

GDTA POST



*Newsletter of the
Great Dividing
Trail Association*
<http://www.gdt.org.au>
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Keep watch. Check before you walk.

It's that time of year again. CHECK BEFORE YOU WALK.

Several planned burns are being prepared: the following are listed on the current Fire Operations Plan and may impact on the Goldfields Track:

- Daylesford - Rings Road - planned this summer (includes track on Eastern side of Sailors Creek)
- Hepburn - Black Jack Track - planned Spring 2012

Whenever possible GDTA will distribute email alerts about these and other burns or events that impact on the Goldfields Track or Lerderderg Track.

However, for various reasons, you may not receive our email as quickly as we'd like you to. The plans for a burn may change at the last minute and we can't expect to be kept informed of all changes across the GDT network.

So, check for yourself. It's your responsibility to check that it's safe to walk or to ride.

Although ultimately the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) manages all burning on public land, a good practice is to monitor a variety of information sources while planning your walk and then again before you leave home.

Check weather, fire events and track conditions, diversions and closures:

- Parks Victoria www.parks.vic.gov.au
- DSE www.dse.vic.gov.au
- CFA www.cfa.vic.gov.au
- Bureau of Meteorology www.bom.vic.gov.au
- ABC warnings in emergencies and extreme weather:
 - Ballarat 107.9 FM
 - Bendigo 91.1 FM
 - Melbourne 774 am

Importantly, check with the Victorian Bushfire Information Line (VBIL) on 1800 240 667 before you leave home.

A good current link (as at 6 December 2011) is:

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/fire-and-other-emergencies/planned-burning-an-introduction/burns-today-current-status>

**Season's Greetings from your GDTA Committee –
Thank you for your support this year – Best wishes for
happy and safe walking and we look forward to walking
with you in 2012.**

STOP PRESS:

Sincere Get Well Wishes to Ron James, our POST Editor, from all of your GDTA mates.

From the President

With our Summer weather becoming more unpredictable it's time to take extra precautions before you go walking. Always check the weather forecast and don't walk when extreme weather is predicted. Check the GDTA November (Version 3) FAQ document for details (now downloadable from GDTA website - check Links).

As always, Bushwalking Victoria's newsletter contains several good articles and the December issue is of particular interest at this time of year. We recently sent you the link, but here it is again: <http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/forms/BNV112.pdf> - it includes information about www.tripintentions.org - a website that enables you to register your walk intentions online and to identify your contacts. You can also print the form provided and give it to a contact and/or leave it in your car. If you don't have access to the Internet via work, library, relative or friend, contact us c/- PO Box 429 Daylesford Vic 3460 and we'll send you a copy.

Thank you

... to hardworking GDTA Committee members for the good work you do behind the scenes: managing finances and memberships, distributing bulk and individual map orders, sorting and hand-delivering or re-posting the all-important mail, developing and refining new maps, GPS-ing tracks, identifying maintenance issues and needed track improvements, preparing the newsletter, liaising with land managers and government agencies, attending meetings, editing the website and generally promoting the GDTA.

... to the walks leaders and members who put in time to plan and check the routes before walks. Despite a few activities being cancelled because of the weather or circumstances outside our control, our walks were mostly well attended this year. All were enjoyable and had a good atmosphere, with participants enjoying the day and each other's company and the various challenges (or not) of the terrain and/or the weather.

Awards

The prettiest walk award for 2011 goes to Barry Hunter's Bendigo Spring Flowers Walk in October. And no, the award isn't for the walk leader. The abundance and the beauty of the wildflowers was the best experienced for many years and by all accounts it was a lovely day.

The wettest walk award goes to my Lost Children's Walk in November, where a range of acrobatic skills was demonstrated at morning tea with walkers coordinating umbrella-holding with banana-peeling and coffee-pouring. I must say that I'm also impressed with the ability of some members to maintain a conversation while walking up a hill that looked almost vertical.

