

GDTA POST



**Newsletter of the
Great Dividing
Trail Association**

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

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FUNDING APPLICATIONS.

The City of Greater Bendigo in conjunction with Goldfields Tourism, the Shire of Mt Alexander and the GDTA has applied to the Commonwealth Government for a \$600,000 grant to undertake regional marketing of the GDTA including training, interpretation, a pod and upgrading of the website. The application form completion involved a great deal of work which was facilitated by the City of Greater Bendigo.

The GDTA in conjunction with Goldfields Tourism, Heritage Victoria Parks Victoria and with the support of the six regional municipalities is applying to the State Government for \$200,000 to improve the infrastructure of the current trail and to convert the trail to dual use for cyclists together with funding of the extensions to Maldon and Macedon.

The two applications dovetail together and the GDTA is hopeful of positive outcomes.

Maurice Hawkins joins the team

Maurice Hawkins of Parks Victoria based in Castlemaine has been seconded to help the GDT by working on track upgrading and track extensions for two days per week. Maurice whom has had many years experience with Parks is a most welcome strengthening of the GDT with the further development of the Trail which includes extensions to Maldon and Macedon. The GDTA is most grateful to Parks Victoria for this invaluable assistance. Maurice will continue to work out of the Castlemaine Parks Office.

- from an organisation that benefits from the assistance given by volunteers

Environment Voluntary Levee.

The Members meeting agreed to support a voluntary donation from each person attending forthcoming walks to support the development of a fund to plant indigenous native vegetation along the Trail. The rationale is that by attending walks we use up fuel driving our cars which adds to the critical global warming problem. Therefore at the start of each walk a collection will be taken to create a special fund which will be used to purchase living material to plant and thereby soak up some of the gas. The GDTA will probably arrange for one of the neighbouring Landcare groups to undertake the planting. The suggested donation is some gold coins.

WILDCARE 10th Anniversary National Conference comes to Hobart November 2007

For anyone who has ever thought about volunteering or is simply interested in making a difference in your environment and community. If you are interested in contributing to the protection and management of some of the world's most spectacular and important National Parks and Reserves? For everyone who is interested in supporting conservation of wildlife species and natural communities found nowhere else in the world?

We are pleased to announce the WILDCARE Inc. 10th Anniversary Conference, Volunteering for Wild Places, Wildlife and Cultural Heritage at the University of Tasmania November 22-25!

This conference presents an opportunity for volunteers, volunteer and other community organisations, volunteer program managers and staff from partner agencies to get together and take time to build better ways to work together towards a healthy reserve system, a protected, cared for and rehabilitated environment and wildlife, protected and cared for cultural heritage and sites and an educated and aware community.

The conference will also offer the opportunity to travel to some of Tasmania's iconic locations such as Maatsuyker and Tasman Island.

If you have a topic that you would like to see discussed or a session that you would like to lead, WILDCARE is now calling for papers. Please visit our website by clicking [here](#) for online registrations or fieldtrip information.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

If You Are:

- a volunteer
- a volunteer program manager
- from a volunteer organisation
- from a community-based Foundation or Gift Fund

OR You operate in any of the following areas:

- reserve management
- cultural heritage conservation
- nature conservation
- wildlife care and rehabilitation
- wildlife emergency rescue
- environmental education

AND You are interested in:

- **hearing** about and sharing exciting ways of volunteering
- **learning** new ways to build relationships to support volunteering
- **identifying** issues and exploring solutions relating to volunteering
- **sharing** your successes and how you have conquered challenges
- **sharing** experience and knowledge about innovative and effective ways of encouraging, managing and supporting volunteers in the natural and cultural environment
- **meeting** with other interesting volunteers and volunteer program managers

Thousands View GDTA Exhibition.

Thousands of visitors viewed the exhibition on the Great Dividing Trail arranged at the Ballarat Gold Museum. The Exhibition which comprised maps, put down banners, interpretative boards and exhibits kindly lent by Parks Victoria, Daylesford and Buninyong Historical Societies, Bendigo Chinese Museum and Bushwalking Victoria extended from the end of February until the end of June. The display was opened by John Landy BDTA patron and Steve Moneghetti track ambassador. The GDTA is grateful to the Ballarat Gold Museum curator Roger Trudgeon, Claire Muir assistant curator and Alywn Blood for their assistance. David Bannear, Barry Golding, Gib Wettenhall and Neil McCracken from the GDTA assembled the materials.

