

GDTA POST

OPENING OF THE BUNINYONG TRACK EXTENSION.

Newsletter of the
Great Dividing
Trail Association

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

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 GOLDFIELDS
TRACK

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Steve Moneghetti the GDTA ambassador formally opened the 20km extension of the GDT from Mt Buninyong to Peel St Ballarat on Saturday 11th November.

Chairperson Dr Barry Golding welcomed the more than 100 guests which included Mr Geoff Howard MLA with some of his family, Crs Innes and Hayes of the Ballarat City Council, Mr Peter Hiscock chair of the Mt Buninyong Reserve Committee, Ms Barbara Guerin VP of Bushwalking Victoria and Lionel Jenkins, Mr John Barnes chair Ballarat Bicycle Users Group, Anne Beggs Sunter secretary of the Buninyong Historical Society and representatives from Parks Victoria the Friends of the Lerderderg and Essendon Bush Walking Clubs.

Steve commended the GDT as one of the worlds best walking trails and encouraged more people to walk the trail. He officially launched the track by cutting a red ribbon.

Steve also announced the new name for the track between Mt Buninyong and Daylesford as the Wallaby Track with reference to the Welsh miner John Jenkins.

He also sent off over 50 walkers from the Essendon Bush Walking Club who were the first group to officially walk the new section and then on to Creswick on their annual 42 km walk. The large group included a number of GDTA members.

President Barry Golding thanked Neil McCracken for his work as project leader and also ,Bill Casey, Neville Fraser, Brian Gavan Gib Wettenhall, Barrie Hunter[the arrow man] and Pat Hope for their work. Thanks were also extended to the City of Ballarat for their community grant and to the Buninyong Ward Ratepayers Association and the Buninyong Historical Society for their support. Especial thanks were expressed to Ken Cox and Graeme Pike of the City of Ballarat Parks and Gardens and to Neville Monson and his team of Work for the dole people facilitated by Ballarat Regional Industries.

The route of the track which is marked with GDTA and City of Ballarat posts and signs on poles goes from Mt Buninyong down Granny Whites Lane ,across the Midland Highway and down into Buninyong via Mt Innes and the Botanical Gardens. Passing De Soza park the track follows the bike track to Mt Clear, down Whitehorse Rd to the Yarrowee where it picks up the LINC's Trail into Peel St Ballarat where it links with the start of the 23 km long Creswick Miners Walk.

The GDTA is considering further extensions to Macedon, Maldon, Echuca, Geelong, the Grampians, and Gippsland if community support is forthcoming.

Following the launch over 20 people walked the 5.3km walk to Buninyong for morning tea at Haz restaurant followed by a number attending the Remembrance Day Service held close by.

The 2007 Annual General Meeting

The 2007 AGM of the GDTA will be held in Mitchell Hall, Central Springs Rd, Daylesford on Wednesday 28 February 2007, commencing 7.45 pm.

A Town Walk will leave Mitchell Hall at 6.30 pm and return to Mitchell Hall around 7.30 pm. RSVP for the Town Walk to Sue Cooper 5348 7550.

Nominations for office bearers or committee members should be with the Secretary by Wednesday 14 February 2007.

Email nominations to alanigan@netconnect.com.au will be accepted. Please include the name and telephone number or email address of:

- * the person being nominated
- * the person providing the nomination
- * the person seconding the nomination

Postal nominations should include the above information and arrive for The Secretary, GDTA, P O Box 429, Daylesford 3460, by Wednesday 14 February 2007.

Apologies for the AGM to Alison: E alanigan@netconnect.com.au or T 5345 2958.

IMPORTANT DONATION TO THE GDTA.

Regional One Community Credit Union the GDTA's bankers have provided a Grant of \$2000 towards the cost of entry station maps to be erected at Mt Buninyong, Buninyong, Ballarat Railway Station, Creswick Information Centre, Wombat Station Site and Lake Daylesford to promote the newly renamed Wallaby Track.

NEW MAP TO BE PRODUCED.

Gib Wettenhall the GDTA publications officer is working on a new map to cover the whole of the Wallaby Track between Mt Buninyong and Daylesford. This map will incorporate material from the current Federation Map and the new extension to Buninyong. The map should be available for sale early in 2007.

