

CAVEPS 2023 Melbourne Final Circular



Logo by Peter Trusler

Monday 27th – Thursday 30th November 2023

Hosted by:



MONASH
University

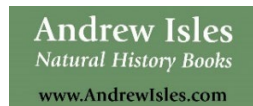


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Call for Registration

The Conference on Australasian Vertebrate Evolution, Palaeontology and Systematics will be co-hosted by **Monash University and Museums Victoria**, and held at Melbourne Museum, Victoria from 27 to 30 November 2023. CAVEPS 2023 will be a multidisciplinary forum that showcases the latest research on vertebrate morphology, phylogeny, systematics, evolution, development, zooarchaeology and palaeoecology.

You are invited to register for the **18th CAVEPS**, the biennial conference of vertebrate palaeontologists, earth scientists, evolutionary biologists, and fossil enthusiasts from Australasia and around the world.

Standard registration is open until **31 October 2023**. Registration after this date will incur a late fee.

Registration (from 1 August)

- General AU\$400
- Student/Concession AU\$200

Late Registration (from 1 November)

- General AU\$500
- Student/Concession AU\$275

Payment for **Registration** must be made through the MV payment site:

<https://museumsvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/whats-on/caveps-2023/>

All registrants must complete the **Events Sign-Up** form to attend any CAVEPS events:

<https://forms.gle/KXH33Gh7tQBpTHNc8>

Website and Social Media

Website: caveps.org

Email address: caveps.palaeo@gmail.com

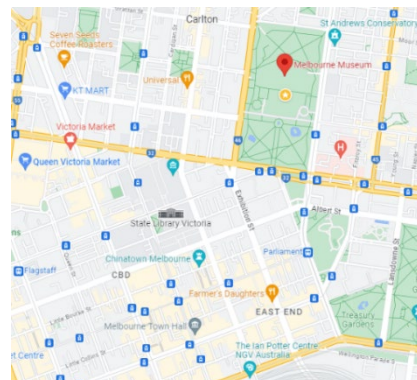
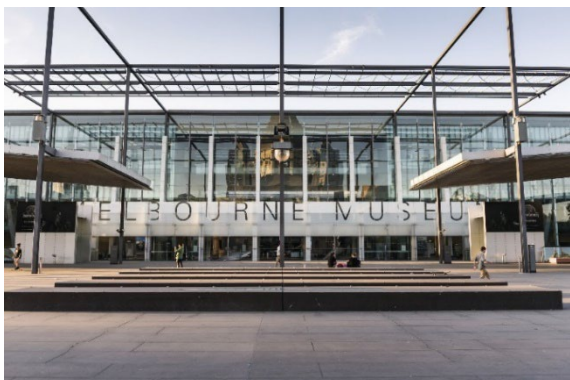
Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/418078698316877>

Twitter/X: @CAVEPS_Palaeo

For general tourist information on Melbourne and Victoria, please see www.visitvictoria.com/.

Location

The conference will be held at the **Melbourne Museum** in Carlton, north of the Melbourne city centre. Plenaries and spoken presentations will be given in the 200-seat Melbourne Museum Theatre.





Attendees can find accommodation in the immediate vicinity of Carlton and surrounding suburbs, or in the Central Business District. The Museum is serviced by several tram routes, and is close to Parliament subway train station.

Scientific Program

Workshops and Tours – Monday 27 November

The Workshops will focus on an introduction to and practical application of advanced palaeontological and biological analyses. Detailed programs will be provided to registrants closer to the time of the meeting. Please sign up to the workshops promptly using the [Events Sign-Up](#) online form if you would like to attend either or both of the workshops, as places are limited, and close 31 October.

Workshop 1: Imaging and Synchrotron Science for Palaeontologists – Monday AM

The ability to see inside fossils has been a boon to many aspects of palaeontology, from systematics to biomechanics. This workshop will explain the basis and applications of modern radiation imaging methods, including synchrotron X-ray, neutron and lab computed tomography (CT). It will be facilitated by Dr Joseph Bevitt (Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation ANSTO).

