

Downloading GPS Data to Shapefile

This guide explains how to download data from a GPS unit and convert the data to a shapefile layer.

Download from GPS

To download from a GPS unit, QGIS requires the freeware program GPSBabel to be installed on the computer. The download file is called GPSBabel-1.4.2-Setup.exe and can be found on the Christmas Island GIS (or on the DVD) at the following path: <\\CIGIS\\software\\Freeware\\GPSBabel-1.4.2-Setup.exe>

1. Double click the .exe file. The following window will open.
2. Select *Run*.

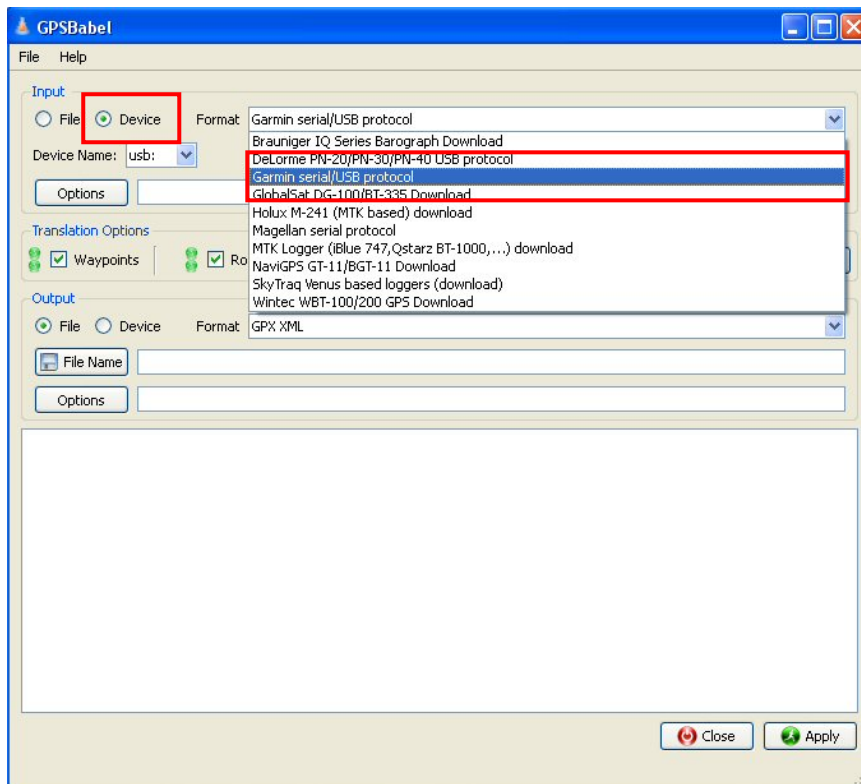


3. The download wizard will automatically open.
4. Use the setup wizard to guide you through the install process.
5. On the last screen select the option to create a shortcut on your desktop.
6. GPSBabel will be installed on your computer and the icon will appear as a shortcut on your desktop.

