

THE GDTA POST
JANUARY - MARCH 2005
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
GREAT DIVIDING TRAIL ASSOCIATION INC.
P.O. BOX 429 DAYLESFORD VIC 3460
REG. AOO227959N

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

SEASON'S

GREETINGS

Please accept with no obligation, implied or implicit, our best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low stress, non addictive, gender neutral, celebration of the winter solstice holiday, practiced within the most enjoyable traditions of the religious persuasion of your choice, or secular practices of your choice, with respect for the religious/secular persuasions and/or traditions of others, or their choice not to practice religious or secular traditions at all and a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling, and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2005, but not without due respect for the calendars of choice of other cultures whose contributions to society have helped make Australia great, (not to imply that Australia is necessarily greater than any other country), and without regard to the race, creed, colour, age, physical ability, religious faith, choice of computer platform, or sexual preference of the wishee.

(GDTA POST Editor)

UPCOMING DATES & CONTACT #'S

***Friday 18th Feb Opening of Lerderderg Track**

This is the official opening ceremony for the 4th stage of the GDT, The Lerderderg Track from Daylesford to Bacchus Marsh. The opening will be performed by our Patron and State Governor John Landy at the Blackwood Mineral Springs Reserve 2.00pm on Friday 18th Feb assisted by our Ambassador Steve Moneghetti enquiries to Pat Hope **5341 3711**

Anzac Long Weekend 23rd - 25th April
Diamantina Hut to Mt Feathertop Try your hand at a spectacular walk at the very summit of Victorias High Country The walk follows the Razorback Ridge from Near Mt Hotham to the summit of Mt Feathertop. Camp at Harrietville for 2 nights. 20-25km Ed Butler **5348 3059**

GDTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the GDTA will be held at the Wombat Station Site on Saturday 26th February at 5.00pm.

Members are invited to bring a picnic and participate in a one hour loop walk commencing at 4.00pm.

Nominations for the following positions are sought in writing signed by nominee and proposer to

Secretary GDTA

P.O Box 429

Daylesford 3460

by 19th February:-

President

Secretary

Membership Off.

Maintenance Off.

Media South

Publications Off.

Events Off.

Vice President

Treasurer

Track Development Off.

VICWALK rep

Media North

Newsletter Editor

Track Monitors.

UPCOMING WALKS & CONTACTS

Sunday 5th February Gong - Sebastapol

This is a 16km walk following the LINC's track from the Gong reservoir to Sebastopol mostly flat along the Yarrowee creek track. Bookings and enquiries to PAT HOPE **5341 3711**

***Saturday 26th February GDTA AGM and picnic** Wombat Station 5.00pm loop walk at 4.00pm Enquiries Barry on **5345 6343**

Sunday 6th March Clean-Up Australia Day

Clean up starts at Five Ways & continues along White Swan perimeter fence. Finishes no later than 1pm. Lunch at Brown Hill Hotel after., Ballarat Michael Fox **9743 1526**

Sunday 20th March Blowhole - Shepherds

Flat Loop A 3.5 to 4.5h loop walk of easy to medium standard (OK, a couple of hills) We will walk through the dry stunted bush of Hepburn above the Jim Crow Crk highlighting interesting relics of the past. (mining, wall built into a creek etc) Sue Cooper **5348 7550**



2nd April Track Clearing & short Walk

With the Essendon Bush Walkers Come help clean-up a section of the trail with a group from Melbourne Neil Campbell(03) **9478 7995**

Sunday 10th April Mollonghip loop walk

Approx 15km around this isolated settlement Gib Wettenhall **5334 5490**

Runaway Minds Summer School for the Curious Program



THE PANTECHICON
GALLERY

Rosandula
SWISS ITALIAN FARM

10 to 23 January 2005 Daylesford
supported and sponsored by the above

The Great Dividing Trail traverses almost 300 km from Bendigo to Bacchus Marsh, through several habitat types from the dry and rocky Box-Ironbark country in the north, to the ferny forests of the Lerederg River Gorge.

Join GDTA photographer, Alison Pouliot, on several short walks along the trail looking at photography of many elements of the trail's natural history – including its geology, botany and hydrology.

The workshop will also cover aspects of Photopoint Monitoring – a technique used by scientists, assessors and monitors to document changes in the environment over time.

