

THE GDTA POST
JULY - OCTOBER 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/>>

UPCOMING WALKS & CONTACT NUMBERS.

6th November Dean to Slaty Creek
 5472 3191(evenings Only)

Richard Piesse



150 years * ballarat

GDTA WALK ACTIVITIES IN 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF EUREKA.

Follow the Southern Cross Walk.

As its contribution to the activities commemorating the 150th Anniversary of Eureka the GDTA has arranged a major 8 day 187 km walk from Bendigo to Ballarat commencing on Saturday 27th November and concluding at the Eureka Stockade Ballarat at 3.00pm on Sunday 5th December. The GDTA contingent has 22 walkers and a contingent from Parks Victoria/Castlemaine will also join in. The program features welcomes and farewells from municipal leaders in the towns through which the walk passes. The walk follows the GDT.. The City of Ballarat, the State Government and the University of Ballarat are supporting the event.

Further information on the walk can be obtained from Patrick Hope on 53413711 or email pathope@netconnect.com.au Further details on the Eureka celebrations can be obtained from local visitor information centres and on line. www.eureka150.vic.gov.au

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 lovely forest settings, relax as well as fine and first-rate accommodation. Light packs will make for comfortable walking, wildflowers will be tantalising our native



in time to food day Spring

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



RED RIBBON AND SHORT WALK.

On Sunday 5th December the final Red Ribbon Walk between Creswick and Ballarat to coincide with the Follow the Southern Cross Walk will be held. Those interested in joining the walk between Creswick and Eureka will meet at the Ballarat Eureka Exhibition Centre at 8.00am for the 6 hour walk. Those interested in a shorter 4.5hour walk from Slaty Creek should meet at the Eureka Centre at 8.30am. A bus or cars will be arranged to convey walkers to the start. Bookings are compulsory at must be made by ringing Patrick Hope 53413711 by 26th November.

DEAN TO SLATY CREEK SAT NOV 6

The second last leg of the Red Ribbon Walks from Bendigo to Ballarat along the GDT will be held on Saturday November 6. The walk will follow the GDT between Dean & Slaty Creek. The walk will commence at the earlier time of 8.30 am on the day and bookings can be made by ringing Richard Piesse on 5472 3191 by Wed 3rd Nov (Evenings Only Please, Answering machine unreliable.)

CLUB MEMBERS ONLY DINNER SATURDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2004

Celestine House, Guildford
2 course Dinner \$25 inc Tea/Coffee
Bookings to Richard Piesse 5472 3191 by 16th Nov. This is a chance for members to hear details of the progress of the GDT, our plans to become a foundation and the future directions of the GDT. Prior to the meeting Adam Smolak of Entity Goldfields Discovery Tours will take those interested for a tour of the Chinese Diggings in Butchers Gully, Vaughan. Meal at 7.00 pm Walk at 5.00 pm details from Richard when booking.

TRAINING THE INFO CENTRE WORKERS

Barry Golding, assisted by Sue Cooper gave a briefing to personnel of the Daylesford Visitor Information Centre. VIC's are staffed by volunteers in the main and are often the first point of contact for visitors to an area. To have a chance to brief these people is an opportunity to promote all aspects of the GDTA. Barry & Sue received quite a few enquiries about the GDT and answered questions such as :-

Is there accommodation, or a camping ground along the way?

What towns do I pass through?

Are there guided tours?

Are there any shops along the way?

Do I have to take my own water?

Is there somewhere I can leave my car at the other end of the walk, knowing it will be safe?

FIRE MANAGEMENT ALONG TRAIL.

The DSE fire management team will conduct fuel reduction burning in the Creswick Forest between

Wolfes Road and Shuttleworth road sometime this spring. The burning will occur in an area on the Creswick Miners Walk which is part of the Federation Track. The operation is to be conducted during weekdays at dates yet to be fixed. DSE personnel will close the GDT for a short period during the operations. It is hoped to include the precise dates on the GDTA website. Otherwise ring Patrick Hope 53413711 if you are intending to walk in this area during the spring. Some other fuel reduction burns in the forest are planned but these do not affect the GDT.

