

GDTA POST



Newsletter of the
Great Dividing
Trail Association
www.gdt.org.au

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Governor John Landy Opens Lerderberg Track.

State Governor John Landy, GDTAF Patron formally opened the 80km Lerderberg Track in a delightful setting at the Mineral Springs Reserve Blackwood on Friday 18th March. Steve Moneghetti champion marathon runner and GDT ambassador was another keynote participant.

The afternoon started with a call to order by Town Crier Gavin Barker and introductions by Mr Robert Dobrzynki CEO Moorabool Shire. Cr Peter Russell Mayor of Moorabool Shire outlined the history of the Lerderberg Track and the support given by the Shire.

Governor John Landy, a popular figure spoke about the significance of the GDT in terms of the natural environment and the significance of the gold era and indicated how impressed he was with the co-operation between the GDTA and various government departments and individuals and the Green Corp as a testament of what can be achieved by the community working together. John Landy unveiled a plaque that will be installed at the Mineral Springs Reserve and was presented with a walking stick as a memento

Steve Moneghetti an icon of Australian Sport who had just finished a demonstration run from Mt Blackwood to finish in time for the ceremony encouraged city people to use this pathway into the bush.

Barry Golding GDTA president thanked members of the working party which facilitated the development of the trail including Richard Piesse the track

development officer, Neil McCracken, Neville Fraser and Pat Hope of the GDTA, Hans Cloeters and Michael Fox of Friends of the Lerderberg, John Davies and Pat Liffman Blackwood district citizens Mr Chris Worrall, Stuart Willsheer and Charles Dickie of Parks Victoria, Mr Allan May of Moorabool Shire together with Gib Wettenhall, Ed Butler and other members of the GDTA committee, DSE and Ballarat Regional Industries. Particular thanks were also extended to the Melton based Green Corp team for their work including the challenging Whisky Creek crossing. The 150 people attending included leaders from neighbouring municipalities, State Government members and senior members of Parks Victoria and DSE, Mr Rod Thomson Chair Goldfields Tourism, and representatives of VICWALK and other organisations interested in walking.

Following afternoon tea many participants followed John Landy and Steve Moneghetti on a 10 minute walk from the Springs to Blackwood Main St along the newly completed trail. The GDTA is extremely grateful to the Shire of Moorabool for arranging this happy and well organised opening and in particular commends faultless arrangements for the event made by Cheree Graham CEOs administrative officer.

The new track is supported by over 100 direction posts and has entry stations at Bacchus Marsh Station, Blackwood Store, Swans Lane, Nolans Picnic Ground, Jubilee Lake, and Lake Daylesford.

New Lerderderg Map

A new map has been produced and is now available for sale from Visitor Information Centres at Melton, Blackwood Store, Ballarat and Daylesford and soon from other centres. The map can be purchased at GDTA events or via this newsletter or

the GDTA Website www.gdt.org.au. Bulk purchases, for re-sale, can be made by contacting Ed Butler on 5348 3059.

The new map replaces the Lerderderg Stage I map which is now out of print.

GREAT DIVIDING TRAIL COMMITTEE 2005.

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| President | -----Barry Golding |53456343 | ----- barry@cbl.com.au |
| Vice President | -----Ed Butler |53483059 | ----- edbutler@tpg.com.au |
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| Treasurer | -----Patrick Hope |53413711 | ----- pathope@netconnect.com.au |
| Activities | -----Patricia Kelso |53413711 | ----- pathope@netconnect.com.au |
| Membership | -----Dane Boag |54432435 | ----- cboag@netcon.com.au |
| Publicity North | -----Barry Hunter |54493286 | |
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| Publications | -----Gib Wettenhall |53345490 | -----gib@netconnect.com.au |
| Maintenance | -----Neville Fraser |53311840 | |
| VICWALK | -----Neil Campbell |94787995 | -----neilcampbell75@hotmail.com |
| Track Devel'pm't | ----- | | |
| Officer- Buninyong | -----Neil McCracken |53412308 | -----jenneil@netconnect.com.au |
| Track Development | | | |
| Officer Macedon | -----Michael Fox |97431526 | |
| Property Officer | -----Neil McCracken | | |

General Committee Members-

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| Sue Cooper | -----53487550 | | ----- suec@vic.chariot.net.au |
| Ron James | -----53457539 | | ----- rjames@netconnect.com.au |
| Liz Burns | -----53485667 | | ----- trewhellafarm@connexus.net.au |
| Richard Piesse | -----54723191 | | |
| Cycle Track CO-ordinator | - vacant | | |

Annual Meeting at Wombat.

