

**THE GDTA POST
MAY-JULY 2004.
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
GREAT DIVIDING TRAIL
ASSOCIATION INC.
P.O. BOX 429 DAYLESFORD VIC
3460
REG. AOO227959N**

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

THE MISSING NEWSLETTER

No! You didn't miss a newsletter, there has been little happening in the development of the trail and as the program of walks both short and long have been set we decided to save funds and not have one.

UPCOMING WALKS & CONTACT NUMBERS.

8th August Sawpit Gully Rd to Daylesford Red Ribbon Walk Sue Cooper 5348 XXX
22th August East Walk Etc Lerderberg Gorge Extra Walk Michael Fox/Colin Hancock 97431526
28th August Dean to Creswick shorter Walk Neville Fraser 5331 1840
4th September Daylesford to Wombat Station Red Ribbon Walk Sue Cooper 5348 XXX
26th September Enfield forest shorter walk Judy Murray 5331 xxxx
3rd October Wombat Station to Bowens Lane Red Ribbon Walk

FOLLOW THE SOUTHERN CROSS WALK.

An encouraging number of applications have been received from members wishing to walk the whole of the walking route between Bendigo and Ballarat as part of the 150th Anniversary of Eureka Celebrations. The walk starts at the Bendigo Station on 27th November and concludes at the Eureka Stockade Ballarat on Sunday 5th December. A maximum of 20 people can be accepted and the remaining places will be filled in the order in which they are received by the GDTA. Enquiries to Patrick Hope 03 53413711.

SPONSER THIS NEWSLETTER, THIS EDITION SPONSORED BY ENTITY GOLDFIELDS DISCOVERY TOURS

Luxury Spring Walking Breaks with Entity Goldfields Tours



Spoil yourself on a short walking break holiday this Spring. Are the pressures of modern life getting you down? Do you long for the peace of the bush?

Join Entity on one of our Luxury Spring walking breaks on the Dry Diggings Track, a perfect way to recharge your batteries with a great combination of discovery walking and quiet time.

Enjoy energising walks in lovely forest settings, time to relax as well as fine food and first-rate accommodation. Light day packs will make for comfortable walking, Spring wildflowers will be tantalising our native floral interests and magic stories are told of the life and times of people long gone as we ponder the gold era ruins generations have left behind.

We will be based at the heavenly Celestine House at Guildford, less than 20 minutes drive from beautiful Daylesford. Your bus will be outside your accommodation each morning for the short trip to the start of the walking day.

After a days walking, return to Celestine House to kick back on the veranda with a good book, a glass of wine or soak away the aches in a soothing spa. Finish each day with a delightful dinner, lovingly prepared by Celestine's P & O liner chef.

Packed lunches are prepared each day, with scrumptious fully cooked breakfasts, or fresh fruit pancakes with 3 fruit juices on offer to kick start your day.

Celestine's 4 star rating and magnificent hospitality will make your stay an absolute delight



For Trip dates &/or enquiries please phone Adam Smolak of Entity Goldfields Discovery Tours on

03 5470 5453, 0438 045 630 or email at adam@entity.com.au

THE GDTA: WHAT WE ARE ALL ABOUT !

The GDTA is a community owned and supported organisation whose mission is to plan, develop, maintain and market a linked network of public walking and bicycle tracks through public land in Central Victoria and provide regular walking[and probably in the future cycling] experiences for its members.

The particular vision of the GDTA is an icon network of easily accessible high quality tracks of State, National and >International



significance which link communities in Central Victoria. The trail provides access to bushland and heritage for the enjoyment of local people and visitors and creates economic opportunities for various regional service providers.

Our current strategic statement provides during the next three years for the following:-

- completion of the Lerderderg track
- undertaking negotiations for and construction of some deviations from the walking tracks where necessary to provide for mountain cyclists.
- revise the Dry Diggings and Federation Track maps
- consider a major publication on the whole trail
- apply for funding to appoint an executive officer and establish a GDTA Trust to undertake management responsibilities
- negotiate a further extension of the trail from Blackwood to Macedon
- consider further shorter extensions of the trail to Buninyong, Maldon and Eureka lead[near Castlemaine] and possibly Trentham
- audit the usage of the trail
- upgrade facilities on the trail
- further develop the website to incorporate more businesses and attractions offering regional services
- produce local walking maps if support is forthcoming
- arrange an enhanced program of walks, rides and other activities.