Workshop 2: Biomolecules in Palaeontology and Archaeology – Monday PM

The chemical remains of past life offer clues to their ecology and life history. This workshop will bring together scientists from all over Australia to study the molecular structure of ancient materials, to expand our understanding of the origins of life and the evolution of civilisation. It will utilise cutting-edge techniques such as Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) and Raman spectroscopy, Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM) and synchrotron fluorescence imaging to reveal new insights into the chemical composition and morphology of ancient tissues and artefacts. It will be facilitated by Professor Bayden Wood (Monash University) and Professor Kliti Grice (Curtin University).

Museums Victoria Collections and Exhibits Tours – Monday PM

Tours of the Museum vertebrate palaeontology, vertebrate zoology wet, and vertebrate zoology dry collection stores, plus the Gandel Gondwana Garden/Triceratops: Fate of the Dinosaurs public exhibits will be run during the afternoon. There will be three tour groups that will each visit two of the collection stores, followed by an opportunity to tour the public exhibits. Places in each tour group are limited. Please sign up for tours following the link in the [Events Sign-Up](#) form.

General Sessions – Tuesday 28 November to Thursday 30 November

General sessions for spoken presentations and dedicated poster sessions will run from 28 November to 30 November. All general sessions presentations will be held in the Melbourne Museum Theatre, and will be allocated a 12-minute time slot (including questions).

Plenary Speakers

We are very pleased to welcome three highly-coveted speakers for plenary sessions at CAVEPS.

Professor Tim Flannery FAA

A Review of Monotreme Evolution

Professor Kliti Grice FAA, ARC Laureate Fellow

Interpreting the Molecular Record of Extraordinarily Preserved Fossils

Dr Alice Clement

Once We Were Fish: Uncovering Our Distant Piscine Origins using Digital Palaeontology



Panel

Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander First Nations peoples in palaeontology and archaeology

This Q&A-style panel aims to discuss how non-Indigenous researchers can establish culturally safe, respectful, and genuine partnerships with First Nations communities. It will include representatives from the Indigenous community, palaeontology, and archaeology, who will draw on their own perspectives and experiences. To ensure that this session is relevant and helpful, the CAVEPS community can submit potential questions or issues in advance for the panel to discuss. Chaired by Jillian Garvey and Steven Salisbury.

Symposium

Palaeoherpetology Renaissance 2.0: 30 Years of Progress

The scope covers new amphibian and reptile taxa and trees, methods used to identify fossil herps, or palaeoecological studies inclusive of them. Functional morphology, ontogeny, and osteology of living reptiles and amphibians would also be welcome as these are much needed fields for palaeontological advances. Symposium convened by Dr Kailah Thorn.

Student Prizes

There will be student prizes for both spoken and poster presentations. Students entering the poster prize will give a one-minute spoken presentation about their poster.

Social Program

Welcome Function – Monday 27 November evening

Attendees are invited to attend the opening of CAVEPS at the Science and Life Gallery of Melbourne Museum. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be provided. Ticket is included in CAVEPS registration.

Museum; Victoria Lecture by Professor Tim Flannery – Tuesday 28 November evening

Megalodon and the Age of Ocean Giants

Celebrating the recent publication of Tim Flannery's newest book, *Big Meg*, join us on a journey spanning millions of years to chronicle the rise and fall of marine megafauna and how they shape Earth's past, present and future. This event will be held in the Melbourne Museum Theatre. Tickets for this event must be purchased separately. MV Public Programs have organised a discount code for CAVEPS attendees—CAVEPS2023. The discount code allows CAVEPS delegates to pay \$8 per ticket. There are only 40 tickets available at this CAVEPS discount, so they'll need to get in quick if they want to get a (discounted) seat in the Theatre. Tickets can be purchased here:

<https://museums victoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/whats-on/megalodon-and-the-age-of-ocean-giants/>

Internationally acclaimed scientist and writer Professor Tim Flannery joins Associate Professor Dr Cheng-Hsiu Tsai (National Taiwan University), Dr Erich Fitzgerald (Museums Victoria) and Natasha Mitchell (ABC journalist and presenter) to discuss the evolution of ocean giants, from megalodon sharks, to living leviathans, like the blue whale and the crucial role they play in shaping oceanic ecosystems.



Conference Dinner – Wednesday 29 November evening

The conference dinner will be held at St Andrews Conservatory, adjacent to Melbourne Museum. The evening includes a three-course meal and drinks, along with a palaeo-themed trivia session.

