

GDTA POST

2009 Goldfields Track Guided Walks

On Sunday 29 November, 28 members and friends walked the last of the 13 Goldfields Track Walks for 2009. The weather was kind to us and pleasant for walking. It was especially welcome after the recent extremes of high temperatures, torrid humidity and torrential downpours that we've experienced recently.

For many walkers it was the first time that they'd seen water across the track. For others it was a treat to again see broad, deep puddles and to rather carefully squelch around the muddy parts.

The wildflowers were out and we saw the whites and yellows of sweet bursaria and a range of daisies - grey everlastings, sticky everlastings, common everlastings and clustered everlastings (thanks Piessey).

The 13 kms from Sandhurst Reservoir into Bendigo was an easy walk and it enabled walkers to chat, to look at the scenery and to enjoy the day.

The celebration lunch was held at the Queens Arms Hotel (thanks Barry, for organising) and Alison gave presentations to 12 walkers. Of the 49 members and many visitors who participated in this year's Goldfields Walks, there were seven members who walked all 13 sections and five members who walked 10 or more sections.

Congratulations to those members who walked from the summit of Mt Buninyong through to Bendigo (nearly 200 kms): Sue Baxter, Neil Campbell, Bill Casey, Colin Hancock, Graeme Noblet, Ray Scilley and John Zukauskas.

Congratulations also to the members who completed 10 or more walks: Ron James, Peter Martin, Richard Piesse, Glen Spicer and Trish Zukauskas.

Thank you to all members who joined in the walks. We hope to see you again next year.

The 2010 Walks Program is in this issue of POST. We'll also email it to those people who have an email address.

**BEST WISHES TO GDTA MEMBERS FOR A
SAFE AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS ---
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM THE GDTA COMMITTEE**

**Newsletter
of the
Great
Dividing
Trail
Association**

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

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E-Mail: Editor
rjames@netconnect.com.au



From the President

Goldfields Track

The 2009 series of walks along the Goldfields Track has been a great success: sincere thanks to each leader for your contribution and to each walker for your participation.

The 2009 walks series was the forerunner to the promotion of the Goldfields Track, through the partnership initiative between Goldfields Tourism, Parks Victoria, People and Parks Foundation, Conservation Volunteers Australia and the GDTA.

The re-branding of the three GDT tracks between Mt Buninyong and Bendigo doesn't mean that the names of these tracks will be lost. They'll be promoted as being part of the Goldfields Track, comprising the Wallaby Track (between Mt Buninyong/ Ballarat and Daylesford), the Dry Diggings Track (between Daylesford and Castlemaine) and the Leanganook Track (between Castlemaine and Bendigo).

The names of the walks that make up each track will continue to be shown on the GDT maps, as follows:

Wallaby Track: Mt Buninyong Walk, Whitehorse Walk, Creswick Miners Walk, WG Spence Walk, Andersons Tramway Walk, Wombat Forest Walk;

Dry Diggings Track: Tipperary Walk, Mount Franklin View Walk, Golden Mountain Walk, Cry Joe Walk;

Leanganook Track: Heritage Park Walk, Leanganook Summit Walk, Coliban Water Walk, Bendigo Goldfields Walk.

2010 Program

The focus for 2010 will be to **Walk the Lerderderg**. We'll walk the GDT Lerderderg Track (<80 kms) in six stages from Bacchus Marsh to Daylesford, commencing April and finishing in September.

You'll notice that most stages are rated as 'Medium.' This is because the Lerderderg generally offers a higher level of challenge with the terrain. However, you'll also notice that the distances are usually much shorter than those walked along the Goldfields Track because we listened to your suggestions following some of our more demanding walks this year.

2010 will include **two** Members' Dinners at the Guildford Family Hotel - our home pub. If you came to the Members' Dinner in July 2009 you'll know that the food is good value and the evenings are enjoyable.

We'll start the year with a dinner in February to coincide with the AGM. Our AGM meetings are brief and we won't lock the door and put pressure on you, so put it in your diary and come along. We'll have a short walk to the lookout before dinner and it will be a good evening.

The 2010 Cleanup Australia Day for the GDT will be held on the last weekend in February. Please come and help to clean up your GDT environment. We'll spend the morning near the White Swan Reservoir collecting other people's illegally dumped rubbish then will head to the pub for a well-earned drink and lunch.

March will see another GDT milestone with the first walk on the new Grampians extension. We'll catch the train to Ararat and will then launch and walk the Ararat Circuit Walk. Many thanks to the GDT track team who've put in all the planning and work - and who continue to do so: Neil McCracken, Patrick Hope and Bill Casey.

Thank you

A sincere thank you to Patrick Hope who has led the GDTA maintenance team for many years. The maintenance team is vital to the GDT infrastructure and Pat has decided to step back and let other people take a turn. His high level of commitment to the GDT is legendary and is an inspiration to the rest of us.