RECENT EVENTS/WALK REPORTS

Mt Alexander Festival with NDee

The Bayside Bushwalking Club booked in eight, but cancelled on Friday night because Bob Horton, their Daywalks Co-ordinator had a sore foot. Richard "crutched" his way down to the Castlemaine Market at about 8.45 am to muster up any participants that were assembling there for a 9 am start and shooed them on to Fryerstown. All up, I had two GDT members, (and a lot more "fact sheets"). I led the way, up the Old Coach Road. Recent

development, the building of a house, necessitates the placement of a new direction post, otherwise we could have a few more walkers "doing a governor" and ending up geographically embarrassed en route to Spring Gully. I led the contingent through the remnants of Cornish Town and across a dry creek bed, using a sheep track rather than the defined trail. I followed my nose, it's as good as any compass, and passed an historic ruin and picked up the ruts that are all that remain of the coach road in the bush on the Fryerstown side of Spring Gully. Belying belief in my navigational skills, we came out exactly where I had planned, on the section of the road that runs in front of the site of the Hoskin's Emu Hotel and Store; the stable has been recently restored and is now a private residence.(I'd warned the Taylor's that there was going to be a group of walkers emerging from the adjoining bush and passing by on Sunday morning. Given that there was so few of us, we had to keep doubling back and reappearing, to make it look like a group rather than a trio.) We had a short breather at the picnic table at the entrance to the Spring Gully Mines and proceeded back to Fryerstown, following the GDT. Unfortunately, the person who rang me Sunday evening, to book in for the walk, missed out on what may have been the highlight of the Mt Alexander's Heritage Month activities. **NORMA DEE**

Red Ribbon Walks "Up The Mountain"

On a cool windy day in April Dane and Carol Boag arranged for the continuation of the Red Ribbon walk program by organising 17 people to walk from the top of Mt Alexander to Springs Rd. The group included several new faces. After the participants assembled at Faraday a car shuffle to the start and finish was arranged and the walk commenced down Mt Alexander enjoying magnificent view on the way down to the Coliban Water Race. The 14 km walk was along the race including the spectacular dissapators and lunch was taken beside the channel. Afterwards most



adjourned to the Kangaroo Flat pub. Thanks to Dane and Carol for an interesting walk.

Mt Alexander to Chewton "Down the Mountain"

On Sunday the 16th of May, the 3rd in this series of walks finished near Chewton at the Garfield Wheel site. 23 hardy souls met at the old Faraday School, now Minto Wines, and after some fooling about placing cars at the wheel commenced to walk from the top of Mt Alexander. The weather on the Mount was cool and misty but walking briskly to Dog Rocks, where we took a break, the participants who ranged in age from 10 years to 75 years, soon warmed up. We descended below the clouds at about this time and were rewarded with fine views over the beautiful Harcourt Valley where the apples and grapes etc. were in their autumn finery. The Koala Park was traversed, strange there were no koalas again but we did see a few solitary wallabies, one humourist in the group suggested it was the same one and it existed on the mountain on a government subsidy. We crossed the Calder (always a dangerous exercise) at McQuillans Rd and on to near the gold memorial, a geologist in the group explained the geology of the granitic Mt Alexander/Ravenswood area and the effect of this intrusion in hardening the slates and shales of the boundary which has resulted in the ranges on both sides of the region, due to their greater hardness and lack of erodability. The trail took us to Expedition Pass Reservoir and close to the Welsh Village before we finished at the Garfield Wheel and drinks at the amiable Red Hill Hotel. All-in-all we covered over 17 km in five and a half hours and, though some were stiff and sore, there were no injuries.

