

GDTA POST



Newsletter of the
Great Dividing
Trail Association
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GREAT NEWS: GDT 'Plan for the Future'

Funding received through the VCSF

The GDTA has received \$30,000 through the Victorian Community Support Fund, to be paid and managed by CVA (Conservation Volunteers Australia) - for a project that will lead to new management strategy to secure ongoing growth and sustainability of the GDT.

Barry Golding (President GDTA) recently met with Ian Smith (CVA), Peter Skilbeck (Mt Alexander Shire & Acting in Chair GDT Victoria Foundation), Jesse Sherwood (Dept of Victorian Communities), Chris McCormack (Parks Vic) and David Bannear (Heritage Vic) to set up and confirm protocols, time lines and processes for this exciting new project.

Consistent with our funding application, the money will be used for a consultant - to be engaged before the end of 2005 through CVA - to put together a report that reviews the GDTA, track infrastructure, audit of natural & cultural experiences, local businesses and potential partners. Identification of community, health, tourism, environmental and economic outcomes, progress of Memorandums of Understandings and includes a Draft Business Plan.

A Progress Report will be completed by the consultant(s) by April 2006 and a final report is due by June 2006.

It is anticipated - depending on the Consultant's findings and advice, that GDTA's role post June 2006 could change to a 'Friends of the GDT' type group - whose members are still very important and very active - but less involved in the complexities and anxieties of the development, business, marketing and promotion side.

It was agreed that we should use a selective tender process to select the consultant. The final cost of the project will depend in part on whether we also secure the \$15,000 we have sought via Commonwealth Regional Partnerships funding [the decision is expected by late October 2005].

David Bannear and Chris McCormack will draft the Brief for the job we want done. Peter Skilbeck will compile a list of potential applicants - who will subsequently be approached with the brief be invited them to put in a bid during November 2005.

We plan to select and engage a preferred tender in early December 2005. We also anticipate giving the Minister for Victorian Communities an opportunity to formally open or launch our project.

GREAT DIVIDING TRAIL COMMITTEE 2005.

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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	

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.

All the Best to Pat Hope

As all members realize, Pat Hope has for a long time been the guiding light and wise and energetic hand and heart of the GDT. Pat has been reluctantly (and understandably) forced by recent illness to cut back some of his involvement in GDTA but is happy to remain as Treasurer for the time being.

On behalf of all members, we wish Pat and PK all the best coping with these changes and are committed to continue to stand positively by them - as Pat in particular has stood by the GDTA - for many years.

There is renewed urgency for other and new members to progressively step forward to fill the tasks done for over a decade by many long standing Committee members -including Pat.

There will be big and small jobs for every member of the GDTA for along time yet.

MILESTONE FOR NEVILLE.

Neville Fraser long term GDTA Committee member recently turned 50 and a surprise function was held in the palatial Mollonghip Hall. More than 20 members turned up to enjoy an evening of intellectual discussion and local wines.

Unfortunately owing to a huge storm which occurred when the event was due to start made for a slightly delayed start and the strippers rumoured to be turning up from Barkstead failed to appear. Nonetheless a good time was had by all.

Many good wishes to Neville were expressed.

Help Make the GDT an ICON

The National Trust in conjunction with the State Government and the Herald Sun is arranging the 2006 Victorian Heritage Icons Awards. Six awards will be made.

It is suggested that GDTA members might individually consider nominating the Great Dividing Trail as a State Icon and you are invited to call up the National Trust Website www.natrust.com.au

On the homesite look on left box and press Other Events and then press Stop Press.

Thank you for your help.

Saturday 10 December.

Gib's Drain Walk

Gib Wettenhall arranged for a short walk commencing and finishing at Wombat Station site on Sunday 19th September.

The exclusive group of seven explored the impressive railway cuttings and embankments in the forest and explored several well constructed brick culverts under the former Creswick North-Daylesford Railway before returning for lunch in the GDT Rotunda at the station site.

Town Walk a Success.

The first GDTA organised local town walk was successfully held in Creswick on Sunday 25th September. Sixteen people including three prospective members met at the Post Office and followed the Creswick Community Town Walk Map which took 2.5 hours and involved 8k. Creswick is a very picturesque town containing many historical and architecturally interesting sites, including the old battery, Park Lake and Cambeleen Park. Lunch was then arranged at Smoky Town Cafe.

The success of this type of activity may lead to similar town and surrounds type short walks of about the same duration in other local centres. These activities would be aimed at those wishing to learn more about our urban environments.

Thanks go to Patricia Kelso and Alison Lanigan for making the arrangements.

Special Activities.

Sunday 30 October.

Steam train Castlemaine - Maldon - Castlemaine. Train leaves Castlemaine 11.20 am, arrives Maldon 12.05 pm. Then a Short walk in Maldon, probably up Anzac Hill.

BYO lunch, drinks. Return train leaves Maldon 3.30pm, arrives Castlemaine 4.15 pm.

Group return rates: Economy \$24.00; concession \$22.00. First class \$27.00 concession \$25.00, plus \$3.00 (GDT member) or \$5.00 (visitor).

Bookings to Alison Lanigan 5345 2958

Sunday 20 November.

What flower-plant-bird is that?

Short 2-3 hour loop walk in forest around Creswick - Koala Park area. Roger Thomas, well known local field naturalist will lead. Lunch in Creswick afterwards. Maximum of 12 walkers. Bookings to Alison.

