

**2021**

DATE	LEADER	PLACE	DISTANCE	ACTIVITY DURATION ESTIMATE	GRADE AWTGS	COMMENT	BOOK REFERENCE
10 Feb 2021 8.30 am	Gerry Egan	Castlemaine	7 kms	2.5 hours	3	Octopus return via Forest and Moonlight Creek and through Kalimna Park. It is relatively flat and easy but with a few rocky parts, so poles might be useful for those parts. A few patches of long grass, so wear closed shoes. I chose not to make it longer in the expectation that it will likely be hot.	
24 Feb 2021 8.30 am	Keith Neaves	Macedon	9 kms	3.5 hours walking. 50 minutes travel to the start.	3/4	<p>The walk includes the Memorial Cross about half way in the walk. We will stop for a coffee here, BYO as the cafe is currently not open on Wednesdays. There are some great vistas and tracks on the walk.</p> <p>On the return leg of the circuit, a Pine Plantation has been removed and the area has not been regenerated. The bare ground and weeds are unattractive.</p> <p>There is a section of track that is no longer maintained, hence there is some debris, trees trunks, branches etc across the track. This is the most challenging section of the walk.</p> <p>At the finish of the walk, those who wish can walk up to the lookout on the Camels Hump, the highest point on the mountain at 1008m.</p>	0 walks in Central Victoria's Goldfields & Spa Country Second edition. Tyrone Thomas. Plus the Camels Hump

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10 Mar 2021 8.30 am	Deb & Bill Wiglesworth	Babbington Hill	9-10 kms	Travel time 40 minutes to the start.  Coffee - 1 hr  Coffee will be in Daylesford or Guildford	3/4	<p>We will travel to Lyonville, between Trentham and Daylesford.</p> <p>The walk will be 9-10 km, depending if we decide to take in the Lyonville Springs at the northern extremity of the circuit.</p> <p>Most of the walk is through Wombat Forest, which has beautiful eucalypts, much larger than what we see around Castlemaine.</p> <p>The final climb up to Babbington Hill is steep and involves some loose rocky pathway. We gain over 100 vertical metres in less than 2 km, so, a reasonable level of fitness is recommended.</p> <p>Walking poles could be useful.</p>	Glen Tempest's Victoria's Goldfield Walks. #6 page 32
24 Mar 2021 8.30  By Invitation only	Festival  Kinsie Hope	Daylesford	8 kms	35 mins driving to the start.  3 hours	Grade 3	<p>Commencing at Lake Daylesford follow the Great Dividing Trail to Twin Bridges then walk beside Sailors Creek to Tipperary Springs before returning by a track on the opposite side of the creek.</p> <p>Along established tracks including the Great Dividing Trail. Sometimes rough and rocky with a couple of short sharp hills in both directions.</p> <p>Please bring morning tea for rest stop at Tipperary Springs. The Café at the lake is not open on Wednesdays.</p>	The Great Dividing Trail map, Dry Diggings Track.  Goldfields Walks - Walk#3

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31 Mar 2021 8:30 By Invitation only	Festival John Butselaar	Castlemaine	11.5kms and can be shortened to 9kms		3	<p>This walk is a circuit starting/finishing at the Spring Gully mine car park. We will follow the Goldfields Track past the Monk, side track to the top is available, from there to Dingo Park Road, which we cross and follow the Poverty Gully channel to the Campbells Creek channel crossing and join the track to the Eureka Reef Heritage site, from there a lengthy stretch along a water-race bank track south to Telecom track, onto Spring Gully Road and the finish.</p> <p>The good thing is we do not need to make that decision until we get to the Dingo Park Road crossing, about a third of the way in. I have checked the water-race stretch and it is quite safe. That is the section I had some concerns about given the recent rains.</p>	The walk is based on the "Castlemaine Gold" walk detailed by Glenn Tempest in his book, Daywalks in Victoria. (See item 22, page 106).
14 Apr 2021 9.00	Ron Wescott and Cheryl Taylor	Castlemaine Metrogaine	Teams select their own route so determine the distance walked, up to 10 km	2 hours		<p>This walk is the U3A Bushwalking Group's 'Mainegaine' for 2021.</p> <p>This year the walk starts and finishes at the Octopus.</p> <p>On the day form into teams of from 2 to 5 walkers. Teams choose their own route for a 2 hour walk around Castlemaine, scoring points for visiting checkpoints marked on the map provided to each walker.</p> <p>More details will be announced at the briefing before the start. Teams should take a pen or pencil to record answers to questions at checkpoints, a watch to keep an eye on the time, and a mobile phone. Street names are marked on the map, so a compass is not needed.</p>	

