

2017

DATE	LEADER	PLACE	DISTANCE	ESTIMATED TIME	GRADE	COMMENT	BOOK REFERENCE
08 February 0830	Kevin Vallence	Happy Valley to Chewton & back North Central Fire District	9kms	3 hrs	AWTGS 2/Easy	Commences at Octopus (Duke St.); follows Happy Valley Track along Forest Creek to Chewton (Store) with a side visit to the Pennyweight Children's Cemetery; returns on same track. The track is exposed so sun protection is essential.	Google: Pennyweight Children's Cemetery Chewton'; for Happy Valley/Forest Creek, see http://connectingcountry.org.au/
22 February 0830	Margaret Cromb	Junction Walking Track (Chewton)	4kms	2 hrs	AWTGS 3/ Medium	Terrain rocky and uneven. Some steep ups and downs. The circuit can be shortened to 2.5km on the day according to the weather and the group.	TOTAL FIRE BAN
1 March 0830	Keith Neaves	Junction Walking Track (Chewton) North Central Fire District	4kms	2 hrs	AWTGS 3/ Medium	Terrain rocky and uneven. Some steep ups and downs. <i>A short section, approx 400m, of cross country with no defined track.</i> The circuit can be shortened to 2.5km on the day according to the weather and the group.	
08 March 0830	Alan Roberts	Anderson's tramway (Mollonghip to Korweinguboorra) Central Fire District	10.8kms	4 hrs	AWTGS 3	This is a point to point walk requiring a car shuffle. Anderson's tramway was used to carry logs felled in the Wombat Forest to a sawmill in Barkstead. While most timber tramways were crude affairs with wooden rails, the five Anderson brothers constructed cuttings and trestle bridges with iron rails, wide enough for capacious wagons pulled by two horses abreast, and later by steam trains.	Goldfields Track Walking Guide by Gibb Wettenhall. Pp58-61 Em PRESS Publishing ISBN 978-0-9757778-5-5
22 Mar	NO WALK						

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29 March 0830	John Butselaar	Part of The Tipperary Walk. Daylesford Central Fire District	8.6kms		AWTGS 3	<p>Start at the beginning of The Tipperary Walk, the car park adjacent to the Boat House Cafe on Lake Daylesford. From there walk 8.6kms to The Blowhole, where there is parking for shuffle vehicles to be left.</p> <p>The walk is quite attractive, initially following the Lake flow out creek to the Midland Highway, crossing to Twin Bridges (1.7km), then following and at times rising above Sailor's Creek.</p> <p>We pass Tipperary Springs (4.0km), followed by Bryces Flat (6.9km), across the Creek.</p> <p>From there we walk along a dirt road for 50 meters before rejoining the forest and following a water race to above the Blowhole.</p> <p>The walk is undulating, with some short climbs. Generally we are on a single file track and from start to finish we drop 120 metres in elevation. I rate this easy/moderate walking, although given the distance, 8.6kms, we may grade it moderate.</p>	Reference: Victoria's Goldfield Walks by Glenn Tempest. Walk 3. ISBN 978-0-9752333-9-9
12 April 0900	Tricia Balmer	Daylesford Central Fire District	7.5 kms	On the walk 2.5 hours and travel to the location 35 mins.	AWGTS Grade 3.	<p>A short section (max 1 km) that is very steep up and down. Walking poles could assist. If it is wet there will be a few muddy crossings.</p> <p>We start and finish at Jubilee Lake. The Lake was constructed in 1860 to supply water for the goldfields and for domestic purposes. It is now a popular spot for boating, picnicking and swimming.</p> <p>The walk follows the Great Dividing Trail, The Three Lost Children Walk and local tracks.</p> <p>I would like to continue the walk around the lake before having coffee at the Coffee shop within the park.</p>	For more information about the The Lost Children watch this 4.5min youtube clip https://youtu.be/gmjfySCfDrc