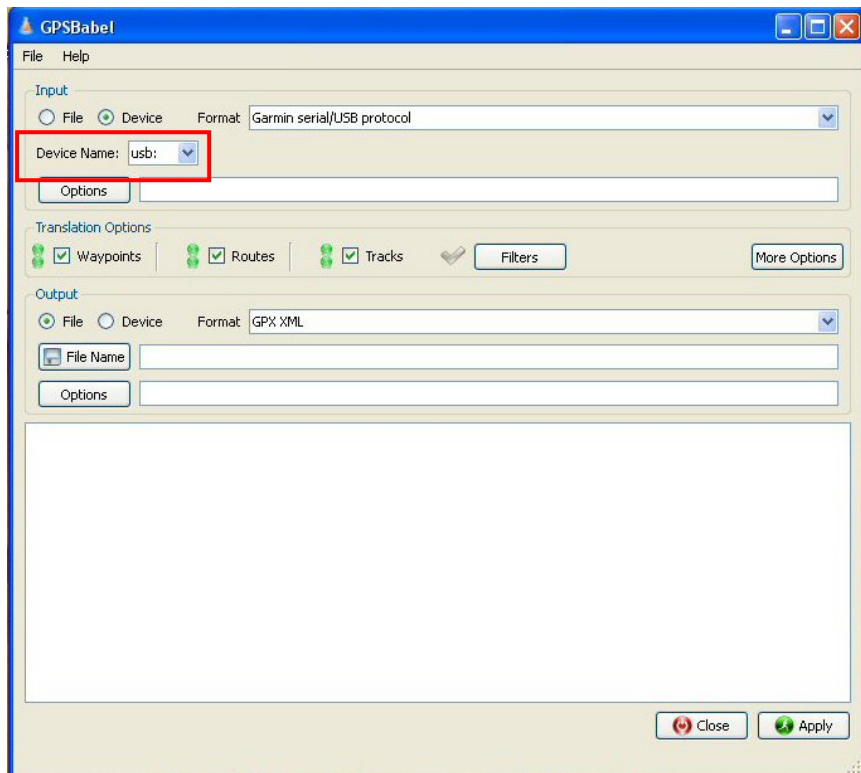


7. Connect your GPS device to the computer.
8. Open GPSBabel.

9. In the *Input* box:
 - a. Select *Device*.
 - b. From within the *Format* drop-down list select the type of GPS device you are using.

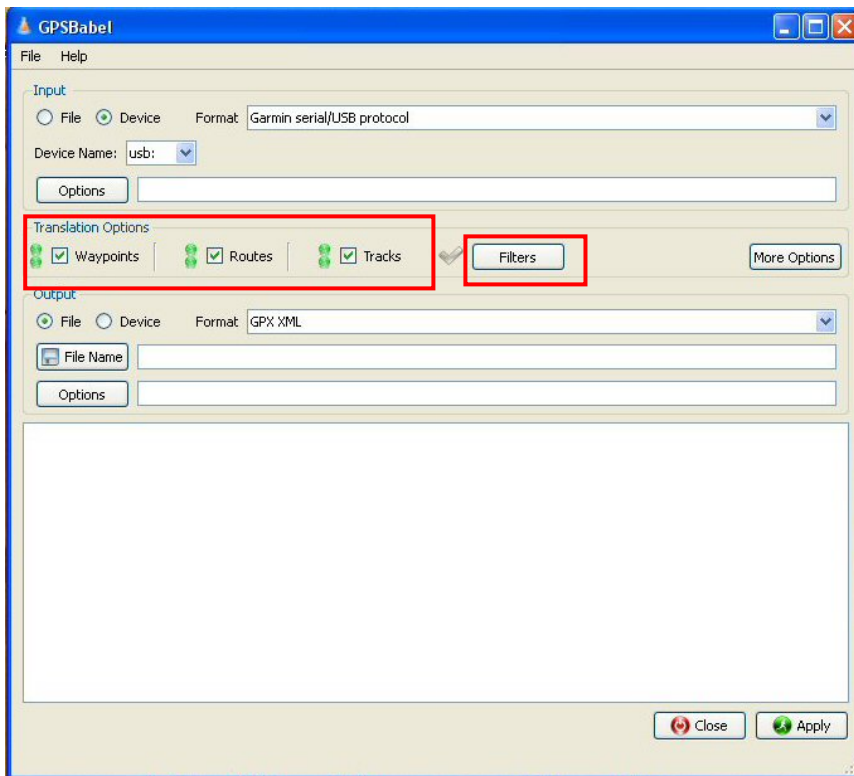


10. Select 'usb' from the Device Name drop-down list.



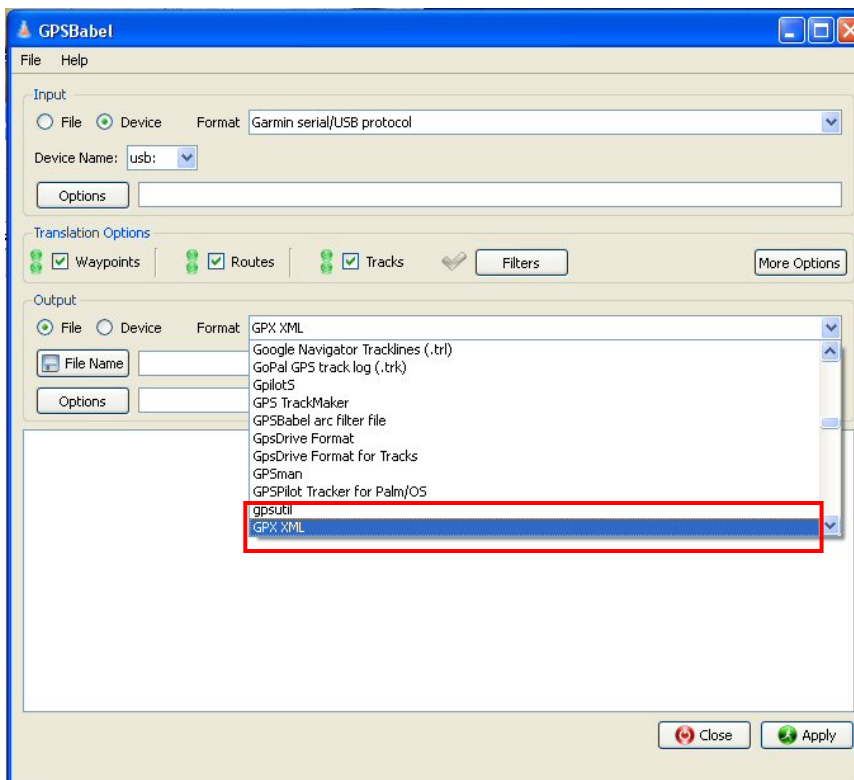
11. In the *Translation Options* box:

- a. Select the data types you would like to download.
- b. Use the *Filters* options if you wish to download data from a specific date.



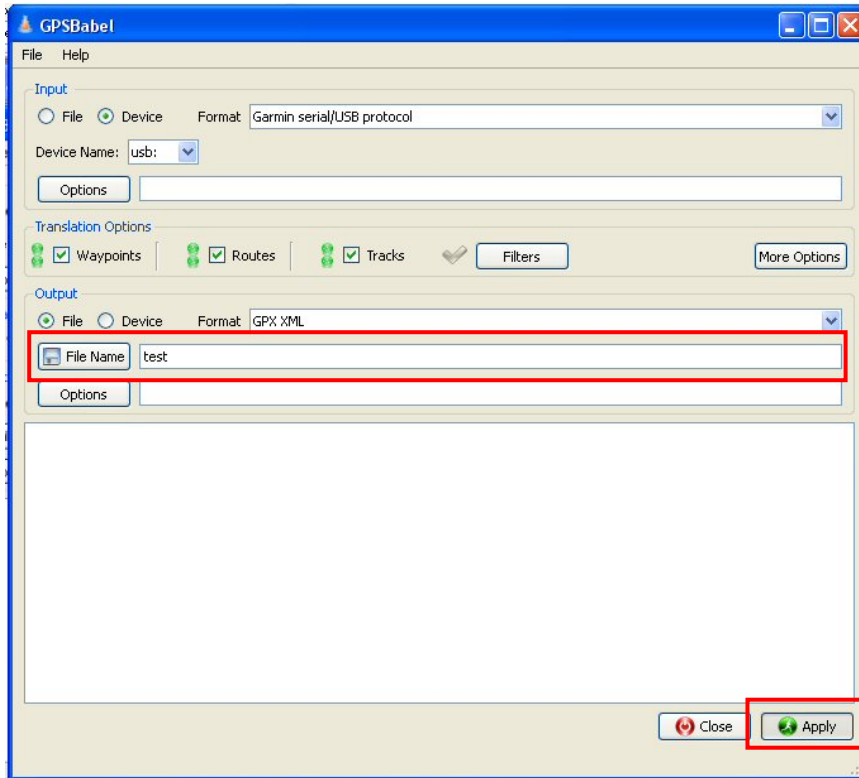
12. In the *Output* box:

- a. From the *Format* drop-down list, select GPX XML.