RECENT EVENTS/WALK REPORTS

O'Briens Crossing to Mt Blackwood After meeting in Myrning at 9 am and Ed had abandoned a couple of members due to a misunderstanding, Colin Hancock & Michael Fox led an enthusiastic bunch on a moderate walk in the Lerderderg Gorge. The route followed the very pleasant East Walk along the Lerderderg until a rugged descent to the river at Whiskey Creek. The river crossing was the



usual scramble with a variety of techniques by some to preserve dry feet, some innovative work with plastic bags was evidenced and their were the usual failures. The walk along Whiskey Creek was proceeding well until a shower of rain interacted with the moss and lichen on the rocks of the creekbed making walking difficult and akin to walking on greased ball-bearings. A savage climb up a spur to the Mt Blackwood rd finished the walking in strenuous fashion. After-walk drinks were taken at the very convivial Greendale Public House. The members who suffered from mixed messages enjoyed a pleasant alternate walk around Daylesford. (Apologies from Ed to Jude & John)

Sawpit Gully Road to Daylesford

An enthusiastic bunch met at the letterboxes for a 19 km walk through Dry Diggings to Hepburn Springs and thence along the Wombat/Sailors Creeks to Lake Daylesford. The weather was cool but the beer and wine at the Farmers Arms at the finish was enjoyed by all.

Daylesford to Wombat

Another big contingent met at the Boathouse carpark to continue the Red-Ribbon walk toward Ballarat. Ed was in charge but, this time, there were no mix-ups and all started on time. The ground was wet underfoot but with no heavy rain. Those in the group who had surveyed the original route were amazed at how established the track had become. Around the white Point Diggings the original track was very hard to find but now, with walkers and the odd motorbike the track is very clear. Drinks were again taken at the Farmers Arms Hotel in Daylesford.

Andersons Tramway Walk Report.

On 3rd October a large group of 31 walkers including 8 visitors from the Great South West Walk gathered at the Wombat Station Site at 8.30am for a car shuffle to the start of the walk at Dean. The 16km walk featured the most substantial open country section of the whole of the the Great Dividing Trail walking along country roads and lanes

surrounded by magnificent farming country with green paddocks, rich brown earth and many black cattle. After morning tea at the end of Dingley Dell Road the walk continued along the Andersons Tramway walk through the bush passing close by to publications officer Gib Wettenhall's home and through the forest to Mullens Dam for lunch. After the return to Wombat Station site many of the group explored the impressive former railway cutting and culverts . Some participated in the end of walk discussion at the Swiss Mountain Hotel.

Thanks to Barry Golding who provided commentary on the walk and to those who willingly assisted in looking for a member who became temporarily misplaced for a while at lunchtime.

Some members who rang up late to make a booking for this walk had to be refused as the walk was full. Members are reminded that numbers on each walk will be limited to a group size that can reasonably managed which depends on the length and level of difficulty of the walk.

MEMBER INVITATION TO GDT FORUM MONDAY 8 NOVEMBER, CASTLEMAINE

The GDT Victoria Foundation is organizing a free, one day forum on the GDT on Monday 8 November, 9.30 am to 4.00 pm in Castlemaine at the Old Gaol. All GDTA members and others interested in being involved in the management, marketing and future of the GDT are warmly invited to attend.

Titled, *GDT: Connections, Enterprises, Futures*, the forum will look at what the trail currently offers walkers, and what opportunities there are for communities and enterprises now and in the future. We plan to invite a wide range of existing and potential stakeholders in the GDT and its use, management and marketing. If you can think of people in the community who you think we should specifically invite. If You want more information, please contact Barry Golding barry@cbl.com.au



DISCOUNTS FOR VICWALK AFFILIATES & GDTA MEMBERS

All members of the GDTA are affiliate members of VICWALK and receive a VICWALK card. As a service to affiliate clubs, VicWalk has obtained discounts, to holders of current VicWalk membership cards, from a number of mainly Melbourne-based retailers of bushwalking equipment and services.

There are some changes from past years. Clubs will be notified, via *VicWalk News*, of any other organisations that come on board to offer discounts.

Note that the card needs to be presented prior to processing of sale. RRP (Regular Retail Price) does not include sale items.

Outdoor Travel, 5% on Outdoor Travel tours and all reservations made directly with the office at Bright
www.outdoortravel.com.au,
info@outdoortravel.com.au, phone 1800 331 582

Om Trek: 5% on all treks
<http://travel.to/kathmandu> phone (03) 9781 1280

Gear

AJAY's Snow and Country Sports, Heathmont: 10% off RRP

Bogong Equipment, Melbourne: 10% off RRP

Columbia Sportswear, Melbourne: 10% off RRP

EMC, Eastern Mountain Centre, Deepdene: 10% off RRP

Melbourne Map Centre, Chadstone and Kew: 5% discount (except for GPS systems and accessories). Cash sales only.