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28 Apr 2021 9.00	Janobai Smith	Fryerstown, Chewton	9.5 km	3.5 hours	3	<p>Leave from Warburtons Bridge camping ground, Glenluce, which is a 5-minute drive past Fryerstown on the Drummond-Vaughan Rd. Most of it is quite comfortable walking on (4WD) tracks but there are a couple of steep inclines. Walkers who use poles should bring these.</p> <p>The walk is a variation on last year's walk from the same place. We will be heading up Bridge Track then heading south along Smuttas Track before veering down to Salters Creek. This year we'll continue on to Columbine Creek and head up Hunters Track, cutting back to Smuttas Track for the return journey.</p> <p>To get to Warburtons Bridge camping ground, if coming from Castlemaine, turn left from Vaughan-Chewton Rd onto the Drummond-Vaughan Rd and continue on for almost 2 km. The camping ground is immediately after the bridge. I'll be parked at the camping ground.</p>	<p>The tracks that we will be taking are shown on the Columbine Creek Walking Tracks map.</p> <p>The map can be accessed here: <a href="https://cartography.id.au/columbine/columbine.htm">https://cartography.id.au/columbine/columbine.htm</a></p>
12 May 2021 9.00	John Butselaar	Fryers Ridge, Taradale	7 kms	Walking 2.5 hours	2/3	<p>This loop walk is in the south eastern part of the Fryers Ridge Nature Conservation Reserve, starting and finishing at the corner of Old Drummond Road and Shirley Drive.</p> <p>We will be walking in the usual Central Victorian forest undulations with one moderate climb.</p> <p>There is some parking available off Old Drummond Road along the fence line behind the big gum tree on the corner.</p> <p>We will car pool from the Octopus.</p>	

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DATE	LEADER	PLACE	DISTANCE	ACTIVITY DURATION ESTIMATE	GRADE AWTGS	COMMENT	BOOK REFERENCE
26 May 2021 9.00	Sue Goding & Angie Were	Breakneck Gorge, Hepburn to Chocolate Mill, Midland Highway	7.2 kms	Walking 2.5 hours	3	<p>The walk starts at Breakneck Gorge and gently undulates above Spring Creek to Golden Spring. From there several short steep climbs and descents take us across Woman's Gully and Widow's Gully. From there we climb to the ridgetop and follow Mannings Road for 150 mts before turning left and heading to Beehive Gully. We walk along Beehive Gully which has been extensively eroded due to sluicing for gold. Remnants of the gold digging days include shafts, water races and a quartz crushing battery. Once we cross the gully the track meanders through bush until we reach The Chocolate Mill time for hot chocolate or other delights.</p> <p>We will meet at the Octopus at 9am. We will organise a car pool and shuffle, leaving cars at the Chocolate Mill before driving to the starting point at Breakneck Gorge. The track is narrow in parts and could be slippery after rain.</p>	Goldfields Track Walk Guide pp 76-80
9 Jun 2021 9.00 Lawson Parade. Park opposite the new High School Buildings	Peter Turner	Northern section of Kalimna Park	6 km	2 hours	3/4	<p>We will follow a part of the Kalimna Circuit Walk from the Devonshire Mine site to the Tourist Road - some parts a steep and rough, and may be slippery after the forecast rain.</p> <p>After crossing the Tourist Road we'll walk to the eastern side of the park, we'll head north alongside Moonlight Creek, before another climb along the eastern boundary of the park, past the Miners Grave to the highest part of the park.</p> <p>After a break for morning tea with a view, the return route completes a loop via the western edge of the park, backup to the Tourist Rd and a final steep descent to the cars.</p> <p>Walking poles strongly recommended, especially for several steep descents.</p>	CCM Map - Kalimna Park Walking Tracks.