128 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy 3065

Cost: \$135 general, \$95 students



Please complete [Events Sign-Up](#) form for conference dinner, including dietary requirements. The dinner will be limited to the first 120 attendees to pay.

Payment through Museums Victoria by 31 October:

<https://museumsvictoria.com.au/tickets/melbournemuseum/whats-on/caveps-2023-conference-dinner/>

Jurassic Park 3D IMAX – Thursday 30 November

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the classic movie, Jurassic Park will be shown in 3D on the IMAX theatre at Melbourne Museum. Introductions and panel discussion chaired by Dr Erich Fitzgerald (Museums Victoria). Ticket is included in CAVEPS registration.

Auction/Fundraiser

A silent auction, including fossil replicas, surplus books, reprints and artwork, will be run during the conference. We gratefully appreciate any contributions by attendees, so please consider donating any materials for the benefit of future researchers.

Image Contest

Created a killer graph for your research? Generated an awesome 3D fossil render? Took a fun field photo? Painted a palaeoart masterpiece? Enter it to the CAVEPS Image Contest!

Submissions accepted from registered CAVEPS attendees only. One entry per person per category. Submissions close 16 November.

Entries in each category will be judged by a panel. Winners will be announced at the conference dinner on Wednesday 29 November, along with an overall People's Choice winner based on voting on the night.

Categories:

Palaeoart (e.g. life reconstruction of extinct vertebrate taxon)

3D/CT (e.g. volume render of a scan of a vertebrate)

Field photo (e.g. inspiring landscapes, exciting discoveries, shenanigans)

Fossil photo / Scientific illustration (e.g. figure in a description paper)

Dataviz (e.g. beautiful phylogenetic tree, elegant viz of complex data)

Image contest entry form: <https://forms.gle/m6B6HkqymyG6Pevq7>



Field Trip

Beaumaris Bay - Friday 1 December or Saturday 2 December

A day-trip to the Beaumaris Bay fossil site, world-renowned for its rich fauna of intermingled marine and terrestrial vertebrates, pivotal to late Neogene land mammal biochronology in Australia. The field trip will be run by Dr Erich Fitzgerald (Museums Victoria). Places on this trip will be limited. Cost for the field trip is TBC.

Merchandise

We are pleased to offer CAVEPS-branded merchandise for attendees through Toothy Grin. All orders for merchandise should be placed through www.toothygrin.com.au. Shirts are printed in Australia with eco-friendly water-based inks. All shirts are manufactured without the use of child labour. Home-compostable packaging is used for shipping. Available in many colours, and sizes Small, Medium, Large, 2X Large, 3X Large.

Orders are sent directly to attendees, so please place orders in sufficient time to arrive at your address before you leave for the conference. Delivery times: 14 days for production + 2-7 days for standard postage or 1-3 days for express postage.

CAVEPS range: <https://www.toothygrin.com.au/shop/category/CAVEPS-2023?c=4508276>

Men's Tees: \$28



Women's Tees: \$28





Double-sided Tees: \$39



Hoodies: \$64.99

Singlets: \$28

Kids' Tees: \$27

Enamel mugs: \$31.31



Museums Victoria Collections

Museums Victoria Collections Access

CAVEPS delegates will receive priority access to the Museums Victoria Palaeontology and Vertebrate Zoology collections between 20 November and 8 December 2023.

The Vertebrate Palaeontology Collection will be accessible between 20–24 November and 4–8 December. During the week of CAVEPS, 1-hour collection access slots will be facilitated during the morning of Monday 27 November only.

The Vertebrate Zoology Collection will be accessible between 20–24 November, 27 November–1 December, and 4–8 December.

All Collection access requests must be received by Friday 27 October 2023.

Destructive sampling and loans of material will not be permitted as part of CAVEPS collection visits.

Please send collection access requests to:

Vertebrate Palaeontology
Tim Ziegler, tziegler@museum.vic.gov.au

Vertebrate Zoology
Karen Roberts and Katie Date, tvcm@museum.vic.gov.au



Tourism

Melbourne Museum

Entry to Melbourne Museum's public galleries is included with your CAVEPS registration, just show your CAVEPS badge on entry. Highlights of the public exhibitions include:

First Peoples – celebrating the history, culture, achievements and survival of Victoria's Aboriginal people.

Forest Gallery – a living temperate rainforest gully inhabited by diverse native plants and animals.