The 13th Annual Meeting of the GDTA was held at the Wombat Station Site on Saturday 26th February. Before the meeting started at 5.00pm Ron James led an hours loop walk through the forest and back via the impressive former railway cutting. This excellent walk was led by Ron James. The annual meeting attended by a good number of members commenced with President Barry Golding outlining the important events for the year and thanking committee members and others for their outstanding voluntary community contributions. Special thanks to Nifty Neville for his many years as minutes secretary. Nifty has now taken on maintenance officers position Treasurer. Outgoing Track Development Officer Richard Piesse was thanked for his outstanding contributions to the development of the Leanganook Track and more

recently the Lerderderg Track, and to Michael Fox for being VICWALK representative. President Barry pointed out the valued, very diverse and growing contributions from Bill Casey, Dane Boag, Barry Hunter, Michael Fox and Sue Cooper and after the election of office bearers for 2005 made a special welcome to our new executive members for 2005.

Out, & in going, Treasurer, Pat Hope reported a satisfactory financial position with record map sales. After a short general meeting members enjoyed a picnic in the bracing evening air.

New Members for the GDTA

Welcome to Helen Smart, Helen & Robert Long, Lois Myers, Leigh Miller, Elizabeth Eager, Clive Wilman, Sandra Webb, Jennifer Platt, Sandy Blain new members since the last newsletter.

Clean Up Australia Day

As one of the 4500 sites around Australia the GDTA was allocated a location west of White Swan on Clean Up Australia Day. The GDTA group which was organised by Michael Fox included Ed Butler, Alison Lanigan, Judy Murray, Wendy Jacobs, Neville Fraser, Pat Hope and Pat Kelso. The group worked for several hours and collected a huge mountain of rubbish (30+Cubic Metres by Ed's expert eye) in two locations to be picked up by the City of Ballarat. The area cleaned up is close to the Creswick Miners Walk in a location notorious for the uncivilised people that dump their unwanted household items in our forest. Items collected ranged from a used condom to mattress, a lounge suite and an ancient fridg. Special thanks go to Michael for doing the organisation and to Ed for bringing his trailer. Next year the GDTA may arrange a rubbish collection in another area.

Signals and Snakes LINCS Walk.

The first walk for 2005 held on Sunday 6th February attracted 24 people including two new members Leigh Miller and Lois Myers involved a walk along Ballarat's impressive Yarrowee River Valley.

This 16 km walk involved meeting at Gong Gong Reservoir for a car shuffle to the start at Midvale Shopping Centre and a walk down Whitehorse Rd to the LINCS Yarrowee Trail. The Trail follows the Yarrowee into Central Ballarat where Glenn King arranged for the group to inspect the Ballarat B Signal Box at the Railway before walking on through the centre of Town to pick up the Yarrowee again and lunch along its banks beneath Black Hill. Then along via the Nerrina Wetlands back to the cars. After the return car shuffle most participants enjoyed a relaxing drink at the Brown Hill hotel where a lively discussion took place on the identity of the large snake noted basking on the path near the Gong.

Thanks go to Glenn King and Hedley Thomson for explaining the significance of the signal box and to Brian Gavan for providing track notes.

Involvement in Walks.

Members are welcome to attend any advertised walk provided they donate \$3 each towards the GDTA track maintenance fund. Intending walkers who are members of a Club which pays a \$45 organisational membership to the GDTA are welcome to join in provided the GDTA program is recognised as part of that clubs program and participants are asked to donate \$4 each towards the GDTA maintenance fund.

Other non members can join in walks provided they are prepared to sign a disclaimer from liability and contribute a donation of \$5 towards GDTA funds. If the non member joins the GDTA within a month of the walk the \$5 can be counted towards the membership fee.

All intending walkers should contact the organiser at least four days in advance. As the numbers who can be accepted on any activity is limited [depending on the type of walk] acceptances are in order of receipt.

The walk organiser reserves the right not to take any person judged to be inadequately equipped for the particular activity..