The exhibition was an outstanding success and much favourable publicity was obtained. Some of the exhibition is expected to move to Bendigo shortly and then will be available to other centres.

A Welcome to the following new members

Lynda Larkin
Dinah Priestley
Mel and Valerie Forbes
Michael and Patricia Bell
George Stockham
Robert Ducray
Ken & Anitra Dowling

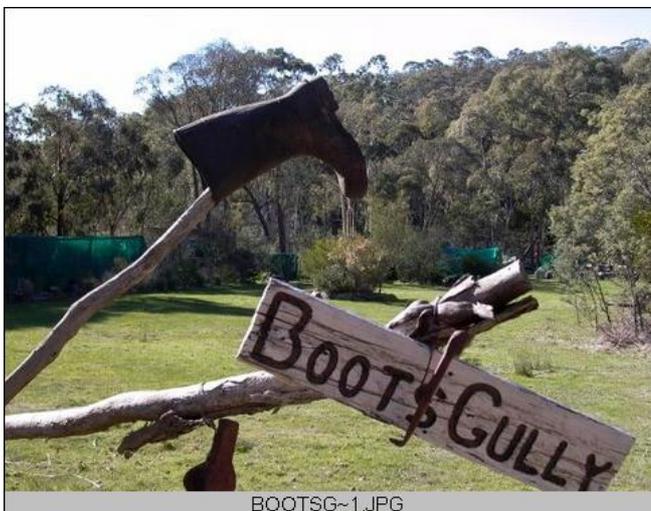
Welcome Mine Loop walk, Sat 9th June 2007

Sat 15h September Sebastopol Gully - Browns Gully Walk

This walk in the Upper Loddon Forest and Castlemaine Heritage National Park will be through Box - Stringybark forest in complex Spur Gully terrain. Only about 12km but substantial portions will be off-track and long pants or gaiters are recommended. The two gully's, Sebastopol and Brown's were the site of gold workings for nearly 80 years and a multitude of relics abound. The walk is a circuit but a shuffle to get the cars to the start of the walk will be necessary. The walk is graded as medium but this is more due to it's off-track nature than severe terrain, there are a couple of long uphill sections. We will finish in plenty of time to sample a local hotel (possibly the Guildford). Inquiries to Ed Butler 5348 3059 Evenings (other than Thursday)

Hepburn Waterways Walk a bout 19th August

A Small but select group of 4 participated in this walk which started at the rear of the Bathhouse at Hepburn. The walk went past the historic Hepburn Pool and followed Spring Creek up to the Hepburn Reservoir where morning tea was enjoyed. Unfortunately the Platypus which inhabit the reservoir were shy and wouldn't show themselves. The walk then crossed the creek and passed through some interesting mine workings before arriving at Argyle Spring. There was a fairly steep climb out of the Spring then across to Hunt's Dam where lunch was enjoyed. After lunch we joined the GDT at Mannings Road for a short distance before branching off to visit some old sluicing dams, then past Jacksons Lookout and back to the cars.



BOOTSG~1.JPG

18 people met at Eganstown on a cold windy morning, hoping that the weather would improve as the day progressed. After waiting for the tardy Neville, a posse of cars headed into the hills to begin the walk. From the start the party split into two groups. The leaders and the dawdlers and for most of the walk aside the two meal breaks, the 2 groups hardly met! There were people up the front I didn't talk to all day! And presumably vice versa!

My memory is a bit vague about the country we passed through (it's almost month ago as I write this), but I recall the boot tree, a long trek up a chasm of rock, (**Boots Gully**) a walk along a picturesque road with cows beyond in a paddock and the change in vegetation as we passed through different landscapes. As soon as we got into the bush, the wind dropped and occasionally we had splashes of sunshine during the walk.

Maggie, who seems to be the group's mascot found some of the obstacles a bit difficult at times, but finished in front of all walkers by the end - thanks to a short cut taken by her master near the end. Everyone else was too intimidated to join Ed to cut a few hundred metres off the 12 km walk.

I noted among my fellow walkers the new fashion in walking sticks. I felt quite left out and will endeavour to purchase one before the next walk.

