

On the walk

[The numbers give the distance in kilometres. 0.01Km = 10m.]

0.00 The walk starts in Mostyn Street, outside the Castlemaine Visitor Information Centre, formerly the Market Building, c. 1862.

From the Information Centre, walk eastwards along Mostyn Street.

0.05 The former High School building is on the right. Later, it housed Castlemaine Junior Technical College, and the facade is now part of a supermarket.

Cross Hargraves Street and continue eastwards. The next block of Mostyn Street is noted for its historic buildings.

0.36 Castlemaine Primary School is at the corner of Urquhart Street. An information board is on the west wall of the school.

Continue eastwards and up a steep slope to the monument.

0.73 Burke and Wills Monument. Robert O'Hara Burke was sergeant of police at Castlemaine before leading the ill-fated Victorian Exploring Expedition of 1860-61.

From the lookout the churches are, from left to right: Christ Church (Church of England, now Anglican, sandstone), St Andrews (Presbyterian, now Uniting Church, brick) and the Congregational Church (now Presbyterian, brick). Other prominent buildings are the Castlemaine Primary School, the Post Office with the clock tower and the Old Castlemaine Gaol.

Central Castlemaine is at the junction of two creeks: Forest Creek (east-west) and Barkers Creek (north-south).

Hills in the distance are Mt Consultation (an extinct volcano, slightly south of west) and Mt Tarrenower (west north-west).

From the monument, walk downhill (north) along Wills Street to Lyttleton Street. Turn right (uphill) for 100 metres and turn left into Armstrong Court. Kalimna Park is at the end of the court. Continue a further 30 metres northwards along a track and turn right (south-eastwards) on to a narrow path. The track soon turns east, and then north, above the Kalimna Tourist Road.

On reaching the main track we have a detour to Kalimna Point lookout. Turn left, up a slope, for 80 metres, to the band rotunda and Kalimna Point.

1.34 Kalimna Point and Band Rotunda. This part of the reserve was cleared and planted with exotic species and non-local natives. The large Sugar Gums now block much of the view. Over the years, the area has been recolonised by indigenous plants. The band rotunda was repaired as a bicentennial project, organised by the Friends of Kalimna Park.

Turn back down the track (east) to the Kalimna Tourist Road.

1.47 Kalimna Tourist Road. *Turn left (north) along the road. The road passes through the Kalimna Park bushland.*

The Kalimna Park bushland is an example of Heathy Dry Forest. The plants are adapted to the dry conditions. Adaptations include small leaves, which may have tough, waxy and/or hairy surfaces, to help reduce water loss in summer. The trees drop leaves during summer, and a carpet of fallen leaves is typical of the local forests.

This bushland is noted for the diversity of plants. It is burnt in sections periodically to reduce fuel load. Vegetation surveys by the Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club help inform planned burn strategies.

1.74 Hunter Track corner. *Continue along the main road.*

1.88 An anticline is exposed in the cutting on the right of the road. It is best seen by looking back (to the south-east). These rocks are made of sediments deposited in a shallow sea about 450 million years ago (in the Ordovician period). After a time, the sediments slipped downhill, in an underwater avalanche, to form new layers about 30cm thick. These layers are separated by a thin layer of fine-grained rock formed by the settling of material suspended in the water. Since then, pressure from the east has folded the rocks.

2.23 Crest. This is the highest elevation on the walk, and is just over 360 metres above sea level. The road is along a ridge which separates Barkers Creek to the west and Moonlight Creek to the east. Further east is a larger ridge, which is the boundary between the goldfields sedimentary rock and the Harcourt granite.

2.68 Circuit Track. *Turn left on to the Kalimna Circuit Track. The track at first is in a south-westerly direction. There is a brochure box at the start of the track. Follow the track, marked with arrows and numbers, until the 11th numbered post.*

2.70 Heathy Dry Forest. These forests are noted for a mixture of eucalypt species, and a wide range of shrubs and herbaceous species. Common eucalypts along the track are Red Stringybark, Grey Box, Long-leaf Box and Red Box. Many of the trees have a mallee-like appearance. When the original trees were cut down, suckers grew from the base. These have now grown into trunks. Wattles include Golden, Gold-dust, Spreading, Hedge and Rough Wattles. Native grasses, lilies, daisies, orchids and sundew are also present, and make a show in spring. There are also many Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*) shrubs in the Kalimna Park bushland, hosting a critical population of the endangered Eltham Copper Butterfly.

