership form is available from Membership officer Dane Boag or by contacting Pat Hope

Cap sale success

Judy Murray arranged for the purchase of a small number of GDTA caps a few of which are remaining to be sold at \$10 each at the commencement of walking activities

Walk in the Franklin Gorge

Ed (ring 53483059) will lead a walk in the pretty & remote Tarilta creek Valley on Sunday the 1st October the terrain and distance are moderate and Maggie will try to keep us from getting lost.

Members Meeting a Success

On 24th June over 40 members attended a Members Meeting and Dinner at the Delemenico Family Hotel at Guildford. Two guest speakers from the consulting firm presented a summary of their recommendations on the future of the GDTA. The evening was very successful and particular thanks go to Alison Lanigan for arranging the dinner under somewhat difficult circumstances.

Walk and Overnight at Mooramong

On Saturday 23rd September arrangements have been made to walk part of the Skipton Rail Trail during the day and have dinner and stay overnight in the shearers quarters at the Mooramong Property of the National Trust. The walk is along the Trail finishing in Skipton.

Participants will need their own sleeping bags, towels etc and provide their own breakfast.

Mooramong is a large farming property given to the National Trust by the McKinnon family in the 1970's. Claire McKinnon was a famous silent screen actress and the house is intact as it was in the 1930's. The visit may include an inspection of the house and probably a night visit to the reserve which includes an Eastern Barred Bandicoot breeding program.

For further details contact Pat Kelso on 0353413711.

LONGER TERM VISION FOR GDT

As well as improving the infrastructure and marketing of the Trail members of the GDTA and the Steering Committee have a longer term vision which involves further extensions:-

* From Blackwood to Mt Macedon and possibly Hanging Rock [currently actively being pursued for opening in 2007 Or 2008]

* Provide a comprehensive cycling options for the existing and future extensions

* Explore and develop GDT extensions to Maldon, the Murray at Echuca, to the Grampians via the Skipton Railtrail and Ararat [thence to join up southward with the Great South West Walk,] from Macedon to the Alps [thence join with the Alpine track], from Bacchus Marsh via the Brisbane Ranges to Geelong and Queenscliff, and a further loop from Castlemaine, Maldon, Carisbrook, Maryborough, Avoca, Ararat to the Grampians. This together would create a Heartlands of Victoria Trail network creating a world class network.

STEPS IN CHANGE.

Following the adoption of the Strategic and Business Plan by the GDTA Committee current financial members will be invited to consider the proposed changes at the start of the GDTA Annual General Meeting in February. A new Committee will then be elected/appointed at that meeting. An activities group will be set up at the same time to undertake the walks and activities program, publications and distribution, newsletter and minor maintenance. This group will have a convenor and various task leaders and report to the GDTA Committee.

IMPORTANT PUBLICITY FOR GDT

The August issue of Outdoor magazine contains a several page article on the Goldfields and GDT walks. The article written by Glenn Tempest suggests the goldfields has some of Australia's best bushwalking and that the GDT is the most comprehensive walking track system in the State.

Shorts

* The University of Ballarat is developing a network of looped walking tracks through their Mt Helen Campus to link with the GDTA's Buninyong extension.

* New larger scale map boards have been erected at Castlemaine, Vaughan Springs, and Hepburn and another will be erected at Lake Daylesford as soon as the current works are completed.

* The GDTA is negotiating with the Dean Hall Committee for use of their upgraded facilities by overnight walkers on the Federation Track. GDT Friendly properties in the Dean area will provide emergency water and other assistance to walkers.

Placement of wire on footbridges.

Following up a report of potentially hazardous decking on two bridges in the Park just north of Sailors Falls, Neil McCracken, Neville Fraser and myself nailed chicken wire to the decking of the two footbridges.

We also placed an arrow on a Parks Vic direction board to more clearly show the Lost Childrens Walk direction.

Placement of Dry Diggings Information Maps.

We placed a new Dry Diggings map at the Hepburn Springs reserve and will place one at Lake Daylesford when the current dam works are completed. The Information board structure has been replaced.

STEVE MONEGHETTI TO OPEN BUNINYONG TRACK.

Steve Moneghetti the GDT Track Ambassador has accepted an invitation to open the new 20 km extension to Mt Buninyong in November. Details will be given in a future GDTA Post.

PROGRESS ON THE MT BUNINYONG EXTENSION.

