

# GDTA POST



## GREAT DIVIDING TRAIL APPOINTS A CONSULTANT

**Newsletter of the  
Great Dividing  
Trail Association**

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

Reg. AOO227959N

January - March

Volume 2006,  
issue 1

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With the start of another year, the Great Dividing Trail Association (GDTA) is busy planning for 2006. As well as providing a program of walks for members and visitors along and in the vicinity of the Great Dividing Trail, a major activity for the year is the formulation of a management and operational model for the proposed Great Dividing Trail Victoria Foundation (GDTVf).

With funding from the Victorian Community Support Fund and under the auspices of Conservation Volunteers Australia, a consultant has been appointed to prepare a Business Plan by June this year, and has already commenced his duties. *As Editor I asked Barry Golding to explain and introduce the consultant.*

The GDTA is committed to making sure the GDT is around a lot longer than the current committee and members - and that it is used, improved and maintained by successive generations.

Keir Reeves and Associates have been awarded the job, through Conservation Volunteers Australia, and funded by the Victorian and Commonwealth governments, to consult widely and come up with a practical plan and strategies to make sure the infrastructure, people and funding are in place on the medium and long term.

Part of their job is to ensure that the good things about GDTA are enhanced - but that the GDTA Committee and membership are relieved of some of the bigger and more onerous jobs we have created for ourselves. That way we can all enjoy our walking more often. We have asked Keir Reeves to, in his own words, to briefly explain what his team is currently doing. See below.

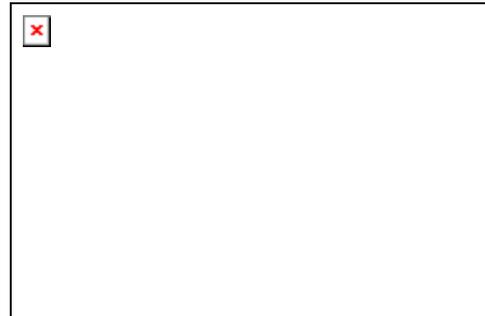
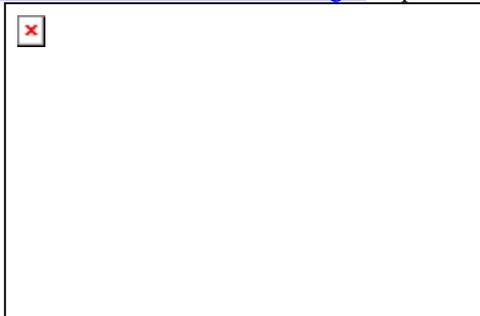
As current GDTA President I urge members to stick with the GDTA to help find and put these new plans and strategies in place over the next few years.

Ballarat Miners Cottages now can offer to walkers two different self-contained accommodation options.

Peel Cottage has 2 bedrooms, only 1 block from where the GDTA will pass along Peel Street South on the new extension towards Buninyong.

Carrigg House is a larger more luxurious house which can accommodate up to 5 people with 3 bedrooms, not quite so close to the trail, (approx. 1 km from the Creswick Miners Walk) but still very centrally located, also close to the Eureka Centre.

We can drop you to the trail if you so desire, for more info check us out on [www.ballarat.com/minerscottages](http://www.ballarat.com/minerscottages) or phone Pat 0418 131545



## GREAT DIVIDING TRAIL COMMITTEE 2005.

|                    |                |          |  |
|--------------------|----------------|----------|--|
| President          | Barry Golding  | 53456343 | barry@cbl.com.au   |
| Vice President     | Ed Butler      | 53483059 | edbutler@tpg.com.au  |
| Newsletter         | Ed Butler      |          |  |
| Secretary          | Alison Lanigan | 53452958 | <a href="mailto:alanigan@netconnect.net.au">alanigan@netconnect.net.au</a> |
| Treasurer          | Patrick Hope   | 53413711 | <a href="mailto:pathope@netconnect.com.au">pathope@netconnect.com.au</a>   |
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| Membership         | Dane Boag      | 54432435 | <a href="mailto:cboag@netcon.com.au">cboag@netcon.com.au</a>               |
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| Publicity South    | Bill Casey     | 53302296 | <a href="mailto:bill@wtcasey.com">bill@wtcasey.com</a>                     |
| Publications       | Gib Wettenhall | 53345490 | <a href="mailto:gib@netconnect.com.au">gib@netconnect.com.au</a>           |
| Maintenance        | Neville Fraser | 53311840 |  |
| VICWALK            | Neil Campbell  | 94787995 | <a href="mailto:neilcampbell75@hotmail.com">neilcampbell75@hotmail.com</a> |
| Track Devel'pm't   |                |          |  |
| Officer- Buninyong | Neil McCracken | 53412308 | <a href="mailto:jenneil@netconnect.com.au">jenneil@netconnect.com.au</a>   |
| Track Development  |                |          |  |
| Officer Macedon-   | Michael Fox    | 97431526 |  |
| Property Officer - | Neil McCracken |          |  |