Our thanks to Ron for organising and leading the walk. He had a difficult job to get the slower ones to keep up, and I'm sure he said at least 3 times, "It's just another 20 minutes to lunch!"

I can use the excuse of being a new chum to bring up some walking related topics and observations. I've been described as being a minimalist carrying only a water bottle and not taking a pack with me on the walks. I'm doing a survey what members carry in their packs.

I have also been wondering what sort of shoes/boots I should purchase. Michael was surprised I had not acted on his advice, but he should know me well enough by now that money and myself take a long time to part.

I've been wearing my most comfortable shoes that I have in the sense of being well worn in, but luckily have not had to walk in wet areas. I did decide early on to wear thicker socks, perhaps I need to wear 2 pairs?

Also being a new chum I would like to thank everyone for welcoming me to the group. I have noted that every walk has different members, so if I forget your name from one to the next, please forgive me. Peter, Ron and Neville have been on every walk I've been on, so I have finally remembered all their names!

Chris Spencer

Enfield Sat. 12th May

On a beautiful Autumn day a small group of six, led by Neil Campbell enjoyed a pleasant 16 km walk through the Enfield Forest. The walk commenced on the outskirts of Enfield and took us across a dam wall, the dam like most others was dry.

We then walked through the extensive gold workings of the gold rush days, at various points we saw large pockets of pink Heath in flower. Morning tea was taken near Halls Road where we met a local out for her morning exercise walk, the only person we saw in the day. We then followed Mt Misery Creek with Mt Misery on our right to a picnic ground where we had lunch. After lunch we followed part of the circuit walk, it was along here that one of the walkers unkindly stood on a small snake who was not very impressed, but seemed to be unhurt as it left the scene. We tackled one serious hill before moving through various gullies which looked as if they would be quite wet if ever we have sufficient rain. We then enjoyed a walk back to the cars using part of the track we had covered earlier before heading to the Royal Mail Hotel in Sebastopol for drinks.

Sailors Falls Walk

Sue Cooper led few members on a very pleasant walk from the top of Sailors Falls to Lake Daylesford on Sunday May 6th, adding to the pleasure of the walk were the fresh smells of the bush after raining the night before. We followed the damp and at times muddy track over looking the valley of Sailors Creek, winding our way through the Wombat Forest. It was a delight to hear the sound of the Wombat Creek.

Castlemaine Heritage Walk Sat. 20th May

Twelve members enjoyed this walk through the Heritage areas of Castlemaine. The walk started along the Poverty Gully water channel where evidence of the strong flow from recent rains could be seen with debris over bridges. We then branched off and followed the Campbells Creek water channel to the Eureka Reef area where we had morning tea. After morning tea we did the Eureka circuit walk exploring some native wells and some of the many remains from mining days, including a chimney stack that runs up a hill along the ground. We had lunch at the Eureka site before continuing across to the Poverty Gully water channel

which we followed back to our cars before adjourning to the Cumberland Hotel for refreshments.

Guildford Dinner Great Success.

The Annual members dinner held at the Guildford Family Hotel on Saturday 23rd June attracted a good attendance of 28 members. Prior to the dinner most of the group took part in a short loop walk near Fryerstown to explore a marvellous area of mining relics in the Castlemaine Diggings National Park led by Richard Piesse. The excellent venue and meal was enjoyed in the hotel. Anne Beggs-Sunter GDTA archivist spoke briefly on storing important records and David Bannear talked about the connection between the goldfields, land tenure and the development of public forest lands.

Firth Park Loop 22nd July

After a late start due to walkers being delayed by black ice on roads and thick fog in other places we headed across to Andersons Timber mill site where we had morning tea sitting on top of the sawdust heap and enjoyed the winter sunshine. We then headed north to pick up the proposed GDTA track to Macedon. Along this portion of the track those in the leading group saw a Wombat crossing the track in front of them, but it vanished into the bush that quickly that other walkers missed it. After leaving the proposed trail we enjoyed a pleasant walk back through the bush to complete the loop which took us past the origin of the Campaspe River. We then adjourned to the Pig and Whistle at East Trentham for refreshments

Cobblers Gully Chewton 11th August

A group of 14 joined Bill Casey on this enjoyable walk on a mild winter day. We walked from Chewton to the Poverty Gully water race which we followed past the Monk where we stopped for morning tea. After morning tea we entered Cobblers Gully where we saw an intact puddling site. Further along the heavily sluiced Gully we saw a fairly intact mining site which included a Cornish Oven in very original condition, after visiting this interesting site we joined the GDT for a short distance before passing through some more interesting relics where we enjoyed a lunch break. After lunch the walk continued past the Dingo Farm and across to the Eureka Mine site. Then finished the loop back to our cars before finishing at the Albion Hotel for drinks.

