

Geotrails — now the go!

With governments around Australia still reviewing and deliberating on the future of geopark development in Australia, another mechanism for the pursuit of geotourism is gaining support — geotrails (geoheritage journeys)! For example, a recent development in Tasmania, the Cradle Coast GeoTrail, has provided an alternative and attractive approach to celebrating geotourism and geological and mining heritage (in Northern and West Coast regions). It has been well received by Tourism Tasmania as a credible strategy to support the 'Tasmania's Island Heritage' National Landscape — see <http://www.cradlecoast.com/literature/Cradle%20Coast%20GeoTrail%20FINAL.pdf>.

Geotrails have been developed within the 'Australia's Coastal Wilderness' National Landscape located along the Southern NSW coastline extending into Victoria — see <http://www.sapphirecoast.com.au/tales-trails/geological-trail/>.



Montreal Goldfield, Sapphire Coast geoheritage journey, Australia's Coastal Wilderness National Landscape, Bermagui NSW

An established geotrail across Central Queensland is the 'Dig the Tropic' project — see <http://www.digthetropic.com.au/>.

The Modern Mining Trail of Central West NSW at <http://www.modernminingtrail.com.au/> is another regional example of an existing geotrail with a linked mine site focus. The Hill End Historic site located just north of Bathurst (<http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/Hill-End-Historic-Site>) represents an outstanding local example of a geotrail with a mining heritage focus.

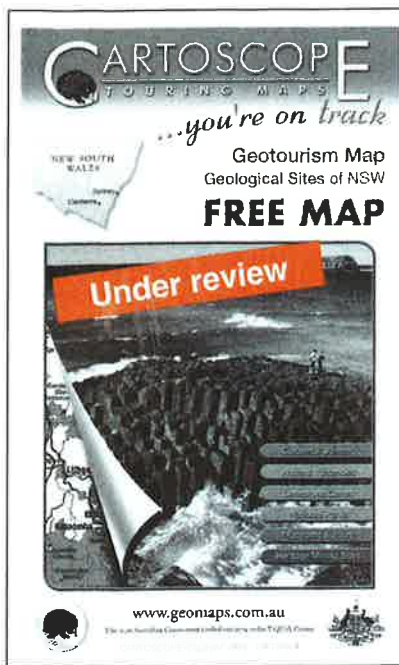
In October 2015, by arrangement with the organisers of the Sustainable Economic Growth Regional Australia (SEGRA) conference to be held in Bathurst, a geotourism workshop will explore the exciting opportunities for geotrail development across Australia. Pre- and post-conference tours are also currently planned to support this concept. A call for papers and more information about registering for this key event are at http://www.segra.com.au/segra_submit.html.

Updated geotourism map

The interpretation of geotrails can be assisted through the production of hard-copy maps. The first edition of the Geotourism Map of NSW was published by Cartoscope Pty Ltd in 2013 with the valued technical input of McElroy Bryan Geological Services (and supported by the GSA). The company has now decided to update the map's information. The first edition of this state map was an outstanding success and very few of the 100 000 printed copies remain. In particular, this double-sided A0-size map has proved to be a very popular handout state-wide through regional visitor centres, educational institutions, geoscience organisations and with the wider community.



Chinese alluvial gold diggings, Hill End Historic Site, NSW. Images courtesy Angus M Robinson



The second edition will update the localities, providing photos and text information. As with the previous map, this map gives overviews of geotourism interest for the described near-100 localities that are publically accessible. The new edition will also give more information on the type and amount of minerals at a mining site.

As with the previous edition, the map will be freely available and financial sponsorship for another print run of at least 50 000 copies is currently being sought. As for the first edition, both gold and silver sponsor logos with contact web address will be listed on the back of the folded A0 map. The logos represent an excellent opportunity for promoting sponsors to a very broad, community-based audience.

To be part of this exciting opportunity, please contact either David Robson at david@leisuresolutions.com.au or mobile 0419 236 293 or Lea Turner at Cartoscope at lea@maps.com.au or phone 02 9987 4533.

GSA members interested in finding out more about the activities of the Geotourism Standing Committee are invited to join the LinkedIn Discussion Group – Australian Geotourism Development.

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