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Old Man Emu

June 2022 ISSUE No. 85		Submitting Articles/Images for OME:	
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Covid 19 Restrictions

Current restrictions allow us to hold club meetings at St John's Hall. All participants will be required to show evidence that they have been fully vaccinated or have a valid medical exemption, and, because we are indoors, will need to wear a mask.

The next meeting is at 7:30pm on Wednesday 8th June at St John's Hall, Moonee Ponds.

Club walks are also allowed with more than 15 participants, provided that the participants keep 1.5m apart while walking.

Changes to Club Protocols for COVID19 vaccinations

In November 2021 the Committee voted on amendments to the Club Protocols (By-laws). The amendment reads as follows:

In the interest of the health and safety of all members, we require all members and visitors to be fully vaccinated against COVID19 (or hold a valid medical exemption) in order to participate in any Club activity.

The Committee endorses the right of leaders and Club officials to seek proof of vaccination in order to participate in any Club activity.

The amended protocols are now available on the club website.

Accordingly, please have at hand your digital or paper copy of your certificate/exemption when attending any club activity including meetings, in case the activity leader or official asks participants for verification. No need for Zoom meetings!!

Please be aware that a new field has been added to the event booking registration form, requiring that you tick a box to confirm you are fully vaccinated or have a valid exemption.

The Committee considered collecting certificates from members for this purpose but decided against it due to the privacy issues involved. Accordingly, **please don't** send the club your certificate.

Carpooling.

The committee recommends that members who choose to participate in car pooling should wear a mask.

HANDY HINTS FOR USING THE ONLINE BOOKING SYSTEM

You must log in to the website to access the Online Event Booking system.

<https://www.essendonbwc.org.au/login>

To login, go to the LOG-IN button and use your normal username and password. Your user name is usually your first name and the first letter of your family name: Eg KathyA

If you have forgotten your login details, click on either the "Forgot your Username?" or "Forgot your Password?" links to recover or reset your details.

A detailed step by step guide to booking into an event can be found on the website.

<https://www.essendonbwc.org.au/online-events/instructions-for-event-booking/instructions-for-members>

If you wish to print the program follow these instructions, but be aware that new walks are added gradually and your printable copy will quickly become out of date:

<https://www.essendonbwc.org.au/online-events/printable-list-of-events>

Kathy Andison

PACK WALKS and BASE CAMPS
11-13 November
Hamilton "20th Anniversary" Base Camp
Leader: Darren McClelland
Easy

To celebrate 20 years of leading you wonderful people on walks, rides etc, I am putting on a base camp of easy walks!

Arrive on Friday night. On the Saturday we will drive to the Wannon falls for a very short walk. We will then walk 11kms of the Hamilton – Coleraine Rail Trail to reach the small township of Coleraine, where we can do a further 5km walk around town, visiting the Points Arboretum. On this day we can walk as little as 1km or as much as 16km, all easy grade.

Saturday evening we will have a meal out in Hamilton.

On Sunday we will walk the other half of the rail trail, this time from Hamilton township towards Wannon Falls. Another 11km.

Both walks require car shuffles and if there is a non-walker happy to collect drivers at the end of the walks that would be a big help.

Important note: Please book accommodation early as it is likely to be in short supply due to the Dunkeld Cup. I will be staying at the Lake Hamilton Motor Village and Caravan Park, (ph: 03 5572 3855). Bookings are by phone only at the time of writing. I am camping and can share a site with another person or couple. Basic cabins, as an example, are \$185 for four persons, per night. Deluxe cabins are \$215 for four people. Let me know if you need help finding people to share with.

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Tuesday, 27 Dec 22 to Sunday, 01 Jan 23
Howman's Gap 2022

Expressions of Interest for Howman's Gap base camp are now open, and a summary of the event is as follows:

Combined: EBWC, Koonung, DVBWC, Waverley, Melton.

Variety of walks near Falls Creek over 4 days.

Approx. Cost: \$530.00 to \$570.00 each.

Deposit is \$200.00 by the end of August, and balance is due by the end of November.

Fully Catered.

Accommodation: Bunk rooms – using only lower bunks. Shared Women's and Men's facilities.

BYO bedding and towels, camping chair, nibblies and drinks for Happy Hour.

NYE celebration theme: To Be Advised.

Contact Col for more information and to join the event:

Col: Email colwilpurc@gmail.com, Mobile 0407 879 751

WALK REPORTS**BAY TO BORDER WALK – Apr 2002 – Sep 2006 – 20th Anniversary**

Nine did the whole walk - Doris Caruana (RIP), Gina Casalbuono, Laurie Charleson, Jenny James, Hilary May, Geoff May, Val Readwin, Gillian Ryder and myself.