Mountain Designs, Melbourne, Collingwood, Hawthorn and Geelong: 10% off RRP

Outsports, Moorabbin and Frankston: 10% off RRP

Outdoor Adventure, Camberwell: 10% off RRP, can negotiate more for group prices

Paddy Pallin, Hawthorn & Ringwood: 10% off RRP

Pinnacle Outdoors: Melbourne - 10% off RRP

Rays Outdoors: a privilege card can be applied for which gives 6.5% off all stock except for powered fridges, fuel heaters, interest free purchases, sale items, special promotions & gas refills. Three Privilege Night invitations' per year (22.5% off).

Snowgum, all stores: free first year Snowgum Club membership card, value \$11, which gives 10% rebate on all purchases.

The Wilderness Shop, Box Hill: 10% off RRP (excludes equipment hire)

GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION REFERENCE GROUP

On June 2 GIRG held a forum on the issue of privacy. The reason for holding a forum on this issue in reference to mapping is that society's attitudes to privacy are changing rapidly, as is the technology for using and acquiring geospatial information. Generally speaking, we now have stricter control of privacy, while technology has made it potentially easier to abuse the use of private information. Examples of users of geospatial information include utility companies, councils, emergency services and us of course when that information is in the form of topographical maps. An example of the risks to privacy is that databases of private information could easily be misused by different authorities.

Most of this forum was of little interest to the bushwalking community from a practical viewpoint because, generally speaking, bushwalking activities occur on public land. One of the few issues is that we sometimes need to contact landholders to request permission to access their land. This may well be harder to do as time goes by.

Of particular interest to us is that there is now a very strong focus and direction on the development of new maps for Victoria, and we are heading along the route of digital delivery of maps. DSE has recently released a 1:30 000 map series to be sold over the internet at www.land.vic.gov.au. The maps are currently only available as stand-alone A4 sheets that can only be joined together after they are printed. However, they should be very accurate, and they have all of the information we would normally require, ie a contour interval in most cases of 20m, clear marking of all geographical features, and excellent cartography.

The cost of these maps is \$1.50 per sheet plus \$1.10 for each order. Of course the only way to effectively use the information is to print it, and there is a substantial cost in ink consumption.



The issue of the new 1:30,000 series is very significant, because it signals a commitment by government to ensure that old map series will be replaced with new data. A particularly interesting part of this commitment is that there is now legislation with parliament that will require local councils to forward up-to-date information on roads to the department on an annual basis. This will answer one of the major criticisms of poor accuracy of roads on older maps. (Greg Weston VICWALK)

PRESCRIBED BURNING SURVEY

Two researchers from the University of Melbourne are conducting a survey to determine trends in knowledge and opinions of prescribed burning practices in the Wombat State Forest. The research project is titled 'Perceived benefits of prescribed burning in the Wombat State Forest, Victoria' and will provide valuable feedback regarding land management practices in the local area and Victoria. The information provided will ultimately contribute to your community safety and awareness. The survey consists of a short questionnaire and your participation is entirely voluntary. It should only take 10 minutes of your time and no further information will be required. If you choose to take part in this research, once you have contacted Wombat Forest Community Forest Management Trial,, the questionnaire and instructions will be sent to you through the mail with and stamped, self-addressed envelopes for the return of documents. The information provided in the questionnaire will remain confidential within the limitations of the law (Information Privacy Act 2000) and has received clearance by the Human Research Ethics Committee of the University of Melbourne.

THE VICTORIAN TRAILS STRATEGY

The Victorian Trails Strategy is currently being revised to cover the period from 2004 to 2007. The new Draft Strategy notes that Victoria has more than 2000 trails with a total distance of around 8000 km. The GDT, along with the Alps Walking Track, Bicentennial

National Trail Great South West Walk and Great Ocean Walk are now recognized in the Strategy as Victoria's 'long distance trails'. The Strategy's action plan (Draft Action 1.4.18) includes catering for cyclists by developing on and off road cycle trails on the GDT in collaboration with VicRoads, Bicycle Victoria, Parks Victoria and local government, on the basis that 'The undulating landscape and close proximity of towns in regions make them ideal for cycling, providing travel routes and linking communities.'

EXPLORATIONS

During the year several explorations of the proposed extension of the GDT between Blackwood and Mt Macedon have been carried out. So far we have identified a viable walking route as far as Andersons Mill site in the East Wombat and in early October a walk and drive was conducted to investigate key crossings of the Bendigo rail line, the old & new Calder Highway and links to the Andersons Mill site. Further explorations are planned to fine tune the route prior to attempts to sell the concept & obtain funding for construction & mapping.