Track direction posts have been made by Ballarat Regional Industries Inc and these together with GDTA logos and four direction posts are currently being installed by BRI Work for the Dole team. The protocols for the track marking have been agreed with the City of Ballarat and the text for the map and the GPS survey have been completed. This project is supported by the City of Ballarat, the Buninyong Ward Ratepayers Association and the Buninyong Historical Society. Further details can be obtained from Neil McCracken 53412308 or jenneil@netconnect.com.au

LINK WITH FOREST RESORT.

Recently representatives of the GDTA and Forest Resort at Creswick met to discuss a possible walking link between the Creswick Miners Walk and the Resort to enable the guests easy access to the Trail. This is subject to the agreement of Parks Victoria and funding being provided to mark a short section of track.

2006 Activities

Sponsor of the Newsletter.

Ballarat Miners Cottages was the sponsor of the January newsletter for \$120. Other business which offer appropriate services connected to the GDTA are invited to sponsor future newsletters.

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WELCOME TO VISITORS.

Visitors are most welcome on GDTA activities on the understanding that as visitors are not covered by the VICWALK arranged insurance policy a written disclaimer is signed on enrolment for the activity. Visitors are invited to make a donation of \$5 goes into the GDTA maintenance fund. Potential participants should discuss the activity with the walk leader at the time of booking. The walk leader reserves the right to refuse any participant.

Discounts TO Members

Discounts are offered to financial members of VICWALK including the GDTA by a range of outdoor suppliers including Snowgum, Rays Outdoors, Paddy Pallin, Mountain Design and a number of others. Not all outlets offer the same discount. Some stores of the same franchise have different policies. Outdoor travel and Om Trek offer some discounts on travel.

Take your membership card along when purchasing items and ask about any discount available.

Ring Patrick Hope 53413711 who has the full list.

Moorabool Shire Grant

The Moorabool Shire has granted the GDTA \$4,400 towards the cost of the planned 35km extension from Blackwood to Mt Macedon. This Community Grant is the first contribution towards the cost of the extension and is the result of Michael Fox work in preparing the application.

The GDTA is very encouraged with the support given by the Shire of Moorabool to the development of the Trail. The GDTA is now formally negotiating with Parks Victoria, DSE and the Shires of Moorabool and Macedon Ranges on the approvals for the proposed track. Work on the extension is anticipated to commence next year.

Cost of GDTA Posts

The GDTA has planted around 1000 posts along the trail each costing nearly \$40 each [including logos] and eventually all will need replacing. The GDTA maintenance fund is being built up with that in mind and all donations given to the GDTA are set aside for that purpose.

Farewell to Michael Fox

Michael has been a hard worker for the GDT and the committee appreciates the results of the work done by Michael on behalf of the GDTA. Michael has decided to not renew his membership and the committee wishes him well for his future endeavors.



Consultants Options for Re-branding the GDTA

Logo option 1:



Logo option 2:



Logo option 3:



Logo option 4:



Each of the new Goldfields Track brand logo options aim to embody the four core values of the new brand.

Gold heritage

'gold' is reflected by the use of the colour gold 'heritage' is referenced by the use of a serif typeface in the logo icon of options 1, 2 and 3 – generally used to define an association with a historic, heritage or official subject the use of a sans serif typeface for the words GOLDFIELDS TRACK in two examples also adds a more contemporary element to the design to ensure appeal across a range of target markets. Prominence of the word 'Goldfields' in option 4.

Transformed landscapes

referenced by the linking of the letters of the ligature/logotype, ie. the 'g' transforms into the 't' in options 1, 2 and 3. the logotype references the tracks and the notion of journey in its curved and winding form in options 1, 2 and 3. The heavily stylised trees and disturbed ground in option 4 gives added weight to this brand value when compared with other options. In all options, the transformation of landscape is referenced in the use of the colours – green representing environment and wilderness and gold representing the transformation of the land from the mining of gold.

Healthy

people will be encouraged to participate in healthy activities, utilise the facilities and experience the tracks and the region simply by the increased awareness generated by the release, distribution and continuation of the branding

The link

In options 1, 2 and 3 the notion of "linking" communities, tourism opportunities, the destinations and attractions on the tracks, as well as the attractions of the region are all embodied in the linking feature of the letterforms of the logotype.

In option 4, the strength of connection is between the word 'Goldfields' and the strong environmental imagery literally underlined by the word 'track'.

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) \$5.00+50c postage (Suggested Retail \$7.50)	
• FEDERATION TRACK MAP (Ballarat - Daylesford) \$5.00 + 50c postage (Suggested Retail \$7.50)	
• LERDERDERG Full Colour Final 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