

GDTA POST



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Newsletter of the Great Dividing Trail Association

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

Volume 2014

Issue 2

June 2014



Hut remains near Tubal Cain Mine, Vaughan Springs Walk 15 June

President's report



Happy Winter (which has arrived very late). I hope GDTA members and families have taken advantage of the record mild May weather in 2014 to explore the track as well, like me, to get the unseasonal weeds out of their gardens. The best way to explore the track is via the Goldfields Track guide. Remember that it makes an excellent (indeed, award winning) present for any occasion.

Very good news. The longest running agenda item on GDTA's books is much closer to being resolved. Anyone who has walked from Creswick township to St Georges Lake on the Wallaby Track section of the Goldfields Track will know that you take your life in your hands to safely cross the road bridge over the Creswick Creek. Hepburn Shire have not only put money for *designing* a solution (a new pedestrian bridge) but also for *building* it, maybe next year. Watch this space.

While not now on the current Goldfields Track, a part of the Canadian Forest in the Mt Clear area between Buninyong and Ballarat, which is coming back into public management (after a private pine cropping exercise), has the potential to be used for a range of alternatives including walking and mountain biking. Thanks to members Gib Wettenhall and Neil McCracken for keeping us informed. Again, watch this space.

You may have heard that Ed Butler is extending his volunteering to pull weeds on a tiny Bass Strait island off Flinders Island; he says in part to explore the possibility of using it as a stepping stone for a southern extension of our track network to Australia's 'south island'. Don't hold your breath

Finally, we depend on active engagement of members to lead walks. Part of our risk management requires us to have up to date First Aid certificates. We recently ran a refresher day for the members who completed their certificate in 2012 and we plan to run another course for beginners this year. If you are interested in getting one to help us supervise walks, contact Alison Lanigan @ gdtatrail@gmail.com or phone her on 0477 968 579.

Thanks to the members who share their knowledge with us. We welcome your reports/gps data/photos of locations about vandalism or damage to posts and signage, and new member Dean Anthony is quickly

becoming well known for his reports. In this issue Elwyn Davies writes about his walks in the Lerderberg area and Merrin McTaggart has organised a write-up of her recent Great Ocean Walk with mates.

Sincere thanks for continuing to support GDTA with your membership, and thanks to the excellent elected office bearers that do the heavy lifting, particularly Alison.

Barry Golding, GDTA President

First Aid Course for members – Book Now!

As part of GDTA's approach to risk management we hope to train several more members in First Aid. (We hope you never need to use it). It doesn't matter if you aren't a regular walker – come and do it with us in a fun environment. You might need that bit of knowledge one day when you're at home or out walking by yourself or with friends. If you've got a partner or children or grandchildren, then it's important to do some training. If you're out in the bush it's vital, because even with a basic qualification you can help yourself or someone else.

It's **FREE** – part-subsidised by Bushwalking Victoria, and oriented to the everyday and bushwalking experience.

Saturday 6 September and Saturday 20 September.

Venue = Creswick Heritage Railway Station.

- We'll provide morning and afternoon tea and lunch.
- We'll provide you with a textbook and class materials.
- All you need to bring is a writing stick.

Any and all enquiries to Alison:

email gdtatrail@gmail.com or 0477 968 579



Vaughan Springs walk leader Ivan attends to an injury

First Aid Course in April 2014 – Glowing report

The day was a glorious one and the last before daylight saving changed us back to normality. Yellow tailed black cockatoos called to each other as if to remind us the reasons we were doing this: to go out into the bush and enjoy the beauty with a greater sense of safety, group support and confidence.

There was a lot to cover: CPR, bandaging, and who can forget Drs ABCD, the compliant Little Annes and our surprisingly helpful fellow aiders stoically suffering painless broken bones, concussion, diabetes, hypo and hypers (not hypas!!) and bloodless gushing wounds, which Lynton had so thoughtfully planned for each of us. You may be cheered to know we all survived our temporary injuries; passed our tests and are now action ready.

