

2018

DATE	LEADER	PLACE	DISTANCE	ESTIMATED TIME	GRADE	COMMENT	BOOK REFERENCE
31 January 0830	Lorraine Callister	Castlemaine	7 kms	2 hrs walking plus a coffee stop along the way.	2	<p>Welcome Walk and Welcome Back Walk</p> <p>The first walk for the year is the Mt Alexander Shire walk to the Botanic Gardens via Kalimna Park. We begin at the Octopus heading for Happy Valley Road, walking the back way on gravel roads to the Burke and Wills monument. Continue to the band rotunda in Kalmina Park on a short bush track. Follow park's ridge gravel road to the crest at 360 metres above sea level. Descend using a bush track that winds its way to the Castlemaine Secondary College. Use bitumen roads to north end of the Botanic gardens. We walk to Das Kaffehouse for morning tea. This part of the walk should take about 1.5 hours, and cover approximately 5.3 kilometres. After about an hour, return to the Octopus via Gingell Street and Forest Street. We plan to finish before 1:00 pm. The first part being the steepest, but it's worth the view.</p>	
14 February 0830	Keith Vallence	Campbells Creek	9 kms	3.5 hrs	3	<p>Circuit from Octopus via walking path to Campbells Creek; streets to Broad St; uneven uphill track (800m) to Poverty Gully water race; Great Dividing Track to Octopus. Three street sections (2 km) are exposed, the rest is thru' bush.</p>	Map: Castlemaine Visitor map and The Monk Walking Tracks map from Visitor Centre.

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<p>28 February 0830</p>	<p>Keith Neaves</p>	<p>Kalimna Park</p>	<p>7 kms</p>	<p>2.5hrs</p>	<p>3/4</p>	<p>For this walk only - meet at the Mt Alexander Golf Club car park, access via Wimble St which is off Barker St, at the Shell service station.</p> <p>This is a circuit walk starting & finishing at the golf club car park. There are a couple of relatively steep sections with some rocky uneven track. Suggest walking sticks for those who use." There are some steep sections of rocky uneven track. Suggest walking sticks for those who use.</p>	<p>http://cartography.id.au/cdnhp_index.htm</p>
<p>14 March 0830</p>	<p>Alan Roberts</p>	<p>Domino Trail Lyonville - Trentham</p>	<p>7.5 kms</p>	<p>Walking time less than 3 hrs.</p> <p>Allow 4 hrs for car shuffle and coffee/tea in Trentham.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>A easy walk starting Radio Springs Hotel at Lyonville, along the old Domino rail trail and forest tracks to Trentham. The track crosses the Coliban River and passes historic sites along the way, eventually rejoining the rail trail just short of Trentham. We pass the weird Trentham fibreglass "zoo" and make our way to the disused Trentham Railway Station, before walking down High Street to the rotunda at Trentham Lake. Coffee at Trentham to be arranged on the day.</p> <p>We will car pool members to the start and a car shuffle will be required.</p>	<p>Reference: the Domino trail map is available at http://www.fedwalks.org.au/files/2015_walk_sheets/Fedwalks_2015_WS_16.pdf</p> <p>Please note we are only walking one leg of the journey.</p>

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28 March 0830	Tricia Balmer	Whipstick Loop Blackwood	5.5 kms	2 hrs walking Travel to the start 1 hour Return to the Octopus by 3.30pm	3	<p>An easy walk followed by lunch at the Blackwood Pub. Partners of members may wish to join us for lunch at the Hotel at approximately 12.45</p> <p>Car pool to the start. Commencing at the Jack Cann Reserve nearby The Garden of Erth.</p> <p>Sections of the walk is through dense and very tall eucalypts and tree ferns. Other sections are much drier and more open forest. There are short steep hills on a formed track. View old mine shafts and walk along the remnants of a water-race.</p> <p>Please email Tricia to book your lunch at the Blackwood Pub.</p>	<p>https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/21476/FS0112_-_Whipstick_Loop_Walk.pdf</p> <p>For a copy of the menu visit https://www.blackwoodpub.com/</p>
11 April 0900	Frances Knight	Apple Tree walk south of Daylesford	7.5 kms	On the walk 2.5 hours and travel to the location 35 mins.	3	<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. I plan to avoid the steep up and down sections of the walk that was followed last year.</p> <p>Members might like to continue the walk around the lake before having coffee at the Coffee shop within the park.</p>	<p>For more information about the The Lost Children watch this 4.5min youtube clip https://youtu.be/gmjfySCfDrc</p>
25 April 0900 ANZAC DAY	Peter Turner (Kevin Vallence)	Muckleford to Castlemaine on the Rail trail.	About 7 km.	2 hours	3	<p>Leave cars for shuffle at cnr Nolan St and Chapmans Rd, drive on to Muckleford Station and walk back. Track should be well graded. Return to The Gov or other cafe for those needing coffee.</p>	<p>ANZAC Day Castlemaine-Maldon Trail brochure available at Information Centre.</p>

