

## 2023

DATE	LEADER	PLACE	DISTANCE	ACTIVITY DURATION ESTIMATE	GRADE AWTGS	COMMENT	BOOK REFERENCE
9 Feb 2023  Octopus 0830	Gerry Egan	Castlemaine	7 km	2 hours walking followed by morning tea at the Dove.	3	The walk is along Forest Creek, Moonlight Creek and Kalimna Park. It is relatively flat but with a couple of short scrambles across washouts adjacent to Forest Creek and a rocky uphill section in Kalimna. Poles would be helpful in these sections for those who use them. Note also that there is plenty of long grass around, so protect your legs and feet. We will pause in some shade along Moonlight Creek for a chat about the year's arrangements.	Kalimna Park map. <a href="https://cartography.id.au/kalimna_park/kalimna_park.pdf">https:// cartography.id.au/ kalimna_park/ kalimna_park.pdf</a>
22 Feb 2023  Octopus 0830	Alan Roberts	Domino Trail from Lyonville to Trentham.	7 km walking  40 km driving (45 mins)	2 hours walking followed by morning coffee and or lunch in Trentham.	4	The Domino Trail follows the old rail bed between Lyonville and Trentham. We will walk both on forest tracks and on the old rail bed. There are recent changes to the landscape and vegetation as a result of a massive wind storm in 2020 and floods in 2022. Walking poles will be handy for those members One site of interest on the walk was an area of devastated forest caused by a microburst (aka downburst) - a rapidly descending column of cold air that violently spreads out in all directions when it reaches the ground.	<a href="https://www.railtrails.org.au/trails/woodend-to-daylesford-incl-domino-rail-trail/">https:// www.railtrails.org.au/ trails/woodend-to- daylesford-incl-domino- rail-trail/</a>

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8 March 2023 Octopus 0830	Keith Neaves and Brier Johnson	South eastern area of Fryers Ridge Nature Conservation Reserve	7 km walking 20 mins driving		3/4	The majority of the walk is on undulating formed tracks with one section of about 300m off-track.	<a href="https://cartography.id.au/fryers_ridge/fryers_ridge.pdf">https://cartography.id.au/fryers_ridge/fryers_ridge.pdf</a>
22 March 2023 Octopus 0830	Peter Turner	Railway Dam Chewton	6.4 km walking	2.5 hours walking	3/4	This loop walk starts at the parking area just south of Railway Dam. We head south along Railway Dam Rd then off on a rutted 4WD track that climbs steadily up to a saddle. We then follow up a steepish track heading roughly NNW and along a ridge with distant views, to join White Gum Track. The route back is parallel to the railway line, crossing Poverty Gully Channel and on to Railway Dam. Grade 3 difficulty but may feel harder as we climb to the top of the ridge. There are some steepish descents where walking poles are strongly recommended for those who use them. The final section back parallel to the railway heading east is up and down as the rail track goes through cuttings and across embankments.	<a href="https://cartography.id.au/railway_dam/railway_dam.pdf">https://cartography.id.au/railway_dam/railway_dam.pdf</a>

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29 March 2023 Botanic Gardens 0830	Ron Westcott, Cheryl Taylor and Bryan Fitzgerald	Castlemaine.	8-9kms	2 hours	2	A rogaine traditionally involves bushwalking with the aim of navigating to various checkpoints and returning to the start by a certain time. Kevin Vallence organised rogaines as part of the U3A bushwalking program for several years before COVID intervened. Kevin passed away last July. This year's U3A rogaine is around the streets of Castlemaine. So the navigation is easy – a compass isn't needed. Street names are on the map, which is handed out (with checkpoints marked) to all walkers. The pre-event briefing will have some tips on map reading. Even if you aren't confident about your map reading ability, that's fine. You will have teammates to confer with.	

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DATE	LEADER	PLACE	DISTANCE	ACTIVITY DURATION ESTIMATE	GRADE AWTGS	COMMENT	BOOK REFERENCE
12 April 2023  09 am  Pennyweight Flat Children's Cemetery, in Colles Road, Castlemaine	Geoff and Lorraine Callister	South Quartz Hill Castlemaine	7kms	2.5 to 3 hours	3	<p>There is some bush bashing at the start and long trousers are recommended as there is a lot of gorse in the area. The rain of Friday has made paths slippery and as the area dries, leaf drop could also be slippery and walking poles are recommended for those that use them. Some areas are quite steep and some of the tracks are quite rough due to water damage, part of the walk is along Quartz Hill Road.</p> <p>The walk starts and ends at Pennyweight Flat Children's Cemetery, in Colles Road, Castlemaine. The walk is classified Grade 3 – (Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Some bushwalking experience recommended. Track may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface, and many steps). Please consider your capabilities and the ability to stay close to the main group especially during the "bush bash".</p>	