We would like to encourage you all to learn or brush up on your first aid skills and join us in the rarefied group of the 3% of Australians who know basic first aid. You can learn, as did we, how to prioritise injuries and administer first aid. And also learn such indispensable gems as: when we are 1% dehydrated we feel thirsty; at 5% dehydration we become disorientated and incoherent, and the best treatment is frequent, little sips of slightly sweetened water; and that 92% of women wash their hands after going to the toilet; see if you can guess what percentage of men do?

Many thanks to Alison for organising the delicious food, yummy hot cross buns, fruit and baguettes, the venue and the whole day; my fellow participants (Barb, Lionel, Caroline, Brian, Alison and Neville) for being so welcoming to me (the newbie) and for being so forbearing in the face of such grotesque injuries (not), and to Lynton for being so knowledgeable and honing our learning with the reality of the bush in mind.

And now for the answer: 30%. Let's hope that GDTA members are in the 30%. If not, it's time for you to move into that group!

Anita Hoare



Welcome to New Members

Dean Anthony
Stephen Courtney
Mary Dunne

Many thanks to new member Dean Anthony who reported damage at Slaty Creek Creswick, giving a very clear location with photo, and for his attempt to temporarily fix it. The maintenance team were alerted.

2014 Committee

President	Barry Golding
Vice-President	Gib Wettenhall
Secretary/Public Officer	Alison Lanigan
Treasurer	Brian Lanigan
Land Manager Liaison	
▪ Goldfields Track	Alison Lanigan, Bill Casey,
▪ Lerderderg Track	Barry Golding
Maintenance	Ed Butler, Bill Casey, Neville Fraser
Membership	Alison Lanigan
Minutes Secretary	Caroline Bellair
Newsletter	Barb Guerin, Lionel Jenkins
Publications & Promotions	Gib Wettenhall Ed Butler (Bulk Orders)
Track Liaison- Lerderderg	Barry Golding
Track Surveyor	Bill Casey
Walks Program	Neville Fraser
Webmaster	Bill Casey

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

GDTA email => Alison
gdtatrail@gmail.com

GDTA mobile => Alison
0477 968 579

Bushwalking Victoria's FED 2014: Rawson and Surrounds

The Federation Walks Weekend is an annual event open to all club members and individual members. BWV has over 70 affiliated clubs (including GDTA) and approximately 200 individual members. This year the weekend event will be held on the **7th to 9th November 2014**.

In recent years the Federation Walks event has been a single day event. BWV has encouraged host clubs to run the event over a weekend to make it more accessible to clubs from across Victoria. The event offers the opportunity for like-minded individuals to participate in walks led by local walk leaders with an intimate knowledge of their local area.

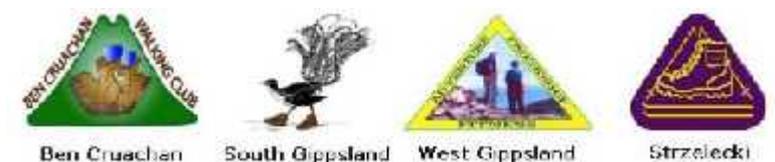
FED 2014 is being held in Rawson and its surrounds. Rawson is located 170 kilometres (two hours) east of Melbourne in Victoria's Gippsland Region. The event will offer walks in the Baw Baw National Park, in and around the historic gold mining town of Walhalla and surrounding areas.

VENUE: Rawson Village, Pinnacle Drive, Rawson, Victoria, 3825

The weekend will be a fully catered event with a variety of accommodation packages available.

Your host clubs for the weekend are the:-

- Ben Cruachan Walking Club
- South Gippsland Walking and Adventure Club
- Strzelecki Bushwalking Club
- West Gippsland Bushwalking Club



Go to www.fedwalks.org.au for all the information

GOLDFIELDS TRACK DIVERSION: St Georges Lake, Creswick:

The Goldfields Track will be diverted around St Georges Lake, Creswick, in preparation for a multi-million dollar project that will rebuild the lake's 100-year-old dam wall. The lake will be drained to undertake the works and it is hoped that the project will be completed during the summer of 2014-2015. In the meantime diversions will be in place. Notices will be placed at strategic points when the diversions are in place.

