

GDTA POST

Newsletter of the Great Dividing Trail Association

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

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Personal Safety on the GDT

As this issue is being prepared, the Bushfires Royal Commission Interim Report and the list of 52 high risk Victorian communities have just been released. The potential fire issues impact directly on the GDT and on many of our members, especially in the arc between Bendigo and Ballarat and in the Blackwood-Macedon corridor.

Since the February fires the GDTA has been working to establish closer communication links with the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and Parks Victoria (PV), the land managers for the land along which the GDT runs.

We urge you to develop the habit of checking conditions before setting out on a walk. Spring may bring its own weather turbulence. Summer certainly will. In severe or extreme weather conditions, or if they are forecast -

Do Not Walk. If a Park is closed or if the Trail is closed - Do Not Walk

When a prescribed burn is imminent or recently undertaken, or if smoke is present - Do Not Walk. When in doubt - Do Not Walk. DSE have responsibility for all designated burns. See <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/fires>

Members are responsible for their own safety on the GDT and in the bush. When we hear of GDT safety issues we'll advise you via our website, email and/or mail. We'll continue working to maintain communication with PV and DSE. However, as a volunteer organisation, we can't always send or publish notices at a moment's notice or even on the same day.

Do Not Walk by yourself. Let people know your walk route and your expected return time. Carry a charged mobile. (Mobiles don't work at every point on the Trail but texting may work where voice doesn't).

Let another walker know if you need to briefly leave the track (only for a nature call), and then leave your pack beside the track. Be particularly careful when you leave the track. Old mineshafts may be covered by fallen branches or a layer of leaves or twigs. If you can't see clear ground, do not step on it.

All this is not to dissuade you from walking or enjoying yourself on the GDT: It's a request to become more aware remain alert. Other tips are in the GDTA Tips & Guidelines brochure located @ <http://www.gdt.org.au> but note that the Dean hotel is no longer operating.

From the President

July Members' Dinner

The July Members' Dinner was well attended with 40 members/partners/friends enjoying the speakers, the meal and the informal get-together at the Guildford Family Hotel. We were delighted that our Patron, John Landy AC MBE and Lynne Landy were able to be with us, given their very busy schedule. Other guest speakers were Chris McCormack, Regional Manager, Central Region, Parks Victoria and Rod Thomson, Chair of Goldfields Tourism and Deputy Chair of Goldfields Track Project Committee. Barbara Guerin attended as the representative of Bushwalking Victoria.

Lerderberg Track

DSE have advised that the Lerderberg Track between Jubilee Lake, Daylesford and Leonards Hill Road remains closed as a result of the February fire activity. DSE have apologised for the delay but they are unable to give us a reopening date. We'll give you an update when we can.

2010 Program

Where would you like to walk in 2010? Please send me your suggestions for walks or activities as soon as possible. If you'd like to lead a walk please advise when you'd prefer it to be scheduled. Include your name and contact details and send to me @ Email: alanigan@tpg.com.au or Post: GDTA, P O Box 429 Daylesford 3460. We'll draft the 2010 program in October and all suggestions will be included where possible.

On Sunday 26 July the Goldfields Track Guided Walk # 8 became a combined Walk/Ride event, with the Ride component being organised by the Central Victorian Rocky Riders - the first of its kind on the Track. A total of 30 walkers and 24 riders completed the course from the Chocolate Mill, Daylesford, to Vaughan Springs. We, the walkers, didn't sight the bikers when we got to Vaughan, so we assumed that we'd left them far behind Perhaps they were still at the Chocolate Mill? 😊 We plan to have more combined walk/rides next year.

New Members

A warm welcome to the following new members: Max Beechey, Peter Davies, John Gibson, Brian Lanigan, Lynda Larkin, Nathan Martyn, Peter Ridley, Ray Scilley, Peter Winks and welcome back to Carmel White.

Risk/Emergency Management Plan

The GDTA intends to develop a Risk or Emergency Management Plan. We'd like to hear from you if you have skills in this area, are email literate, have an email address and would like to be involved. Please contact me @ Email:

alanigan@tpg.com.au .

2009 Program

The Goldfields Track Guided Walks have been very successful this year, with numbers averaging around 25 walkers. The final walk into Bendigo on Sunday 29 November will be followed by a celebration lunch and certificates of completion/participation will be presented to several members.