Holes have been dug in the reserve by miners searching for gold, by the army in the 1940s, and for rock. The shape of the hole gives an indication of the purpose of the digging.

After the 11th marked post, walk 15 metres to a T-intersection, turn left leaving the Circuit track and walk 100 metres to a 4-wheel drive track. Turn right (north) and follow this track 70 metres to where Kalimna Tourist Road becomes Lawson Parade.

There is a maze of tracks in the vicinity. Some were built as a track for driver education. Many of the tracks in Kalimna Park are now eroded. As water becomes channelled, the erosion rate increases.

3.70 Devonshire Mine was to the left. Recovery after the mining disturbance has been very slow. The mined area may never recover to its pre-mining state. Loss of topsoil has reduced fertility, so growth is slow.

3.79 Kalimna Tourist Road/Lawson Parade. *Turn left, past the school.*

4.10 Castlemaine Secondary College. The school was built beside Milkmaids Flat. It is now a consolidation of Castlemaine's junior and senior high school campuses.

The Kalimna Tourist Road becomes Lawson Parade. Continue along Lawson Parade to Blakeley Road.

4.40 Blakeley Road. *Turn left along Blakeley Road for about 100 metres*

to North Street. Turn right (west) along North Street to Barker Street (Midland Highway). Turn left for 50 metres to cross the highway opposite the railway pedestrian crossing. Take care crossing the highway and the railway line.

5.00 Melbourne - Echuca Railway. The line was originally a double track to Bendigo, but was reduced to a single line in 2005.

Cross Downes Road with care, to the north-east corner of the Botanical Gardens.

5.06 Castlemaine Botanical Gardens. The Botanical Gardens were established in 1860. Many of the trees are labelled. Very large pines are one of the features of the gardens.

Follow the path west and then south beside Barkers Creek.

The gardens extend up from the west side of the creek where the bushland also hosts a colony of the endangered Eltham Copper Butterfly. Silver Poplars, Willows and other weeds are being removed from the creek.

5.75 Lake Joanna. The creek has been straightened. Part of the original creek was deepened, and is now Lake Joanna, named after the wife of a former mayor. Another lake, Lake Augusta, which was west of the creek, was filled in and is now a sports field.

Follow the creek to the southern boundary of the gardens. Cross Walker Street, and cross the creek to Gingell Street.

6.14 Gingell St corner. *Turn left (south) along Gingell Street.*

6.30 Elms are a feature of Gingell Street. Barkers Creek is on the left. Many streams in the goldfields are very degraded, as a result of mining, course alteration and weed infestation. Many of the weedy plants have been removed from the creek, as part of a flood control program.

