Speaker 1:

Welcome to part two of Murmuring Walk. This part of the journey will take you into different terrain. To

start with, cross the bridge. Walk past the information board. Take the path to Days Picnic Ground.

Speaker 2: [inaudible 00:00:55].

Speaker 3: Damp air.

Speaker 1: Damp air.

Speaker 3: Moist soil.

Speaker 1: Moist soil.

Speaker 3: Perfect environment.

Speaker 1: Perfect environment for ferns to flourish.

Speaker 2: Fishbone water fern.

Speaker 4: Bracken.

Speaker 1: Bracken lives everywhere in the world.

Speaker 2: Fishbone water fern.

Speaker 3: Fishbone water fern.

Speaker 1: Ria's favorite.

Speaker 2: Soft tree ferns.

Speaker 3: Soft tree ferns.

Speaker 1: Down the gully on the left...

Speaker 3: A solitary Dicksonia and [inaudible 00:01:28]-

Speaker 2: Mother Shield Fern.

Speaker 1: Needs a lot of moisture.

Speaker 3: Ferns do not have flowers.

Speaker 2: Musk daisy.

Speaker 1: They reproduce from spores, which occur on the undersides of the leaves. Reference: Mount Macedon plant guide.

Speaker 3: Mother Shield Fern.

Speaker 2: Mother Shield Fern.

Speaker 1: Mother Shield Fern. Bright green babies grow at the tip of their leaves. Slowly, the stems bend to the ground, so the babies can grow themselves in the rich, volcanic soil.

Speaker 2: Soft tree ferns.

Speaker 3: Foliose lichen.

Speaker 1: Fishbone water fern.

Speaker 2: This one's called Xanthoparmelia Substrigosa.

Speaker 1: The fronds resemble a fish spine with many short, green leaves called pinnate spreading from the stem.

Speaker 3: Rock-shield lichen. Fungus.

Speaker 2: Moss.

Speaker 3: Algae.

Speaker 2: Lichen. Fungi.

Speaker 3: Soft, green-

Speaker 2: Former tree.

Speaker 3: ... true moss.

Speaker 2: Old wood [inaudible 00:02:34]-

Speaker 3: Panel green lichen.

Speaker 2: Coalescing. Fermenting. Composting. Moldering.

Speaker 3: Scorched trees.

Speaker 1: Scorched trees.

Speaker 2: Scorched trees.

Speaker 1: Burnt.

Speaker 3: Scorched trees.

Speaker 1: Still functioning, even though they're burnt-

Speaker 3: Scorched trees.

Speaker 1: ... and broken.

Speaker 2: Scorched tree, burnt and broken.

Speaker 1: Survivors. Up ahead, take the path to the left towards Sanatorium Picnic Ground. If you haven't reached the sign yet, pause this audio until you arrive. Take your time.

Big, sleeping giant.

Speaker 4: The sleeping giant

Speaker 1: Gently moldering back into the earth.

Speaker 4: Several hundred years old.

Speaker 1: Take a moment to get close to its huge, upturned roots. Imagine the sound when it fell.

Big, soft tree ferns, trunks covered in matted roots. Large, smooth fronds unfurling.

Avenue of musk daisies. Gnarly old trunks, clumping, dividing.

Speaker 3: New shoots spring from damaged, old stumps.

Speaker 1: Giant, woody daisies. Stems crisscrossing.

Up ahead to the left is our final stop. Follow the little path to the enormous, leaning tree.

Speaker 4: Big, old, leaning Messmate.

Speaker 1: Messmate.

Speaker 2: Breathing out.

Speaker 1: Root system-

Speaker 2: Drawing in.

Speaker 1: ... shallow-

Speaker 2: Breathing out.

Speaker 1: ... but spreads itself wide.

Speaker 4: Several hundred years old.

Speaker 2: Several hundred years old. Breathing out. Murmuring. Murmuring.

Speaker 1: Imagine the roots spread out below your feet.

Speaker 2: Murmurings of the earth.

Speaker 1: ... feet.

Speaker 2: Knocks of the earth.

Speaker 1: Let's walk all the way around and see what's behind.

Speaker 3: Large canopy.

Speaker 2: Large canopy. Fresh foliage.

Speaker 4: This Messmate seems to embody the ages. It's a beautiful, strong tree, which has survived fire-

Speaker 1: Withstands fire.

Speaker 3: Burnt hollow.

Speaker 4: ... and looks it as if it will survive for centuries.

Speaker 3: Healthy tree tissue.

Speaker 1: Drawing in.

Speaker 3: Opening up to the sky.

Speaker 1: Breathing out.

Speaker 3: Opening up the sky.

Speaker 1: Murmuring. Lungs of the earth.

Speaker 3: Opening up the sky.

(Singing).

Speaker 1: Thank you for walking with us today. When you're ready, continue on the loop walk back to the Lake.

Speaker 3: (Singing).