Chewton to Vaughan

After the first wet week of the Year Ed led an enthusiastic bunch from the Garfield Wheel to Vaughan Springs. The walk connected with the Castlemaine Commuter trail then through the outskirts of the Chewton megopolis before a daring bit of cross country to link with the Dry Diggings track. (little did people realize

that Ed made this bit up as he went along but still managed to be spot-on). From The Monk to Vaughan the walk followed the DD Track. Highlights (apart from the above feat of navigation) were the Wattle Gully mullock heaps and the profusion of other mining relics along the way.

Vaughan to Sawpit

This walk marked Richard Piesse's return to almost full capabilities. Richard and a total of 34 continued the Red Ribbon Walk toward the goal of Ballarat. The weather threatened but stayed clear. We had another day of fine scenery and mining relic after mining relic. The walk length was determined by Korean Engineering and the need to place our cars for later. John's Xcel was chosen to drive as far as was practicable down a rough and boggy track and then the challenge was to walk from Vaughan towards the cars. Hi-Light was the lunch spot off-track chosen by Ed as his favourite part of the Upper Loddon forest. Sights such as rocks with square holes, shafts made with a crooked plumbob and adits personally explored by Maggie (Official GDT dog) were wondered at. For a change Apres walk drinks were held at the Guildford Pub (much to Dane's relief)

Shorter Walk Program.

In addition to the icon Follow the Southern Cross and Red Ribbon Walks the GDTA has a shorter walk program which comprises of 12 half day or so walks around the GDT and other places in the Central Highlands. These walks are attracting a good level of interest amongst members and potential members.

21st March Five Ways- Ballarat Station.

Attended by 12 walkers including a couple of first timers the group assembled at the Ballarat Railway Station for a car shuffle to the start on the west side of the White Swan Reservoir and followed the Creswick Miners Walk back to Ballarat. Some of the bushland south of Nuggetty Dam had been subject to a controlled burn by DSE a few days previously and the GDTA is appreciative of DSE carefully avoiding burning our direction posts. The whole



area is very dry and for the first time in years it was noticed that the Yarrowee River was not flowing at all. The three hour walk concluded at the Ballarat station . Afterwards most of the participants enjoyed an excellent lunch at the Brown Hill Hotel.

3rd April Wombat - Sailors Falls.

Barry Golding organised the group of 18 participants including a number from Bayside BWC to meet at Sailors Falls for the car shuffle to Wombat Station. The walk along the former Creswick North- Daylesford Railway Line and forest followed the Wombat Forest Walk for about 11kms to the bottom of Sailors Falls Gully where lunch was taken before ascending the steps back to the car park. This very pleasant walk was enhanced by Barry's explanation of various forest, history and geological features seen along the way.

More Post Replacement

Neville, Richard, Pat & Ed assisted by Christopher replaced missing posts in the Castlemaine & Daylesford areas recently (one near Lake Jubilee for the 4th or 5th time)

Good News.

Chris Worrall of Parks Vic has indicated the GDTA has gained a grant to allow the construction of the final link on the Lerderderg track. This part of our trail has been held up due to a number of factors but it now seems that the steps for the steep & rugged Whiskey Crk crossing will be prefabricated by Parks Vic and put in place sometime in the near future. For those interested we have a scheduled walk in the Lerderderg on 22nd August Contact Michael Fox on 9743 1526 to book.

TRACK DEVELOPMENT IN AND AROUND BALLARAT

We have noted that the City of Ballarat Parks and Environment Department has completed a walking/cycling link along the Yarrowee between Yuille's Station Wetland and Whitehorse Road. This section is well constructed and the team should all be congratulated.

Completion of this section now allows for two important developments which have some benefit to locals and tourists:-

- It is now possible to ride/walk from Central Ballarat along the Yarrowee up the cycle track in Whitehorse Road to Mt Clear and with some minor improvement to signage cycle/walk back along the Canadian Creek Trail to central Ballarat making a very interesting loop experience. It is also now practical to ride/walk to Buninyong from Central Ballarat via the Yarrowee Trail, and Mt Clear.
- In the medium long term the Great Dividing Trail Association is keen to link Buninyong with the rest of the growing network of walking tracks extending from Ballarat, Creswick, Daylesford, Blackwood, Baccus Marsh, Castlemaine and Bendigo with further extensions to Maldon and Macedon. The completion of the Yarrowee extension with some minor signage work and a map publication will provide an opportunity to undertake an icon long distance trail of national and in longer run international significance incorporating Mt Buninyong, Mt Alexander, Mt Blackwood and Mt Macedon. It is also feasible with minor changes to make the GDT available to mountain cyclists, a significant and growing market.

