

GDTA POST

Members' Dinner

Guildford, Saturday 10 July 2010

**Newsletter of the
Great Dividing
Trail Association**

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

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The July GDTA Members' Dinner will be held at 6.30 pm on **Saturday 10 July** at the Guildford Family Hotel.

This year our guest speaker will be **Steve Moneghetti**, GDT Track Ambassador and Australian marathon great. The GDTA is grateful for Steve's agreement to be guest speaker, despite the fact that his schedule is more crammed than usual. As Chef-de-Mission, Steve will lead the Australian team at the Commonwealth Games to be held in India, in October 2010.

Bookings and pre-payments will be closed off at end-of-business on **Tuesday 6 July**, after which date we can't accept bookings, either by phone, email or post. Numbers are limited to 40 persons, so book and pre-pay early so that you don't miss out!

Dinner: \$25.00 for two courses; drinks at bar prices.

RSVP with names and a contact telephone number to:

- Patricia Hope, GDTA Treasurer
- By Post (603 Cathcart Street Buninyong 3357) with cheque made out to GDTA or
- By Phone (0418 131 545) with your credit card details.

IT'S A GIRL!

CONGRATULATIONS to Nick and Fiona Lewis and a big welcome to **LUCY**, who arrived safely via the Earlybird Track. A new member for the Central Victorian Rocky Riders who'd better watch out for Lucy in a few years on the Goldfields Track!

Best wishes from the GDTA and Goldfields Track Committees.

From the President

Back Home

CONGRATULATIONS to Patricia Hope, GDTA Treasurer, who (at the time of writing) is about to return home from completing England's Coast to Coast walk with 11 members of the Ballarat Bushwalking and Outdoor Club. Their 302 km walk began at the Irish Sea, crossed three national parks and some of England's finest scenery through the Lake District, traversed the Pennines and the North York moors and finished at the East Coast after 19 days of walking. A great effort and well done to everyone involved!

We're eagerly awaiting Pat's return to hear about her experiences on the walk and in Morocco (no, she didn't get lost, she had a week as a tourist and to wind down after the group's outstanding achievement).

I've recently returned from three weeks of walking and touring in Turkey and five weeks of touring Scotland that included a two week circuit of hard walking in the Scottish Highlands, with Edinburgh as the beginning and finish point.

The Turkey tour was led by John Basarin of Bayside Walkers. John was born in Turkey, is now an Australian citizen and is acknowledged as an expert on the WW1 Gallipoli campaign. He was recently awarded the RSL ANZAC Peace Prize for his efforts in promoting harmony and understanding between Australia and Turkey following their roles as opponents in WW1.

The visit to Turkey included several days of fairly easy walking in national parks, valleys and canyons across Turkey; following a Roman aqueduct; walking a canyon where people live in troglodyte dwellings; climbing down through a maze of corridors to the lowest level of a small underground city where 2,000 people had lived; a dawn balloon ride over the dramatic lunar landscape in the Cappadocia region with valleys and canyons filled with 'fairy chimney' rock formations; visits to breathtaking Ephesus, Troy and a sobering

visit to Gallipoli; a swim in the Mediterranean and a visit to a small but beautiful Greek island in Turkish international waters.

My Scottish experience included two weeks of demanding walking-climbing in all types of weather in the majestic Scottish Highlands. I walked with an experienced mountain guide and three other walkers in the Trossachs and Glencoe, climbed Ben Lomond and the north face of Ben Nevis to the snow line; in the Isle of Skye, the Cuillin and the wild Quirang with its pinnacles and cliffs; and in the Torridon and Cairngorm parks.

Planning for our exposure to the wind and the quick and frequent changes in the weather was an ongoing part of our preparation and our day's walk-climb. There was no shelter from the elements except the very occasional bothy (old hut), and the wind swept up and around the escarpments and mountains from the lochs in the valleys or the sea below. The high terrain seemed much wilder and more dramatic because of the lack of trees, much of it being volcanic rock. We were constantly in awe of the scenery and it was an amazing and very special experience. I found it to be exceptionally challenging, but any pain and the scariness of sometimes going beyond my comfort zone always had the reward of achievement and those beautiful, unforgettable, Scottish views.