Triceratops: Fate of the Dinosaurs – Meet Horridus, the world's most complete skeleton of *Triceratops*.

Gandel Gondwana Garden – Explore Victoria's ancient ecosystems in this outdoor gallery.

Dinosaur Walk – Skeletons of dinosaurs, pterosaurs, early synapsids, and Pleistocene megafauna.

600 Million Years – The evolution of life told through the fossil record of Victoria and beyond.

Melbourne Museum Shop

Located in the main foyer, CAVEPS delegates receive a 10% discount at the shop during the week of the conference, just show your CAVEPS badge.

Carlton Gardens

Surrounding the Melbourne Museum and World Heritage-listed Royal Exhibition Building, the Carlton Gardens feature magnificent avenues of mature trees and lakes. In the evening the Gardens abound with brushtail possums *Trichosurus vulpecula*, grey-headed flying foxes *Pteropus poliocephalus*, and white-striped freetail bats *Tadarida australis*.

Melbourne Zoo

One of Australasia's major zoos featuring both native Australian and non-Australian animals.

<https://www.zoo.org.au/melbourne/>

Sea Life Melbourne Aquarium

A comprehensive aquarium emphasising southeast Australian marine life, as well as a large adult saltwater crocodile, and sub-Antarctic penguins. <https://www.visitsealife.com/melbourne/>

St Kilda Penguin Colony

St Kilda Pier and Breakwater is home to a colony of Australian little penguins *Eudyptula novaehollandiae*. Rakali *Hydromys chrysogaster*, a native water rat, are seen here too.

<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/st-kilda-pier-and-breakwater/attractions/little-penguins>

Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

A treasured urban green space for over 170 years, the RBG extends over 38 hectares, housing a collection of over 8,500 species of plants from around the world. <https://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/melbourne-gardens/>

Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne

Remnant natural bushland including over 10 km of walking tracks alongside a contemporary Australian native botanic garden. <https://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/cranbourne-gardens/>

State Library Victoria

Australia's oldest public library, one of the first free libraries in the world, and the world's fourth-most-visited library. <https://www.slv.vic.gov.au>

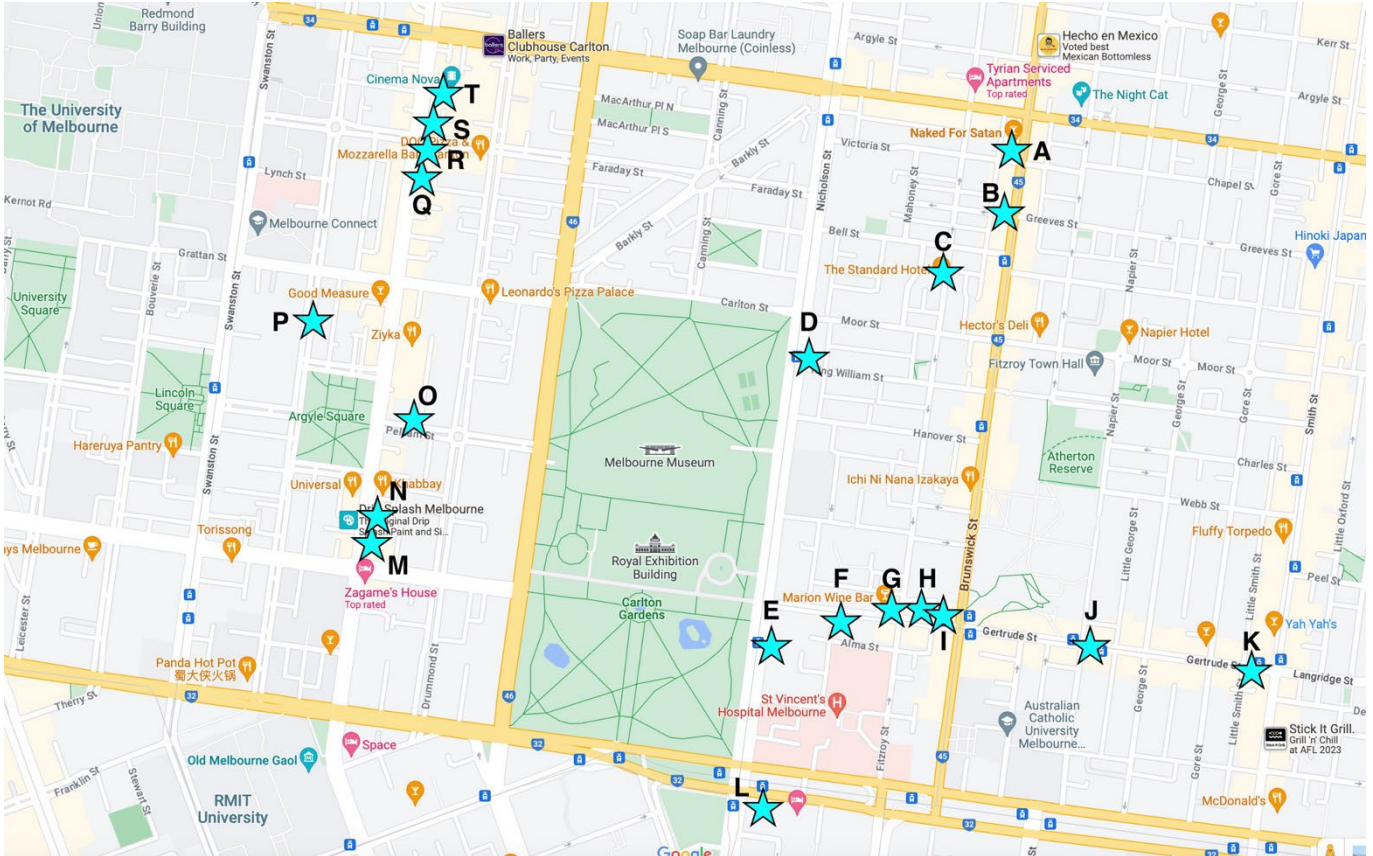
National Gallery of Victoria (NGV)