The LINC's Trail of which the Yarrowee Trail is part is a very considerable asset to the City and the team who have worked so hard over the years undertaking a successful clean up and impressive revegetation of degraded river and stream valleys deserve high praise.

PROGRESS ON EXECUTIVE OFFICER APPOINTMENT.

The GDTA committee members have been discouraged by news indicating that the possibility of a paid/part time executive officer is unlikely due to lack of "REAL" \$'s as opposed to in kind contributions to the Trails success. The news is not final but is quite discouraging. Members, the Committee and supporting organisations have poured



thousands of \$'s and hundreds of volunteer hours into building the trail but the funding relies on actual cash contributions

FRYERSTOWN CONSIDERS FUTURE OF SCHOOL SITE.

The Fryerstown School is currently unoccupied and the local community is considering alternative uses for the site which has been used for some years as a school accommodation camp. A meeting was held on 9th April attended by Mt Alexander Shire and State Government Representatives together with some local people and four representatives of the GDTA. Although the GDTA does not intend to apply to use this valuable property itself we would encourage a use which provides an accommodation option for the growing number of people who are walking the Dry Diggings Track which is about 100 metres away. The GDTA encourages and supports the local community in its quest to find a suitable use for the site

FUTURE EXTENSIONS TO THE GDT.

As noted in the previous newsletter the GDTA is considering an extension of the GDT from Blackwood to Macedon. Explorations on the best route have been ongoing and a walk was conducted on the 19th June from Amblers Lane to Blackwood to test the route. A very small number (3 + Maggie the Official GDTA dog) braved a foul weather forecast and enjoyed an excellent walk before lunch at the Pig & Whistle. A further test run will be held on Sat 14th August to make the link to Firth Park. The walk has off-track, steep sections but if interested call Michael Fox on 9743 1526.

GDTA MERCHANDISE SALE.

GDTA maps, pack liners, and cloth badges are usually available for sale before the start of walks together with free material and additional copies of newsletters.

NEW MEMBERS

The following have recently paid a membership fee and we look forward to meeting them at forthcoming walks and other activities:-

Robert Howden, Edward Fleming, Helen Forbes, Harry Fleury, Eva Turner, Glenda and Ross Dimond, Rhonnie and Ted Dryne.

- Membership address missing.

Would anyone knowing the current address of new member Eva Turner please contact Patrick Hope Treasurer 53413711 as we appear to have no record of her address.

Great Dividing Trail Membership Statistics

This information used for VICWALK insurance purposes as at end of May

<u>Total insurable members</u>	156
male	78
female	78
Under 16 age	0
over 80	<3
Organisational memberships	11
Complementary newsletters	20
<u>Newsletters distribution</u>	
individuals	176
corporates	11.
Singles	60
Family	40
concessional	16
<u>Home addresses of paying members</u>	
Melbourne	28%
Ballarat	18%
Hepburn	18%
Mt Alexander	14%
Bendigo	11%
Geelong	3%
Other country	8%
New members over past year	38
New organisational memberships.	2
Deletions for non renewals	33
Turnover of membership	21%.

VICWALK'S FEDERATION WALK PROGRAM

VICWALK's annual walking weekend for members of affiliated clubs will be held in October in Gippsland. For more information see VicWalks newsletter.



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 post (Suggested Retail \$7.50)	
• FEDERATION TRACK MAP (Ballarat - Daylesford) \$5.00 + 50c postage (Suggested Retail \$7.50)	
• LERDERDERG Stage 1 Map (Daylesford - Blackwood) \$3.50 + 50c postage	
• 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 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

NOTE: If you are currently a member the **expiry date** of your membership will appear on the address label of your posted newsletter.

If your membership is about to **expire** a tick will appear here No separate reminder letters are sent.

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