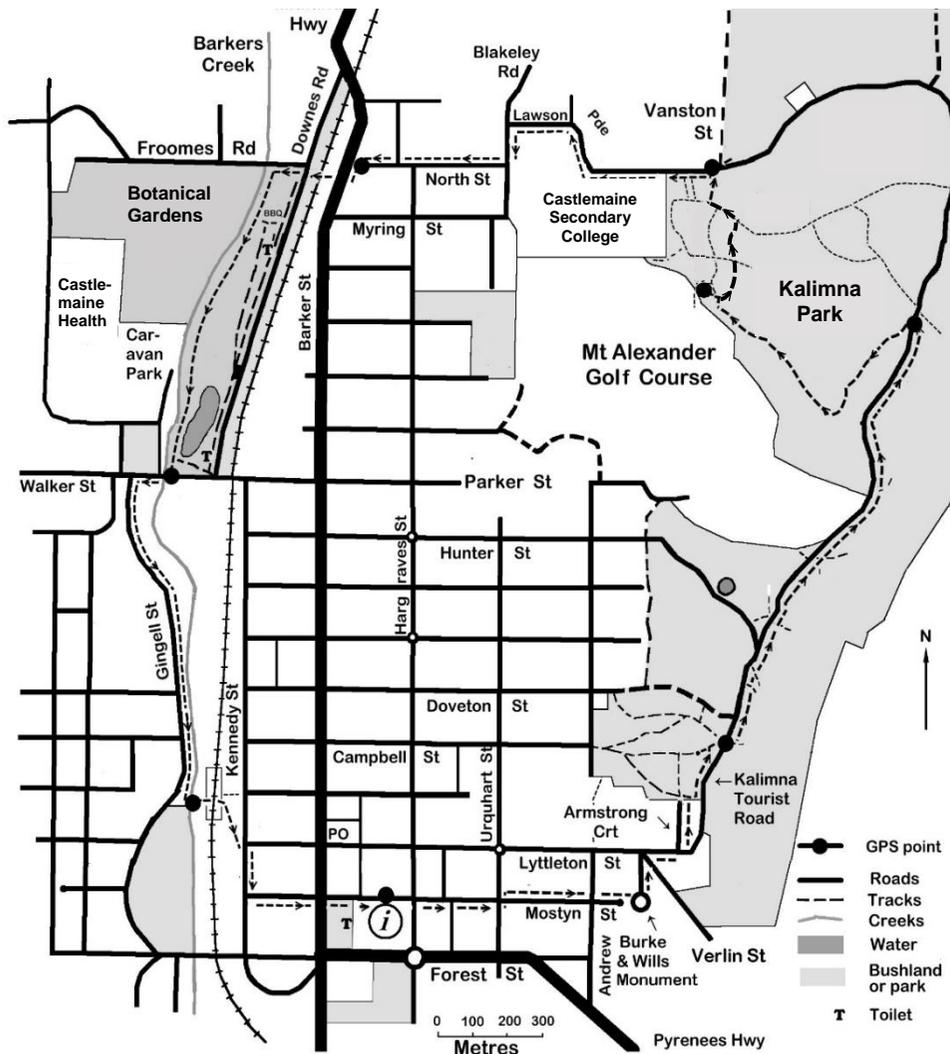
7.00 Footbridge. *Just before reaching Camp Reserve, and opposite the Railway Hotel, cross the creek at the bridge, and continue through the subway. From the railway station, follow the path leading at an angle (south-east) up the embankment, to Kennedy Street.*

7.10 Archdeacon's Pass was named after Archdeacon Archibald Crawford, who was Rector of the Church of England parish (1861-1871), and who used this path to reach the railway station. He travelled extensively through the district when carrying out his pastoral duties.

7.18 Tertiary Gravels. Water-worn rounded gravels can be seen in the embankment on the east side of Kennedy Street. The gravels were once in the bed of Barkers Creek, which has since cut a deeper channel to the west.

Continue south along Kennedy Street for one block to Mostyn Street. Turn left (east) into Mostyn Street.

7.40 Captain Hepburn plaque is attached to the brick fence of the Anglican Church, south-west of the South African War memorial. John Hepburn was one of the first settlers in Victoria following the survey by Major Mitchell. Hepburn settled in the Smeaton District. *Continue along Mostyn Street past Victory Park to the Information Centre.*



Coordinates (degrees, gda)

- i* Information Centre, Mostyn St 37.06589 144.21808
- Kalimna Pt, Kalimna Tourist Rd 37.06337 144.22902
- Start of Circuit Track 37.05376 144.23293
- Track T intersection, Kalimna 37.05317 144.23050
- Kalimna Tourist Rd, Vanston St 37.05037 144.23090
- West End of North St. 37.04924 144.22047
- Walker St. 37.05561 144.21340
- Foot bridge, Barkers Ck 37.06298 144.21808

About the walk

Most of the walk is along defined roads and tracks. There are a few steep climbs and some rough sections. Only the Kalimna Circuit Track section is marked with arrows. Otherwise, route directions are given in this leaflet.

Some bushland tracks are becoming eroded. Wear sturdy footwear and take water and clothing suitable for the season.

Toilets (T on map) are available at the Botanical Gardens and Victory Park (adjacent to the Information Centre).

Alternative routes

The walk can be shortened if desired. Alternative routes could be a return via Hunter Street or Hargraves Street. With a car shuffle, the walk could terminate at the gardens.

Further information

Walks brochures that cover parts of this walk include:

- Significant trees of the Castle-maine Botanical Gardens
- A Walk on the Kalimna Circuit Track

A WALK TO THE BOTANICAL GARDENS VIA KALIMNA PARK

A 7.5 km round walk from the Information Centre to the Burke and Wills monument, the Kalima Park bushland and the Castle-maine Botanical Gardens



Photo: Castle-maine from the Burke and Wills Monument

Originally compiled by E Perkins, updated Sept 2022.

The Castle-maine Field Naturalists Club acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung community as the traditional owners and custodians of the country where we meet and study the natural environment.

Castle-maine Field Naturalists Club

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