GDT Ararat Circuit Walk map

The Rural City of Ararat has developed a new map brochure for the GDT Ararat Circuit Walk. The new map shows the 14.5km Ararat Walk, the 9.7km Ararat Walk-Echidna Track and the 4.6km Ararat Walk-Stringybark Trail. The .pdf map brochure is freely downloadable from the GDTA website and available in hard copy from the Ararat Visitor Information Centre - or contact Pat Hope on 0418 131 545 and she'll send you a copy.

DSE ... and the Lerderderg Track

DSE Midlands District previously advised us that the Lerderderg Track would reopen by the end of September. It didn't. We'll let you know ... We recently met with DSE Midlands and discussed a range of matters including the Lerderderg Track, the Macedon Extension, communications and implementation of new DSE policy.

Only DSE posts are allowed on DSE-managed land along the Lerderderg Track. This means that between Jubilee Lake (Daylesford) and Blackwood, DSE will replace all the green GDT posts with grey DSE posts. The GDT logo will be displayed on the new posts.

At least for the moment, green GDT posts will remain on-track between Daylesford Visitor Information Centre and Jubilee Lake (ie on land managed by Shire of Hepburn) and from Blackwood to Bacchus Marsh (on land managed by Parks Victoria and Shire of Moorabool).

We'll let you know of any more changes.

DSE ... and the Macedon Extension

The completion of the Macedon extension from Blackwood to Macedon continues to drag on ... Parks Victoria have advised us of their support for the proposed route but DSE Midlands have stated that it will be another six months before they can

undertake further work on the final approvals work plans. This is disappointing but there's little that we can do about it. They advised that they have a heavy workload and want to consolidate existing tasks before moving on to formalising any new tracks that will give them even more work.

The good news is that they've agreed to have quarterly meetings with us. Macedon will be one of the items for discussion at the first meeting in 2012.

DSE ... and the Walking Tracks Project

\$90,000 has been allocated to upgrade the DSE-managed section of the Lerderderg Track (Jubilee Lake to Blackwood) over the next three years via this project. One goal will be to increase the safety levels for track users and this means that the track and its infrastructure will be improved. DSE will identify their proposed improvements and GDTA and other community groups will be able to comment. We've advised DSE that one of our goals is to have Emergency Markers installed along the track.

Goldfields Track

A very warm welcome is extended to Mark O'Sullivan of Parks Victoria Castlemaine Office. Mark will be working on the Goldfields Track project for two days/week. He's already been instrumental in improving signage along the track and in further developing relationships with land managers. Welcome Mark!

Email Alerts

DSE Midlands District and Murray Goldfields District have agreed to notify us of planned burns around the Goldfields Track. We'll email you as soon as we hear of any burns or other activity.

If you don't have access to email but would like email alerts, please nominate an email contact and let me know (a_lanigan2@bigpond.com).

2012 Walks Program

The first 2012 walks program is enclosed. The focus for January-June is around the Daylesford-Castlemaine or Dry Diggings section of the Goldfields Track, with a nice balance of other walks to offer a change of scenery and grading.

Best wishes for Christmas and 2012 -

Look forward to seeing you on a track in 2012.
Alison

MEMBERSHIP

We extend a big welcome to the following new members and we hope that you'll have a long and happy association with the GDTA -

Margaret Farrar, Helen Gramberg, Brian Meehan, Paul O'Brien, Malcolm Padgett

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Saturday 18 February in Daylesford.

Our AGMs are very informal: we'd appreciate more Committee members but - relax! - you won't be inveigled into taking on any responsibility that you don't want!

5.00 pm BYO picnic tea and meet in car park of Jubilee Lake environs - a lovely shady place.

Then Ed will lead us on a short walk around Cornish Hill and bring us back for a quick meeting - then tea and a relax or wander around the lake.

We anticipate that it will be a very pleasant start to the new GDTA year.

Track Unsuitable for use

On 25 November 2011 Parks Victoria advised GDTA that the Goldfields Track walking/bike tracks south of Vaughan (Porcupine Ridge to Loop Track - Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park) are unsuitable for walkers and bike riders.

Due to recent storm damage in the area there are many trees down, across the track.

Parks Victoria will endeavour to address the issue in the next few weeks.