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23 May 0900	John Butselaar	Creswick Forest Walk from Landcare Centre Saw Pit Road to St. Georges Lake, Creswick	10.2 kms	3 hours walking. With 1 hour travel to and from Creswick.	3	<p>Do not expect to get back to Castlemaine before 2.30pm. Bring appropriate food and water.</p> <p>The walk takes in bushland hills, pine forests (new and old) and an unusual oak glade. Added to the forest delights we will see an ill-fated koala park and numerous reminders of the regions gold rush past. We will also walk past the site of W.G. Spence's slab hut at Jackass Creek. W.G. Spence, known as the grand old man of the labor movement at Federation, lived in the slab hut with his Scottish emigrant family from the age of 6 after the discovery of gold in Creswick in 1852. Walkers will follow the La Gerche Forest Walk and a section of the Goldfields Track.</p> <p>The first 25% of the walk from the Landcare Centre, along the La Gerche Forest Walk, up Oak Gully Road to Three Way Junction is gently uphill. We climb about 100 metres in 2.3 kms. From there to the finish at St. Georges Lake is downhill. Steepish at first and after that undulating to flat. From the high point to the finish we drop about 120 metres in elevation.</p> <p>The Goldfields Track component has some muddy sections, which will require good boots and care. There is one work-around from the koala park, where the walking track is closed due to bridge damage. The alternative walking/cycle track is open and fine. They are about equal distance.</p> <p>We will need to organise a car pool for the run from Castlemaine to St. Georges Lake. Anyone planning to meet us at the walk rather than in Castlemaine should go to the car park at St. Georges Lake and be there by 10.00am. We can then include them in the car shuffle. The plan is to leave a minimum number of cars at the finish point and drive everyone to the start point.</p>	<p>Victoria's Goldfield Walks by Glen Tempest Walk#1 page 10.</p> <p>Goldfields Track Walking Guide, W G Spence Walk Pages 48 to 52.</p>
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30 May 0900	Greg Pridmore	Tarilta Gorge	11 kms		4	<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
13 June 0900	Margaret Cromb	Maldon	8.5 km	<p>Drive to Maldon 20 minutes.</p> <p>Walk – 2.5 hours.</p>	3	<p>A walk at the base of Mt Tarrengower incorporating historic goldfield sites. Commences with a circuit of the North British Mine then follows an old vehicular track up Mt Tarrengower. Surface rough with loose stones (poles recommended). 6km steadily uphill but not steep. More interesting remains from 1850's gold mining to be found on the Mount.</p>	
27 June 0900	Bill & Deb Wigglesworth	Harcourt North to Mandurang	9 km		3/4	<p>Goldfields Track starting at the Harcourt Sutton Grange Road crosses the Coliban Channel, just at the foot of Mt Alexander, ending at the Cuneens Gully Waterfall, accessible by the Springs Road nearby. There are beautiful views along this walk and it is not too demanding, though there are two climbs up fairly rocky tracks--where the channel goes through a tunnel. Each climb results in about 50 vertical metres elevation gained. So the walk is moderately demanding, requiring a decent level of fitness. It's well described in the Goldfields Track book. A car shuttle will be necessary.</p>	GoldFields Track Map 29 and 30
11 July 0900	Peter Turner	Maldon to Muckleford on the Rail trail.	8 km	3 hours walking	3	<p>Car shuffle needed. We'll leave a few cars at Muckleford Station, then drive to Maldon to start the walk. Toilets at Maldon before the walk.</p>	Castlemaine-Maldon Trail brochure available at Information Centre.

