GDTA POST

Reg. AOO27059N

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

Volume 2015 **Issue 4** **December 2015**

Launch of the first water tank for the Goldfields Track. October 16. 2015

Christmas wrap up

GDTA's 2015 year was very much influenced by our joint hosting of Bushwalking Victoria's Federation Walks weekend, centred around Daylesford. GDTA ran 7 walks while our co-hosts, Bayside Bushwalking Club ran 13 walks and ably organised the full logistics of the two days.

The GDTA program of 12 walks for the year included "dry runs" of the 7 Federation walks.

GDTA president Barry Golding trekked across to Bayside territory to attend organising committee meetings and was last seen at the Federation Walk dinner (see pic).

He sends his Christmas Greetings to all GDTA members and supporters via a remarkable facsimile discovered by the editor on a lawn in tropical Queensland.

Federation walks weekend thankyou

Dear Barry

On behalf of Bushwalking Victoria and the Victorian bushwalking community, I would like to congratulate and thank you and your club for your part in organising and conducting a most successful and enjoyable Federation walks weekend. There were 348 acceptances from a wide variety of clubs all over Victoria, which is a new record for recent Federation events.

I know that an enormous amount of planning and hard work goes into an event like this, and that a very large number of people give their time and expertise over more than 18 months, to make it all happen.

Bayside and Great Dividing Trail Association presented an interesting, varied and engaging walks program, backed by a professional standard walks booklet. The organisation of the entire weekend was flawless, the venue was excellent, the entertainment outstanding, and the whole weekend left everyone who attended happy.

Please thank on my behalf, all of the members of your club who contributed to the success of this weekend – all the committee members, walk leaders 'tail end Charlies', support staff, and everyone else who gave their time and commitment.

Thank you again for an excellent weekend.

Yours sincerely

Tony Walker, President

Bushwalking Victoria Inc. A0002548Y ABN 88 344 633 037 | PO Box 1007 Templestowe Victoria 3106
T: 03 8846 4131 | F: 03 9846 7473 | admin@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

Water tank launched

GDTA, in conjunction with Coliban Water, have financed and installed a 12,000L water tank on the Goldfields Track in the Mandurang area, adjacent to the Coliban water channel. This is the first watering point we've negotiated and is a short distance from a Parks Victoria designated overnight camp site

The tank was officially launched on 16th October. Representatives of Goldfields Tourism, Goldfields Track Inc, Bendigo Council, Bendigo Information Centre, Bendigo and Castlemaine mountain bikes clubs and GDTA attended. Goldfields Tourism Committee Chair, Peter Skilbeck gave a short speech then there was a ceremonial turning on of the tap and water tasting, followed by a light lunch and chance to mingle. Castlemaine Rocky Riders Andy Bos and Paula Ewing (Tread Café, Harcourt), rode to the event, providing photo opportunities as they obligingly crossed, and recrossed, the water channel.

Goldfields Track now on facebook

It's interesting to see who's been and what's been happening on the track.
https://www.facebook.com/goldfieldstrack

GPX File Downloads from the GDTA Website

As reported by our web master Bill Casey.

	Sep 2015	Oct 2015	Nov 2015	TOTALS
Wallaby-Mt Buninyong to Daylesford	50	53	60	**163**
Dry Diggings-Daylesford to Castlemaine	54	48	45	**147**
Leanganook-Castlemaine to Bendigo	29	33	42	**104**
The Monk to Chewton Link	14	28	37	**79**
Leanganook Camp Ground Links	20	30	39	**89**
Ararat Circuit Walk	15	27	41	**83**
TOTAL DOWNLOADS	**182**	**219**	**264**	

Last issue had the Dry Diggings Track quarterly download as 1259 – this was a typo – it was 125!