A further three almost did all, and only missed out because of illness or injury – Beth Elkins, Ray Scilley (RIP) and Henry Laskowski.

A total of 108 individual walkers did one or more stages. Credit must be paid to those who spent many weekends away with me over a 4 year period doing the pre-walking – Mary Atkins, Beth Elkins, Ray Scilley, and Sue Baxter.

The text below except for some subsequent minor edits was written on the tenth anniversary of the walk commencement.

It's a long time since Sunday April 21, 2002 when 45 walkers started out from Point Lonsdale on the first stage of the 518 km journey to South Australia.

All started well with mainly easy beach walking, but later on it took a fair amount of determination at times – sometimes it started to appear that we had bitten off too much, especially on the rocks west of Lorne, but once we got beyond Apollo Bay it started to look like we could make it.

We still had the long road bashes between the Twelve Apostles and Warrnambool, and we didn't know about the long, long stretches of ankle-deep sand between Port Fairy and Portland, and between Bridge-water Lakes and SA, but I think that we knew in the Otways that we would succeed

Until we got to Lorne, all stages being day walks, the numbers remained high, but once the base camps commenced, some walkers were unable to stay away for weekends, and the usual attendance was in the twenties.

The stage from Lorne to Cumberland River, although only 6km, was a nightmare – slippery, loose boulders, a tide which refused to go out because of the strong winds, constant rain squalls, a waist-deep crossing of the river, and as a last straw, a drowned \$1500 digital camera. Progress was painfully slow, and at 3pm that day we had had enough and retired to our very comfortable accommodation at the Wye River Valley Caravan Park with the inviting hotel close by.

The next day, conditions didn't improve very much and we were forced to walk higher along the Great Ocean Road for some time between Cumberland River and Apollo Bay as the blowholes below were impassable.

Soon after Apollo Bay the track went inland into snake country. It was late February and snakes were seen every few minutes. Sometimes they would scamper off the track, but at other times they would refuse to move and we would detour around them. Sometime in the afternoon, Doris was bitten without knowing about it. When it was detected, she was forced to spend a night in the Apollo Bay hospital, much to her annoyance as she missed stage 11 the next day. She completed a repeat walk later.

The estuary of the Parker River was a highlight as was the beautiful Aire River Valley. Next we passed Castle Cove and climbed inland again before returning to the coast to the magnificent, isolated Milanesia Beach. The tide almost beat us here, but then we ascended along the not-as-yet opened and partly-constructed Great Ocean Walk which we followed to Moonlight Head. Again we went inland and joined the Old Coach Road which we followed into Princetown, but not before we were foiled by a high tide at the western end of Wreck Beach and had to backtrack a couple of km to follow a higher route. A second digital camera was drowned here.

We were now in "tourist country" – Gibson Steps, the Twelve Apostles, Loch Ard Gorge, Port Campbell, London Bridge, The Grotto, etc, much of which we saw from the Great Ocean Roadside. Beyond the Bay of Islands (which some of us thought more spectacular than the Twelve Apostles), we stayed close to the cliff-tops past Childers Cove and Mepunga Cliffs. The walk between the latter two places was done on a very warm day and the flies were close to unbearable. Fortunately we finished the stage just after midday. I have a clear memory of walkers at Mepunga Cliffs huddling under umbrellas to gain relief from the sun as they ate their lunches.

Then followed another road-bash into Warrnambool to our backpacker accommodation with a spacious lounge and our own private bar.

From Warrnambool to Port Fairy we were on the Mahogany Trail – mostly beach walking - a breeze.

On the Labour Day weekend in March 2006, we were at Port Fairy at the same time as the famous Folk Festival and its 20,000 visitors. How we managed to get accommodation I can't recall, but the caravan park welcomed us with complimentary muffins which were well received. The walking was not easy with a

lot of rock scrambling on the Bluenose, some low cliff climbing to avoid the tide and enter private land, and an electric fence which was so secure it could probably have prevented the D-Day landings. It's amazing how small you can make yourself to slide under the bottom wire!

Next was the never-ending soft sand for 2 days to Yambuk Lake and Fitzroy River at the end of which we had no desire to walk in sand again. The major thrill was the front-end-loader transfer of four of us at a time in the bucket across a deep and fast-flowing swamp outlet, thanks to a friendly young farmer. I don't think WorkSafe would have approved the mode of transport!

From here to Portland was first of all on beach sand and then on roads and parkland into the town - quite pleasant walking and a relief from what we had endured on the previous stages.

Stage 30 took us mainly on a good walking track to Grant Bay south of Portland leaving us "only" the final week's walking to do.