Tutor: Alison Pouliot

Alison is a local photographer, who is passionate about natural history photography, spanning from underwater photography to photo microscopy. Formerly a research ecologist, Alison is completing the final stages of a two-year project resulting in the photographic book, 'Gariwerd – Reflecting on the Grampians'. Alison has been teaching photography for 15 years.

Sunday 16th Jan 2005, 4-9pm

Meet at Daylesford Neighbourhood Centre, Old Court House, 13 Camp St Daylesford

Further Info: call Alison on 0439 764 344 or email at app@netcon.net.au

Cost: \$45.00

**FOR ALL BOOKINGS CONTACT
DAYLESFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD
CENTRE ON 5348 3569 OR
DNHLC@BIGPOND.COM**

FOLLOW THE SOUTHERN CROSS WALK

**27TH NOVEMBER-5TH DECEMBER,
2004.**

As its contribution to the 150th Anniversary of Eureka commemorations the GDTA in conjunction with the Friends of Mt Alexander Diggings Committee arranged an 8 day 180 km walk along the Great Dividing Trail from Bendigo to Ballarat.

34 people were involved in the walk together with another 13 who joined in for the final day walk from Slaty Creek to the Eureka Centre.

The first day of the walk from Bendigo to Harcourt North Rd was cancelled due to a total fire ban but several people walked this section subsequently on their own.

On Sunday 28th the group were filmed by WINTV at the start of the difficult walk up and down Mt Alexander which proved quite hot with plenty of water consumed.

On Monday the group met at the site of the diggers Monster Meeting site near Chewton where the Mayor of Mt Alexander Shire welcomed the walkers and David Bannear gave a talk on the site's significance. The group then walked to Fryerstown where long time GDTA member Norma Dickinson provided refreshments and afternoon tea was provided by Sage Cottage before continuing to Vaughan where many dipped into the river before going to dinner in Chewton.

Tuesday's walk was from Vaughan to Sawpit Gully Rd. On Wednesday the group walked into Daylesford via Breakneck after a welcome by the Mayor of Hepburn. The Shire also provided after walk drinks.

On Thursday the GDTA contingent took a days rest whilst the Friends of Mt Alexander diggings group continued their walk finishing in Saturday. The GDTA group undertook the long walk from Daylesford to Mollonghip in very pleasant conditions on Friday. The Mollonghip to Creswick Walk through open country on Saturday was enjoyed in pleasant conditions. Most of the contingent had early dinner at the American Hotel at Creswick.



Visit www.gdt.org.au

On Sunday the GDTA contingent was joined by 13 other members for the walk along the Creswick Miners Walk to the Eureka Centre. The Friends of Mt Alexander Diggings Group joined in Ballarat for the final walk into the Eureka Centre where Ballarat Mayor David Vendy welcomed the walkers and presented certificates to participants. Steve Moneghetti the GDTA Trail patron arrived after running from Bowens Lane to also greet and congratulate the walkers who then had a few celebratory drinks.

This was the most ambitious walk the GDTA has so far planned and was organised by Patrick Hope with considerable assistance from Barry Golding, Barry Hunter, Neville Fraser, Richard Piesse, Doug McConville, Ruth and David Norris and David Bannear.

The event attracted considerable regional media interest.

AFTER THE EUREKA WALK

And the highlights question:

So, now that it's over and you walked from Bendigo to Eureka - what were the highlights for you?

Some of the responses of the intrepid walkers:

- > Mt Alexander was my highlight. It was a tough day but it was a relief to be on the way. Once we did that day I knew I could do the rest. The extra practice walks we did were really helpful.
- > The views (Mt Alexander) at lunchtime were spectacular. It was a hard day but it was well worth the effort.
- > Next time I go up Mt Alexander I'm going in a car.
- > I was impressed with the way that people acknowledged Eureka - and the walk. Like the Mayor in Daylesford flying the Eureka flags from the town hall and also putting on afternoon tea for us.
- > I thought the camaraderie was great. I've been on other long walks but this one was the best.
- > I liked the red winged orielis.
- > Lots of Norma's fluffy tailed whistlers.