On Sunday 4 October the annual Scones @ Plaistow event will be held. This is always a popular activity, hosted by Peter and Lilian Skilbeck. It usually begins with a short walk around the Newstead area and finishes with Lilian's delicious scones and a cuppa in the kitchen at their Plaistow homestead. Entry is by donation, with all donations going to the Biggest Morning Tea, one of the Cancer Council's biggest fund-raising events in Australia.

Please note that the two nature/wildflower walks scheduled for Sunday 1 November and Sunday 8 November have been cancelled.

On Saturday 5 December another popular walk will be held. This is becoming embedded as the final event for the GDTA year - the Mt Franklin Crater Walk means that you bring your breakfast instead of your lunch.

Did you know?

The Creswick Miners' Walk is part of the Wallaby Track on what is now known as the Goldfields Track. The Creswick Miners' Walk is the walk between St George's Lake and Ballarat. It's named after the Creswick miners who walked to Eureka to support their fellow miners at the Stockade in December 1854 after they learned of the protest against the licence fees.

The story goes that the Creswick miners imbibed considerably on the walk to Eureka - so much so, apparently, that they were drunk by the time they arrived.

See you on the Track
Alison Lanigan

CROSSING LEANGANOOK - - - - Calder Highway to Coliban Main Channel

Sunday 27th September 2009

Meeting Place - - - Harcourt - Sutton Grange Road where it crosses Coliban Main Channel. Vic Roads Map Directory Map 44 F9.

Time - - - 9.30 a.m

Distance - - - - approx 14km.

Degree of difficulty - - - a great mixture between Easy and Hard.

The Walk - - - Follow the Leanganook Track along McQuillans Rd., 500m of private land, then through the Mt Alexander Regional Park (and the disused Koala Park) over the summit and north to the Harcourt - Sutton Grange Rd.. Lots of wonderful views, huge old eucalypt trees and, of course magnificent granite outcrops. The walk is point to point so we will organise a car shuffle before the walk starts.

Personal Requirements - - - solid footwear, sunscreen, headgear, appropriate clothing for the prevailing weather, lunch, fluids to drink.

To Book - - - Phone Richard Piesse on 0448 572 867 by Thursday 24th September, at the latest please.

Bryces Flat to Chocolate Factory

Sunday 21st June 09

A foggy morning found a group of about 30 meeting at Bryces Flat to organise the car

shuffle before the walk commenced. The first point of interest is the blowhole where the creek has been diverted by the goldminers to enable them to mine the old creek bed. The walk then meandered along the gully to Breakneck Gorge where Spring Creek and Wombat Creek join together to form Jim Crow Creek, after passing the old puddling site we left the track to have morning tea by the creek. The walk then proceeded past Golden Spring and up Womans Gully toward Elevated Plain where we briefly left the trail to have lunch by an old dam site, a relic of the sluicing days of mining.

After lunch we crossed Mannings Road and followed Beehive Gully where an amazing amount of soil has been removed by Sluice Mining, the track then crosses the gully and a short climb brought us out at the Chocolate Factory where some walkers enjoyed a tour of the Chocolate Factory while others completed the car shuffle.

Chocolate Mill to Vaughan Springs

Sunday 26th July 09

This fairly Lengthy (21 km) stretch of the walk attracted 30 walkers and a similar number of mountain bike riders. In ideal walking weather we followed the trail along Sawpit Gully road which gives good views across to Mt. Franklin and passes through an area of small holdings. After crossing Leslies road and passing over Hunts Water Race we walked through farm land before entering the bush. A gradual climb found us on the highest point of this section of the walk where great views of area were enjoyed. The downhill section took us past heavily sluiced areas and some substantial ruins of huts. After crossing Browns Gully we began a long climb which took us through Sebastopol Gully and over the hill

to Stones Gully, The track then follows Sailors Gully where we stopped to admire the stone chimney built up the hillside at the Tubal Cain mine site. The walk then continued through old mining sites until we arrived at Vaughan Springs where we noted that the Loddon River was not yet flowing (it took another 3 weeks). Refreshments were enjoyed at the friendly Guildford Hotel.