The attached map shows the Open Walking Tracks (purple), the Goldfields Track Diversion (yellow), the Closed Track (red) and the No Entry Construction Site. Parks Victoria has designed the new dam specifically to retain a popular local walkway across the dam wall and over a series of culverts to be placed in the new, larger, primary spillway.



The current wall is made of compacted earth and will be replaced with a concrete structure and a series of rock layers. Two spillways and a saddle dam will manage water past the picnic area to reduce the chance of a repeat of the gouging of the creek bed that occurred during the recent floods.

Parks Victoria will maintain project information on <http://www.parks.vic.gov.au/stgeorgeslake>



Why are these works needed? Alison's photos from September 2010 say it all!

2014 Walks Program: The Big GDT Circuit

The 2014 **BIG GDT CIRCUIT** comprises one to three circuit walks near each of the GDT townships of Buninyong, Creswick, Daylesford, Castlemaine and Bendigo; followed by four circuits near Blackwood, Bacchus Marsh and in the Wombat State Forest. We're now up to the Castlemaine area.

Walks are graded generally as Medium because of the length or the terrain, but can include some Hard and some Easy sections.

For insurance purposes, each visitor becomes a GDTA *Temporary Member* (for one day only).

In the one calendar year:

- *Financial Members can have as many walks as they like, at no cost other than their annual subscription.*
- *Visitors can have up to three walks as Temporary Members at a fee of \$5.00 per walk. After that they must become Financial Members before they walk again with GDTA.*
- *Temporary Member fees will count towards payment of the first year's subscription.*

Register with the walk leader by Thursday 8.00pm before the walk.

NOTE: Give your phone number so we can contact you if walk arrangements change.

Sundays	Location	Circuit	Leader
6 July 27 July	Castlemaine	Welsh Village Spring Gully Mine	Caroline 0417 113 490 Neville 0418 558 278 or Gib 0419 370 342
17 August 14 September	Bendigo	Wellsford Forest Diamond Hill/Spring Gully/One Tree Hill	Barrie 5449 3286 Richard 0448 572 867
28 September 19 October 2 November	Blackwood Bacchus Marsh	East Walk Figure of Eight Werribee Gorge Centenary Track	Ed 0434 672 392 Richard 0448 572 867 Ron 9338 6994
7-8-9 November	Rawson, Gippsland	BWV Federation Walk	BWV Fed Walk Committee
15 November	Watch this space	Bill's Essendon Marathon	wtcasey@wtcasey.com
23 November	Wombat State Forest	Firth Park, and.... Pig & Whistle Hotel Arvo Tea	Ron 9338 6994 Caroline 0417 113 490

An electronic version of the 2014 program can be downloaded from <http://www.gdt.org.au>

The Big GDT Circuit 2014: Walk Descriptions

They're all *circuit walks, so no car shuffles.*

Walk 8. Sunday 6 July – Welsh Village

Walk approx 10-12 km through the goldfields along the Goldfields Track through the rugged ranges to the north of Chewton, starting from the remains of the magnificent Garfield Wheel. Walk past more modern slate mines to the incredible landscape surrounding the Welsh Village, a goldfields mining settlement, peopled predominantly by Welsh miners from the 1860's onwards. Many pounds of gold were removed from the mostly deep shaft mine; many remains and ruins to see. Return via ridges and pine forests.

Walk 9. Sunday 27 July – Spring Gully Mine

Approx 12 km - walk among mullock heaps and remains of one of the most famous mines near Castlemaine, operating from the 1850s to 1930s. The circuit takes in the deeply eroded Cobblers Gully (a product of sluicing), a stone walled paddock for mine horses and the summit of The Monk. Heading back through forest on Dingo Park Rd, we will visit the ruin of a substantial stone chimney for crushing quartz.

Walk 10. Sunday 17 August – Wellsford Forest

Approx 12 km, through open grassland forest with Ironbark eucalypts, on wide forest roads.