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26 April 0900	Keith Neaves	Macedon Central Fire District	9.7 kms	3.5 hrs	4+/ medium - hard	<p>Drive time - 50mins. The trees and ferns are great and worth the drive. This is part of a longer 18.3km walk which starts and finishes at the Mt Macedon village. We will have a coffee / lunch break at the Trading Post in the village.</p> <p>Start walk at Camels Hump car park, walk up the 'Hump', at 1010m is the highest point on the mountain – great views. Then walk via Sanatorium Lake & Mt Towrong, finish at Mt Macedon village.</p> <p>Coming down from Mt Towrong there are great views of Melbourne and there is a 150m section which is very steep on a rocky 'billy goat track', no constructed steps. Walking sticks, if used, definitely required.</p> <p>Car shuffle required.</p>	Reference: Victoria's Goldfield Walks by Glenn Tempest. Walk 20, Pp 88-91. ISBN 978-0-9752333-9-9

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10 May 0900	John Butselaar	Breakneck Gorge, Hepburn to Chocolate Mill, Midland Highway.	7.2 km	2 hrs	AWTGS 3/ Medium	<p>This walk concludes the Tipperary Walk and starts the Mt. Franklin view Walk.</p> <p>The first 2 kms to Golden Spring is a gentle undulating walk contoured above Spring Creek. From Golden Spring there is a short climb and a 1 km walk above the south side of Woman's Gully. We cross Woman's Gully and for 1.7km go north up a short steep slope, then down a steep slope to Widow's Gully. From there we climb to the ridgetop. We follow Mannings Road for 150mts before turning left and heading to Beehive Gully. The final section of the walk is about 2.5kms. Beehive Gully has been extensively eroded due to considerable sluicing for gold.</p> <p>We walk along the gully and can see the remnants of shafts, water races and a quartz crushing battery. Once we cross the gully the track meanders up and down through bush until we emerge at the entrance of the Chocolate Mill, where we can enjoy a hot drink and as much chocolate as you might want.</p> <p>There are 4 short steepish climbs, with the rest gently undulating.</p> <p>We will need to organise a car pool for the run from Castlemaine to the Chocolate Mill. We'll leave a minimum number of cars there for a car shuffle and go onto the start point.</p>	
24 May 0900	Greg Pridmore	Tarrilita Gorge	11 kms		AWTGS 3/ Medium	<p>Grade medium to difficult depending on how much water in creek.</p> <p>The track along the creek is not well defined and a little off track work may be required.</p> <p>Start and end on Porcupine Ridge Rd. Car shuffle not required.</p>	Reference: Victoria's Goldfield Walks by Glenn Tempest. Walk #7

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31 May 0900	Alan Roberts	Golden Gullies. Vaughan Springs circuit Central Fire District	11 kms	4 hrs walking time. 20 mins to the start.	AWTGS 4/Hard	This is a circuit walk from the Vaughan Springs lower car park. The first half of the walk follows the Dry Diggings Track. It is well marked with gold topped posts. The rougher southern 3.2 km of the walk along Sebastopol Creek is deleted, and we will take Helge Track across to Italian Hill Track shortening the walk to 11km. Notable features along the walk include one of the last remaining 1850s goldfields landscapes, the Tubal Cain mine site with its Cornish hillside flue, and the hand cut water race from Glenluce back to Vaughan Springs.	Reference: Victoria's Goldfield Walks by Glenn Tempest. Walk 9, Pp 44-47. ISBN 978-0-9752333-9-9
14 June 0900	Keith Neaves with Rod Andrew from Malmsbury	Malmsbury	9 to 10 kms	3.5 hrs	AWTGS 3	Walking poles or a stick would be helpful in spots, though I didn't use mine and it was quite straightforward. Binoculars could be useful. From Malmsbury along the water race and the Coliban River From the 'History of Malmsbury' 'In June 1856, Ellis and Hutchinson opened their bluestone mill on the Coliban a short distance past The Falls. This was worked by a huge water wheel as well as by steam. Water was channelled from the river and passed the wheel. It would have been an imposing sight in its heyday, but all that remains today is part of the base of the bluestone wall, with the hole where the water wheel once was. At the beginning of last century, Mr Formby used the Mill for a short time as a cordial factory.'	If you wish to purchase the booklet - History of Malmsbury at \$10 Rod will have copies with him on the day.