FURTHER EXPLORATION OF POSSIBLE EXTENSION.

Neil McCracken and Pat Hope are currently exploring the possibilities of a further lengthy extension of the GDT from Magpie to the Skipton Railtrail via the Rainbow Bird Trail which extends from Dereel to the Nimmons Bridge. The proposed route would incorporate the Enfield Forest Park, Staffordshire Reef and the Jubilee Mine site. This would create an approximately 90-100 km loop from Ballarat and back. The proposed extension would be suitable for mountain bikes.

Mooramong Weekend Success.

Pat Kelso arranged for 10 walkers from the GDTA and 10 bike riders to visit Mooramong National Trust property west of Skipton on Saturday 23rd September and to stay overnight in the shearers quarters following an excellent dinner provided by the Skipton Primary School. The walkers met at Linton for a car shuffle to Pittong for the start of a 12km walk along the Skipton Railtrail to Skipton through open but pleasant farming country before taking the cars to Mooramong. The windy conditions didn't affect the walkers very much. The bike riders from Melbourne Bicycle Touring Club rode from Ballarat and met the walkers in Skipton.

Eds music selection was a highlight of the evenings entertainment. Next morning the cyclists returned to Ballarat by a different route supported by a strong tail wind and rain whilst the walkers decided to call off an intended visit to the Jubilee Mines at Scarsdale. Most of the participants enjoyed a guided tour of the 1930's homestead before leaving to return home.

Thanks to Pat and also to Judy Murray for assisting with the walk.

Franklin Gorge Walk.

Ed Butlers favourite walk in the Franklin Gorge was enjoyed by 16 people on Sunday 1st October.

Meeting at Daylesford for the dusty drive to the start along Porcupine Ridge Road the group walked for some distance on the GDT before heading into the Gorge. The creek was dry which made the several crossings somewhat easier. Lunch was taken at an interesting dry waterfall site. Guided by Ed's GPS the group bushbashed back to the cars before enjoying a drink in the Farmers Arms.

Newstead/Plaistow Visit 29th October.

A large group of more than 20 met at the Community Centre Newstead for a guided town walk led by Richard Piesse and Peter Skilbeck. The hour or so walk passed by many interesting old buildings including the flour mill before returning to the cars for the trip to Plaistow. Lilian and Peter Skilbeck hosted a visit to one of Victoria's most historic and significant homesteads and enjoyed morning scones and coffee provided. The group contributed \$150 towards the cancer appeal. Many thanks go to the Skilbecks who are strong supporters of the GDTA for hosting a memorable visit and also to Richard Piesse for his work in preparing the town walk.

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.



Maintenance work in the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park

Richard Piesse has been liaising with Parks Victoria/Conservation Volunteers Australia regarding GDT maintenance. Richard has supplied the following report on work to date.

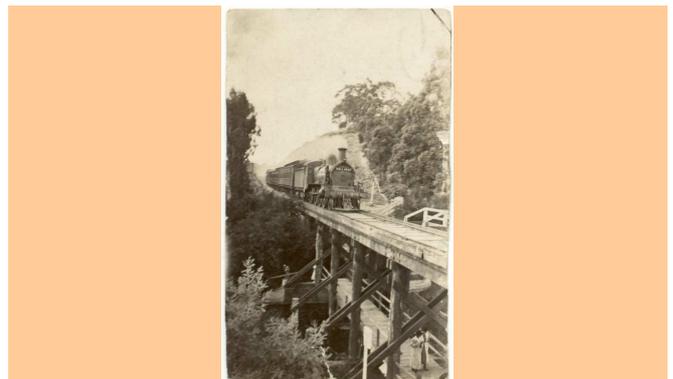
Parks Victoria have recruited a Green Corps crew to be managed by Conservation Volunteers Australia for approximately six months. Work commenced on 13 November and so far the crew members have:

- Reconstructed the Trail entrance at Wheeler Street (South Castlemaine);
- Reformed steps in Butcher's Gully (at Vaughan Springs);
- Placed extra steps above the Garfield Wheel foundations; and
- Formed a new section of Trail between The Monk and Chewton.

