

2022

DATE	LEADER	PLACE	DISTANCE	ACTIVITY DURATION ESTIMATE	GRADE AWTGS	COMMENT	BOOK REFERENCE
9 Feb 2022	Gerry Egan	Castlemaine Meet at the Octopus at 0830	7 km	2 hours walking followed by morning tea.	3	An easy introductory walk along Forest Creek and Kalimna Park, followed by coffee/tea at The Dove (or elsewhere).	Kalimna Park map. https://cartography.id.au/kalimna_park/kalimna_park.pdf
23 Feb	Deb Shand	Chewton area	8.5 km	15 minutes travel to start, then 3 hours walking	3-4	A circuit walk from the historic Garfield Wheel to the ruins of the Welsh Village and return following parts of the Forest Creek and Dirty Dick's trails. Some of the tracks are rocky and rough and there are a few hills up and down so walking poles are recommended. There is limited parking at Garfield Wheel so we can carpool from the Octopus.	Welsh village map https://cartography.id.au/welsh_village/welsh_village.pdf
9 Mar Octopus 8.30am	John Butselaar	Creswick	8km	45 minutes to Creswick then 3 hours walking	4	A lovely walk through the Creswick Forest. For walkers staying for lunch, we will have lunch following the walk at Le Pêche Gourmand (a boulangerie and patisserie) in Creswick.	
23 Mar Octopus 8.30am	Brier Johnson and Frances Knight	Elphinstone/ Fryer's Ridge area.	8.5 km	15 minutes drive from the Octopus, then 3 hrs walking.	4	A circuit walk within the Fryer's Ridge Conservation Reserve and alongside the Coliban water channel. Apart from a short, 200m section of off-track walking, the remainder of the walk is on well-formed tracks Start and finish is Wright St Elphinstone at the Coliban channel crossing. Limited parking, car pooling required.	Fryer's Ridge map https://cartography.id.au/fryers_ridge/fryers_ridge.pdf

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30 Mar Octopus 8.30am	Sharon Allan and Heather Macdermid	Chewton area	7 km	20 minutes travel to start, then 2½-3 hours walking	4	A circuit walk around the Poverty Gully area including The Monk (459m high views), goldfields era water races and a "taste" of the Eureka Reef mine area. Our footfall will be on well-formed walking tracks, gravel roads, and narrow water race sides. (Note: although this is usually the 3rd and longer walk for the month, the usual longer walk will be the next walk at Maldon).	The Monk walking track map https://cartography.id.au/the_monk/the_monk.pdf
13 Apr Octopus 9.00am	Bryan and Julie Fitzgerald	Maldon	7.5 km	20 minutes travel to start, then 2½ hours walking	5	The walk starts at the Kangaroo Hotel in Maldon with a small street walk to reach the foot of Anzac Hill. There is a steep climb up Anzac Hill and the track is quite rough in places. From Anzac Hill to Mt Tarrengower, the track continues uphill with some more steep, rough patches. Essentially, the first 3 kms is uphill until we reach the tower atop Mt Tarrengower. There is the opportunity to climb the tower for a fantastic view of the countryside. From the top, we meander down the western side of the mount where there is plenty of evidence of gold mining activity. Coffee could be at Maldon Cafe in Main Street. This walk was originally planned as a fifth week walk as the uphill section is reasonably challenging. Walking poles are recommended for those who use them.	https://www.alltrails.com/trail/australia/victoria/mount-tarrengower-lookout?p=-1
27 Apr Octopus 9.00am	Greg Pridmore	Inglewood	7km	1 hr travel to start, then 2½ -3 hours walking	5	A loop walk around the historic and scenic Melville Caves area.	Melville Caves walking tracks https://www.trailhiking.com.au/melville-caves/