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DATE	LEADER	PLACE	DISTANCE	ACTIVITY DURATION ESTIMATE	GRADE AWTGS	COMMENT	BOOK REFERENCE
23 June 2021 9.00  At the Playground in the Botanical Gardens Castlemaine	Alan Roberts, Julie and Bryan Fitzgerald	Castlemaine Soup Walk  Botanical Gardens Castlemaine is the meeting point.	8.4 Km	2 1/4 hours	3	<p>Meeting point for the walk is the barbecue shelter at the Botanical Gardens in Castlemaine.</p> <p>The walk takes in some outer suburban, rural residential and bush areas. This area of Castlemaine is quite hilly, so there are extended periods of uphill and downhill with a few short, sharp ups and downs.</p> <p>We leave the Gardens and walk along Burnett Road to Merrifield Street, then up to Odgers Road until we reach McManus Road. We do a shortish loop in the Walmer forest and then retrace our steps back along Odgers Road to Merrifield Street. This time we cut across to Froomes Road using a right of way, and enter the Wildlife reserve of the Gardens, crossing the footbridge and returning to the barbecue area for soup and bread.</p> <p>We will only have a short drink/snack break in transit.</p> <p>For those interested, there will be an opportunity to look for the powerful owl in the Stone Pine near the rotunda after soup.</p>	

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30 Jun 2021 9.00  At the Octopus	Greg Pridmore	Mt Beckworth	Castlemaine - Clunes 41 min, 55km.  Walking 8.5 km	Return to Castlemaine about 3 pm	4	<p>Leave the Octopus and Drive to Clunes and Greg will see the group there.</p> <p>Mt Beckworth is 8 km West of Clunes.</p> <p>We turn left at the Golf course, on Kierces Rd then right onto Mt Creek Rd to walk to the start at Dam campground.</p> <p>Total walk distance 8.5kms, with a <b>steep sustained climb/descent of 345 metres</b>. There are great views at the top.</p> <p>Walkers are strongly advised to bring walking poles.</p> <p>Lunch could be in Clunes and car pooling to be organised at the Octopus.</p>	Victoria's GoldField Walks  Glenn Tempest. P14
14 July 2021 9.00  Octopus  Cancelled because of the wet	Bryan & Tricia Balmer	Mt Alexander. The Gold Fields Track	7 kms	Walking - 3 hrs  Travel time - to the start 20 mins	3/4	<p>The walk commences in McQuillans Rd Faraday on the southwestern edge of the Park.</p> <p>The first and last kilometre is steep and is a grade 4 incline. Sticks are recommended.</p> <p>The next 5 kms contours around the Mount passing through Dog Rocks on the west and then contouring on the east side of the park.</p> <p>We walk around to Leaganook Picnic area where there are public toilets. We then walk back to the start in McQuillans Rd.</p>	
28 Jul 2021 9.00 Octopus	Julie & Bryan Fitzgerald	Walmer State Forest				Bryan and Julie filled in for Bill and lead the walk in the Walmer State Forest.	

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11 Aug 2021 9.00 Octopus	Daryl Fleay	Muckleford State Forest	7.5 km	2 hours	3	<p>The walk will commence at the Red White and Blue Mine in the Muckleford State Forest. We'll be walking through undulating open forest, mostly on minor tracks and roads but with some 'cross country' sections. There will be a few steeper descents and climbs at some points.</p> <p>We'll pass through areas of alluvial and deep lead mining and an impressive 'rock shelf' area (near the end of the walk).</p> <p>For most of the time we'll be strolling through the Muckleford Nature Conservation Reserve so we're sure to see some interesting vegetation and a wide variety of birdlife. The area is one of Geoff (Natural Newstead) Park's favourite bird photography haunts.</p>	CCM Map – Muckleford Forest Walking Tracks.
25 Aug 2021 Cancelled because of COVID  Group 1 8.50am  Group 2 9.20am	Deb Shand	Rail trail and forest loop. Castlemaine	7.7 km	Walking time 2.5 hours	2/3	<p><b>This walk is planned to be with a maximum of two groups of 10 people. Kinsie will advise you if you are in Group 1 or Group 2.</b></p> <p>We start by walking along the Castlemaine-Maldon railway line and then veer off into an attractive area of forest where we follow small trails winding through the trees. The wattles are in full bloom and Spring wildflowers are starting to emerge. The track undulates gently and there are no big hills.</p> <p>Parking is available beside the road near the corner of Chapmans Road and Nolan Street.</p>	