Future works will include:

- A Trail deviation north of the Garfield Wheel foundation;
- Drainage work in Cobbler's Gully (for when it rains again!);
- Replacement of the southern stile in the Spring Gully Mines area;
- Steps in Nuggetty Gully valley near Fryerstown
- Removal of pest plants at a number of key locations along the Trail;
- Mapping of other pest plant locations for future action by Parks Victoria.

The Green Corps has 10 members from Bendigo and Castlemaine and is supervised by Graeme Todd. Graeme has previously worked with crews on the Leanganbook Track on the south west slope of Mt Alexander.



The Essendon BW Marathon on 11 November 2006

Walking the marathon distance (>42 kms) in a day is quite a challenge for the average person. Over 50 walkers commenced this year's marathon at the top of Mt Buninyong after an interesting launch of the latest section of the GDT (from Ballarat to Mt Buninyong).

The 2006 marathon was the 13th in the series organized by Bill Casey and his excellent support group. Their planning and administration for the walk is now highly refined and enables the walkers to just walk the "sections" of the day's route with barely another care on their minds!

The three sections before lunch took us down the mountain into Buninyong, through the Botanical Gardens and then followed the cycle track through Mt Helen and Mt Clear and down Whitehorse Road to the Yarrowee River. We then followed the track into Ballarat and stopped at White Flat Oval for lunch. After lunch, which included some raucous barracking for the cricket match that was in play on the oval, we walked through central Ballarat and again joined the Yarrowee River to the north of Ballarat CBD.

We followed the river valley out to the Western Freeway bypass at Brown Hill, where the first stop after lunch was on the edge of the State Forest. Three more sections through the Creswick State Forest enabled the now fairly weary group to reach Creswick at about 8.15 pm (approximately 11.5 hours since we started our walk).

The day was relatively cool up on Mt Buninyong, but gradually warmed up until it was quite hot at lunchtime in Ballarat. After lunch there was a mixture of sunshine and cloudy periods (and even three spots of rain!). Fortunately, late in the afternoon the temperature dropped - of great assistance for many walkers who finished with blistered feet, sore ankles, knees and hips.

The day ended with a very pleasant evening meal in the American Hotel in Creswick.

Several GDTA members participated in the walk, including Ali, Peter, Ted, Pat K, Richard, Rob and Trish, as well as a number of Essendon members who also belong to the GDTA - such as Bill, Sue, Neil, Sylvia and Ian.

Sincere congratulations to Bill and his team for their superb organization for this memorable day of walking the GDT!

Photos of the 2006 Marathon are at <http://www.wtcasey.com>

The 2006 Nature Walk

The 2006 Nature Walk was again led by Roger Thomas, the Ballarat Nature Notes Man.

On Sunday 19 November a group of 16 walkers met at the picnic ground adjacent to the Upper Werribee River near Spargo Creek. We spent several hours happily walking and stopping and admiring over 20 species of wildflowers, marvelling at the tall timber and nature and listening to bird calls along the way. The lunch break was taken by Carroll's Spring, which is still trickling and tastes delicious.

The down side was our ability to easily walk across the stones on the river bed - where once it flowed so deeply that Bill Casey had to turn back with the group of walkers that he was leading. At other points of the walk the Upper Werribee River is discernible only because of the beautiful ferns that are still flourishing in the gully.

However, it was a great day and a most interesting walk and it was terrific to see some new faces and some friends we hadn't seen for a while.

Roger has agreed to lead another walk in 2007, in mid-late October and a firm date will be advised later next year.

Essential Exercise for Seniors

(or getting ready for Bill's 2007 marathon)

This exercise is recommended for Seniors to build muscle strength in the arms and shoulders. It seems so easy that we thought we'd pass it on. The exercise should be done three times a week. Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side.

With a 5-lb potato sack in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute and then relax. Each day, you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato sacks, then 50-lb potato sacks and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato sack in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute.

Once you feel comfortable at that level, put a potato in each of the sacks.

Lost Property

On about Dec 6 a set of keys with a Swiss Army knife was found near to the summit of Mt Alexander on the GDT contact Ed if you know the owner.

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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