Alison Lanigan

2011 CALENDAR COMPETITION

Bushwalking Victoria is again running a photo competition for their 2011 Calendar (the calendar is an important fund raiser for BWV). If you think you're a budding Peter Dombrovskis and would like to enter, the details are on page 4 of the latest Bushwalking News Victoria; <http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/forms/BNV1005.pdf>

Entries close 31 July.

Brian Smith
Secretary EBWC

DEVELOPMENT OF THE GREAT DIVIDING TRAIL

HIGHLIGHTS.

1992 First gathering of people interested in developing Trail

1992 Launch of Trail at 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 Gold Museum Exhibition

2009 Goldfields Track Committee created. Announcement of \$500,000 Commonwealth Grant to upgrade the Trail and to cater for cyclists

2010 March opening of Ararat Loop

TAKE A WALK IN THE KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK

Take A Walk Publications have released a new edition covering about 1300 km of tracks. It includes all popular walking tracks and walking routes in Kosciuszko; from the Pilot Wilderness Area in the south, through the Main Range to Jagungal Wilderness Area, and North past Yarrangobilly to the Bogong Wilderness and Tumut areas.

Published as a Paperback of 256 Pages of A5 full colour. ISBN 978 0 9577931 8 7

Take A Walk Publications
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Camp Hill Queensland
Ph 07 3843 3930
Mobile 0417 611 810
info@takeawalk.com.au
www.takeawalk.com.au

Sailors Falls Loop 21st March 2010

This walk started at the dry Sailors Falls and joined the GDT which we followed to Telegraph Road before working our way to Langdon Hill Road where the Pine Forest has been harvested giving panoramic views across to Mt Tarrengower and beyond.

We then headed to the historic Eganstown General Cemetery where we had lunch in the grounds. The walk then went over the Ridge and down Blackjack Track to the GDT/Lost Childrens Walk which we followed back to the start.

Colin Hancock checked out a Geocache in the area. Refreshments were enjoyed at the Farmers Arms to conclude the Day.

NEXT WALK THE LERDERDEG

Sunday 25th July
O'Briens/Amblers o Simmons Reef

Contact Neil Campbell Ph. 9478 7995

Combined GDTA-Essendon BWC Activity

Saturday 7-Sunday 8 August
Tree Planting with Ray Thomas: Regent Honey Eater Project
Lurg Hills (near Benalla)

(Like several other GDTA members, Ian and Sylvia McLean hold membership of both the GDTA and Essendon BWC.)

For a number of years, the Essendon BWC has supported the Regent Honey Eater revegetation project. In 2008 and 2009 we were joined by other bushwalkers from several clubs, especially following the 2009 fires when the tree planting event replaced Bushwalking Victoria's (BWC) planned 75th anniversary walk event.

This worthy project is essentially run by volunteers and is financed via hard earned grants. Ray has a fantastic and enthusiastic backing team and his motivation is contagious. This was recognised by Australian Geographic who awarded Ray as the 2010 'Conservationist of the Year'

The planting weekend is not just about planting trees! It's having fun with old friends, meeting new people, helping threatened species and participating in an event with likeminded people. Other BWC clubs have also been invited to join us on 7-8 August. (This is the first of 5 planting weekends for Spring, each arranged a fortnight apart.) Age is no barrier either! Not everyone has to swing a pick, there are plenty of planters as well as hole diggers.

Many bushwalking clubs and individual club members have helped Ray over many years with the revegetation project in the Lurg Hills. Last year, BWV clubs including CAEX, Border, Maroondah, Bayside, Ballarat, Monash alumni, Catholic, Melbourne, VMTC, Essendon, Boroondara, and Waverley were the bulk of 106 volunteers who planted 5100 trees and scrubs over one week end. In the previous four years, 17 BWV clubs contributed to this wonderful community project, helping to plant 13,500 seedlings over four separate weekends.

There is plenty of good news about the success of the planting project. For example, 95% of seedlings planted survived their first year: despite the drought!! There is solid evidence that we've boosted the rare Grey Crowned Babbler population by from

approx. 50-60 up to almost 80. The Squirrel Gliders are moving through the planted corridors as early as only 4 years after planting. These are rare species and our efforts are assisting in their survival. We can see results in a short period of time and people who come each year are buoyed to see the results of their previous efforts growing stronger and higher each year. Our work really does make a huge difference!!