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11 May Octopus 9.00am	Peter Turner	Castlemaine	7km	2-3 hrs walking	4	A walk around the northern reaches of Kalimna park including Devonshire Reef, Moonlight creek, the highest point in the park, and an old miner's grave. Some parts of this walk are steep and rough - if you use walking poles it is strongly recommended that you bring them.	Kalimna Park map. https://cartography.id.au/kalimna_park/kalimna_park.pdf
25 May Octopus 9.00am	Tricia and Bryan Balmer	Harcourt	4.6 km	20 minutes travel to start. 2 hours walking	4	This is a short walk with some steep inclines, rough track and off track sections. Start the walk where Joseph Young Drive joins the Ballantinia Track. Head north on the Ballantinia Track to Langs Lookout. Follow Gold Fields Track to Shepherds Flat Lookout. Rest at Shepherds and then go off track back to the car. Walking sticks are recommended.	Mt. Alex map https://cartography.id.au/mt_alexander/mt_alexander.pdf
8 June Octopus 9.00am	Greg Pridmore	Daylesford	8 km	35 mins driving to the start. 3 hours	3	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. Along established tracks including the Great Dividing Trail. Sometimes rough and rocky with a couple of short sharp hills in both directions. Please bring morning tea for rest stop at Tipperary Springs. The Café at the lake is not open on Wednesdays.	The Great Dividing Trail map, Dry Diggings Track. Goldfields Walks - Walk#3
22 June Octopus 9.00am	Ange Were and Sue Goding	Vaughan Springs	7 km	20 minutes to start then 3 hours walking	4	A walk south from Vaughan Springs. Follows Goldfields track to Tubal Cain mine and back along vehicle tracks. Many mining ruins including a dramatic horizontal Cornish chimney. Undulating with some steep sections. Some parts slippery if wet.	Map of Vaughan Springs area https://cartography.id.au/italian_hill/italian_hill.pdf

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29 June Octopus 9.00am	John Butselaar	Harcourt North to Sedgwick	9.6 km	Travel time - 50 mins to the start. Walking - 3.5 hours.	3-4	<p>We will be walking along the Goldfields track, from the Harcourt Sutton Grange Road, Harcourt North to Gate 46, Springs Road, Sedgwick. The track follows the main Coliban water channel and it's generally flat/mildly undulating along a vehicle track beside the channel.</p> <p>The hike includes hilly country when the channel becomes a tunnel (Wirths and Brennan tunnels) forcing the track over the hills. These are solid climbs and a couple of sharp descents. Some of the hilly sections have loose stone surfaces requiring care and concentration.</p> <p>Good footwear and walking poles are strongly recommended.</p> <p>This is an enjoyable walk, presenting some of the best open country, rolling hills scenery, together with some hiking challenges to keep us interested. It also gives us a chance to better understand the design, purpose and current usage of the Coliban water channel.</p> <p>A car shuffle is required.</p> <p>Harcourt General Store for coffee and food afterwards.</p>	<p>https://coliban.com.au/files/2019-06/CW_JBrady_collated-Web.pdf</p> <p>http://www.goldfieldstrack.com.au/Pages/Explore/Leanganook_Track.aspx</p>
13 July Octopus 9.00am	Bill and Deb Wigglesworth	Walmer	7.6 km	10 minute drive to Walmer then 2-3 hours walking	4	<p>We will be walking in Walmer State Forest on dirt tracks and mountain bike paths. There are no steep hills, but there are some bare earth spots which could be slippery if it's wet—in which case, poles would be useful.</p> <p>After the walk, people are invited to join Bill and Deb for tea and coffee.</p>	

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27 July Octopus 9.00am	Alan Roberts	Fryerstown	8km	20 minute drive to Fryerstown then 3.5 hours walking	4	A circuit walk from the Burke and Wills Memorial Hall in Fryerstown. The walk takes in historic features in and around Fryerstown, including existing and former buildings, the magnificent and historic Lambruk Estate, and the 1860s era cemetery. There is some off track walking which is not steep, however if you use walking poles it will pay to bring them.	Points of Interest maps will be provided on the day of the walk.
10 Aug C'maine Botanical Gardens Rotunda 9.00am	Alan Roberts, Bryan and Julie Fitzgerald (and helpers)	Castlemaine area	8km	2½ hour walk followed by lunch	4	This will be our annual soup walk. A moderate walk around the western fringes of Castlemaine followed by hearty soups and home-made breads in the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens The walk will encompass some outer urban, semi rural and State Forest areas on the northern fringe of Castlemaine. Most of the walking will be on formed roads or fire access tracks and a small section on walking tracks through the wilderness area of the Botanical Gardens. There are a couple of short, reasonably steep downhill sections and with recent rain, there will be some slippery sections. Poles will be useful on these parts for those who normally use them.	Meet at Castlemaine Botanical Gardens shelter near the playground at 0900