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28 June 0900	Ron Wescott & Cheryl Taylor	Mt Alexander North Central Fire District	6.6 kms	2.5 hrs	AWTGS 3	<p>The walk goes through beautiful mature eucalypt forest dotted with granite outcrops.</p> <p>The walk begins and ends at Leanganook Picnic Ground on Mt. Alexander (so no car shuttle). For those wishing to travel directly to the start, the picnic ground is accessed from Joseph Young Drive, which runs off the Faraday-Sutton Grange Road. There are toilets at the picnic ground.</p> <p>The walk consists of two loops, both approximately 3.3 km in length. The first one is entirely on tracks. We begin walking north on a flat track on the east side of the mount. Then we cross the main road and head south back to the picnic ground. There is one short steep section leaving Dog Rocks Saddle.</p> <p>The second loop starts on a flat track to a lookout (Ted's Seat) with great views to the east. We then leave the track and go cross country following the fence of the old koala park. There is one short steep section climbing out of the main gully but the undergrowth is sparse and the walking is easy.</p> <p>Anyone wanting to do the first loop only should check for like-minded walkers when meeting at the Octopus to organise car pooling.</p>	
12 July 0900	Kevin Vallenge and Alan Roberts	Chewton (Railway Dam area) North Central Fire District	Variable per team. 4-6 km	3 hours	AWTGS 5 Hard. Walking thru' thick bush	<p>This is a 3-hour Rogaine event. Teams of 3/4 navigate to selected controls marked on a prepared map. Resting time is included in the planning.</p> <p>(\$2.00 p.p. for map).</p> <p>MAPS HAVE TO BE PRINTED FOR THIS EVENT. YOU MUST SIGN IN BEFORE 7 JULY</p>	Check Wikipedia for description of Rogaining.

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26 July 0900	Kevin Vallence	Campbells Creek (Starts from Post Office)	Variable per team. 6-8 km	2 hours	AWTGS 2 Easy. Walking on roads, streets, tracks.	This is a 2-hour Streetgaine event (A Car Rally on foot). Teams of 3/4 navigate to selected controls to answer questions. Prepared map supplied. (\$2.00 p.p. for map). MAPS HAVE TO BE PRINTED FOR THIS EVENT. YOU MUST SIGN IN BEFORE 21 JULY	Check Wikipedia for description of Rogaining.
09 August 0900	Ron Wescott & Cheryl Taylor	Muckleford North	11.3 km	3 hours	AWTGS 2	The walk goes through beautiful Box-Stringybark forest which is north of the CastlemaineMaldon road and the south of the railway line. We start and finish at the junction of Gower and Donkey Farm Tracks (so no car shuttle). We walk along gently undulating bush tracks eventually reaching the railway line. Following Railway Track for a while we then swing south with good views across cleared land to the east. In early August the bush will be resplendent with golden wattles.	A map showing the walk, entitled Muckleford Forest (North Sheet), can be purchased for \$1 from the Tourist Information Centre at the Old Market Building in Castlemaine.
23 August 0900	Caroline Bellair	Loddon Falls Glenlyon Central Fire District	10 kms approx.	3.5 hrs walking. 35 mins car travel Castlemaine to Glenlyon Store.	AWTGS 3/ Medium	Travel from the Octopus to the Glenlyon Store for a further 1km drive to the start of the walk. We shall visit the spectacular Loddon Falls where there is the opportunity to climb right down to the waterfall (optional). This is followed by a short, steep descent where poles are helpful. It will be slippery. We shall be on private land some of the time.	
30 August 0900	Keith Neaves	Blackwood Lerderderg Heritage River Walk Central Fire District	9.5 kms approx.	3 hours walking. 1 hour travel time	AWTGS 3/ Medium	One hour travel time to Blackwood. Walking sticks advisable if normally used as there are some narrow and uneven tracks, with obstacles. Some beautiful fern tree filled glens down at river level and lovely mature trees in the higher/drier areas.	Melbourne's Western Gorges Map #19 Glenn Tempest.