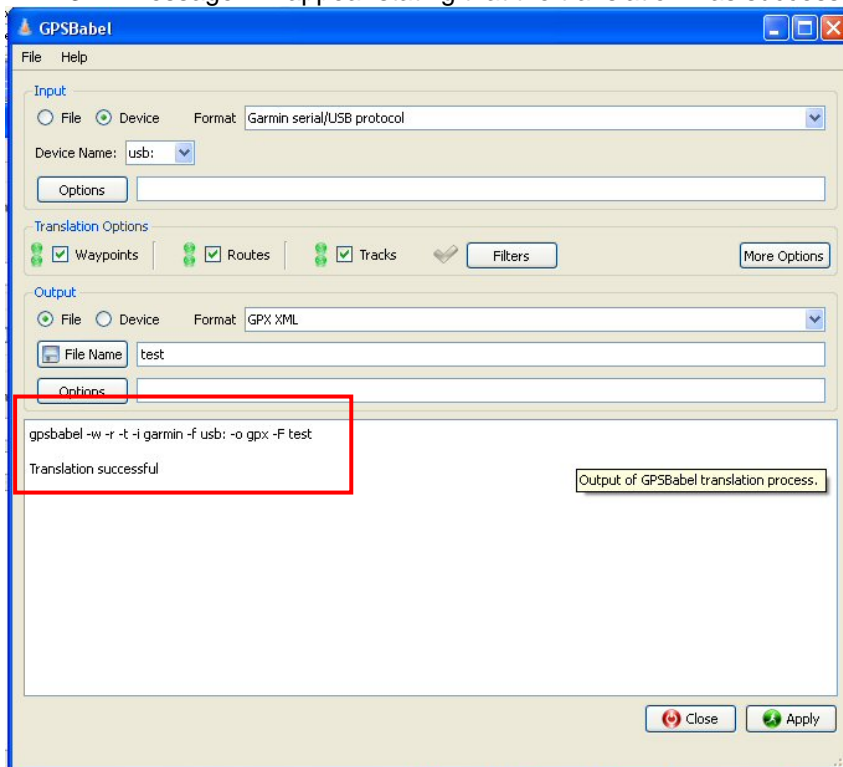


Downloading GPS data to Shapefile

- b. Click the *File name* button and navigate to the location you would like the data to be saved. Give the download data a name and then click save.
- c. Click *Apply*.



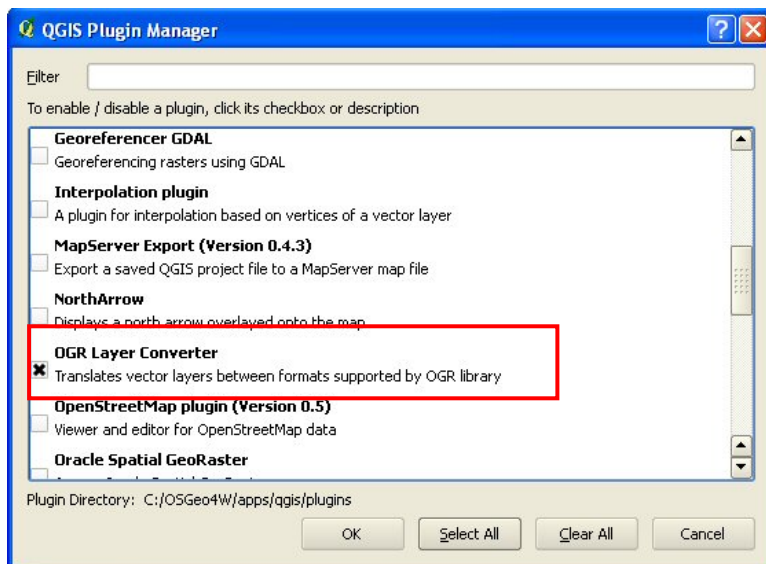
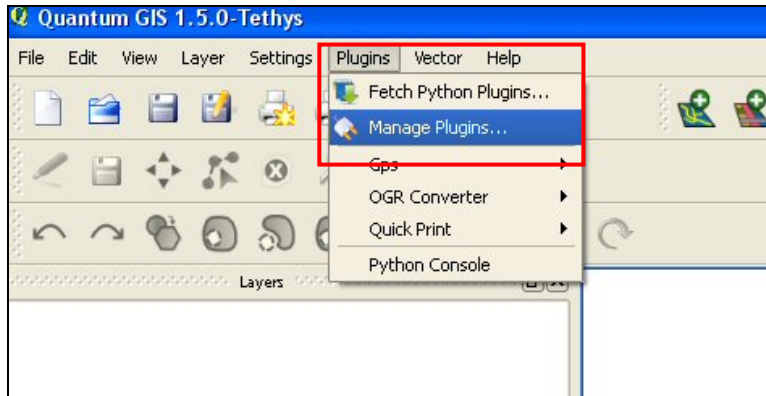
13. A message will appear stating that the translation was successful.



Convert .GPX to Shapefile (.shp)

Conversion of the previously created .GPX file to shapefile is carried out in QGIS. The plugin *OGR Layer Converter* must be turned on. Open QGIS and follow these steps to turn on *OGR Layer Converter*.