Hanging Rock by night ...

Social afternoon followed by bbq tea (weather permitting). Any time from 2.30 pm for wander around the park at your leisure - but arrive by 7.30 pm for the climb. The climb begins at 8.00 pm and is only for GDT members and guests. Park ranger will lead the 2-hour climb.

Cost: \$15.00 for the climb + \$3.00 (GDT member) or \$5.00 (guest). BYO pan flute music. Bookings to Pat Kelso 5341 3711 or pathope@netconnect.com.au

Heron's Reef Special Activity.

David Bannear an industrial archeologist of Parks Victoria and expert on mining history led a small group of interested members on a most interesting walk at Heron's Reef near Chewton on Sunday 7th August. This largely intact mining site is part of the Castlemaine Heritage Park but not yet open to the public. The group learned much about sluicing and other forms of mining and very much appreciated David sharing his enthusiasm for the site.

The group then went to lunch at Guildford Hotel.

Thanks go to Richard Piesse for arranging the first of our shorter activities.

Invitation Walks Policy Reminder.

Financial members of the GDTA can join our regular walks program provided they are willing to contribute at least \$3 towards the GDTA maintenance fund. Members of Clubs Affiliated with the GDTA can join in as visitors provided they contribute at least \$4 donation and sign a disclaimer and others can join in for a \$5 donation provided they also sign a liability disclaimer.

Intending walkers need to book at least 4 days ahead by contacting the walk leader. Restrictions on numbers apply on walks and bookings are accepted on basis of first come first accepted.

The walk leaders reserve the right not to take on any activity any person whom is judged not to be suitably equipped. There are no walks on days of total fire ban and intending walkers should check the weather conditions before driving to the start.

Buninyong Short Loop Walk.

On Sunday 28 August 17 members and temporary members met at the Buninyong Town Hall for a two hour loop walk through the Union Jack Reserve and Locomotive Hill mine site and back again via James Reserve. The walk to the mine site is modestly steep but all handled the task well. Afterwards most stayed for an excellent lunch at Jacks Restuarant.

Mount Macedon Walk

It was good to get away from the 'known world' of the GDT and explore Mt Macedon, that we propose might one day become the terminus for a major new walk west from Blackwood - if and when we can confirm a route (the easy part), get appropriate support in that Macedon area (harder) and find a team of willing local hands to actually facilitate it (hardest). The dozen odd (the emphasis is on odd) walkers fluked a splendid day - or did our very well prepared leader Richard Piesse arrange it? It was a crisp but fine start from the Macedon township - after several days of freezing snow extended to sea level down south - but unusually did not lead to the usual snow dusting on Mt Macedon.

The walk was an 'n' shaped part loop on the Macedon Ranges Walking Trail, for which excellent 'Mt Macedon Regional Park' ParkNotes including A3 map are publicly available free from the Parks Vic Office in Macedon 54261866 or Woodend Info Centre 54272033. We started walking east off the Mount Macedon Road up Anzac Road and then steeply up a dedicated and well marked track to Mount Towrong (800m approx) with great views back over Macedon. It was about here that Ed dropped his heirloom woollen beanie without realising. The walking Trail then heads north via Hemphills Track and Zig Zag Track to the picturesque 'Sanitorium Lake' at around 900m. The Lake once provided water for former TB Sanitorium down a nearby slope. The track heads west to Camels Hump - at over 1000m slightly higher than Mt Macedon itself and with amazing views north over the top of Hanging Rock and with a brisk breeze several degrees colder than the surrounding plains. Unsuprisingly, it's crowned with a good thicket of snow gums. We decided the bronze pointer on the summit was a few degrees out but were collectively unable to reposition it using our bare and cold hands. We lunched at McGregor's Picnic ground and headed off to Mt Macedon as the weather started to turn.

It's worth a visit to the summit area - also accessible by bitumen road including the Tea Rooms (good for refuge on a cold day and with good amenities nearby), the Major Mitchell lookout - with amazing views west including Mt Buninyong on the horizon and the well known Mt Macedon (War) Memorial Cross rebuilt around a decade ago by Grollo. We took the steep track back down from the cross to complete the walk at the Old Scout Camp Site on the Bendigo railway line - following the likely route of the proposed GDT extension. The Macedon Ranges Walking Trail is well worth having a good look at if you missed the walk. There are lots of other well marked and sign posted loop options apart from this excellent 17km approx loop (that would be close to 23km if we hadn't organised a car shuffle to avoid walking along Douglas Road. We retreated to the Macedon Hotel afterward - while Ed & Ross retraced a few steps to recover Ed's lost hat.

Bunninyong Track Extension

As reported previously the GDTA has proposed a 23.6 km extension from Peel St North Ballarat via the Yarrowee Trail to Mt Helen, Buninyong and Mt Buninyong. Unfortunately Hancock's (the pine plantation people) who lease land near Magpie for pine production won't allow us to go through their lease hence a revision is necessary. It will now be proposed to the City of Ballarat for approval of a route from Peel St, North Ballarat, along the Yarrowee to Whitehorse Bridge to Mt Clear and basically follow the cycle/walking track to Buninyong and thence follow the existing Court House to Mount track to the top of Mt Buninyong. This proposed route is not as good as originally proposed as more urban walking will be required but the alternative requires only signage and no track construction.



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 - 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	
• 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 Dane Boag 54432435 or email 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, State, 0000