***A message from Steve Robertson,
Bushwalking Victoria Conservation
Project Officer, TARGET 2000
Coordinator***

TARGET 2000 (2000 volunteer hours)

Yarra Ranges National Park Now is the time to commit to our mammoth recovery project fully supported and organised by Bushwalking Victoria in conjunction with Parks Victoria activity locations in Yarra Ranges National Park - both fire affected and non-affected areas (38% of this park was affected by fire)

Condons Track Badger Weir
Lake Mountain Phantom Falls
Keppels Falls Morleys Track
Maroondah Reservoir area Beeches Walk
Circuit
Goldfields Tracks at McMahons
Creek
Other areas to be advised

Varying tasks depending on location - including the likes of material cartage, step building, track marking, track clearing, construction and installation of signage, rubbish pickup, track mapping by GPS etc

When: Saturday 26 September 2009

Sunday 27 September 2009

Saturday 24 October 2009

Sunday 25 October 2009

Possible other mid-week dates
can be arranged for a club

How many people needed? we anticipate 500 people will respond to this call for help. Don't be complacent and think someone else will do it take action and do it yourself - now!!!

A large number of people and clubs have many months ago indicated their desire to help and we now need these dates advertised but more importantly talked about, promoted by all and firm commitments made by members of clubs. With the numbers of people that Parks Victoria staff and BWV volunteers coordinators will have to contend with, we will need to know of your attendance prior to the day

So don't delay, for earlier commitments we will endeavour to place you at your requested work location subject to your date choice. The aim though of this entire project is to help the park in total.

Participants ability - as there will be a wide range of tasks on each day from the easy secateur stroll to the more strenuous step builder- all club members are required. For any concerns please discuss with Steve

Who to contact Steve Robertson, TARGET 2000 Coordinator

phone: (03) 9762 5367 mobile: 0438 267 129

conservation@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

GREEN CORPS REPORT FROM KATIE CULPIN

For the past few months, the Creswick Green Corps Team have been thoroughly enjoying working on sections of the Great Dividing Trail, improving the quality of the trail, and helping eliminate environmental issues such as erosion.

In some areas as a team, the Green Corps participants have reduced the impacts of erosion by constructing a series of steps for the public's use. The steps also ensure a safer alternative to walkers than steep and slippery slopes.

It has been a wonderful opportunity for the participants to develop team skills, knowledge and understanding of the environment, while at the same time advancing their personal development.

MAP PURCHASES.

Members can purchase GDTA maps from Visitor Information Centres in Ballarat, Daylesford, Castlemaine or Bendigo and from several outlets in Melbourne.

Alternatively purchases can be made online via the GDTA website www.gdt.org.au.

Online purchases are a bit cheaper than retail prices. Maps can also be purchased via this newsletter order form and payments sent to the box number.

WALK INCOME INCREASES.

Income from walk donations has increased from \$548 during 2008 to \$880 so far this year. This is due to a greater participation in walks by members and a larger number of walks.

2009 CALENDAR GOLDFIELDS WALK

Section	Distance	Rating	Date	Walk Leader
Calder Highway	15 kms	Medium	Sunday 13 September	Neil Campbell 9478 7995
Calder Highway - Sutton Grange	14 kms	Medium- Hard	Sunday 27 September	Richard Piesse 0448 572 867
Sutton Grange - Sandhurst Reservoir	20 kms	Easy- Medium	Sunday 18 October	Gib Wettenhall 5334 5490
Sandhurst Reservoir - Bendigo; followed by Celebration Lunch	11 kms	Easy	Sunday 29 November	Barry Hunter 5449 3286

2009 CALENDAR OTHER ACTIVITIES

Month	Likely Date	Activity	Activity Leader/Contact
October	To be advised	Walktober http://www.walktober.com.au	Noelene Mason 5345 1260
October	Sunday 4 October	Scones @ Plaistow	Alison Lanigan 5345 2958
November	Sunday 1 November	Cancelled	
November	Sunday 8 November	Cancelled	
November	Saturday 14 November	Essendon BWC Marathon	Bill Casey 0407 347 319
December	Saturday 5 December	Mt Franklin Crater Walk 10 kms E	Barry Golding 5345 6343
Sept-Dec	To be advised	Great Australian Bushwalk http://www.greataustralianbushwalk.org.au	Noelene Mason 5345 1260

GDT SAFETY MESSAGES

If you have received this issue of POST in the mail it means that we don't have an email address for you.

So that you can receive Safety Messages about GDT conditions (eg when we are advised of Track closures or Track issues) please send us an email address that we would use only for GDT Safety Messages.

If you don't have an email address of your own, this address could belong to a family member, neighbour, friend, or another GDTA member who has agreed to contact you should they receive a GDT Safety Message.

Send your name, telephone number and your GDT Safety Message email address to the GDTA President, P O Box 429 Daylesford 3460 as soon as possible.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS AND RENEWALS		AMOUNT
<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
- 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