Old Fryerstown School - Goldfields Track entry point

The old school building has received a great facelift and a new 27,900 litre rainwater tank has been linked with the existing concrete tank to provide water for the school amenities. The exterior water point and toilet/shower facilities have been completed.

The premises are available as a base camp and meals are available by arrangement.

Contact Tim Todhunter: ttodhunter@iinet.net.au

Euro Alps 2012 Walking Tours: 22 June-1 July and 6 July-15 July. See details @ www.nordicacademy.com.au or P O Box 127 Forest Hill Vic 3131 or 1300 791 740.

2012 Walks Program: January – June

GDTA walks will not be held on days of Total Fire Ban or in extreme weather

Walks commence at 9.30 am after the end of Daylight Saving unless otherwise stated

Thursday 26 January	Australia Day Celebration Walk 8.00 am Short Walk Buninyong-Mt Buninyong Circuit E-M Meet at Buninyong Town Hall (GDTA/BBOC). Lunch provided.	Pat 0418 131 545
Saturday 18 Feb	Short Walk Cornish Hill Circuit (Leader: Ed) 5.00 pm Meet in Jubilee Lake car park. Walk then AGM @ Jubilee Lake. BYO picnic tea.	Alison 0409 583 303
Sunday 26 Feb	Mount Macedon Circuit – approx 10km Easy 9.00 am Meet at Camel's Hump car park.	Richard 0448 572 867
Saturday 3 March	Poverty Gully 10kms Easy 9.30 am Meeting place to be advised.	Ron 040 403 977
Sunday 18 March	Golden Springs to Lake Daylesford 11km Easy 9.30 am Meet Lake Daylesford car park for car shuffle. Afternoon Tea @ Book Barn.	Gib 0419 370 342
Sunday 31 March	Beeripmo Walk, Mt Cole area 21km M-H 9.00 am Meet at rotunda in Beaufort.	Colin 0429 433 045
Sunday 15 April	Australian Heritage Week Walk Vaughan Springs – Tubal Cain 14km E-M (Leader: David)	Alison 0409 583 303
Sunday 29 April	Tarilta Gorge 14km E-M	Ed 0434 672 392
Saturday 12 May	Chocolate Mill to Hepburn Reservoir 15km E-M	Ed 0434 672 392
Sunday 20 May	Eureka Reef Circuit (to top of The Monk) 12km E-M	Bill 0407 347 319
Thursday 24 May	Longest Morning Tea Fund-raiser for Cancer Foundation Plaistow @ Newstead	Peter & Lil No RSVP needed
Saturday 2 June	Sailors Gully-Helge Track Circuit 14km M	Richard 0448 572 867
Sunday 17 June	Spring Gully-Fryerstown Circuit 12 km E-M	Barb & Lionel 0411 265 305
Saturday 30 June	Expedition Pass Reservoir-Garfield Wheel via Welsh Village 12km E-M	Gib 0419 370 342

2012 DATES TO NOTE

GDTA Committee meets Wednesdays	25 January; AGM on Saturday 18 February; 28 March; April meeting on 2 May; May meeting on 30 May; 27 June
School Terms	Term 1 = 1 February - 30 March; Term 2 = 16 April - 29 June; Term 3 = 16 July - 21 September; Term 4 = 8 October - 21 December
Monday 2 January	New Year's Day holiday
Thursday 26 January	Australia Day
Monday 12 March	Labour Day
Saturday 17 March	St Patrick's Day
Sunday 1 April	Daylight Saving ends. Move clocks back one hour
Friday 6 April	Good Friday
Monday 9 April	Easter Monday
Wednesday 25 April	ANZAC Day
Sunday 13 May	Mothers' Day
Monday 11 June	Queen's Birthday
Sunday 2 Sept	Fathers' Day
Saturday 29 Sept	AFL Grand Final
Sunday 7 October	Daylight Saving begins. Move clocks forward one hour
Tuesday 6 November	Melbourne Cup Day
Sunday 11 November	Remembrance Day
Tuesday 25 December	Christmas Day
Wednesday 26 Dec	Boxing Day