### General Committee Members-

|                           |          |  |
|---------------------------|----------|--|
| Sue Cooper                | 53487550 | <a href="mailto:suec@vic.chariot.net.au">suec@vic.chariot.net.au</a>             |
| Ron James                 | 53457539 | <a href="mailto:rjames@netconnect.com.au">rjames@netconnect.com.au</a>           |
| Liz Burns                 | 53485667 | <a href="mailto:trewhellafarm@connexus.net.au">trewhellafarm@connexus.net.au</a> |
| Richard Piesse            | 54723191 |  |
| Cycle Track CO-ordinator- | vacant   |  |

## 2005 Walk Reports

**Blackwood Walk 23rd October.** An interesting circuit walk around Blackwood was enjoyed by 9 walkers. The route included The Garden of St. Erth, the Otway Forest-Like Black Creek Valley, Morning Star mine, the wonderful Lerderderg river valley and the Blackwood Mineral Springs Reserve. The bush was full of spring flowers in bloom and the watercourses were all flowing swiftly. The walk included two very different sections of the Lerderderg track and, as a word of warning, the Cochardis water race which forms the track near the Mineral Springs, is very slippery under even the slightest of damp conditions and care must be taken to avoid a spill.

### Coliban Main Channel -Big Hill Walk 9<sup>th</sup> October.

Nine walkers, including visiting Kiwi Shirley, walked from the Sandhurst Reservoir along the main channel to South Mandurang Rd and then along the approximate boundary of the Reference Area up to the Big Hill Range. There were many hectares of Sticky Everlasting in flower throughout the bush making a bright yellow carpet. We then followed the range along the Forest/private land boundary and had lunch near the top of Mt Herbert (Big Hill). Our route on the range will be the future line on the map for the GDT. Several sections of the very rough scree slopes will need to be carefully maintained when the track is finally agreed by Parks Victoria.

### East Wombat Forest Walk. 13<sup>th</sup> November

Michael Fox had 10 companions, including another Kiwi Friend of Sandy (Helen) for this walk, parts of which were real scrambles, especially in the vicinity of the upper reaches of the Campaspe. We started beside the pine plantation just west of the Calder Freeway walking along bush roads, well graded forest roads, walking tracks and off-track to Firth Park. The huge sawdust heap of the East Trentham Anderson's Mill site and a section of forest recently smashed by a mini-tornado were two highlights of the walk which was, partly, to explore the future proposed route for the Macedon GDT extension.

### Maldon Train Ride 30<sup>th</sup> October

A small group met at the Castlemaine RS early Sunday morning, unfortunately, both steam trains were out for servicing but a diesel and the old dog-boxes made for an interesting trip to Maldon. Coincidentally, it was the Maldon Folkie so there were lots of people about as we walked through the township. Alison had plotted a route partly up the side of Anzac Hill to the war memorial where we had lunch, then it was back into town where we separated to a variety of pubs and entertainment. The train ride back to Castlemaine finished off the day.

## 2005 Walk Reports cont.

### **Hanging Rock by night 10th December**

A select few met at Hanging Rock picnic ground for some Petanque (coached by the fearless Neville) and assorted alcoholic beverages and an even greater assortment of elegant picnic teas. The arrangements as made for the night walk had been a little vague with a variety of expectations from a search for Miranda to an eerie experience amongst the rocks of Mt Diogenes. The Ranger Man when he arrived was remarkably frank and quickly dispelled most of the ideas with a cheery "Why would you want to walk in the rocks in the dark? It's only rocks". A quick re-negotiation saw us on a twilight to dark ramble about the lower slopes with a spotlight seeking possums. We spotted 3 of the 4 local species, the Greater Glider away high in the gum trees, Ring-Tailed and Brushy Tailed possums as well as a huge collection of very well fed Eastern Grey Kangaroos. We headed for or respective beds about midnight.