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25 July 0900	Keith Neaves. John Butselaar	Breakneck Gorge - Hepburn to Chocolate Mill, Midland Highway.	Approx 7kms	2hrs walk 30 mins travel to start	3	<p>The first section of the walk is quite a narrow track and probably wet at this time of year, along the top of Breakneck Gorge above Spring Creek. Walking sticks recommended if usually used.</p> <p>In the remainder of the walk there are 4 short steepish climbs, with the rest gently undulating.</p> <p>Finish of the walk is at the Chocolate Mill where we can enjoy delicious hot chocolate drink or coffee. Chocolate can also be purchased here.</p> <p>Car shuffle will be required.</p>	
8 August 0900 Postponed to 15 August	Cheryl Taylor & Ron Wescott	Southern part of Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park	8 km	2.5 hours A 20-minute drive from the Octopus.	3	<p>The walk starts and finishes along Wewak Track. This easy walk passes through the dry eucalypt forest of the park. Features include several stone ruins and mining remnants, as well as majestic candlebarks. Hopefully some of the many varieties of wattles will be in flower when we visit. The walk is on bush tracks and on the Goldfields Track, which is rocky in places but not steep.</p> <p>No car shuffle required.</p>	<p>Maps of Italian Hill and Loop Track walking tracks, available at Castlemaine Information Centre.</p> <p>The Vagabond, the story of Charlie Sanger, a colourful identity who lived in the area. Available at Stonemans book store.</p> <p>Wattles of the Mount Alexander Region, available at Stonemans.</p>
22 August 0900	Jules Hurley and Rex Odgers	Morgans Track, Chewton / Fryerstown area	8 kms	3 hrs walk. A 15 minute drive from Octopus	3/4	<p><i>The walk was shortened on the day.</i></p> <p>Circuit walk beginning at intersection of Morgans Track & Crocodile Reservoir Track. Varied terrain includes 4wd track, water race bank, single walking path, cross country. Features Crocodile Reservoir / Fryerstown water supply tunnel. Steep / stony and rough in parts. Walking poles recommended.</p>	CCM "The Monk Walking Tracks" available at Market Information Centre.

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29 August 0900	Bryan & Julie Fitzgerald	Walmer Forest Reserve. (Not West ridge of Mount Alexander as previously listed because sections of the track are steep with fallen timber across it, requiring a number of bush detours. Also, in places the surface is quite stoney and slippery.)	8 kms	2 1/4 - 2 1/2 hours walking time [excludes travel time 10-15 minutes each way and rest stops]	3/4	<p>This walk explores the possibilities for bushwalking within 10-15 minutes drive of central Castlemaine.</p> <p>It covers a mixture of walking/mountain bike trails and forestry management roads/tracks.</p> <p>It is a loop walk, so a car shuttle is not required. It starts and ends at the intersection of Woodbrook Road and Youngmans Track, meandering generally to the north until we reach Pipeline Track. We walk east along Pipeline Track to Reillys Track and then loop around back to our starting point.</p> <p>Pipeline Track, whilst fairly well maintained has some sections which will get the heart racing and the bush trails have a few tricky little sections.</p> <p>Walking poles are recommended for those who normally use them.</p> <p>Wildflowers are starting to appear, and by that stage we should see extensive areas of wattles, Golden [<i>A. pycnantha</i>], Rough [<i>A. Aspera</i>], Gold-dust [<i>A. Acinacea</i>] and Cootamundra [<i>A. Baileyana</i>], Silky hakea [<i>decurrens/sericea</i>], hovea linearis, fairy wax flower [<i>eriosomon vernicosa</i>], grevilleas alpina and dryophylla, scented sundews [<i>drosera whittakeri</i>] and some small patches of Nodding greenhoods [<i>pterostylis nutanis</i>].</p>	
12 September 0900	Greg Pridmore	Mt Beckworth	7 kms approx.	Approximately 50 min drive from Castlemaine. And 3 hours walking.	4/5	Up and over granite spine of Mt Beckworth (elevation 634m). Circuit walk hence no car shuffle. Suggestion is to have lunch at Clunes.	Reference: Victoria's Goldfield Walks by Glenn Tempest. Walk #2