Australia's oldest and most visited art museum housing an encyclopaedic art collection spread across two sites: NGV International and the Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia. <https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au>



Food and Drink near Melbourne Museum

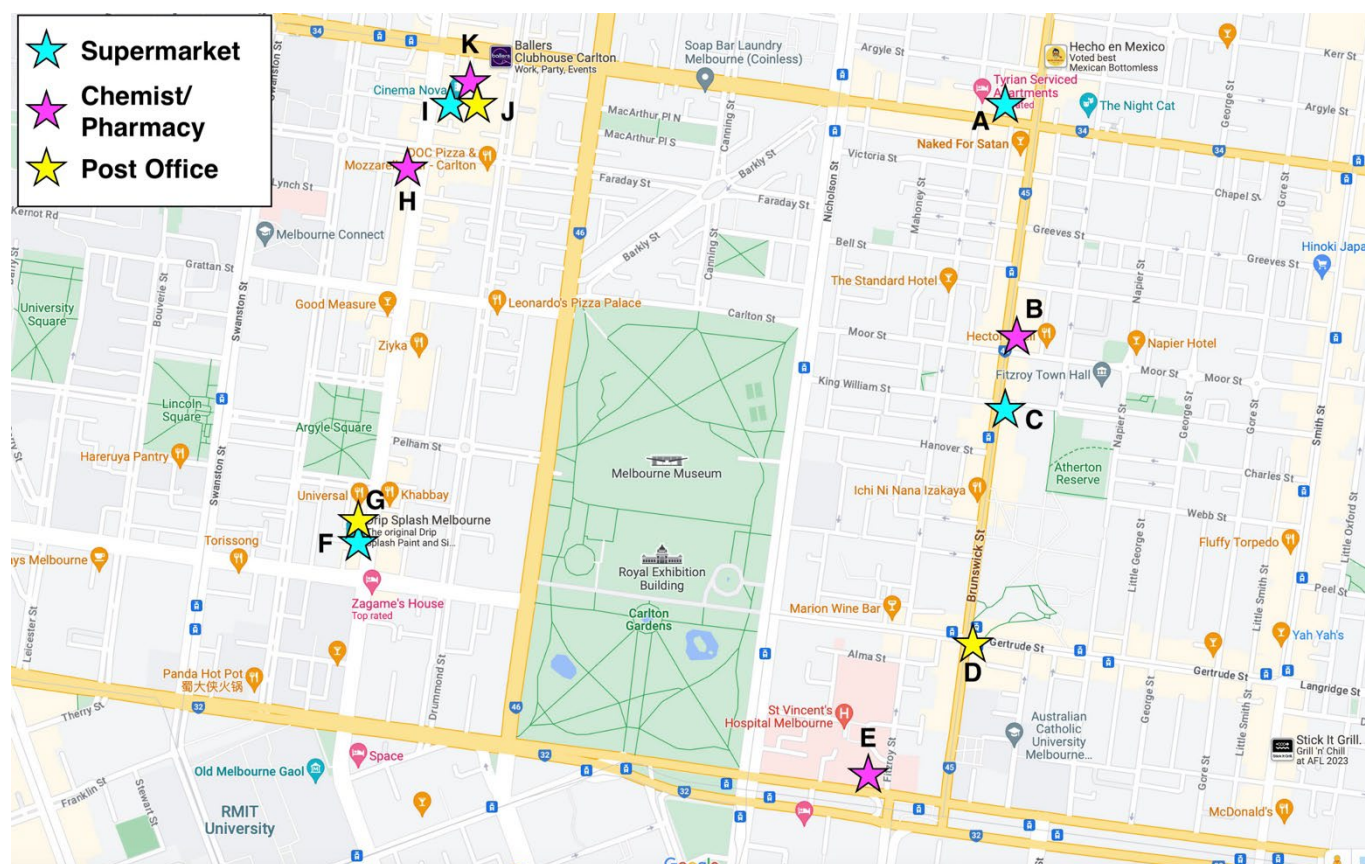
Below are some reliable options for food and beverages, with emphasis on good lunches and coffee!