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13 September 0900	Margaret Cromb	Coliban Main Channel Walking Track – Section2. Taradale	11 kms	3 hrs	AWTGS 3/ Medium	<p>The walk follows the water channel along a gravel vehicular track with a steepish hill to start but otherwise an easy gradient. It is only the distance which justifies a grade 3 classification.</p> <p>This walk is historically interesting starting at the commencement of the Coliban Water Channel. It travels through farmland and bushland on its way to Bendigo.</p> <p>A car shuffle is required and coffee/lunch will be available at the Taradale Café.</p>	Available from the Castlemaine Information Centre.
27 September 0900	Bill & Deb Wigglesworth	Walmer State Forest		2- 3 hrs	AWTGS 3/ Medium	Walmer State Forest covering some of the mountain bike trails, and some on the dirt roads, and some bush bashing (not very serious, though). With a bit of luck we should see some spring flowers. Walkers are invited to stay back for a cuppa afterwards.	
11 October 0830	Greg Pridmore	Sailors Falls to Daylesford	9.5 km		AWTGS 3/ Medium	Car Shuffle.	
25 October 0830	Frances Knight	Muckleford South. Red White & Blue Mine, via the Muckleford School Road	5 kms		AWTGS 3/ Medium	Frances will be at the Octopus at 8.30am to explain the walk. This is a short walk.	
08 November 0830	Robert Norcott/ Tricia Balmer	Vaughan Springs to Spring Gully Mine Carpark	8.5 kms	2.5 hrs	AWTGS 3/ Medium	Car shuffle. Walking through the bush and mining ruins of Irishtown and Fryerstown. Some steep inclines.	Goldfields Track. Part of the Cry Joe Walk. Page 84 - 87
22 November 0830	Julie and Rex Odgers	Poverty Gully.	7 kms	3 hrs	AWTGS 3/ Medium	Within the south boundary of the National Heritage Park down into Poverty Gully. Plenty of rough tracks, some narrow single file, some water race and 4 wheel drive. Walking poles are highly recommended as you will all know how slippery dry gravel can be.	

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29 November 0830	Alan Roberts	Babbington Hill Circuit	8 kms approx.	4 hrs	AWTGS 3/ Medium	A lovely circuit walk from the art deco Radio Springs Hotel at Lyonville, north through mature Manna Gum and Messmate forest to Babbington Hill. After descending Babbington Hill we follow the Loddon River downstream, crossing the river just short of the historic Lyonville Spring. From there we head west along an old tramway past the derelict Lyonville town spring finishing the walk back at the Radio Springs Hotel.	Victoria's Goldfield Walks Map #6 Glenn Tempest.
13 December 0830	John Butselaar	Kyneton Campaspe Walk	6 kms		AWTGS 3/ Medium	The replacement walk is easier and more protected and will be quite safe to walk in the forecast conditions. It is more of a social walk, probably in keeping with the end of year spirit. We'll meet at the river's edge near the Kyneton Racecourse and head south east along the river, passing historic crossings, swimming areas etc. all marked as well as walking through the Oak Park and the lower edge of the Botanic Gardens. Once we pass under the blue stone bridge crossing Mollison Street, we'll cut uphill to the Botanic Gardens entry, and walk through the gardens before walking back down to the river. We'll then complete the return walk along the river to our start/finish point. As I said it is a largely flat walk except for the climb up to the Botanic Gardens. There is plenty of canopy cover for long sections of the walk.	