MAINTENANCE WORKS ON THE TRACK
Neville & Pat H's work:-

- Replanted 2 posts between Garfield and Forest Creek.
- Altered two posts along Forest Creek in Castlemaine to make directions clearer.
- Added a new post on the Dry Diggings track 100 metres from Mannings Rd towards Sawpit after members noted the need for an extra one on a recent Red Ribbon Walk.
- Accompanied by Richard and Norma they planted two additional posts on Dry Diggings Track north of Fryerstown on the old coach road about .5 km from the style. These two were needed because of track works making the direction unclear.

Barry Hunter, Richard and Pat H will be on the Leanganook Track Tuesday Oct 5 replacing three direction posts.

Ed replaced a post knocked out by Fire Track Maintenance work on the Lerderderg Track at the top of backwards Hill.



Richard is doing an audit of additional distance posts on the Leanganook Track.

Hans Cloeters will erect a replacement Dry Diggings map on the frame at Hepburn Springs within next two weeks. He will also replace the perspex on the map board at Slaty Creek which as just been vandalised. He will also arrange a quote for entry station board at Sailors Falls which Barry is going to discuss with Marcia Johns.

Track maintenance is a high priority and many hours are spent by committee members and others to keep the track up to, and to, improve the standard. At present we have identified about \$5,000 worth of maintenance and upgrade costs on our existing tracks exclusive of the developmental works below.

DEVELOPMENT WORK ON THE LAST STAGE OF THE LERDERBERG TRACK.

Whiskey Creek Crossing.

A Greening Australia team has commenced work on the crossing steps. Some work needs to be undertaken on Square Bottle Track access. Hans Cloeters volunteered to assist with advice on this project. The GDTA has paid \$1808 for a contractor to improve access track to Whiskey Creek. It was noted that Parks would get the contractor to lay some gravel at appropriate places on the access track

Planting of direction posts.

Stuart Wiltshire of Parks Vic will walk the entire Blackwood to Swans Lane section and in conjunction with Richard Piesse will determine the location of direction posts and advise on mineshaft warning and other signage required. This will be undertaken during the next couple of weeks. It was noted that Parks would be able to source metal direction arrows for affixing by the Greening Australia team. Consideration will be given in the longer run to affixing location information to each/most of the direction posts.

NEW MEMBERS

Since last newsletter the following have paid a subscription :-

Ingrid Krenzer Margaret Shanahan

Susan Baxter

Sandra Wolfe

Paula Dewhurst

Valdie Wakeling

Scott McKernan

Helen and Brian Tonkin.

RECREATIONAL MTN BIKE RIDE SUN 5TH DEC

Wombat Wallow Audax Dirt Ride is 35km of recreational riding enjoying eucalypt and pine forest flora, fauna, some farmland, views and even a country pub on Sunday 5th December 2004. Mostly dirt road, some single track, and a great chance to experience the multi-use Great Dividing Trails. You should be reasonably fit to complete this ride. Simple rally type navigation instructions will be issued along with a basic route map. Use your mountain bike or hybrid or search on 'hire' at www.bv.com.au.

Register with Ken by Wed 1st Dec else add \$5 late/on the day fee. Sign in on the day from 0930-1020 at Sailors Falls Reserve on the Ballan - Daylesford road, 6km south of Daylesford. Scenic walk, grassed area and toilets at the reserve for the rest of your family. Mass start at 1030. Slot into a small group at your own pace or ride on your own. Refreshments supplied about half way or visit the pub. Finish by 2pm (avg 10 km/hr riding). Simple fare afterwards. \$10 under 19, \$15 if 19+, less \$5 for Audax and Cycling Australia members. Optional \$5 ride completion cloth patch. \$5 late/on the day fee. 70km option might be available if 10+ persons express interest.

What to bring:

Compulsory: Helmet, at least 750mls water, puncture repair kit or tube, tools to remove tyre, food for ride. Recommended: 2l water, 1st aid, sunscreen, bike gloves, tools. There is a max. 150m elevation difference over the course - essentially undulating.

You will get an A4 simple monochrome map but you may prefer to take the relevant Great Dividing Trail maps. If so, order from www.gdt.org.au (Federation Tk \$5, Lerderberg Tk \$4) or order with your pre-entry and pick up and pay at event registration.

After the post ride cake you can partake in the hot mineral springs and massages at Hepburn Springs, the coffee shops, eateries and varied shopping of Daylesford (try Wildfoods) or taste the wineries near Glenlyon. Queries, registrations to; Ken Dowling 5348 3792 route planner, orienteer@bigpond.com or Andy Moore organiser 0408 585 961.



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