- > Pat did a great job organising it (the walk) and it was really good to have Café de Barry at each stop. Or to find cans of drink by the track and realise that he was just up ahead. His prices were pretty reasonable most of the time. Except for the chairs though. And the small bottles of water.
- > It was an inspiration to see older people and young people walking with us.
- > Lynne's advice (podiatrist) really made a difference. I was fit but I was worried about how my feet would stand up to it.
- > It was my first long walk and I really enjoyed it. I'd do it again.
- > We were very pleased to be part of the Eureka 150th celebration and to join the GDTA group on this adventure.
- > To the Vaughan Republicans and Friends of the Stockade: Many thanks for the Eureka Nuggets!!!
- > Neville was fantastic. He had a big responsibility with the bus and he was cheerful and reliable. He helped to make it a great walk.
- > I hadn't walked the Trail previously. It's an excellent track and the walk itself was a wonderful experience.
- > It was great to join in with the GDTA for part of the walk. Many thanks.
- > The combination of being part of the 150th Eureka; being on the long walk; the scenery and the different types of vegetation; and seeing the historic relics first hand. I also appreciated hearing some of the history and learning how the diggers used the equipment. It helped to give me some connection with Eureka.
- > It was great. It was something to always remember - that I did this.
- > Somehow, having the flags added meaning and gave it atmosphere. And I'll never forget the last part, when we were nearly at Eureka and Pat was up the front leading us along the path. The flags were flying and we were all walking together. And we'd done it. It was just very special.



Sincere thanks to:

City of Ballarat;
University of Ballarat;
Telstra.

Ian Newland, Physiotherapist at Newington Physiotherapy Clinic in Ballarat and Lynne Rees, Podiatrist in Ballarat, for their willing support and advice before the walk. Mars Confectionery (and to Judy for organising the Mars bars etc).

MEMBERS MEETING NOVEMBER 2004

Members Meeting Successful.

On 25th November 30 members met at Celestine House Guildford for an excellent dinner and discussion on the progress of the GDTA. Arranged by Richard Piesse and Adam Smolak the evening commenced with a gathering at Guildford Hotel for a short trip into the bush where Adam showed members a Chinese Village site which has recently been excavated. The site is near Vaughan Springs. On return the group had a drink at Guildford Hotel before driving up the hill to Celestine House. Amongst the items discussed at the meeting were the 2005 walks program and the proposed executive officer. Some members showed an interest in becoming more involved in organising events and activities. It was voted to hold another similar function in 2005.

MAINTENANCE WORK

On the last day of 2004 in 30C heat an intrepid band of maintenance workers, Pat H, Barry, Neil & Ed went out to do a final clean-up & check of the Lerderderg Track between Daylesford & Blackwood, up-hill & down steep gullies we hacked vegetation, amended directional signage and removed temporary route markers, to ensure the track was in top shape for the Opening in February

LERDERDERG TRACK OPENING

The Lerderderg Track is scheduled for opening at Mineral Springs Reserve Blackwood 2.00pm Friday 18th Feb by Governor John Landy with Steve Moneghetti also participating.

Tasks to be completed:-

- * Completion of track work in State Park including post erection and direction arrows, and safety signs
- * Erection of direction signs in urban areas of Moorabool Shire
- * Printing of Lerderderg Map and display map
- * Erection of entry station boards at Blackwood and Bacchus Marsh Station and insertion of maps to boards at Blackwood, Bacchus Marsh, Swans Lane, Lake Daylesford, Nolans Picnic and Jubilee Lake
- * Audit of existing track between Daylesford and Blackwood
- * Resolution of access to State Park near Swans Road.
- * Final audit of new section prior to opening.

PROBLEM SOLVING

The tribal wisdom of the Dakota Indians says that, "When you discover that you are riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount."

Today, more advanced problem solving strategies can be employed:

1. Change the rider.
2. Appoint a committee to study the horse.
3. Arrange to visit other countries to see how other cultures ride horses.
4. Lower performance standards so that dead horses may be included.
5. Reclassify the dead horse as living-impaired.
6. Hire outside contractors to ride the dead horse.
7. Harness several dead horses together to increase resources.
8. Provide additional training to try and increase dead horse's performance.
9. Do a productivity study to see if lighter riders improve the dead horse's performance.
10. Declare that as the dead horse does not have to be fed, it is less costly, carries lower overhead and therefore contributes substantially more to the bottom line than do some other horses.
11. Rewrite the performance requirements for all horses.
12. Promote the dead horse to a supervisory position.