Alpine National Park

Volunteer Track Ranger Program

Iris Curran at Parks Victoria, Mount Beauty can provide further information, iriscurran@parks.vic.gov.au

(03) 5754 4693

When	Details
New Year's period 30 December 2015 – 03 January 2016	Track Rangers are volunteers who walk and camp along popular tracks during peak holidays providing a presence by Parks Victoria in key visitation areas and providing hikers with up-to-date park information.
Labour Day Long Weekend 10-14 March 2016 Easter 24-28 March 2016	Participating in the track ranger volunteer program is a great way to help Parks Victoria by providing a presence and friendly contact point at campsites and trails in the Victorian Alps, promoting minimal impact techniques to improve awareness of park environment and providing visitors with up-to-date park information. **Where?** The program will run on Mount Bogong, Mount Feathertop, the Alpine Crossing between Falls Creek and Mount Hotham and possibly Mount Buffalo. **What key skills are needed?** You will need a strong experience in remote area hiking and camping, high level of fitness, positive attitude, strong communication and interpersonal skills, a valid first aid certificate and must be willing to camp out for a minimum of 3 nights in remote Alpine areas. Volunteers may apply as couples or singles, in which case you will be paired up with a second track ranger to ensure safety. Volunteers must be fully self-sufficient.

To express interest or for further information please call or email

Iris Curran at Parks Victoria, Mount Beauty – E iriscurran@parks.vic.gov.au T (03) 5754 4693

Rogaining the track

The Victorian Rogaining Association held a foot rogaine and a cyclogaine on parts of the Goldfields track in November. The course planners took the opportunity to introduce the GDTA and the Goldfields Track to seasoned and relatively new bush users. The information sign re the founding of the trails was a checkpoint and the Wombat Station shelter was another. They even cleaned the information sign as it had a layer of grime and fungus.

Streamers were attached to the locations before the event to help the persons placing the checkpoints select the correct spot, then removed. http://vra.rogaine.asn.au

GDTA 2016 Walks Program: February – June

When finalised, the complete program will be emailed to members and put on the GDTA web site

GDTA financial members walk at no cost other than your annual subscription.

Visitors are welcome. You must be reasonably fit and able to walk the distance listed for the walk and be able to tackle reasonable uphill sections. You must become a Temporary GDTA Member (for one day only – by signing a form on the day) so that you are covered by insurance.

In the one calendar year, visitors can have up to three walks as a Temporary Member, at a fee of $5.00 per walk, after which they must become a Financial Member before walking again with GDTA. The Temporary Member fees will count towards payment of the first year's subscription. For further information on any walk email to gdtatrail@gmail.com by the Tuesday before the walk.
NOTE: Give your phone number so we can contact you if walk arrangements change.

Walks are listed on http://www.gdt.org.au, and reminders emailed to members in the preceding week.

SUNDAY 21 FEB	Twilight Walk: Tea on the Track Lake Daylesford-Bryces Flat Circuit	Medium	10	Alison Lanigan Brian Lanigan	a_lanigan2@bigpond.com	0409 583 303
SUNDAY 20 MARCH	Harcourt Cidery, Mt Alexander circuit	Medium	10	Barb Guerin Lionel Jenkins	gdtaedits@gmail.com	0411 265 305
SUNDAY 24 APRIL	Old Koala Park, Mt Alexander circuit	Medium	12	Caroline Bellair	cmgbellair@gmail.com	0417 113 490
SUNDAY 22 MAY	Spargo Creek circuit, Wombat State Forest	Medium	15	Ron Pearce	ronkath@hotmail.com	0439 034 474
SUNDAY 26 JUNE	Chewton – Eureka Reef – Herons Reef	Medium	15.5	Colin Hancock	collin3.hancock@bigpond.com	0429 433 045

- In February and March the walks will be on the THIRD SUNDAY of the month.
- Other walks will be on the FOURTH SUNDAY of the month.
- The BWV Federation Walk Weekend is the SECOND weekend in October (8-9th). To be organised by Wimmera Bushwalking Club.

2015 Walk Reports

Walk 11 Tarilta Gorge Walk Sunday 27th September

15 adventurous souls gathered on Porcupine Ridge Road on the morning of the nicest day in spring (so far). Richard our fearless leader had an adventure course set out for us and away we went, southerly on the Goldfields Track. We reached a high point for views of Mt Franklin and then descended into the gorge, quite steep in places as demonstrated by Richard when he demonstrated the wrong way to descend, he was shaken and stirred but fit to continue.