Walk 11. Sunday 14 September Diamond Hill etc

Approx 14km circuit walk, taking in the Diamond Hill Historic Reserve and the One Tree Hill Lookout and passing by the La Trobe University campus. Approx 6.5km is along the Leanganook Track.

Walk 12 Sunday 28 September – East Walk

Through the rugged Lerderderg Gorge from O'Brien's Crossing, a steep ascent is followed by a long descent along a rugged ridge to the Lerderderg River. The track follows the route forged by goldminers. The walk has steep bits and is quite long (17km) but very rewarding with scenery and wildlife.

Walk 13. Sunday 19 October – Figure of Eight

A 14km medium-easy walk encompassing the Whipstick Circuit Walk and the Heritage River Walk – in the valleys of Lerderderg River, Back Creek and Whipstick Creek. Some 6km follows the Lerderderg Track.

Walk 14. Sunday 2 November – Werribee Gorge

The area known as “The Island” in the Werribee Gorge State Park was opened up to the public several years ago. Tree planting has taken place to overcome the bare look and a new track enables walkers to get to “the island” safely and enjoy more of this bush area so close to Melbourne.

We'll climb through The Quarry before making our way to the Park entrance. We see ruins of an old homestead before leaving the Circuit Track to follow a fence line around the Park perimeter. We cross Myrning Creek and climb to the top of “The Island” where there is a circuit walk to take in the 360° views. Descending the island, we follow Myrning Creek to Junction Pool for lunch, then continue on Centenary Track and climb to the junction with Short Circuit Track. Then downhill to return to the Werribee River.

Walk 15. Sunday 23 November – Firth Park

Firth Park is situated just off Firth Road, deep within the Wombat State Forest. It has facilities for camping, picnicking and barbeques, with old forestry equipment for children to play on. With plenty of parking, the park is an ideal base for bushwalking around the Wombat State Forest.

This walk circuits the forest, making use of logging tracks and roads. Some of the tracks have been badly eroded and the deep holes left by off road vehicles can be filled with water after rain. These are easily avoided although boots are recommended. There are no steep climbs involved, just a few undulations.

We'll finish up at the *Pig and Whistle* for our end-of-year celebration afternoon tea

**Big GDT Circuit: Walk Reports****Walk 3 – Sunday 23 March – Mt Beckworth**

Brian Lanigan was our leader on a cool autumn morning. After meeting in Clunes we drove to the car park beside a large completely dry dam near the north east corner of the Mt Beckworth Scenic Reserve. We walked approx. 2km along a gravel vehicle track to the Manna Gums picnic area before heading up the side of the mount with lots of short steep climbs to our morning tea stop above The Oval.

The next section took us to the top of the mount (Trig Pt 634m) and the lone pine tree planted in 1918.



Along the way we viewed a wedge-tailed eagle circling overhead, an echidna “hiding” from the human intruders in long dry grass, and many flowering manna gums. From the top, the Waubra wind farm was off to the south west, highly visible though it wasn't a sunny day; 128 towers in total.

After lunch beneath the pine tree, we returned through large numbers of old messmate stringybarks and then down the steepest section of the walk, past the location of an old feldspar mine (feldspars being common minerals in the granite rock) until we reached the plantation of Cork Oaks.

The last section of the walk took us past our morning tea site and back to the cars – Brian had kept a few more hills both down and up for this last section! The walk party of 18 had an interesting and energetic ramble around Mt Beckworth. Our thanks to Brian and Alison (who was unable to start but joined us for morning tea) for their excellent planning for this most enjoyable walk

Richard Piesse

Walk 4 – Sunday 13 April – Creswick Waters

This 16km walk, led by Alison and Brian, followed parts of the Wallaby Track in the Creswick Regional Park. It took in the man-made water features of St Georges Lake (built as a mining dam for the Creswick State Battery), Blue Waters (a disused gravel pit), and Cosgrove Reservoir. The pictures tell the story.



Blue Waters, the huge pit in the gold diggings area named Portuguese Pit. The water is usually green or aqua, sometimes blue or grey



St Georges Lake looking towards the end that will never look like this again.