Sincere thanks to all GDTA Committee members who have given their time and energy to the GDTA this year.

- Ed chairs meetings, plants posts and distributes maps
- Pat and Pat manage finances
- Nev combines post planting with minute taking
- Sue provides correspondence support
- Neil McC, Pat and Bill plan and develop new GDT tracks
- Bill responds to many track enquiries
- Gib prepares maps/publications
- Dane organises membership
- Ron prepares the newsletter
- Barry manages the website
- Barrie and Noelene do publicity
- Neil C liaises with Bushwalking Vic
- Maurice, is the Parks Vic rep
- Nick, Ken and Rob represent the GDT mountain bike riders.

These tasks all sound very neat and simple, don't they? They're not. All take personal time, commitment, knowledge and skill. This is a great Committee and without these people, the GDTA could not function effectively. And the camaraderie is something else! Thank you.

See you on the Track in 2010.

Alison Lanigan
President

INCLUDE THIS NUMBER IN YOUR MOBILE
PHONE:

DIAL 112 FOR EMERGENCIES IN REMOTE AREAS

In case of an emergency in a remote area, you can dial 112 on your mobile phone to connect to any provider within range.

LERDERBERG TRACK DIVERSION

As a result of the February 2009 fires, the Department of Sustainability & Environment closed a section of the Lerderberg Track of the GDT between Jubilee Lake in Daylesford and the intersection of Sucklings Track and Leonards Hill / South Bullarto Road. We understand that the track will not be re-opened until all State-wide insurance claims are settled.

In the meantime a diversion around the burnt section is in place.

This diversion can be found at the following URL:

- For the confident, use :-
<http://tinyurl.com/yibm9hb>
- For the cautious, use:-
<http://preview.tinyurl.com/yibm9hb>
- If you are very confident you can copy all of this :-

<http://maps.google.com.au/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&msa=0&msid=110752996049295072040.00047938d46e92e5ff3c9&z=13>

WALKING DIRECTIONS

From Jubilee Lake

- At the main entrance of the Lake Jubilee reserve, turn south on Specimen Hill Road (this is also called Lake Jubilee Road).
- Follow Specimen Hill Road roughly south for a distance of 6.4 km until the intersection with Leonards Hill / South Bullarto Rd .
- Turn right roughly westward and follow Leonards Hill / South Bullarto Road for a distance of 0.6 km to the intersection of Suckling Track.
- To re-join the Lerderberg Track turn left onto Suckling Track, roughly southwards.

From Leonards Hill / South Bullarto Rd

- From Suckling Track turn right, roughly eastwards onto Leonards Hill / South Bullarto Road .
- Walk along this road for approx 0.6 km to the intersection with Specimen Hill Road.
- Turn left, roughly northwards and follow Specimen Hill Road for approx 6.4 km until the entrance to the Jubilee Lake reserve.
- Re-join the Lerderberg Track by locating the GDT marker on your right at the entrance and follow the markers the rest of the way into Daylesford.

Ed Butler

GDT/GOLDFIELDS TRACK

Dry Diggings Track

Vaughan Springs Reserve has been closed until further notice.

Parks Victoria have just advised this closure as a result of damage during the recent extreme weather.

Prospective walkers are advised to use vehicle tracks which avoid the use of the Vaughan Springs Reserve itself.

GOLDFIELDS TRACK PROJECT

A project committee was established 18 months ago to plan the further development of the Great Dividing Trail (Mt Buninyong / Ballarat to Bendigo) as a quality, nature-based experience for the Goldfields and surrounding regions. Committee members decided on the name 'Goldfields Track' as being representative of the location and the history of the region.

The Goldfields Track Development Project Committee (the Committee) comprises Goldfields Tourism, Parks Victoria, People and Parks Foundation, Conservation Volunteers Australia and the GDTA. Alison Lanigan and Barry Golding represent the GDTA and Nick Lewis of the Central Victorian Rocky Riders represents the mountain biker groups associated with the GDTA. The Hepburn Shire Council has recently joined the Committee.

The three GDT tracks that make up the Goldfields Track are the Wallaby Track (Mt Buninyong / Ballarat to Daylesford), Dry Diggings Track (Daylesford to Castlemaine) and Leanganook Track (Castlemaine to Bendigo). Together, these tracks will be promoted as the Goldfields Track. However, maps for individual tracks will continue to be available from the GDTA and various other organisations, including Information Victoria and regional visitor information centres.

To date the Committee has completed several major tasks:

An on-track and online survey was completed early in 2009, with the results showing that the GDT is a well used and loved resource for walkers, runners and cyclists. The main reason given for using the Track was to relax and get out and enjoy nature.

The results of the survey were correlated with research by Tourism Victoria and Tourism Australia and confirmed that the project should proceed as a shared-use Track, so that it adds value to tourism in the region and improves the experiences of users.