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DATE	LEADER	PLACE	DISTANCE	ACTIVITY DURATION ESTIMATE	GRADE AWTGS	COMMENT	BOOK REFERENCE
15 Sep 2021 Pennyweight Flat Children's cemetery car park and NOT THE OCTOPUS.  Group 1 8.50am  Group 2 9.20am	Sharon Allen & Heather Macdermid	Garfield Wheel	Approx 7 kms	Approx 2 hours including Morning Tea break.	3/4	<p>This walk is planned to be with a maximum of two groups of 10 people. Kinsie will advise you if you are in Group 1 or Group 2.</p> <p>A couple of short steepish inclines and descents so poles are recommended.</p> <p>Walking through State Forest to Elephant Hill cross the ridge where there are views of the Castlemaine goal the Burke &amp; Wills monument and beyond.</p> <p>Descending Elephant Hill we will walk mainly through bush off track to the huge magnificent sacred "grandmother" yellow box tree known as Me-Mandook Galk.</p> <p>The name 'Me-Mandook Galk' translates to "beautiful grandmother tree". The tree sits adjacent to culturally significant land and is sacred to the Dja Dja Wurrung First Nations people.</p> <p>From here there are sightings of stone ruins and 2 small dams.</p> <p>Crossing Troll bridge we join the great dividing trail towards the Garfield water wheel.</p> <p>From the Garfield water wheel we will head along North Road to Chewton picking up the Leanganook track walking back over Zeal bridge returning to the Children's Cemetery car park.</p>	

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22 Sept 2021	Bryan & Julie Fitzgerald	Smith's Reef Loop Walk  Maldon Historic Reserve	8.6 Kms	2 hours walking.  20 min morning tea break	3/4	<p>The meeting place for the walk is the start of Smith's Reef Track on the Castlemaine-Maldon Road about 1.5km past the ruins of the old Gower school. There is ample parking for two groups.</p> <p>Group 1 will meet at 8:50 for a 9 o'clock departure led by Julie and Keith.</p> <p>Group 2 will meet at 9:20 for a 9:30 start led by Bryan.</p> <p>We follow Smith's Reef Track into the Maldon Historic Reserve until we reach Tatt Town Track and turn left. There are quite a few wildflowers bordering the track, especially yam daisies and wax lip orchids.</p> <p>Following Tatt Town Track, we proceed to James Track and turn right which is mostly downhill until we reach Railway Track. Turning right again we continue until we reach Gower Track and turn right again. This section is a gradual uphill climb until we reach Spur Track and once again turn right.</p> <p>After about 500 metres on Spur Track we pass Gower dam.</p> <p>Shortly after the dam, the road divides and we follow Smith's Reef Track back to the starting point.</p> <p>The entire walk is on reasonably maintained vehicle tracks which are sufficiently wide enough to allow for comfortable social distancing and conversation.</p> <p>The walk has uphill and downhill sections but none are steep.</p>	It's a slight variation of the Gowar Forest walk, page 98 of the Castlemaine Bird Walks book (Damian Kelly).

Smith's Reef Track. 1.5km past Old Gower School and NOT THE OCTOPUS.

Group 1  
8.50am

Group 2  
9.20am

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DATE	LEADER	PLACE	DISTANCE	ACTIVITY DURATION ESTIMATE	GRADE AWTGS	COMMENT	BOOK REFERENCE
29 Sep 2021 Cancelled because of forecasted weather conditions.  Vaughan Springs Car Park  Group 1 8.50 for 9.00  Group 2 9.20 for 9.30	Brier Johnson Kinsie Hope	Vaughan Springs, Fryers Ridge	6.6 km	2.25 hrs walking plus morning tea	3	<p>This loop walk starts from the Vaughan Springs car park (far end) along the Goldfields Track heading in the Central Springs direction and crossing Greville Street.</p> <p>We leave the Goldfields Track and pass through a stand of sicky boronia before returning to the start. When not on the Goldfields Track we will be on fire tracks.</p> <p>There are several uphill sections throughout the walk, a couple of which are steep but stable. There are a few downhill sections, two of which require more care, but aren't very long. On the return leg we walk about 100m along Grenville Street.</p> <p>Poles are recommended for those who carry them.</p>	Goldfields Track map 21b (paras 29 & 30) covers the Goldfields Track section
6 October 2021 Meet at the Octopus before driving to the start.  Group 1 8.50am  Group 2 9.20am	Deb Shand John Butselaar	Rail trail and forest loop. Castlemaine	7.7 km	Walking time 2.5 hours	2/3	<p>This is an extra walk because of COVID restrictions.</p> <p>This walk is planned to be with a maximum of two groups of 10 people. Kinsie will advise you if you are in Group 1 or Group 2.</p> <p>Meet at the Octopus before travelling to the start.</p> <p>We start by walking along beside the Castlemaine-Maldon railway line and then veer off into an attractive area of Muckleford forest where we follow small trails winding through the trees where Spring wildflowers are emerging. The track undulates gently and there are no big hills.</p> <p>Parking is available beside the road near the corner of Chapmans Road and Nolan Street.</p>	