Below: Cosgrove Reservoir



Walk 5 – Sunday 4 May – Sailors Creek

This walk was memorable on several fronts – two of which involved negotiating route changes and one of which directly usurped the authority of leader Gib Wettenhall.

At the outset, Gib gave the small but select group the choice of travelling clockwise or anti-clockwise. He told them the Goldfields Track along the east side was well-graded, contouring along a water race – much easier than the rough and broken west side that in some places required scrambling over fallen trees. The group decided to take on the hard part first and tough it out on the west side.

When we tramped downhill into the designated halfway point of Bryces Flat, complaints arose



that the west side hadn't been much of a challenge at all. Stephen Courtenay and Helen Brown convinced the group to lobby the leader to add an extra 3km to the circuit by extending it to the Blowhole.

Serendipitously, the Blowhole and its cascading water proved a refreshing backdrop for lunch. So refreshed was Neville Fraser that he and his new hip took off after lunch and weren't sighted again until we made it back to the Lake Daylesford car park.

The rest of the group stuck loyally to the leader, although by the last steep set of stairs on the by now 18km walk, some of the group grumbled that the east side was proving far more challenging than the west.



Scrambling Sailors Creek

All ended well, however, with coffee, hot chocolate, sticky cakes and ice cream at the Book Barn Café. Even Neville was there to enjoy that moment.



Steep stairs, Wombat Creek

Walk 6 – Sunday 25 May – Chocolate Mill

On Sunday 25 May fourteen walkers arranged to meet at 9.30 am outside the Chocolate Mill north of Daylesford. We departed on our walk, all formalities dealt with, at 9.31 am. How punctual is that!

It was a beautiful walk of about 10km along the Goldfields Track to Jackson's Lookout, then some scrambling and bush bashing on the way back to Hunt's dam, followed by an old four wheel drive track and the Goldfields track to finish.

The walk was Ed's, though led by Caroline, and Ed gave us the benefit of his extensive knowledge of the mining history of the area which greatly added to our interest.

The weather was pleasant, cloudy but no rain.

On the walk back we were encouraged on our weary way by visions of the hot chocolates, cakes and ice creams awaiting us at the Chocolate Mill. Their chocolates are to die for, though expensive, and we can get 10% off the price of the chocolates as locals.

Caroline Bellair



Note the Hi- Vis vest. Become a GDTA walk leader and you can wear one too!

Walk 7 – Sunday 15 June – Vaughan Springs

GDTA member Ian McLean, also President of Essendon Bushwalking Club, led us on a marvellous circuit from Vaughan Springs south via the Tubal Cain mining complex to Sailors Gully then east to Glen Luce, then along the Loddon River back to Vaughan. 17 km in total, easily achieved by the 14 walkers – about 50:50 members and visitors.



GDTA walkers looking for chocolates Jacksons Lookout, near Hepburn Springs



A Cornish flue or hillside chimney, Tubal Cain Mine



The homeward leg – Next to the Loddon River

Gold – Lost and Gained

The following words were sent from GDTA to Peter Dingle, former president, The Golden Trail.

It was so very disappointing to read that The Golden Trail has folded after the many years you spent trying to develop the trail from Robe to Bendigo. Most of our committee members would remember you speaking to us about your desire to develop the trail and your plans for engaging the many communities along the route. I remember that we viewed it as a mammoth project but we recognised your passion and vision and energy and we hoped that, given time and support, you'd see the trail launched.

On behalf of our committee I thank you sincerely for your generous and thoughtful offer to donate the remaining funds to the GDTA. Alison Lanigan, Secretary/Public Officer

We would like to let you know that we are a residential yoga ashram that can provide accommodation, meals and a yoga program for those wishing to stay overnight or longer during their trek.

I have taken the opportunity to let you know our website and if possible we could be included in the accommodation list for both Daylesford & Creswick areas.

Our website is www.yogavic.org.au

From time to time we do have groups stay. Usually they already know of the ashram and its facilities. Thank you and if this request is possible we look forward to hearing from you.

Blessings of peace, joy and inspiration.

Hari Om

Swami Atmamuktananda

SATYANANDA YOGA - Rocklyn Ashram

A yoga ashram offering traditional aspects of yoga through wellbeing programs and accredited learning.