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DATE	LEADER	PLACE	DISTANCE	ACTIVITY DURATION ESTIMATE	GRADE AWTGS	COMMENT	BOOK REFERENCE
26 April 2023  09am  Muckleford to Maldon	Sue Goding & Ange Were	Muckleford to Maldon	9 kms	2.5 hours	2 -3	<p>Mostly on the flat but with 3 medium hills. We think it is level 2.5</p> <p>The walk starts at Muckleford station, proceeds through farmland for several kms and then into pleasant forest for the rest. The track is smooth the whole way and the steam train will pass us mid-morning.</p> <p>There are signs of diggings but no striking landmarks, just a good bit of exercise.</p> <p>At the end we can have coffee and scones with jam and cream, or lunch, at Cafe Maldon (table booked).</p>	
10 May 2023  09am  Octopus	Keith Neaves & Brier Johnson	Irishtown, Salters Creek trestle siphon.	8 kms	2.5 hours	3-4	<p>An interesting walk with a variety tracks, the majority being well formed tracks, but with some rough rocky sections. There is one quite steep incline with a rough rocky section.</p> <p>We will have 'play lunch' at the trestle siphon, with some time available to get up close and have a good look at the structure.</p> <p>Walking poles recommended if usually used.</p>	CCM map - Columbine Creek

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24 May 2023  09am  Octopus	Heather Macdermid & Sharon Allan	Maldon-Rock of Ages and Nuggetty ridge. Mount Moorul	6 km	3 hours	3	A circular walk of views! Beginning off-track up to 'Rock of Ages' with time to explore and gaze. The views continue north as we walk the ridge to our 2nd destination. Mostly 4-wheel drive tracks with steady inclines and declines, stretches of off-track, and maybe some slippery bits after rain. Recommendations are walking poles if usual, and maybe binoculars because clear skies will equal stunning views!	
31 May 2023  09am  Octopus	Deb Shand	Mt Alexander Harcourt	8 km	3 hours	4	The old silkworm farm will be our first point of interest, then we will navigate up to the old quarry which is near the top of the mount, before returning to the cars via Dog Rocks and Ed's Seat. There will be some inclines, not too steep, and possibly some branches to step over. Bring walking poles if you have them. If it's clear weather we can enjoy the views, the forest and big rocks can always be enjoyed.	
14 June 2023  09am  Octopus	Bill Wigglesworth	Walmer State Forest	7.5 km	2.5 hours	3-4	The track will have some rocky sections, with some gentle inclines. Because of the recent rains, muddy sections are to be expected and therefore poles and solid shoes are recommended. Tea and coffee will be enjoyed at the conclusion of the walk.	

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DATE	LEADER	PLACE	DISTANCE	ACTIVITY DURATION ESTIMATE	GRADE AWTGS	COMMENT	BOOK REFERENCE
28 June 2023  09am  Gingell St	Keith Neaves	Wewak Track, Brown's Gully & Loop Track.	8 km	2.5 - 3 hours	3	A circuit walk Accessed from Porcupine Ridge Track Tracks - a variety of tracks, most well formed with some sections of rocky uneven ground. Walking poles recommended if usually used.	See FOBIB bushwalks Walk 17
12 July 2023  09am  Gingell St	Tricia Balmer	Coliban Water Channel Big Hill Bendigo	8 km	2.5 - 3 hours	2	A circuit walk Most of this walk is on established level 2 tracks and follows the Coliban Water Channel in the Crusoe Reservoir Reserve. There are short sections "off track", level 3, through open bush.	<a href="https://coliban.com.au/files/2019-06/CW_JBrady_collated-Web.pdf">https://coliban.com.au/files/2019-06/CW_JBrady_collated-Web.pdf</a>
12 July 2023  09am  Gingell St	Heather Macdermid & Sharon Allan	Muckleford forest including the Red, White and Blue Mine recreation area and Dunn's Reef.	6 km	2.5 - 3 hours	3	First up a little off-track taste of the Muckleford Nature Conservation Area with its wonderful understory, ground cover and Ironbarks; then mostly 4-wheel drive tracks exploring the above mentioned mining sites. The affects of wood cutting in the adjacent state forest also feature.	
9 August 2023  09am  Lawson Pde opp Secondary College	Peter Turner	The northern end of Kalimna Park, Castlemaine.	6.5 km	2.5 hours	3/4	We will start at the northern end of Lawson Pde where the Kalimna Tourist Road begins. We will follow part of the Kalimna Circuit Track, then north by Moonlight Creek, and on to the highest part of the Park, before looping back to the Tourist Road. Some parts are steep and the tracks are rough in places, so walking poles are advised if you use them.	Map CCM "Kalimna Park Walking Tracks"