Several project outcomes have been identified, including:

- Improving the Track for the added enjoyment and safety of existing users.
- Providing Track options that will appeal to a range of skills and experience levels.
- Encouraging economic benefits for the region by helping to attract new visitors and/or encouraging visitors to extend their stay in the region.

An extensive assessment of the infrastructure and upgrade needs for the Track was undertaken in 2009. The results showed that the needed work included Track upgrades and the installation of additional signage, bridges and entry stations. A priority list has been developed with the focus on safety. The work will include Track diversions around sensitive sites for cyclists and/or areas that are considered to be unsafe for both walkers and cyclists.

The list is extensive and it will be costly to do all the improvements. To help us on our way, in June 2009 the Committee applied for a Commonwealth TQUAL Grant of \$500,000 from AusIndustry, a division of the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research. At the time of writing the successful TQUAL Grants are still to be announced.

The Committee continues to look for other funding opportunities to support the Track project. It was pleasing to see the recent success by the GDTA and Central Victorian Rocky Riders with their recent grant applications. The GDTA grant will provide funds for steps to be built and a bridge upgrade adjacent to St George's Lake, Creswick and the Rocky Riders' grant will fund a Track diversion for cyclists on Mount Alexander.

Goldfields Tourism, the lead agent of the Committee, has been working on the development of an interactive map that will be accessible via <http://www.visitgoldfields.com.au>. The map will promote tourism opportunities within the region and will feature the Goldfields Track as well as accommodation and other tourist operators and experiences that will support Track users.

The Committee conducted a very successful workshop in September to discuss the development of brochures, maps and other printed materials that will promote the Track. It was attended by representatives of the GDTA, local government areas and local tourism operators.

The Committee looks forward to the continued progress of the Goldfields Track project in 2010 and now that the necessary information has been collected, we are hopeful of success with funding applications so that the Track can be upgraded as quickly as possible.

Mt Macedon Extension

Richard Piesse and Bill Casey have been putting in time

and effort on this new extension and on November 21st conducted a walk in the Fingerpost Road, Firth Park area with some of the committee members. This walk took in some interesting bush tracks which will require a certain amount of clearing before they can be used as a track. Since this walk more work has been done to avoid using parts of a Mountain Bike track in the area. There is still work to be done to complete this section of the walk. Richard and Bill are to be congratulated on the work and time they have put into this project.

CASTLEMAINE TO CALDER HIGHWAY

Sunday 13th September 2009

Continuing from where Ed's wet walk finished on the outskirts of Castlemaine we continued our journey toward Bendigo. We walked past the main part of Castlemaine and headed toward Chewton and the site of the Garfield Water Wheel remains where we had morning tea. From here we headed north along the trail toward the Welsh Village site, although this is not on the trail a short side trip was made by most of the group to visit these interesting ruins. From here we walked past Orchards until we regained the bush where we had a lunch break. Suitably refreshed we continued on to Specimen Gully Road where once again we took a short side trip of 150 - 200 metres to visit the Gold Memorial which commemorates the discovery of gold in the Castlemaine area. It was then up and over the ridge and down to the new Calder Highway which we passed under in the tunnel, then it was on to the Old Calder Highway to collect our cars.

SUTTON GRANGE TO SANDHURST RESERVOIR

Sunday 18th October 2009

This walk mainly follows the water channel which brings the water from Malmsbury to the Reservoir. We followed the channel through farmland and enjoyed the views of the green paddocks until we arrived at a hill which we had to climb but the channel went through. After another flat section we repeated the hill experience and from the top admired the panoramic views from this vantage point. From here it was down to the dissipaters (a means of slowing the water where it drops down a hill). These structures are well worth the visit. After a short distance we left the channel for a short time before rejoining and following the water Channel to the reservoir. A feature of the channel near the Reservoir is the system of traps where unwanted objects are caught and removed from the reticulation system.

Important Dates

2010 Dates

School starts
School finishes

Monday 1 February
Friday 17 December

Term Holidays:

Saturday 27 March – Sunday 11 April
Saturday 26 June – Sunday 11 July
Saturday 18 September – Sunday 3 October

Dates to Note:

Australia Day Holiday
Labour Day weekend)
Cleanup Australia Day)
Easter
ANZAC Day Holiday 2010 and 2011

Tuesday 26 January
Saturday 6 March – Monday 8 March
Sunday 7 March (20th Anniversary)
Friday 2 April – Monday 5 April
Monday 26 April (Substitute public holiday on Monday 26 April in
2010: ANZAC day falls on Sunday 25
April. Also substitute public holiday on Tuesday 26 April, 2011:
ANZAC day falls on Easter Monday)
Sunday 9 May
Sunday 5 September
Saturday 25 September
Tuesday 2 November

Mothers' Day
Fathers' Day
AFL Grand Final
Melbourne Cup Day

Daylight Saving ends
Daylight Saving begins

Saturday 3 April
Sunday 3 October

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS AND RENEWALS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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



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

Member Name
Street Address
City, Postcode