Now identifiable! Mosses of Dry Forests

The Friends of Box Ironbark Forests have published a wonderful “beginners guide” to common and “eye-catching” moss species to be seen in north central Victoria (and further).

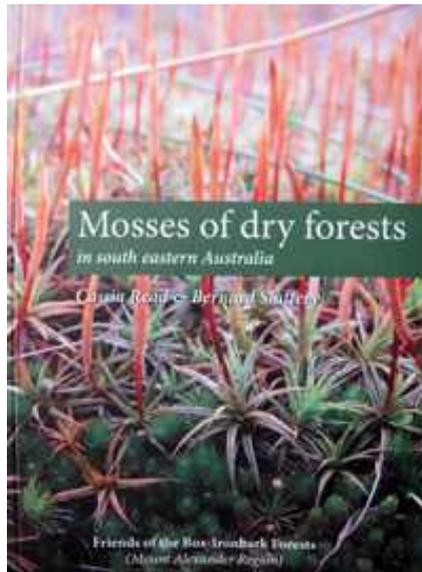
There is a special price for Landcarers, Field Naturalists and VNPA members: \$10 plus \$2 postage and handling.

This discounted price includes GDTA members.

To buy the book post a cheque to:

Friends of the Box Ironbark Forests
PO Box 322 Castlemaine 3450
and include your address details.

There is more information on the book and direct deposit details on the Friends of the Box-Ironbark website (fobif.org.au).



Moss. From a distance it appears as a green smudge in the landscape: on rocks, between grasses, in gutters and brickwork, even on trees. But come closer: a micro world of amazing variety in colours, shapes and textures is there. It's an ancient world, of beautiful plants which play a key role in the health and preservation of our soils.

Here's a glimpse of this little known part of the plant kingdom. Written for students and absolute beginners, it's technically accurate but free of technical language.

And it's generously illustrated. Come down. Have a look.



Family Nature Walks in the Wombat Forest

Become bush detectives and discover what's new in the bush this season.

Join naturalist Tanya Loos and nature educator Jen Bray for a series of family orientated short walks. **Family Nature walks** centre on the seasonal happenings of flora and fauna in a number of special places in the Wombat forest.

BYO drinks, snacks, weather protective gear and wear sturdy shoes.
Suitable for families with primary-aged children and older.
Saturdays at 2pm.

Email Jen Bray for meeting location: bray_jen@hotmail.com

Based on Tanya Loos's book *Daylesford Nature Diary; six seasons in the foothill forests*

(Saturday) May 10th Autumn Fungi fun at Blackwood
(Saturday) July 12th (last weekend of the School Holidays) Winter Ferny Forest at Nolan's Creek
(Saturday) September 6th Early Spring First flowers at the Blowhole
(Saturday) November 8th True Spring Wildflowers at Tipperary
(Saturday) December 20th Early Summer baby birds at Jubilee Lake

GDTA Members' Walk Reports from elsewhere

The Great Ocean Walk

A seven-day, 6 -night walking trip embarked upon by GDTA members Merrin McTaggart (trip planner and map reader) and Liz Goga (caterer); occasional GDTA walkers Sam Cockfield (shuttle driver) and Jenny Hogan (trip photographer) and 3 friends - Angie Altair (trip journalist), Nola Wilson (entertainer and shuttle driver) and Sue Clifford (daily walk notes and poet).

The Great Ocean Walk is great in every sense: the scenery is breathtaking, it's a great way to make new friends and deepen your friendship with old ones, and it's a reminder of the great job our army of volunteers and dedicated park rangers do to protect and educate us about the value and beauty of our national parks.

The windy, hilly coastal trek traces the craggy surf coast of Victoria from Apollo Bay to the Twelve Apostles and takes in two national parks: the Cape Otway and Twelve Apostles. It is ideal for first-time hikers.. and a great way to shed a few kilos and get fit!