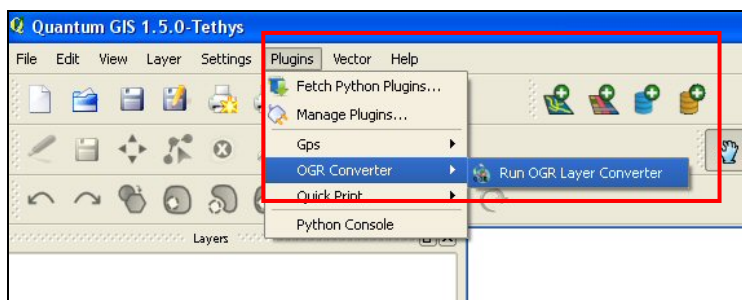
1. In the top menu bar click *Plugins>Manage plugins*. The QGIS Plugin Manager will open.



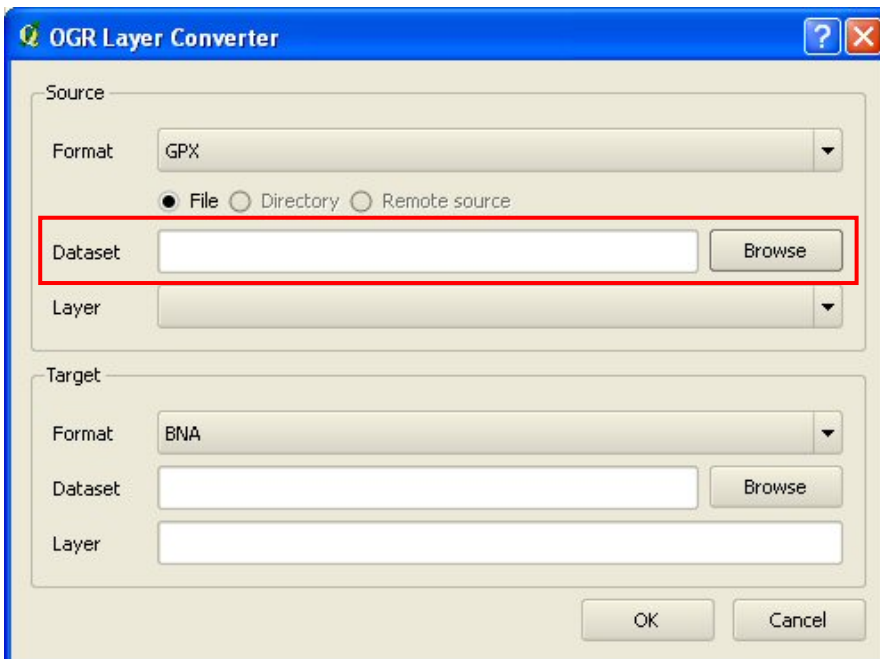
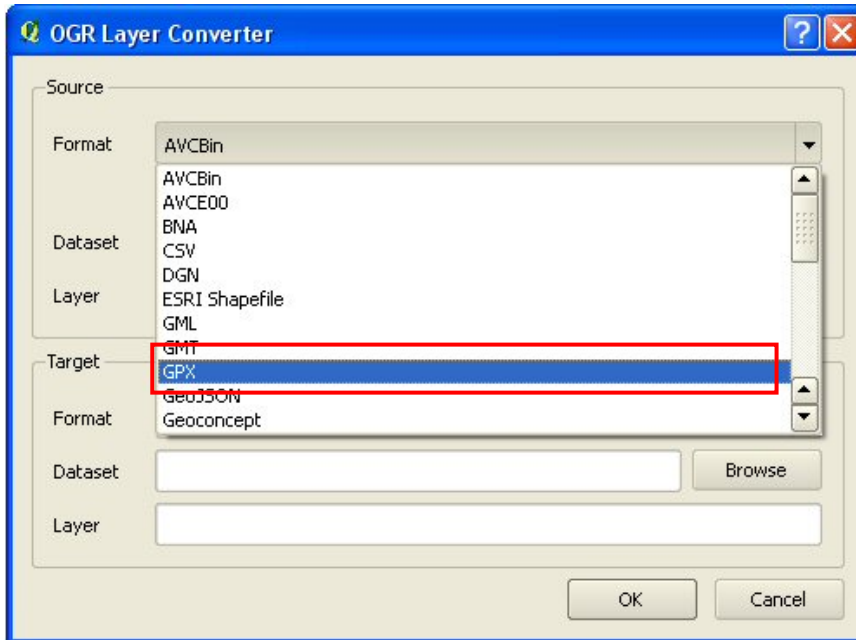
2. Select the box next to *OGR Layer Converter*. Click ok. The plugin has been turned on.
3. Close the QGIS Plugin Manager.