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24 Aug Octopus 8.30am Note earlier start time for this walk due to travel distance	Deb Shand	Brisbane Ranges	9 km	1 hr 10 min drive to start, then a 3 hour walk	3	Starting at the Boar Gully campground we will walk on well-formed tracks through forests of stringybark and ironbark. The grass trees are magnificent and with luck we might see early Spring wildflowers. There are some undulations along the trail but no serious hills. Walkers can bring lunch to eat after the walk at the picnic area or we can drive to a café at Ballan for lunch. When booking for this walk, members should indicate whether they would like to go to the cafe and a reservation can be made.	Brisbane Ranges Visitor Guide map (needs Avenza maps App) https://www.avenzamaps.com/maps/61196/brisbane-ranges-national-park-visitor-guide
31 August Octopus 9.00am	Tricia Balmer	Big Hill	9.2 km	30 min drive to start, then 2½ hour walk.	4	A walk through open Box Iron Bark bush in the Greater Bendigo National Park. We will park the cars at Tuckermans Lane on the west side of the Calder Highway. The walk will head to the summit of Big Hill (elevation gain 165m) and then down a steep pinch to follow the channel back to the starting point. Short sections of the track are steep and slippery. Poles are recommended. Morning tea will be at the top of Big Hill with spectacular views to the south.	Big Hill https://www.alltrails.com/explore/trail/australia/victoria/big-hill-hike
14 Sep Octopus 9.00am	Heather Macdermid and Sharon Allan	Muckleford	8 km	15 minute drive to Muckleford station, then a 2½ hour walk	2	A Spring wildflower exploration via a circuit walk/stroll from Muckleford station mostly along the railway line. You might like to bring ID booklets and download the app iNaturalist to try out along the way. There are picnic tables at the old Muckleford station conducive for a BYO cuppa at the end.	Muckleford forest map. https://cartography.id.au/muckleford/muckleford_n.pdf

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28 Sep Octopus 9.00am	Bill and Deb Wiglesworth	Walmer	7 km	10 minute drive to Walmer then 2-3 hours walking	4	We will be walking in Walmer State Forest on dirt tracks and mountain bike paths. There are no steep hills, but there are some bare earth spots which could be slippery if it's wet—in which case, poles would be useful. After the walk, people are invited to join Bill and Deb for tea and coffee.	
12 October Octopus 8.30am Daylight Saving	Greg Pridmore	Muckleford	Approx. 8 Kms	20 minute drive to start then a 2½ hour walk.	4	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.	https://cartography.id.au/muckleford/muckleford_s.pdf https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/26305/FS0070-Red-White-and-Blue-Recreation-Site.pdf
26 October Octopus 8.30am	Keith Neaves	Fryers Ridge	7.5 km	20 minute drive to start then a 2½ hour walk.	3-4	Fryers Ridge near Taradale. We will be walking on formed dirt vehicular tracks and walking tracks close to the Coliban Water channel. The area is known for its wildflowers.	There is limited parking. Please be ready to car pool from the Octopus. https://cartography.id.au/fryers_ridge/fryers_ridge.htm
9 November Octopus 8.30am	Keith Neaves / Jules Hurley	Moonlight Flat / Dirty Dicks Gully	Approx. 7 kms	10 minute drive to start then a 2 hour walk.	4	A circuit walk close by the Pennyweight Flat Children's Cemetery. The track will be up and down and poles will be useful at times.	https://cartography.id.au/welsh_village/welsh_village.pdf https://u3ahikersfuture.blogspot.com/2021/04/castlemaine-chewton-forest-creek.html

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23 November Octopus 8.30am	Alan Roberts and Peter Turner	Southern and Central Kalmina Park including Kaweka Reserve	5km	1.5 hours	3-4	A gentle route that is safe and will have a wonderful wildflower display, especially along one of the lesser known tracks through the Kaweka Reserve. The walk will start and finish at The Octopus, and we will pass The Dove on the way back for members who would like refreshments. Members who usually use walking poles may find them helpful.	https://seana.org.au/kaweka-wildflower-reserve-castlemaine/
30 November Octopus 8.30am to car pool	Ange Were and Sue Goding	Exploring the Tarnagulla area	8 - 9km	40 minute drive via Maldon to start, then 3 hour walk	2-3	Meet at the town park in Commercial Road (main road through town) at 9.40. Park in front of the big map and toilet block. We will explore the cemetery, the heritage buildings and the town reservoir with bush in between. On the reconnoitre there were a lot of mosquitoes so come PREPARED. Most of the walk is flat, between levels 2 and 3. While there is no place in town for a meal, coffee is available from the pub or general store in Commercial Road. You may want to bring lunch to eat in the park before going home.	https://www.melbourneplaygrounds.com.au/tarnagulla-historic-township-walk-blue-plaque-trail#.Y2R0KS8RpUM
14 December Octopus 8.30am	John Butselaar	Edgecombe, just north of Kyneton	7 km	45 minute drive to start, then a 2½ hour walk, followed by a long lunch.	4	Final walk for the year at Black Hill.	Lunch at John and Robyn Butselaar's home in Trio Road, Kyneton following the walk.