For our six day hike we opted to make daily forays from our excellent base camp near the Otway light-house, Bimbi Park – "Camping under Koalas" and got shuttled to our finishing point each day by a knowledgeable, friendly driver named Lee. We'd leave our van at the finish-line then Lee would drive us to the start of our daily walk. This ranged in distance from about 14 to 27 kms. Bimbi is set in a fine park of manna gums and yes we saw plenty of Australia's famous marsupial. In fact they're so plentiful in these parts they've stripped a neighbouring forest bare! Returning to our comfy cabins for a hot shower and banquet-style meal each night, cooked by top cooks in our party, and all washed down by plenty of wine and beer, made our trek all the more memorable.



We'd set off at daybreak, tramping up and down hills moderate or steep, interspersed with lots of hiking through open country and ti-tree covered dunes. We had to clean our boots at several boot scraping stations, especially at the entrance to a forest of grass trees: the gorgeous native flora that are most vulnerable to the cinnamon fungus disease. You cross this undulating bit entirely on a specially built boardwalk, better to enjoy the primeval beauty of the 'black boys'. How sad to learn this exquisite natural wonderland is so threatened.

Every day offered a new unforgettable experience: lurching on a remote sandy beach, rock-scrambling, taking shelter in forest camps. The ocean view from the loo at the Devil's Kitchen campsite is incomparable! One morning we ran into a forest-dwelling artist blowing giant bubbles! The seven of us (we started with six with Samantha joining us midway) had a ball: laughing, joking, and singing as we hiked. The camaraderie and sheer *joie-de-vivre* was palpable and lasting.

They say it's better to travel than to arrive. By the time we reached the busy carpark of the Twelve Apostles, swarming with tourists and packed with tour buses and cars, we wanted to turn back, hankering for the solitude and beauty of the track!

Angela Altair



STOP PRESS!

Rare sighting in Creswick's Koala Park.

Reported by Ron Pearce.

Yankee Creek / Lerderderg Gorge / January 2014

Elwyn Davies has lived in the Western Suburbs since the 80s and has always looked for weekend walks mostly on the Western side of Melbourne. He has led his children on expeditions to Werribee Gorge and now that they are older he has found the Lerderderg a great source of enjoyment and challenge for himself and the kids when they can be persuaded. He has been covering the Gorge and the Great Dividing Trail in the last year over winter and summer. Elwyn says it is a great area to walk in and thankfully not overly used or abused. He also walked in Tasmania last year to Cradle Mountain, Lake Field and Bruny. He enjoys walks in the colder weather, rain included. He thinks it must be the Welsh blood.

In theory a "nice" 8km walk that starts and finishes in Blackwood. Our party of 5 was fooled by its benign appearance on the map. The walk out along water races past Shaws Lake on the eastern side of Yankee Creek was jungle-like. The track was not visible except with use of GPS and there were many fallen trees. Gaiters highly recommended.

We reached the river crossing and then made our return journey. Mostly OK for the first 2 km then down to the creek side. Brambles galore. We were forced onto the river bed until we reached Whalebone Road. Luckily very little water in the creek bed. There was plenty of evidence of stone walls along the creek bed

A very overgrown track with many brambles in spots. It is hardly worth walking and I suspect it will be completely impassable next year

O'Brien's Crossing / Ah Kow / Bacchus Marsh / March 2014 (Overnight)

Having been walking around the area for the last year I became slightly obsessed with walking down the Lerderderg River bed but I nearly bit off more than I could chew with this one. We started just before 10am on a Saturday morning intending to make for Ah Kow and stop there for the night before pressing on to at least the weir.

We followed the river bed which is nice and low at this time of year with remaining pockets of water dotted along the way. Quite tough going with many log jams, uneven rocks and boulders and large pools forcing us to find a way around occasionally. Our walking speed was quite low.



There were many great passages and beautiful loops and turns of the gorge to see. Saw only one other party on the day. All the walk that day was on riverbed with high walls of gorge either side. The remaining pools of water seemed to be supporting many frogs and small fish. These in turn were attracting white faced herons. Many signs of wallabies at water's edge.