To convert GPX to Shapefile:

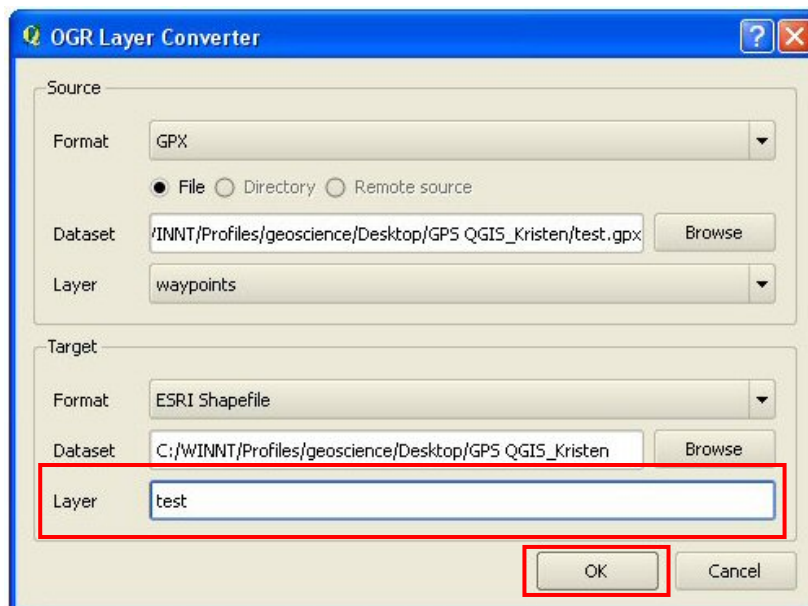
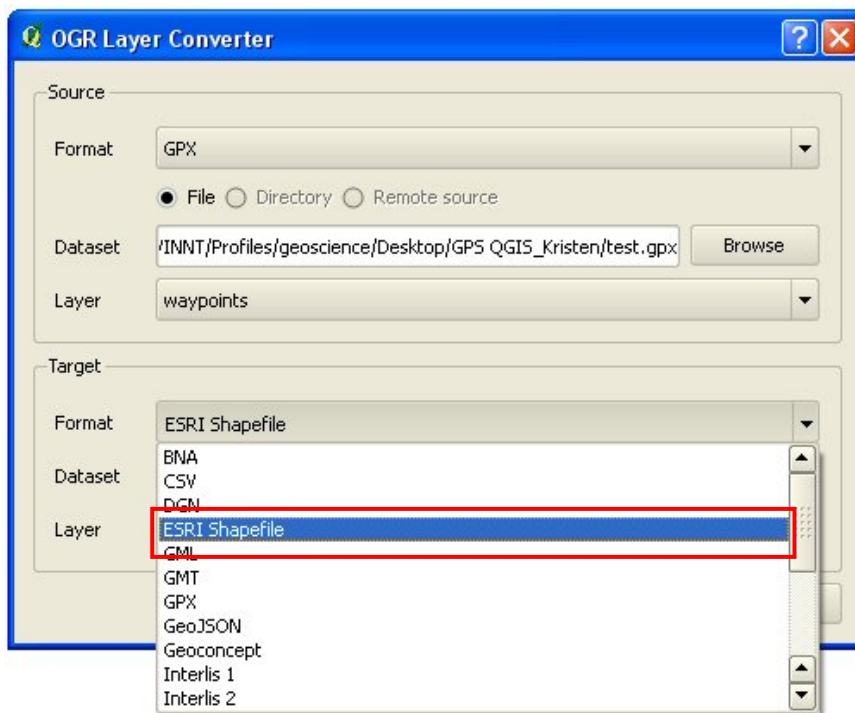
4. From the top menu bar click *Plugins > OGR Converter > Run OGR Layer Converter*. The OGR Layer Converter will open.



5. In the *Source* box:
 - a. Select GPX from the *Format* drop-down list.
 - b. In the *Dataset* row, enter the path (or use browse) to locate where you saved the GPX files created using GPSTabel.



6. In the *Target* box:
 - a. From the *Format* drop-down list select ESRI Shapefile (see image over page).
 - b. In the *Dataset* row enter (or use browse) to locate where you would like the new shapefile layer to be saved.
 - c. In the *Layer* row specify what you would like the new shapefile to be named.



7. Click Ok. QGIS will create the shapefile layer of you data.
8. If the conversion was successful the following message will display.



9. Add the newly created shapefile to QGIS as a vector layer.

If your data does not display in the correct location please see the Coordinate Reference Systems in Quantum GIS guide.