

# Goldfields Track Q&A's

V.13 \_Sept 2015



## Track Diversions & Closures? Sept 2015

**WALLABY TRACK:** Previous diversion at St Georges Lake, Creswick, NOW OPEN.

**SAILORS FALLS** stairs CLOSED until further notice.

**LEANGANOOK TRACK:** Was diverted between North Harcourt and Springs Road. Some grading still to be done but UNOFFICIALLY OPEN..

**LERDERDERG TRACK:** Take care between Bacchus Marsh---Daylesford - signage issues/ track disrepair. Only experienced walkers with GPS and superior navigation skills should use track.

The **Great Dividing Trail (GDT)** network comprises:

- **Goldfields Track** (comprising the Wallaby, Dry Diggings and Leanganook Tracks; and the University of Ballarat Circuit Track at Mt Helen Campus)
- **Lerderderg Track**
- **Ararat Circuit Track.**

## Maps?

- Buy maps for the three tracks of the Goldfields Track from <http://www.gdt.org.au>, some visitor information centres (see below) or selected sales agents (see website).
- Download Ararat Circuit Track map and Federation University (Ballarat) circuit map @ <http://www.gdt.org.au>
- The Lerderderg Track map has been withdrawn from sale.

## Goldfields Track Walking Guide?

Available from <http://www.gdt.org.au>, some visitor information centres (see below) or sales outlets (see website).

## Goldfields Track (GT) ?

The **Goldfields Track** is the longest shared-use track in Victoria and is a key feature of the GDT network (See also: <http://www.goldfieldstrack.com.au>). The track is shared-use for walkers and mountain bikers. Observe signs for sections that are Walkers Only or Bikes Only.

## Transport?

<http://www.vline.com.au>; <http://www.travelvictoria.com.au>  
<http://www.viclink.com.au>

## Accommodation?

Various types of accommodation (motels, hotels, B&Bs, caravan/campsites) in most townships and near the Track.

## Bush Camping?

- DO NOT camp close to waterways or in dry creek beds.
- Camping is allowed in most national and regional parks, in state forests and at designated campsites.
- No camping on land managed by Central Highlands Water or Coliban Water.
- No camping on private property without prior permission.

## Posts and signage?

On the Track: **Gold** signage and gold-topped posts have replaced most dark green signage and posts.

Near the Track and around townships: **Blue** signs on street posts and blue posts point the way to the track.

## Access?

Several locations provide V-Line (train) or car access; some (but not all) have GDT or Goldfields Track entry signage. Here's a few:

Location	Access point
Mt Buninyong summit	Car park
Buninyong	Warrenheip St
Ballarat	▪ Peel St North ▪ VLine station
Creswick	▪ Slaty Creek campsite ▪ VLine station ▪ Visitor info centre ▪ St Georges Lake
Daylesford	▪ Lake Daylesford ▪ Visitor info centre ▪ Hepburn Springs carpark
Fryerstown	Old school car park:see Campsites
Castlemaine	▪ Visitor info centre ▪ VLine station
Harcourt	▪ Town centre (diversion for mtb cyclists)
Mt Alexander	▪ Leanganook picnic ground
Bendigo	▪ VLine station

## Parks and Forests?

Parts of the Goldfields Track are in national or regional parks and state forests. From south to north, these are:

- Creswick State Forest
- Creswick Regional Park
- Hepburn Regional Park
- Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park
- Mount Alexander Regional Park
- Greater Bendigo National Park & Bendigo Regional Park

## For all information, including Camping, Bushfire Safety, Park and Forest Closures, Road Closures

- In national, state and regional parks: phone 13 1963 or check <http://www.parks.vic.gov.au>
- In state forests (including DEPI Forest Explorer interactive map): phone 13 6186 or check <http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au>

## Motor Bikes & Trail Bikes in Parks and Forests?

Bikes are allowed only on open roads and vehicle tracks that are open for public use.

Trail bikes must be registered and roadworthy.

**All bike riders must be licensed.**

**... WATER !!! ...**

**CARRY plenty of water with you- AT LEAST 2 litres per day in hot weather. See WATER paragraph and CAMPSITES AND PICNIC AREAS..**

## WATER

Leanganook Track rainwater tank. [See map.](#)  
E257617 N5914898. South of Mahoney Lane and North of Blossett Drive on Mandurang South Road, through a gate on the west side.

### Parks Vic campsites on GDTmaps?

#### (South-North) Most have car access ...

- Slaty Creek. Ref 20 GDT Wallaby Track map. OnTrack. Car. 5km Creswick. Pit toilet, fire place, no drinkable water.
- Vaughan Springs. Ref 27 GDT Dry Diggings Track map. Car. Close Track. See also Picnic areas below.
- Chokem Flat Ref 29 DryD iggings Tk map Car. <500m along Campbells Creek Rd. <4km Vaughan Springs. Fire place.
- Leanganook/Koala Park Mt Alexander. Ref 9 New (2012) and old Leanganook Tk map. Car. Near Track. Fire place, toilets. No drinkable water.
- [Coliban Channel Dry Campsite](#), nr Mandurang South Rd, Mandurang South Ref 17 new 2012 map Leanganook Tk map; Ref 13 old map. No car access. Near Track. No water. Rainwater tank nearby.  
E 257617 N 5914898. South of Mahoney Lane and north of Blossett Drive on Mandurang South Rd, through a gate on the west side. [See map.](#)