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26 September 0900	Alan Roberts	Anderson's tramway, Wombat forest, Mollonghip to Barkstead	7.4 kms	2 hours walking. 30 minutes soup Plus 45 mins travel each way.	3/4 some off track walking and gentle rises.	The five Anderson brothers operated a significant logging operation in the Wombat forest in the 1800s, transporting logs on a horse drawn wooden tramway to their mills at Barkstead and Dean. The brothers eventually had their logging rights in the Wombat Forest revoked by the State Government for over logging the forest, and they subsequently built a flour mill at Smeaton, now commonly known as Anderson's Mill. The walk follows the route of the original tramway, with evidence of some original sleepers still in place. We finish at a rotunda where a meeting to form the Goldfields Track was held, where we plan to provide a cup of soup for our walkers. PLEASE BRING A CUP/MUG.	
10 October 0830	Rob Norcott	Spring Gully Mine Car park to Vaughan Springs.	8.5 kms	2.5 hrs	3/4	Walking through the bush and mining ruins of Irishtown and Fryerstown. Some steep inclines. Car Shuffle.	Goldfields Track. Part of the Joe Walk. Page 84-87
24 October 0830	Bryan & Tricia Balmer	North of Mt Alexander on the Gold Fields Track	8 kms	2 hrs walking	3	A continuation of the walk on 27 June. Springs Rd to Hunts Gap Rd. Very even ground. Car shuffle is planned	Goldfields Track Map 30 and 31
31 October 0830	Keith Neaves	Mt Macedon. Circuit walk leaving and finishing at Camels Hump car park.	10 kms	3.5 hrs walking. 50 mins travel to start.	3/4	The walk includes the Memorial Cross with toilets & café available, about half way in the walk. We will stop for a coffee here. There are some great vistas and tracks on the walk. On the return leg of the circuit there is a section of track that is no longer maintained, hence there is a lot of debris, trees, branches etc across the track. This is the most challenging section of the walk. At the end of the main part of the walk, those who want to can walk up to the lookout on the Camels Hump, the highest point on the mountain at 1008m.	60 walks in Central Victoria's Goldfields & Spa Country Second edition. Tyrone Thomas. Plus the Camels Hump

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14 November 0830	Frances Knight	Garfield Wheel to Welsh Village.	8km	3.5 hours	3/4	<p>From Garfield Wheel to Welsh Village via Golden Pt track and Welsh St. Then return via Garfield Track, Sailors Gully and the water channel track to Garfield Wheel. It's moderate in terms of distance but includes quite steep hills & some areas of rough surface. Those who have poles should certainly bring them.</p> <p>If the weather is uncomfortably hot we can make it shorter - forget the Garfield Trk route & just go straight back from Welsh Village by the Goldfields Tk.</p>	
28 November 0830	Kevin Vallence	White Gum Track 2km east of Chewton	Variable. Up to 9 km	3 hour time limit	4/5 Hard walking thru' rough bush.	<p>This is a 3-hour Rogaine. Teams of 4-5 navigate to controls of different point value using a prepared map. Team gathering most points within time limit wins! Intention to participate needed by 22/11. Bring a compass if you have one.</p>	See Wikipedia for description of Rogaining.

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12 December 0830	John Butselaar	Black Hill Reserve	6.5 Km	Walking 2 hours	3	<p>There are three walks in The Black Hill Reserve. We complete a joined version of all three.</p> <p>Walk 1 – The Revegetation Walk is the flattest and least defined track, although adequately marked. We walk through grassland often with plenty of 'roos for company. In our version of the walk this section is the final one.</p> <p>Walk 2 – The Base Circle Walk track is clear and wide. At the northern end it narrows into a single file track with some undulations. There are many pleasant views of the surrounding country and some spectacular views of the rock formations. This forms the middle section of our walk.</p> <p>Walk 3 – The Ridge Track is part single file and part wider track. It is more strenuous with some steep inclines and many steps. It climbs about 100 metres in elevation from the start. It rewards walkers with spectacular views and the opportunity to climb in amongst the granite boulders that make up the ridge. This represents the start of our walk.</p> <p>Since the devastation of the bushfires to most of the reserve in January 2015, caused by a lightning strike, the resilience of the bush is clearly evident. This spring the recovery continues with considerably more birdlife evident. Those of you who have done this walk since 2015 will I am sure notice the continuing recovery of the area.</p>	
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