2005 Walks Program Six Mountains + 1
MOST OF LERDERBERG TRACK IN ITS OPENING YEAR

Date *=Fixed	Description	Dist	Who	Phone
*Sunday 5 th February	LINC's track Gong - Sebastapol	16km	Pat Hope	5341 3711
*Friday 18th Feb	Opening of Lerderberg Track Blackwood Mineral Springs Reserve 2.00pm by Governor John Landy	NA	Barry Golding	5345 6343
*Saturday 26th February	GDTA Annual Meeting and picnic Wombat Station 5.00pm loop walk at 4.00pm	one hour loop walk 4.00pm	Ron James	5345 7539
Sunday 6 th March	Clean - Up Australia day TBA	NA	Michael Fox	9743 1526
Sunday 20 th Mar	Bryces Flat - Shepherds Flat Loop	15km	Sue Cooper	5348 7550
*2 nd April	Track Clearing & short Walk W/- Essendon Bush Walkers	NA	Neil Campbell	03 94787995
Sunday 10 th April	Mollonghip loop walk	15km	Gib Wettenhall	53345490
Saturday 16 th April	Mt Buninyong Loop	15km	Pat Hope	5341 3711
*Anzac Weekend 23 rd - 25 th April	Mt Hotham to Feathertop day walk (camp O/N at Harrietville) A return walk along a razorback ridge	15km	Ed Butler	5348 3059
One Sunday in May	Mt Alexander Heritage Walk - Circuit walk around Castlemaine	TBA	Richard Piesse	5472 3191
Saturday 7 th May	Mt Blackwood to Bacchus Marsh	20+km	Bill Casey	
*Saturday 14 th May	Mt Franklin to Hephurn Springs	18km	Neil Campbell	
Saturday 21 st May	Vaughan Springs & Glenluce	TBA	Barry Golding	5345 6343
4 th or 5 th June	Sailors Falls Loop	20 km	Ron James	
Saturday 18 th June	Balt Camp to Jubilee	18-20 km	Ed Butler	5348 3059
2 nd or 3 rd July	Creswick Water Walk, Cosgroves, Eatons etc.	TBA	Neville Fraser	5331 1840
Sunday 16 th July	Mt Alexander Circuit	15km	Richard Piesse	5472 3191
Saturday 24 th July	Mt Wilson - Mt Hope	TBA (hard)	Michael Fox	9743 1526
Sunday 31 st July	Balt Camp to Blackwood	18-20 km	Ed Butler	5348 3059
Saturday 13 th August	Mt Macedon Regional Park	TBA	Richard Piesse	5472 3191
Sunday 11 th Sept	Sailors Falls - Kelly Hill Loop	16	Sue Cooper	5348 7550
Sunday 9 th Oct	Mt Herbert (Big Hill) & Surrounds	TBA	Max Stevens	
Sunday 16 th October	VICWALK Federation Day walks - Blackwood.		Various	
Sunday 23 rd Oct	Blackwood surrounds, Yankee Gully	TBA	Richard Piesse	5472 3191
Saturday 5 th November	Blue Mt - Mt Blackwood	TBA (hard)	Michael Fox, Colin Hancock	9743 1526
Sunday 13 th November	Mt Macedon toward Firth Park	TBA (hard)	Michael Fox & Richard Piesse	9743 1526
Saturday 19 th Nov	Mt Franklin - Jim Crow Crk Breakfast at Mt Franklin	12+Km	Barry Golding	5345 6343



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 - Blackwood) \$5.00 + 50c postage(Suggested Retail \$7.50)	
• LEANGANOOK TRACK MAP (Castlemaine-Bendigo) \$5.00+50c postage (Suggested Retail \$7.50)	
• 'BUSHWALKING AROUND DAYLESFORD' BOOKLET \$4.00 + \$1.00 postage	
• 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 1.....
 - Other member 2.....
 - Other Member 3.....
 - Other Member 4.....
 - 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 53413711 or email pathope@netconnect.com.au

Post Remittances to:
Treasurer, GREAT DIVIDING TRAIL ASSOCIATION INC,
P O BOX 429, DAYLESFORD Vic 3460