#### Other campsites with car access?

- Dean Community Hall: Nr Track. Camping, shower, kitchen, ext water point. \$10.00/person. Contact [lizkelly1967@gmail.com](mailto:lizkelly1967@gmail.com) 0412 674 827.
- Mollonghip Community Hall: 2kms Track near Dean. Camping, ext water point, toilet. Kitchen. \$10.00/person. Contact [rhonnie\\_dryne@hotmail.com](mailto:rhonnie_dryne@hotmail.com) (03) 5334 5201.
- Mt Franklin: Parks Vic: 4 kms Track. Pit toilets, fireplaces. No drinkable water.

#### Picnic areas? (Sth-Nth) (No camping!) Car access

##### Wallaby Track

- Mount Buninyong summit. Toilets.
- Buninyong Botanic Gardens. Toilets, water, bbq.
- De Soza Park, Buninyong. Toilets, water, shops.
- Yuille's Station Park Sebastopol. Picnic tables.
- Ditchfield Ln. Picnic tables on Yarrowee River.
- St Georges Lk Creswick. Toilets, bbq, no drinkable water.
- Sailors Falls. Off track Ballan-Daylesford Rd. Mineral water. No toilets.
- Lake Daylesford. Toilets, water, elec bbqs, café.

##### Dry Diggings Track

- Twin Bridges. No facilities.
- Tipperary Springs. Toilets, mineral water with pump.
- Hepburn Springs Car Park. Toilets, water /mineral water, electric bbq, café.
- Vaughan Springs. Electric bbqs, toilets, giant slide.

##### Leanganook Track

- Chewton. Off track in main street. Electric bbq, toilets.
- Expedition Pass. East of track. No facilities.
- Harcourt Stanley Park. Near MTB riders track. Shop, hotel, electric bbq, toilets.

#### CHECK BEFORE YOU WALK?

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

- DELWPI <http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au>
- CFA <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au>
- Parks Victoria <http://www.parks.vic.gov.au>
- GDTA <http://www.gdt.org.au>

- Bureau of Meteorology <http://www.bom.vic.gov.au>
- Bushfire Information Line = 1800 240 667
- Bushfire Information TTY = 1800 122 969

#### ABC warnings in emergencies and extreme weather?

Ballarat 107.9 FM; Bendigo 91.1FM; Melb 774AM.

#### WALKING SAFELY?

- Don't walk on Total Fire Ban days or in extreme weather. Don't walk in low visibility conditions, eg smoke, fog, cloud
- NOTE: Visibility can change quickly on Mt Alexander and Mt Buninyong, where it can become difficult to see posts.
- ALWAYS let a responsible adult know of your planned route and your expected time of return.
- Plan your walk to return well before dark.
- Carry a GDT map or other detailed map WITH the GT Walking Guide, GPS or compass and look for the posts.
- You are walking in goldfields country. Keep to the track to avoid hidden mine shafts.
- If you think you've missed a post, retrace your steps to the last post that you found and check the map.
- Carry a fully-charged mobile phone. NOTE: Coverage is not available on all of track (see Mobile phones below).
- Do not enter private property without permission.
- Know your limitations: Be aware that these are likely to diminish in extreme temperatures and weather.
- Drink plenty of water. See Water above..
- Carry sufficient food and energy snacks to sustain you.
- Wear appropriate clothing but always be prepared for changes in the weather conditions:
  - Always carry a waterproof coat and hat.
  - Wear gloves in cold weather.
- Take sunscreen and insect repellent.
- Wear a whistle on a cord around your neck in case of emergency.
- Carry a First Aid kit and know how to use it.
- Read **Walksafe** on Bushwalking Victoria (BwV) website <http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au>
- Respect the environment. Prevent damage to plants and cultural relics.
- Take out all of your rubbish.

#### Mobile phones?

- Mobile phone coverage isn't always available.
- In an emergency, dial **000**.  
If you don't have reception, dial **112** and your call will be carried by a GSM network if one is available.  
Contact may be possible even if your mobile has been blocked or your security settings have been activated.  
See: <http://www.telstra.com.au>
- There is NO SMS text message emergency service.
- Sometimes SMS text may get through when voice doesn't but there's no guarantee of delivery.  
See Bushwalking Victoria tips p10, July 2011 newsletter <http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au>

#### Visitor Information Centres?

- Bacchus Marsh: 03 5367 7488 (NB: is not a sales outlet)
- Ballarat: <http://www.visitballarat.com.au> 1800 446633
- Buninyong: <http://www.buninyong.vic.au> 035341 8211.
- Bendigo: <http://www.bendigotourism> 1800 813 153
- Castlemaine: <http://www.maldoncastlemaine.com.au> 1800 171 888
- Creswick: <http://www.visitcreswick.com.au> 035345 1114
- Daylesford: <http://www.visitdaylesford.com> 03 5321 6123
- Kyneton: <http://www.visitmacedonranges.com> 03 5422 6110
- Melton: <http://www.melton.vic.gov.au> 03 9747 7300
- Woodend: <http://www.visitmacedonranges.com> 03 5427 2033