We reached the bottom of the gorge on the Tarilta Creek which, surprisingly was showing a trickle of flow. We rested a while to regather our faculties & then walked north along the broadish and picturesque valley, crossing & re-crossing the creek. At an obscure eastern creek let we ascended to a lovely waterfall devoid of water, the few who have seen it flow, swear by its loveliness.

Richard then led us back up the valleys to Porcupine ridge Road where we had a leisurely lunch. We crossed the road into a veritable jungle of re-growth from a recent controlled(?) burn, we abandoned the choicest route for one that involved a lot less prickle & scratch down a dry water course. The Goldfields Track was soon found, those of little faith heaved a sigh of relief & Robert led the charge back to the cars.

Many wildflowers, particularly the many varieties of wattle were observed & photographed along the way and a fine time was had by all.

Ed Butler

Walk 12 Linton Forest - 15 November 2015

The final GDTA walk for the year took place in the State Forest north of Linton, with nine members and five very welcome visitors (courtesy of Merrin).

The 17 km walk was mainly on easy 4wd tracks which gave plenty of opportunity for conversation – a usual pleasant feature of our walks!

We had great weather and after a quick look around the excellent Linton Community Precinct at the Rail Trail entry point, we walked along the rail trail before turning off to start the walk proper, passing the Candlestick Mine area to our (always much-awaited) morning tea stop.

It was a sobering experience as we sat around the memorial and small white cross erected to the memory to the five brave CFA volunteers who tragically lost their lives in the 1998 wildfire.

After looping south through the Nuggetty mining area and then to the northern extremity of the route for lunch, we headed back toward Linton on the eastern side of the forest, finishing with a leisurely 3km along the rail trail.

Then to the 19th hole! We met up again for a very pleasant afternoon tea (thanks to the GDTA) at the Smythesdale Courthouse hotel with plenty of goodies and refreshments on offer.

Colin Hancock

Pictures from a Federation Walk (or two)

Mollongghip walk: A line of 16 walkers snaking down to Cave Creek to head-off track down the gully towards Barkstead, Group at the wall of the Barkstead stamping battery, which is hidden in forest, GDTA leader. Photos: Gib Wettenhall

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS AND RENEWALS	AMOUNT
• **Single Membership** $30.00 per annum	
• **Family Membership** two family members, $45.00 per annum	
• **Additional participating family member** $20.00	
• **Concession Membership** (with Pensioner Card) SINGLE $25.00 per annum, FAMILY $40 per annum	
• **Corporate Membership** (Other walking clubs, businesses, other organisations) $50.00 per annum	
PUBLICATIONS	
• **SPECIAL OFFER. GOLDFIELDS TRACK WALKING GUIDE** (Mt Buninyong to Bendigo) and 3 Goldfields Track maps (Wallaby Tk, Dry Diggings Tk, Leanganook Tk) $45.00 includes postage & handling	
• **GOLDFIELDS TRACK WALKING GUIDE** (Mt Buninyong through to Bendigo) $29.95 includes postage & handling	
• **WALLABY TRACK MAP** (Buninyong - Ballarat - Daylesford) $7.50 includes postage & handling	
• **DRY DIGGINGS TRACK MAP**(Daylesford-Castlemaine) $7.50 includes postage & handling	
• **LEANGANOOK TRACK MAP** (Castlemaine–Bendigo**)** $7.50 includes postage & handling	
DONATION TO GDTA for Track Construction and Maintenance	$
TOTAL	$

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION		
Name/s		
Postal Address		
Phone	Mobile	Email
We will email news & track updates and the quarterly edition of POST to you. If no email address is given we will post your POST !		
Membership enquiries to gdtatrail@gmail.com or P O Box 429 Daylesford Vic 3460		

Post all payments to: GDTA Treasurer, P O Box 429 Daylesford VIC 3460

Or use PayPal electronic funds transfer via Membership and Online Shop link on www.gdt.org.au

Federation Walk: Blow Hole – Bald Hill. Photos by Meredith and Jill, Melbourne Bushwalkers