2012 Walks Program: January - June

Thursday 26 January

8.00 am. Australia Day walk to Mt Buninyong summit and return, led by Patricia Hope
Meet @ Buninyong Town Hall. Lunch provided after the walk.
This is a combined GDTA/Ballarat Bushwalking & Outdoor Club walk
RSVP to Pat 0418 131 545 by Monday 23 January

Saturday 18 February

5.00 pm. Short walk: Cornish Hill circuit and return to Jubilee Lake, led by Ed Butler
Meet @ Jubilee Lake Car Park. BYO picnic tea for after AGM @ Jubilee Lake
RSVP to Alison 0409 583 303 by Thursday 16 February

Sunday 26 February

9.00 am. Circuit of top of Mount Macedon, led by Richard Piesse
Approx 10 kms. Easy with one short incline
Camel's Hump car park is right at the top of the mount just after you turn towards the Memorial Cross
Options for coffee @ cafe and/or additional walk
RSVP to Richard 0448 572 867 by Thursday 23 Feb.

Saturday 3 March

9.30 am. Poverty Gully walk - Leader to be confirmed
10 kms. Easy. Meeting place to be advised
BYO morning tea, lunch
Check GDTA website for details or phone Alison on 0409 583 303 by Thursday 1 March

Sunday 18 March

9.30 am. Golden Springs to Lake Daylesford circuit led by Gib Wettenhall
11 kms Easy. Meet at Lake Daylesford Car Park for car shuffle
BYO morning tea, lunch - Arvo Tea at Book Barn
RSVP to Gib 0419 370 342 by Thursday 15 March

Saturday 31 March

9.00 am Beeripmo circuit walk, Mt Cole, led by Colin Hancock
20.5 kms M-H. Walk approx 7.5 hours; route to be anti-clockwise to significantly minimise the usual steep climb
Meet at Beaufort rotunda in centre of town
BYO morning/afternoon tea, lunch, snacks
RSVP to Colin 0429 433 045 by Thursday 29 March.
If you'd prefer to stay locally before/after the walk, there is a range of camping grounds, caravan parks, hotel, motel and B&B accommodation in Beaufort.
Alternatively, camping facilities are throughout the Mt Cole State Forest, including Beeripmo. Most sites provide picnic facilities, toilets, shelters and fireplaces/pits. Availability is on a first-come basis. No charge for camping.

Sunday 15 April

Australian Heritage Week is the annual national celebration of Australia's unique heritage.
In 2012, Australian Heritage Week will run from Saturday 14 April until Sunday 22 April.
The GDTA will again support the celebration of our Australian heritage, this time with a guided interpretation walk in the Dry Diggings section of the Goldfields Track.
We're delighted that David Bannear will lead a walk from Vaughan Springs to Tubal Cain and with David's in-depth knowledge of the region and its history this will be a not-to-be-missed walk.
Mark this date in your diary and watch for details in the March POST.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS AND RENEWALS	AMOUNT
• 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 (Pensioner Card)	
PUBLICATIONS	
• DRY DIGGINGS TRACK MAP (Daylesford-Castlemaine) \$7.50 includes postage & handling	
• WALLABY TRACK MAP (Buninyong - Ballarat - Daylesford) \$7.50 includes postage & handling	
• LERDERDERG TRACK MAP (Daylesford - Bacchus Marsh) \$7.50 includes postage & handling	
• LEANGANOOK TRACK MAP (Castlemaine-Bendigo) \$7.50 includes postage & handling	
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DONATION TO GDTA for Track Construction and Maintenance	
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$

GDTA MEMBERSHIP DETAILS FOR OUR RECORDS, MAIL / EMAIL NEWSLETTER

MEMBER'S NAME

- **Other Member Names** (if *Family Membership*)

Other Member 2.....

Postal Address

..... Postcode

Telephone Mobile

Email Address

Queries on Membership, please phone Patricia Hope on 0418 131 545 or email pathope@vic.chariot.net.au

Post Remittances to:

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

Or use PayPal electronic funds transfer on www.gdt.org.au



Newsletter of the Great Dividing Trail Association
PO Box 429 Daylesford Vic 3460

Member Name
Street Address
City, Postcode