### **Creswick Nature Walk**

We had a short walk in the Creswick Regional Park, with a small group gathering at St Georges Lake for a return trip to the Koala Park. Our special guest was Roger Thomas who writes the Nature Page in Friday's Ballarat Courier. Roger introduced us to a fascinating array of flora and fauna along the way. We even found a koala in the Koala Park, not a common experience in recent years! It is no exaggeration to say that this walk was one of the 2005 highlights.

Roger has already been engaged to repeat this activity in November this year, which will allow many more to enjoy the fruits of his knowledge of our natural environment.

## Long Term Planner

Think long term, after last year's successful trip to Harrietteville and the Razorback, Ed is planning a walk on Mount Buffalo over the June Long Week-End. The walk will be a medium standard day walk up the mount into the granite heath country travel and accommodation details will be negotiable with group accommodation (for those interested) an option. Ring Ed Butler 53483059

## Increasing Contact by Email

Half the 150 GDTA members now receive their newsletters and periodic updates by email. This

form of communication saves the GDTA money and conserves paper. Any member not currently receiving information on Email is invited to contact [pathope@netconnect.com.au](mailto:pathope@netconnect.com.au) to have their email address put on the contact list.

## University Extension.

The GDTA is keen to develop local loop extensions to places of interest and just prior to Christmas President Barry Golding, Neil McCracken and Pat Hope met with representatives of the University of Ballarat to discuss a proposed 4 km loop track through the University grounds to include the wetlands and arboretum and other places of interest. The meeting was very positive and the proposed walking track will link with the proposed Buninyong Walk.

## 2006 Activities

**Saturday, 11 February St Georges Lake - Dean, Easy - Medium Tea on the Track.**

Welcome in the GDTA New Year with a sunset walk from St George's Lake, Creswick to the Dean pub. Bring your tea to eat on the track and bring plenty of water. Drinks at the Dean pub afterwards. Meet at the Dean Hotel 5.00 pm for car shuffle to the start at St George's Lake. Bring a torch. If Total Fire Ban day: Meet at St George's Lake at 5.30 pm for picnic tea and drinks by the lake. BYO chairs and insect repellent. Contact Alison Lanigan by Wednesday 9 Feb on 5345 2958 or [alanigan@netconnect.com.au](mailto:alanigan@netconnect.com.au).

**SATURDAY 18th February Buninyong Historical Walk.** 10.00am on 60-90minutes walk around historic Buninyong Victoria's oldest inland settlement led by Ann Beggs-Sunter prominent regional historian. In conjunction with the Buninyong Historical Society. Immediately following this walk Neil McCracken will lead an additional hour or so walk to some of the slightly further away interesting views and sites. Meeting place outside Buninyong Town Hall. Bring drinks, snacks and lunch[ or purchase lunch in Buninyong] This day is the Buninyong Gold King Festival and participants may wish to view the exhibits and displays after lunch.

Walk Cost \$3 donation.

Ring Neil McCracken 53412308

### **Saturday, 25 February Annual Meeting and Picnic**

Jubilee Lake 5:30 PM Easy This short and very easy (3km) walk will precede the GDTA Annual General meeting at 5.30 pm . It will involve an interpretive ramble south towards Graves Mill from Jubilee Lake along part of the GDT Lerderderg Track. Having been burnt relatively recently, a range of fascinating historic features have been revealed. Some features are associated with the former Ballarat- Daylesford Railway line and others with the former Specimen Hill mining area. No booking necessary. An alternative or additional walk is the 1km picturesque, circular path around the Lake itself. No need to book but details from Barry Golding 53454634

The walk will be followed by the annual General Meeting and Election of Office Bearers. All positions as shown on page 2 will be declared vacant and nominations can be made for any position prior to and at the meeting, Contact the Secretary if you wish to put yourself or another party forward.

### **Sunday, 5 March Clean Up Australia Day**

The GDTA assists with this annual event by cleaning up rubbish in the bush on or near the GDT. Participants work during the morning and the group usually goes off to lunch afterwards. The 2006 site is yet to be determined but may be in the Wombat Forest. Wear stout footwear, gardening clothes and definitely thick gloves. Bring morning tea and drinks. Ring Pat Hope 53413711

### **Saturday, 18 March Musk Berry Farm & Walk**

TBA Easy - Medium  
Ring Liz Burns 53485667

### **Sunday March 26 Vaughan Springs**

A choice of two walks

*Short option* Approx 5 km walk to the Tubal Cain Mine site and return down the Dry Diggings Track (partly a circuit walk)

*Long Option* 14-15 km walk further along the GDT and return via a different route.