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23 Aug 2023	Sue Teltscher	Mt Consultation. This is located between Campbells Creek and Muckleford and access requires permission from the owner.	7.8 km		3	The walk is to Mt Consultation which is 297 m high. West of Campbell's Creek. Description: The walk is grade 3 with some rock scrambling up the crater for a short distance and is on private property. Generally we will be on an unsealed road.	
30 Aug 2023	Sue Goding & Ange Were	Spring Gully & Break Neck Hill walk. Glenn Tempest walk #11	11 km	3.5 hours	Medium to hard	This is a walk with much variety. Spring Gully has many relics of mining days, pretty Fryerstown is our morning tea stop. Flowers will be emerging in the bush on Break Neck Hill. The walk is partly on the Goldfields Track, partly on vehicle tracks and there is a 750m section on the sealed Campbells Creek-Fryerstown Road. There are some long steep ups and downs and the tracks will be slippery in parts if wet (bring poles if you use them). As this is a long walk, we suggest we bring a picnic lunch as well as morning tea. We will lunch at the top of Breakneck Hill or at the carpark at the end of the walk.	



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13 Sep 2023	Heather Macdermid & Sharon Allan	Moonlight Flat, Elephant Hill, Garfield Wheel and Forest Creek.	7.3 km	3 hours	3	Description: This is a loop walk leaving from the Pennyweight Flat Cemetery carpark. The walk will take us off track up to Elephant Hill with views of Mt Alexander, the Castlemaine Gaol and beyond. The walk will continue off track with some parts rocky as we head to the Ancestor Tree (The Grandmother Tree) situated on the edge of Me-Mandook Galk Indigenous Education Place & Bush Tucker Farm. The walk will then follow the Goldfields Track to the Garfield Wheel where we will stop for morning tea. The walk will then head towards the Chewton township connecting to the Leanganook Track heading back along Forest Creek over Zeal Bridge back to Pennyweight Flat Cemetery.	
27 Sep 2023	Deb & Bill Wigglesworth	Goughs Range State Forest	5.1 km	Travel time is about 25 minutes; it's 7 minutes south of Maldon. Walking 2 hours	2-3	The walk circles an old goldfields digging- area - lots of holes, trenches, dirt piles. There is gradual uphill climb, not at all arduous compared to other walks we've done. All Trails registered an elevation gain of 74 metres. When Bill and Deb did the recce several spring flowers were beginning to bloom, including some orchids. All of the walk is done on vehicular tracks. No bush bashing. It's a walk for people who want a leisurely stroll in the country. There are great panoramic views from the summit of the walk.	It's walk no. 10 in the book Twenty Bushwalks in the Mount Alexander Region.

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DATE	LEADER	PLACE	DISTANCE	ACTIVITY DURATION ESTIMATE	GRADE AWTGS	COMMENT	BOOK REFERENCE
11 Oct 2023	Alan Roberts	Whipstick Phillips Gully circuit	7 km	2 hours	3	<p>The Whipstick is characterised by impoverished soil, no free surface water as a result of the Mt. Alexander granodiorite intrusion to the south, and low growing trees mainly made up of Green mallee, Blue mallee, and Bull mallee. There is generally a sparse understory of Melaleucas, Acacias, and low growing herbs (eg Cypress Daisy Bush). The trees grow close to each other, only reaching 5-7 metres high and they have an almost continuous canopy. Although the trees are close together, you can pick a path through them and the walking is pretty easy. There are also a few other things of interest on this walk - a stand of Quandongs (<i>Santalum acuminatum</i>), the 1865 Phillips Gully rush site, two ancient abandoned Mallee Fowl nests, a stand of the rare Kamarooka mallee (<i>E. froggattii</i>), the most northern deep mineshaft of the Bendigo goldfields, and lastly a double fenced enclosure protecting one of the few remaining communities of the rare and endangered Whipstick westringia (<i>Westringia crassifolia</i>), which is currently in flower. There are some gentle rises and descents, underfoot is generally quite stable, we will walk in dappled shade, and about 3km of the walk is off track, cross country. Travel time is about 50 minutes to Huntly then a 15 minute drive from George's Bakery at the intersection of the Midland Highway and Burgoyne Street in Huntly. We will carpool.</p>	