- A. Little Hop Tacos, 277 Brunswick St, Fitzroy
- B. Alimentari Deli, 251 Brunswick St, Fitzroy
- C. The Standard Hotel, 293 Fitzroy St, Fitzroy (not open for lunch Monday & Tuesday)
- D. St Andrews Hotel, 124 Nicholson St, Fitzroy (not open Monday)
- E. Garden View Café, 44 Nicholson St, Fitzroy
- F. The Catfish, 30 Gertrude St, Fitzroy (home of Sparrow's Philly Cheesesteaks)
- G. Morning Market, 59 Gertrude St, Fitzroy
- H. Sonido, 69 Gertrude St, Fitzroy (not open Monday)
- I. The Workers Club, 51 Brunswick St, Fitzroy (not open for lunch Monday)
- J. Belles Hot Chicken, 150 Gertrude St, Fitzroy
- K. Trippy Taco, 234 Gertrude St, Fitzroy
- L. Café Ecco, 8 Nicholson St, East Melbourne
- M. Saigon Pho, 106 Lygon St, Carlton
- N. Ying Thai 2, 110 Lygon St, Carlton
- O. Assembly Coffee Shop, 60/62 Pelham St, Carlton
- P. Don Tojo, 164 Cardigan St, Carlton
- Q. DOC Espresso/Delicatessen, 326–330 Lygon St, Carlton
- R. Grill'd Carlton, 350 Lygon St, Carlton
- S. Sea Salt Sushi and Fish, 362–364 Lygon St, Carlton
- T. Brunetti, 380 Lygon St, Carlton



Convenience stores near Melbourne Museum



Supermarkets

- A. Coles, 95–103 Johnston St, Fitzroy
- C. Foodworks, 168–170 Brunswick St, Fitzroy
- F. IGA Local Grocer, 103–107 Lygon St, Carlton
- I. Woolworths, Lygon Court, 368/380 Lygon St, Carlton

Chemists/Pharmacies

- B. Chemist Warehouse, 206–210 Brunswick St, Fitzroy
- E. HealthSmart Pharmacy, 55 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy
- H. HealthSmart Pharmacy, 279 Lygon St, Carlton
- K. Demartes Amcal Pharmacy, Lygon Court, Shop 5/380, Lygon St, Carlton

Post Offices

- D. Australia Post, 54 Brunswick St, Fitzroy
- G. Australia Post, 113–119 Lygon St, Carlton
- J. Australia Post, Lygon Court, Lygon St, Carlton

We look forward to seeing you in Melbourne for CAVEPS 2023!

Al Evans, Erich Fitzgerald, Justin Adams and Hazel Richards
caveps.palaeo@gmail.com