Late in the afternoon we started to get some showers, which made the going treacherous. We slid and slipped for the next hour and decided to make camp between Ah Kow and Bears Head track. Managed to make a reasonable fire and settle in for the night after showers had ceased.

Next morning we decided that discretion was the better part of valour and left the gorge by way of Bears Head Track, joined the GDT and made our way into Bacchus Marsh.

A weekend of stark contrasts. The walk when you leave the park and go down through Darley to Bacchus is a bit underwhelming. Perhaps the GDT could start/finish at MacKenzies Flat Picnic Area

Disappointingly there was much rubbish near O'Brien's Crossing. Local Ranger from Bacchus Marsh who I spoke to on the Monday said it is a constant struggle.

Elwyn Davies





A MESSAGE TO ALL OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE MEMBERS

WE ARE HAPPY TO ADVISE THAT WE CAN NOW ACCEPT BOOKINGS ON ALL OUR BACK PACKING (TRAMPING) AND CYCLING TRIPS IN THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PARTS OF SOUTHERN NEW ZEALAND FOR THE 2015 SEASON

This will be the 29th season that our volunteers have run these low cost trips, and over those years over 17,000 people (mostly Middle Aged) have joined in, shared the adventures, the magic, the fun and the excitement with us. We run the "Freedom Walks" as distinct from the commercial guided walks, that are available on some tracks. Very many people return year after year, until they have done all the trips, and then ask "what new trips can you run" That's a great Testimonial for our project !

Please look at our Web Site for general info and details of each trip with dates, costs, degree of difficulty, photos, etc
www.otagorotarytrusttramps.org.nz (Press Control and Click)

BOOKINGS MUST BE MADE "ON LINE" VIA OUR WEB SITE

Trips planned for 2015

Alps to Ocean Cycle Trail (x4)
 Borland Lodge (x1)
 Catlins-Tautuku Lodge (x1)
 Kepler Track (x1)
 Milford Track (x4)

Mt Aspiring Lodge (x3)
 Otago Central Rail Cycle Trail (x1)
 Rakiura Track (Stewart Island x4)
 Routeburn/Greenstone Track (x3)
 Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track (x1)

AND NEW FOR 2015

CLUTHA GOLD CYCLE TRAIL (x1)

COMBINED ROUTEBURN / KEPLER (x1)

We supply all transport. (Dunedin return), including boats where required, and can also pick up and return in Queenstown for Routeburn trips. We attend to all bookings, supply all food, though you help to carry it, and provide 3 or 4 experienced trampers to give low key Leadership on all trips. You will receive a "gear list" when you book places. A reasonable standard of tramping fitness is essential for all the trips. And we reserve the right to exclude unsuitable people. As we are a Legal non commercial Tramping Club, run by unpaid volunteers, Dept of Conservation demand that we run our trips on a "Cost recovery" basis only. In addition to the trip cost, all participants must become members of our Tramping Club in the year of their trip (\$50) and we request a Voluntary donation of \$60 per trip place. 97% of people give us this.

We are sending this email to several thousands of our general contacts, as well as the Secretaries of NZ Rotary and Lions Clubs, and hope to make contact with Australian Bushwalking Club Members

Regards

The team from The Otago Youth Adventure Trust /Rotary Club of Milton Tramping Club Inc.

Per Peter Vollweiler peter.vollweiler@xtra.co.nz

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Our mailing address is:

The Otago Youth Adventure Trust / Rotaty Club of Milton Tramping Club Inc
 2 Kilgour Street, Waiholo
 PO Box 15014, WAIHOLA, OTAGO 9243, New Zealand

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS AND RENEWALS		AMOUNT
• Family Membership two family members, \$45.00 per annum		
• Additional participating family member \$20.00		
• Corporate Membership (Other walking clubs, businesses, other organisations) \$50.00 per annum		
• Single Membership \$30.00 per annum		
• Concessional Membership \$25.00 per annum (with Pensioner Card)		
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		
• LERDERDERG TRACK MAP (Daylesford – Bacchus Marsh) \$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 374 Creswick Vic 3363		

Post all payments to: GDTA Treasurer, P O Box 374 Creswick Vic 3363

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

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