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DATE	LEADER	PLACE	DISTANCE	ACTIVITY DURATION ESTIMATE	GRADE AWTGS	COMMENT	BOOK REFERENCE
25 Oct 2023	Bryan & Julie Fitzgerald	Halls Gap				<p>Tuesday Oct 24 Commencing early afternoon, a loop walk from the town centre past the recreation reserve to Clematis Falls, Chatauqua Peak, Bullaces Glen crossing Mt Victory Road to join The Venus Baths Walk back to the starting point. Distance: 6.1 km Grade: 3      Time: Approx 2 1/2 hours</p> <p>Wednesday October 25. Morning walk: The Pinnacle is the iconic walk of the Grampians. Car pool to Wonderland Carpark, approx 15 mins drive. This would be an out and back walk. The exit from the Grand Canyon is currently closed, so, if this is still the case, we would make a detour into the Grand Canyon and return before heading on up to the Pinnacle. Distance 4.4 km + about .6 km for into Grand Canyon and return    Grade: 3-4 Time: Approx 2 1/2 hours</p> <p>On the return from the Pinnacle, there is the option of a walk to Turret Falls and return, from Wonderland Carpark Distance 2.4 km      Grade: 3 Time: Approx 3/4 hour</p>	

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8 Nov 2023	Keith Neaves & Deb Shand	Fryers Ridge-Coliban Channel	10km	3 hours Drive time to start: 15 minutes	3	This walk will take us from the Coliban Channel across a short section of untracked bushland then on a gently rising unmade road through the forest to Fryers Ridge. We will descend from the ridge on a disused road and return along the peaceful Coliban Channel to the cars. There are still some Spring wildflowers to be seen and many birds flitting through the bush. The walk is almost entirely on well-formed tracks with no steep hills. Elevation: 100m	
22 Nov 2023	Deb Shand	Daylesford	8 km	Walking time 3 hours. Drive to the start 30mins	3	The walk commences by walking around pretty Jubilee Lake and crossing the historic trestle bridge before joining a forest trail that takes us to a section of the Lost Children's Track. We follow this on 4WD tracks until we reach the Lerderberg Track that leads us back to the lake along a disused railway line. The walk is all on formed tracks that undulate gently through the bush. Currently the weather prediction is for a sunny 19 degrees in Daylesford next Wednesday. Those who wish to can visit Harvest café in Daylesford for coffee and/or lunch before returning to Castlemaine.	

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DATE	LEADER	PLACE	DISTANCE	ACTIVITY DURATION ESTIMATE	GRADE AWTGS	COMMENT	BOOK REFERENCE
6/12/2023	Keith Neaves	Lerderderg River walk, Blackwood	9km	3 hours	3	<p>The walk is in the Wombat Forest, starting and finishing near the Garden of St Earth, Blackwood. This makes for great walking providing a different experience to that we usually have in the Castlemaine area.</p> <p>The walk is predominantly on single file hiking tracks and is relatively easy walking with no steep sections. You need to be aware that in some sections of the track there are some low protruding rocks and surface tree roots. There are a few fallen trees across the track to step over. There currently is a good flow in the river.</p> <p>Due to the longer drive time and consequent later finish time, it is recommended to take a light lunch to have when we have our break in the walk, instead of our usual play-lunch. The break will be in a lovely spot, right next to the river.</p>	

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DATE	LEADER	PLACE	DISTANCE	ACTIVITY DURATION ESTIMATE	GRADE AWTGS	COMMENT	BOOK REFERENCE
13 Dec 2023	Simon Benson & Alison Edwards	Campbells Creek, South Castlemaine	10 km	3 hours	Easy/ Moderate	This walk explores South Castlemaine and Campbells Creek, starting at the Five Flags Hotel. Most of the walk is on old jeep tracks or along the water race joining the Goldfields track. Most of the walk is gently undulating. There is a short 300 metre moderate uphill section ascending White Hill near the start of the walk. This section is off track through open vegetation. There is another moderate uphill section to reach the water race track. The last section follows the Campbells Creek track back to the Five Flags Hotel for lunch.	