Both walks will run given sufficient interest. Meet at Vaughan Springs Reserve details from Richard Piesse (5472 3191), bookings by March 22 please.

### **Sunday, 9 April Track Census & Clean-Up**

9:00:00 AM Medium

This is our first concerted effort to maintain and clean up the track and count walkers for a six hour period on the whole track on the same day. We need at least 50 volunteers to do this safely and properly. Register in advance by Wed 5 April with Barry Golding 53456343 - to meet at 8.30 am at

your (negotiated) choice of one of five starting places : Daylesford PO; 12 at central Castlemaine; at railway stations in Bacchus Marsh, Ballarat or Bendigo. Bring a strong metal rake or rake hoe and organize to bring family, friends and anybody you can think of. Prepare to be directed to a section of the track to , in pairs, walk a little or a lot on a designated section, rake and pick up litter a little or sit and count/survey in one or more locations. Return by 3.30 pm. Meet to the Mt Franklin crater by 5 pm for a picnic tea and debrief. Bring your lunch and picnic tea. No charge. Up till now a very small number of volunteers have done maintenance and checking of the track and we have never systematically counted or surveyed walkers. Register in advance by Wed 5 April with Barry Golding 53456343

### **Sunday April 23 Poverty Gully to The Monk**

An, approximately, 14km walk to the south and east of Castlemaine. At times this walk will be on the GDT along the picturesque Poverty Gully section of the track then up to the summit of The Monk and return. Details from Richard Piesse (5472 3191), bookings by April 19 please.

## **KEIR REEVES EXPLAINS HIS ROLE AS CONSULTANT**

There will always be a place for friends and supporters of the GDT.' The GDTA is facing a new direction. My team has been successful in its bid to assist the GDTA in defining this new direction. More specifically the project team have been engaged by the GDTA to develop a business plan and make recommendations to take the Great Dividing Trail into a long-term sustainable situation. During the previous month the team has contacted stakeholders including members of the GDTA in order to gauge the issues, challenge, and opportunities that are available for the GDT and also the future of the GDTA. This stage of the project is intended to identify key themes and information as well as providing a forum for interested parties to provide their point of view before the team commences with the second stage of preparing written material with key recommendations for the GDTA.

As many of you are aware this initiative is funded under the auspices of Conservation Volunteers Australia in conjunction with the GDTA. Clearly the GDT is important not only those who live along it in central Victoria but to all Victorians.

Keir Reeves

*As editor I urge all members to contact Keir and/or email Barry Golding (barry@cbl.com.au) your comments on what you, as a member, think we can do to ensure the GDT gets better and that more people use it.*

## THE GREAT DIVIDE MARATHON

Each year the Essendon Bushwalking Club runs a 42km day-walk, usually on a section of the Great Dividing Trail, hence the name Great Divide Marathon. Several members of the GDTA often take part, namely Barry Golding, Richard Piesse, Neil Campbell, Sylvia & Ian McLean, Laurie Charleson, Ron Pearce, Sue Baxter and myself. Although 42km seems a long way, the organisation of the event makes it a lot easier to complete the distance. The walk is divided into 7 stages of average length 6km, and support cars which carry all the food and water meet the walkers at the end of each stage. Therefore, it is not really necessary for the walkers to carry much - perhaps a small amount of water. The absence of a backpack is a big plus. It takes an elapsed time of 11 to 12 hours to complete the 42km, with a start at about 8-30am. No-one is obligated to do the whole distance - you can take a ride in a support car for one or more stages if you wish, or swap places with a driver so they can take part in part of the walk. After the finish, there is a dinner at a nearby hotel to wind down and chat about the day. Presentations are made to walkers who have reached milestones such as 5 or 10 completed marathons, and also to support people for their services over many years. The GDM was first staged in January 1995 from Blackwood to Hepburn Springs, and the twelfth took place in mid-November this year from Jubilee Lake to Vaughan Springs. Fifty-seven people were involved this year, eight of those being support staff who drove the cars and fed and watered us. Of the 49 walkers, 45 completed the whole 42km. In addition, three of the support people also walked a few stages. We choose to use the GDT because it consists of a variety of well-defined and measured tracks, not too far from Melbourne where most of the walkers live. With more than 260km of track to choose from, the GDM can go for several years before the same section of track is used twice. The only part of the GDT which has not so far seen a GDM is the section from Blackwood to Bacchus Marsh. It presents problems with insufficient support car access points, and some sections are probably too steep for the GDM. Visitors are welcome, although Essendon members must be given

