

Goldfields Track FAQs-Info

V.3__November 2011



Track Diversions & Closures (Nov 2011)

During 2010–2011 some of the southern Track suffered significant damage.

Creswick Koala Park: Temporary diversion is still in place.

Daylesford: Tipperary section is open on East side of creek only. Bridge is still out, with minor diversion Twin Bridges-Old Ballarat Rd.

GDT Network

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

- **Goldfields Track**
- **Lerderberg Track** and
- **Ararat Circuit Track.**

Other tracks are being planned or are awaiting final approval by land managers.

GDT Network maps

- The GDTA sells maps for the Lerderberg Track and the three tracks that comprise the Goldfields Track via its website, www.gdt.org.au, using PayPal.
- Information Victoria (80 Collins St Melb, 1300 366 356) and several regional visitor information centres sell maps (see below).
- The Ararat Circuit Track map is being developed and will be freely downloadable from the GDT website.

Goldfields Track

The **Goldfields Track** is the longest shared-use track in Victoria and is a key feature of the GDT Network (See also: www.goldfieldstrack.com.au). Three interlinking tracks make up the Goldfields Track which extends from Mt Buninyong (south of Ballarat) to Bendigo. These are:

- Wallaby Track (previously Federation Track): summit of Mt Buninyong to Daylesford
- Dry Diggings Track: Daylesford to Castlemaine
- Leanganook Track: Castlemaine to Bendigo

The track is shared-use for walkers and mountain bikers.

Observe signs for 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 commercial accommodation (motels, hotels, B&Bs, caravan/campsites) are in townships and near the Track. See also Goldfields Track accommodation partners @ www.goldfieldstrack.com.au and www.gdt.org.au and visitor information centres below.

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.

Gold posts and signage

On the Track: New gold signage and posts with gold tops have replaced the dark green signage and posts. The GDT logo (above) is on posts.

Blue posts and signage

Near the Track and around townships: Blue signs on street posts and blue posts point the way to the track and do not feature the GDT logo.

Access

Several locations provide V-Line 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Peel St North▪ VLine station
Creswick	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Slaty Creek campsite▪ VLine station▪ Visitor info centre▪ St Georges Lake
Daylesford	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Lake Daylesford▪ Visitor info centre▪ Hepburn Springs carpark
Fryerstown	Old school car park:see Campsites
Castlemaine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Visitor info centre▪ VLine station
Harcourt	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Town centre (diversion for mtb cyclists)
Mt Alexander	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Leanganook picnic ground
Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ VLine station

Parks and Forests

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

- 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: www.parks.vic.gov.au or phone 13 1963.

In state forests (including DSE Forest Explorer interactive map): www.dse.vic.gov.au/ or phone 13 6186.

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.

Designated campsites on GDTA maps (South-North)

- Slaty Creek, Creswick. Parks Vic: OnTrack. Car access, 5 kms from Creswick, pit toilets, wood fireplace. No water.
- Vaughan Springs. Parks Vic: Close to Track and picnic ground (see Picnic Areas below).
- Leanganook/Koala Park, Mt Alexander. Parks Vic: Near Track. Car access, fire place, toilets. No drinkable water.
- Coliban Channel, near Springs Rd, Bendigo, Parks Vic: Close to Track. No car access. No water.

Other campsites

- Dean Community Hall: Located near Track between Creswick and Daylesford. Car access, camping, shower/kitchen facilities, external water point. Fee: \$10.00/person donation for hall upkeep. Contact: lizkelly1967@gmail.com (03) 5334 5238.
- Mollonghip Community Hall: Located 2kms from Track near Dean. Car access, camping, external water point, toilet. Kitchen access. \$5.00/person donation towards hall maintenance. Contact: gib@activ8.net.au (03) 5334 5490.
- Mt Franklin: Parks Vic: 4 kms from Track. Car access, pit toilets, fireplaces. No drinkable water.
- Fryerstown Old School: On Track. Fryerstown Community. Car access, camping, external water point, showers, toilets, wood barbeque. Donation for old school restoration fund = \$10.00/person; \$25.00/family/weekend. Meals by arrangement. Contact: ttodhunter@iinet.net.au

Picnic areas (No camping) (South to North)

- Mount Buninyong, City of Ballarat. Car access, toilets.
- Buninyong Botanic Gardens, City of Ballarat. Car access, toilets, water, barbeque.
- De Soza Park, Buninyong. City of Ballarat. Car access, toilets, water, shops.
- St Georges Lake, Creswick. Parks Vic: Car access.
- Sailors Falls. Parks Vic: Car access, toilets, mineral water
- Twin Bridges. Parks Vic. Car access. No facilities.
- Tipperary Springs. Parks Vic: Car access, toilets, mineral water with pump.
- Lake Daylesford. Hepburn Shire Council: Car access, toilets, water, electric barbeques, café.
- Hepburn Springs Car Park. Hepburn Shire Council: Toilets, water and mineral water, electric barbeque, café.
- Vaughan Springs. Parks Vic: On Track. Car access, mineral water (pumps), electric barbeques, toilets, giant slide
- Chewton. In main street. Electric barbeque, toilets.
- Expedition Pass. Parks Vic. On Track. No facilities.
- Harcourt. Stanley Park. Shop, hotel, electric barbeque, toilets.

CHECK BEFORE you walk

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
- Bushfire Information Line = 1800 240 667
- ABC warnings in emergencies and extreme weather:
Ballarat 107.9 FM
Bendigo 91.1 FM
Melbourne 774 am

READ... And WALK 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 may 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 or other detailed map, a GPS or compass and look for the direction 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 camp close to waterways or in dry creek beds.
- 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. Carry at least 2 litres in hot weather.
- 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 wear a hat.
 - Wear gloves in cold weather.
- Take sunscreen and insect repellent.
- Wear a whistle on a cord around your neck in case of emergency.
- Read **Walksafe** on Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) website @ 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 available on all of the track.
- 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: 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 @ www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

Water

Carry plenty of water: at least 2 litres in hot weather.

There is no drinkable water on the track (often no water at all) except at identified campsites/picnic grounds.

Visitor Information Centres

- Bacchus Marsh: www.discoverbacchusmarsh.org 03 5367 7488 (NOTE: Bacchus Marsh does not sell maps)
- Ballarat: www.visitballarat.com.au 1800 446 663
- Buninyong: www.buninyong.vic.au 035341 8211.10-3 Tues-Sun
- Bendigo: www.bendigotourism.com 1800 813 153
- Castlemaine: www.maldoncastlemaine.com.au 1800 171 888
- Creswick: www.visitcreswick.com 035345 1114
- Daylesford: www.visitdaylesford.com 03 5321 6123
- Melton: www.melton.vic.gov.au 9747 7300