GDT Friendly Houses being set up.

Following a suggestion by the community of Dean the GDTA is gradually setting up a network of Great Dividing Trail friendly properties which are located on the Trail.

Several properties at Dean, and Fryerstown and one each at Simmons Reef and near Brown Hill have already placed a GDTA metal plate on their front fences to signify their willingness to provide local advice and emergency water. These places will be mentioned in forthcoming map publications

Sponsor the Newsletter.

This newsletter currently circulates to around 200 individuals, organisations and officials and we invite businesses and other organisations to assist with the publication costs by sponsoring a newsletter edition for \$120. Contact Patrick Hope or Ed Butler for details.

GDT Web Site Upgrade News

With the GDT Lerderderg Track opening the web site is undergoing another major revamp, including adding the new walks sections as pull down menus. The initial upgrade was completed on the day of the launch with the rest of it due to be upgraded by 25 Feb, including new news and 2005 walks program.

The publicity associated with the launch generated greatly increased web traffic. 29 visits and 265 hits on 15 Feb, 43 visits/776 hits on 16th, 59/1171 on the day before the launch and 83/1308 on Friday 18, launch day. The data indicate people who visit do look around: on average looking at at least ten pages per visit.

In the past year we have had 10,000 visits (some of them on multiple occasions) so less than 10,00 people. On average more than 800 people per month visit the site.

Nevilles Nightmare continues.

Intrepid ex-minute secretary Neville Fraser has periodic brilliant suggestions concerning possible future infrastructure to be built along the Trail. The latest suggestion is a series of wind generators located about a kilometre apart along the whole Trail so that income can be earned from renting the space and provide markers for the trail.

Upcoming walks & contact #'s

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 ruins, 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**

Saturday 16th April Walk along projected Buninyong Extension.

This is an opportunity to make history by joining the first official walk along the proposed Ballarat-Mt Buninyong Extension. The route is from Mt Buninyong, through Buninyong Township, Mt Helen, Magpie and along the LINC trail to end in Peel St Ballarat where the current Federation Track crosses. The walk is over 20kms and only those who have walked that distance recently should book in. The meeting time will be 8.30am for a car shuffle. Details of starting place, car shuffle and bookings by 13th April to Patrick Hope **5341711.**

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 Harrierville for 2 nights. 20-25km Ed Butler **5348 3059**

Sunday 1st May 2005 Swiss Italian Festa
A 2 hour walk In the Hepburn Regional Park as part of the Swiss Italian Festa, a walk for novices or just to get you warmed up for the festivities, no booking turn up at the GDTA stall in Main Rd Hepburn at 11.00am.

Saturday 16 July Mt Wilson to Mt Hope
.An undulating north-south walk across the Trail with some off track sections. Boots desirable. Approximately six hours walking. Drinks at Hudson's, Ballan. Michael Fox, **9743 1526**

Saturday 5 November Mt Blackwood to Blue Mount
Walk follows GDT Trail to Whisky Track. Off Track across Nolan's & Ruth's Gullies. Yankee Gully to Blue Mount on track. Approximately 16 km, 6-7 hours walking. Drinks at the Cosmopolitan, Trentham. Boots desirable Michael Fox, **9743 1526**

Sunday 13 November Firth Park to Macedon
Help find the best route for GDT's eastward extension from Firth Park to Macedon. On track/off track for 16-18 km. Approximately 6-7 hours walking. Boots desirable. Drinks in the Macedon Hotel. Michael Fox **9743 1526**

2005 Walks Program Six Mountains + 1

Most of Lerderberg Track in its Opening Year

| Date *=Fixed | Description | Dist | Who | Phone |
|---|--|---------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sunday 20 th Mar | Bryces Flat - Shepherds Flat Loop | 15km | Sue Cooper | 5348 7550 |
| 9 th April | Track Clearing & short Walk W/- Essendon Bush Walkers | NA | Neil Campbell | 03 94787995 |
| Sunday 10 th April | Mollongghip 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 Harrierville) 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 |
| Sunday 1 st May | Swiss Italian Festa | 2-3 hrs | No booking | Turn up in Hepburn at 11 |
| 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 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 53413711 or email pathope@netconnect.com.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



Member Name
Street Address
City, State, 0000