preference if numbers exceed the capacity of the bus which takes us to the starting point. This has not yet happened but the time is getting closer as the number of participants increases. Next year's event is planned from the top of Mt Buninyong to Creswick. The first half as far as Ballarat is not yet part of the GDT, while the remainder is along the route of the Creswick Miners Walk.

As well as being a challenging walk, the GDM has become somewhat of a social event. The support staff appear to get as much enjoyment as the walkers, and most of them volunteer year after year, just to be a part of it.

If you want to know more, you are welcome to email me at [bill@wtcasey.com](mailto:bill@wtcasey.com) Bill Casey

## Progress on Buniyong Extension.

Alison Pouliot our professional photographer has taken 50 excellent shots of features of the proposed 20km walk some of which will be used in the map publication. Bill Casey has completed the GPS of the proposed route and the post GDTA marker plates are on hand. Some further negotiations with the City of Ballarat on the number of direction posts and their positioning is required and once this task has been completed and the map published the track will be opened to the public. The section between Peel St Ballarat and Mt Clear will be called the Whitehorse Walk and between Mt Clear and Mt Buninyong will be the the Buninyong Walk.

Any queries on this section should be directed to Neil McCracken 53412308 or email [jenneil@netconnect.com.au](mailto:jenneil@netconnect.com.au)

## Sponsor of the Newsletter.

Ballarat Miners Cottages is the sponsor of the January newsletter for \$120. Other business which offer appropriate services connected to the GDTA are invited to sponsor future newsletters.

## WELCOME TO VISITORS.

Visitors are most welcome on GDTA activities on the understanding that as visitors are not covered by the VICWALK arranged insurance policy a written disclaimer is signed on enrolment for the activity. Visitors are invited to make a donation of \$5 goes into the GDTA maintenance fund. Potential participants should discuss the activity with the walk leader at the time of booking. The walk leader reserves the right to refuse any participant.

| MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS AND RENEWALS  | AMOUNT |
|--|--------|
| • <b>Family Membership</b> two family members, \$45-00 per annum (plus \$17-00 additional persons)                   |        |
| • <b>Additional participating family member</b> \$17.00  |        |
| • <b>Walking Club, Businesses, Other Organisations</b> \$45-00 per annum   |        |
| • <b>Single Membership</b> \$30-00 per annum   |        |
| • <b>Concessional Membership</b> \$25-00 per annum   |        |
| <b>PUBLICATIONS</b>  |        |
| • <b>DRY DIGGINGS TRACK MAP</b> (Daylesford-Castlemaine) \$5.00+50c postage (Suggested Retail \$7.50)                |        |
| • <b>FEDERATION TRACK MAP</b> (Ballarat - Daylesford) \$5.00 + 50c postage (Suggested Retail \$7.50)                 |        |
| • <b>LERDERDERG Full Colour Final Map</b> (Daylesford - Bacchus Marsh) \$5.00 + 50c postage(Suggested Retail \$7.50) |        |
| • <b>LEANGANOOK TRACK MAP (Castlemaine-Bendigo)</b> \$5.00+50c postage (Suggested Retail \$7.50)                     |        |
| • <b>WOMBAT STATE FOREST Touring Guide</b> \$12 posted   |        |
| • <b>CD promotional CD</b> \$5.00 + \$1.00 postage   |        |
| • <b>Hidden Treasures Promotional Brochure</b> , free  |        |
| • <b>GDTA CLOTH BADGE</b> (logo for sewing on clothing) \$6.00 + 50c postage   |        |
| <b>DONATION TO GDTA for Track Construction and Maintenance</b>   |        |
| <b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>  |        |

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 [cboag@netcon.net.au](mailto:cboag@netcon.net.au)

Post Remittances to:

Treasurer, GREAT DIVIDING TRAIL ASSOCIATION INC,P O BOX 429, DAYLESFORD Vic 3460



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

Member Name  
Street Address  
City, Postcode