2007 GDTA Walks Program					
Date	Event	Length	RATING	Contact	
Sat 1st Sept	Jubilee Mine - Scarsdale loop	10-12	E-M	Judy Murray	5335 5324
Sat 15h Sep	Porc ridge Browns Gully	15k	MED	Ed	5348 3059
Thurs 27 th Sept	Quarry Hill Spring Gully 9.30	6-7 k	EASY	Barry Hunter	5449 3286
Sun 30Sept	GDT ToeRag Nolans	15-18k	MED H	Richard & Ed	5348 3059
Sun 7 Oct	Joyces Crk, Plaistowe via Newstead		EASY	Alison	5345 2958
Sun 14 th Oct	VicWalks Day				
Sun 21 Oct	Slatey Creek Loop	12	E-M	Ron James	5345 7539
Sat 3 Nov	Nature Walk Creswick	5-7	E	Alison	5345 2958
Sat 17 Nov	Essendon Marathon	42km	VERY HARD	BillCasey	5330 2296
Sun 25 Nov	Ballarat Town Walk	5-8	EASY	Neville Fraser	5331 1840
Sat 8Dec	Twilight Mt Franklin - Jim Crow	8-10	E	Barry Golding	5345 6343

14th Annual Great Divide Marathon - Saturday November 17

Essendon Bushwalking Club's 42km GDM will this year start at the summit of Mt Tarrngower, and travel via Maldon, Muckleford, Castlemaine, Chewton, Spring Gully and Fryerstown to the finish at Vaughan Springs. The walk will incorporate the new Chewton - The Monk section which enables GDT walkers to avoid going into Castlemaine if they so wish. Entry will be available only to Essendon and GDTA members until September, after which visitors will be accepted subject to the limit of 55 walkers not having been reached. Further details from Bill Casey via email bill@wtcasey.com

Federation Walk - Healesville 2007 Sunday 21 October 2007

Hosted by Diamond Valley and Koonung Clubs

Healesville is located to the northeast of Melbourne. It is 60 km by road from central Melbourne. It is situated on the Watts River, a tributary of the Yarra River. It is well known for the Healesville Sanctuary, a nature park with hundreds of native Australian animals displayed in a semi-open natural setting and an active platypus breeding program. Much of what is now Healesville lies on the ancestral land of the Wurundjeri people.

Healesville has long been considered as the gateway to the Victorian Alps and as such it provides a great base for this year's Federation Walk. We are planning to have around 25 walks ranging right through from easy to hard. Many of the walks will be within the Yarra Ranges National Park and the Cathedral Range State Park.

To help in your club's participation please:

- List this event in your club calendar
- Have your Club's Federation Walk coordinator contact Fred Bover (fbover@ozemail.com.au or 94397092)

Great Divide Marathon Pre - Lim 2007

Daylesford/Hepburn Springs 25kms Medium

Saturday 3rd November

For those,who are anticipating on doing,or wanting to complete Bill's Marathon two weeks ,prior ,now have the chance to get themselves fit and ready

The walk will be on both,the Essendon walking Club Program, and the Great Dividing Trail Program,and has been quite popular in the past

We are opening up and wanting for Great Dividing Trail members to participate in this event

The walk will start from the Lake Daylesford Boathouse,walk along the GreatDividingTrail past the mineral springs area to Twin Bridges. From here we will walk across Sailor's Creek,(opposite side to the GreatDividingTrail),to Tipperary Springs. Then continue on the opposite side of the creek to Bryces Flat,where we will walk back onto the Great Dividing Trail for the remainder of the walk We will visit the Blowhole,then walk onto Breakneck Gorge,crossing the Newstead Road and walking back towards the outskirts of Hepburn,but continuing along via Jackson's Lookout.Then back into Daylesford via Hepburn Springs short cut near the Dam. We will leave from the Lake Boathouse Car Park at 9.00am

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) \$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	
• 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, Postcode