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13 Oct 2021 Meet in Taradale.	Group 1 Keith Neaves	Fryers Ridge nearby Taradale	Travel time approx 20 mins to Taradale.	3 hours including morning tea.	3	Meet at the corner of the Old Calder Highway and Davy St, one of the first streets on the right, in Taradale coming from Castlemaine.  An easy walk predominantly on vehicular tracks, but with a good variety and with relatively gentle ascents/descents.  The wildflower show should be excellent in certain areas of the walk. Fryers Ridge is well known for its wildflower displays.	
Group 1 8.50am	Group 2		Walk distance 8.5 kms				
Group 2 9.20am	John Butselaar						

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27 Oct 2021  Meet at the Octopus.  The group 8.50 am	Kevin Brown and Sharon Allen	Gowan Brae farm walk  Castlemaine	Approx 7km	About two hours plus a morning tea break.	2-3	<p>Mostly easy walking through bush and paddocks with a couple of steepish slopes</p> <p>Gowan Brae is a small farm of 150acres on the west side of C'maine about 2k from the PO.</p> <p>The walk starts from the old irrigation entrance point cnr Nolan &amp; Brown street C'maine. Walking north along the Muckleford track from where we will enter Gowan Brae property. Interesting features</p> <p>Flora: Still some wildflowers to see Orchid hill, highest hill in the city of C'maine Chocolate Lilly hill and murnongs (native yam ) Acacia/eucalyptus plantation.</p> <p>Fauna: Bird's Nesting, kestrel, owlet/nightjar (fairy owl), white winged choughs and many others Swamp wallabies Grey kangaroos Echidna</p> <p>Geographical: Springs North/south fault lines</p> <p>History: Gaol Hill irrigation channel Gowan Brae Glen Cairn remains -Colonel John Bull's house. (Col Bull was placed in charge of the Castlemaine &amp; Bendigo goldfields in 1852) Rifle Range</p>	

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10 Nov 2021 8.20 am Octopus	Keith Neaves	White Gum Track Loop Walk Chewton	7km		3-4	<p><b>There is limited parking. Please be ready to car pool from the Octopus. Bring your face mask to wear in the car.</b></p> <p>A nice bushwalk, some on well formed dirt track, some on hiking tracks, some off track with uneven terrain. Some members will feel more comfortable with poles.</p>	<a href="https://cartography.id.au/railway_dam/railway_dam.htm">https://cartography.id.au/railway_dam/railway_dam.htm</a>
24 Nov 2021 8.30am at Leanganook Camping ground	Deb Shand	Mt Alexander	8.8 km	3 hours walking 20 minutes driving to the start	3/4	<p>From Leanganook campground we will follow the West Ridge Walking Track/Goldfields Track as it contours and undulates around the side of the mountain to Shepherds Flat.</p> <p>We are treated to lichen-encrusted boulders and expansive views, but the track is rocky and rough in places and requires careful footwork so bring your agility and walking poles.</p> <p>There are some pleasant off-track sections through open forest to link up the trails on our return route.</p> <p>Total ascent and descent: 135 m.</p> <p>The Djadjawurrung name for the mountain is Lanjanuc.</p>	<p>Mt Alexander Regional Park Parknotes (Parks Victoria)</p> <p><a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Alexander">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Alexander</a></p>
8 Dec 2021 Octopus at 8.30am	John Butselaar	Blackhill Reserve Kyneton	6 kms		3	<p>There are 3 interconnected trails in the Blackhill Reserve outside Kyneton.</p> <p>Our walk will take in parts of all three trails. The reserve is undulating with a decent climb and descent on the Ridge Track.</p> <p>The starting point is the carpark on Ennis Road at the entrance gate to the Reserve.</p> <p>For those bringing a plate my wife Robyn will meet us there and take the offerings back to our home for storage/refrigeration until we get back there about noon.</p>	<a href="https://sites.google.com/site/blackhillreservekyneton">https://sites.google.com/site/blackhillreservekyneton</a>

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