It is heart warming stuff and anyone who has ever been on one of Ray's weekends will attest to this. It would be great to see GDTA members and Essendon BWC members working together on August 7-8, so come along and work alongside your fellow walkers to the benefit of both of our clubs. The annual Essendon GDT Marathon is already promoting the project.

So, mark this date in your diaries, we would love to see you there. You won't be disappointed; it is an extremely fulfilling and a well organized weekend. Bring your non bushwalking partners along! If you are unsure about what is involved, Ray happily shows us what to do and ensures that we do it well.

Organiser Sylvia McLean Ph 5428 7364

LOH LANE TO AMBLER/O'BRIENS

A Group of 12 tackled this walk which took us around Mt Blackwood where the weather was kind to us and let us enjoy the views before closing in.

We entered the bush at Square bottle track, where Colin once again located a Geocache. We followed the track to the Challenging crossing at Whisky Creek where we negotiated the steep climb up to Vodka track which becomes Whisky Track passing Rum Track and Champagne Track (what did the miners get up to in this area?).

Lunch was enjoyed just before we reached O'briens Road. After Lunch we travelled down to Amblers Lane and then down the steep descent of Amblers Lane before leaving the GDT to return to our cars and organise the shuffle to return to the start to collect the starting cars.

A special thanks to Graeme Noblet for de bogging Rons car which had become stuck in the soft verge.

2010 GDTA Program

Month	Date	Activity	Leader-Organiser
July	Sat 10	Members' Dinner @ Guildford Family Hotel	Booking and prepayment to Patricia Hope 0418 131 545
	Sun 25	Walk the Lerderderg 4. 14.5 kms, Easy	O'Briens/Ambler-Simmons Reef. Neil Campbell 9478 7995
	Wed 28	Committee Meeting	
August	w/e 7-8	Tree Planting Weekend with Essendon BWC	Organiser: Sylvia McLean 5428 7364
	Sun 15	Walk the Lerderderg 5. 15.5 kms, Medium	Simmons Reef-Balt Camp. Ed Butler 5348 3059
	Wed 25	Committee Meeting	
September	Sun 19	Walk the Lerderderg 6. 20 kms, Medium and Celebration Lunch	Balt Camp-Daylesford. Gib Wettenhall 5334 5490
	Wed 22	Committee Meeting	
Oct	Sun 3	Scones @ Plaistow	Alison Lanigan (NB: DAYLIGHT SAVING BEGINS) 0409 583 303
	w/e 8-10	BWV Federation Walk - Otways	Waverley BWC
	Wed 27	Committee Meeting	
	Sun 31	Daylesford-Blowhole-Daylesford Circuit	Neil Campbell 9478 7995
Nov	Sat 6	Essendon GDT Marathon	Bill Casey 5330 2296
	Sun 21	Domino Trail Trentham: 10kms, Easy	Sue Cooper 5348 7550
	Wed 24	Committee Meeting	
Dec	Sun 5	Gold Panning/Fossil Hunting: Tipperary Springs	Barry Golding 5345 6343

Fathers' Day
AFL Grand Final
Melbourne Cup Day

Sunday 5 September
Saturday 25 September
Tuesday 2 November

Daylight Saving begins

Sunday 3 October

Welcome to New Members

Fred Ackland, Regina Clark, Margaret Cromb, Susan Hurley, Anne Mahoney. We look forward to seeing you at the Dinner and on future walks.

WALK THE LERDERDERG -1 BACCHUS MARSH - SWANS ROAD

The first walk started from the Bacchus Marsh Railway Station. Richard Piesse showed us an alternative start to this walk. We walked through the park to a new footbridge over the Werribee River and through a series of lanes and roads that went past farmland and managed to avoid a large part of the roadside walking. After crossing the Western Highway (an underpass) we walked through the town of Darley and began the climb up to the top of the Gorge. We enjoyed the views as we climbed the hill behind Darley then walked along Swan Road to the edge of the Lerderderg Park. That is where walk 2 began.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS AND RENEWALS		AMOUNT
• Family Membership two family members, \$49.50 per annum (plus \$19.00 additional persons)		
• Additional participating family member \$19.00		
• Walking Club, Businesses, Other Organisations \$49.50 per annum		
• Single Membership \$33.00 per annum		
• Concessional Membership \$27.50 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		
•		
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 pdboag@gmail.com



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

Member Name
Street Address
City, Postcode