Leading up to the final stages of the walk, Hilary decided that we needed designer T-shirts and badges to enhance our plain old walking clothes and back-packs. She took orders and arranged the manufacture of both items. For the final week we proudly walked in coloured T-shirts with an appropriate logo depicting our route along the whole of Victoria's western coast. Our back-packs were decorated with a similar logo.

We were back in Portland on Friday September 14, 2006, ready to finish things off. The next day we had a pleasant cliff-top and inland walk to Cape Nelson. On the next morning before we started walking, a photographer from the Portland newspaper arrived at the Cape Nelson lighthouse to take some shots of us. These were to accompany an article which a reporter had written about us following an interview two days earlier. Some of us got the impression that the photographer was not exactly thrilled at having been told to rise very early on a Sunday morning to take pictures of some crazy walkers!

The track from Cape Nelson to Cape Bridgewater and on to Bridgewater Lakes was spectacular - high cliffs and unusual rock formations such as The Petrified Forest.

From here to Nelson Beach things were not so easy. The distance was 47 km which we covered in 3 days, and except for a few km where we followed a track slightly inland from the beach, we were ankle deep in very soft sand. It could only be described as hard work. Our difficulties were compounded by frequent strong head winds and blown sand, and a rain-laden storm which almost blew us backwards. The gale was so strong that it was just about impossible to don our japoras, so many of us just accepted our sad fate and got wet.

The arrival at Nelson Beach late in the afternoon of Friday September 22 was a time for quiet satisfaction with smiles being seen on faces which had shown nothing but serious determination for quite some time. We knew that all we had left to do was a 7 km stroll to the border, and all day Saturday to do it. We rose next morning with joyous hearts and were across the border by mid-morning. Jubilation was evident all around, the champagne flowed, and numerous photos were taken.

During the celebration dinner that night at the Nelson Hotel, certificates were presented to the nine walkers who completed the 518 km. Accompanying the certificates were Adelaide Crows AFL scarves.

PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Hilary considered that scarves would be a suitable memento for the 'Nelson Nine' as the completers were later dubbed. The only scarves she could find anywhere nearby in sufficient numbers were those of the Adelaide Crows which I suppose was not entirely inappropriate as we did finish the walk in South Australia.

The hotel celebration was a very happy affair, although there was a little nostalgic sadness that we had finished our long adventure.

Bill Casey



Ian Yarde 15 Year Committee Endurance Certificate Presentation



Tony Creedy 20 Year Membership Certificate Presentation

40 Year Certificate Presentation to Founding Members of Essendon Bushwalking Club, Ken Readwin, and Vince Aitkin at the May, 2022 General Meeting, with Vince Aitkin's Reminiscences of the Club's Early Years

In 1975, I was walking along Coates Street. I was grocery shopping with an A-frame backpack when I met Ken Readwin and his dog. We had a conversation that we needed a local bushwalking club and that is how we began.

I brought to the table a background in Blue Mountains and coastal walking and speleology.

Ken was a highly decorated Outward Bound Foundation development member and veteran.

There were no Bushwalking Clubs in the northern suburbs, although there were Melbourne (city) based and constitutional bound clubs which were full of stuffy, cliquey types who drove to walks in specially fitted out furniture vans. That was not for us. We put ads in the local paper and then held meetings at the Civic centre

Early members – Jan Hartley, Beth Elkin, Nellie and Harry Earnshaw, David Forster, Tim Cartwright, Andrew Adamson, Steve Cadush, Martin Suter, Ken Readwin, Bob Bushell, Dave Wren, Tim Goss, Eddy Little, Val Readwin, Bill and Pam McHardy, Rodney Williams, Geoff and Jenny Sadler, Greg Jorgensen, Chris Jarvis, Ron Bell and many others.

Fees were 50 cents per annum and a ten-point set of easily forgotten rules. The meeting place was the Community Centre at the Junction. Ken and I were part of the Executive. It was a free venue for local clubs and societies

Later we received a \$1000 grant and used the Council VW Bus. After walks we met at Carosello's Restaurant in Moonee Ponds. We bought our own wine.

The First official Walk was to Tawonga Huts. We were sleeping under oaks near the cemetery at Tawonga

Memorable walks were to Lerderderg Gorge, Cape Otway, Blanket Bay, Warburton tramways, Otway Ranges timber tramways

A highlight was the three-day Queens birthday weekends – the Pilgrimage – Grey Hills

The first long distance through walk – Bogong to Hotham – Someone broke down on the way home and needed car support at Watchbed Creek.

There were Cross Country skiing trips, Bogong High Plains and Mt St Gwinear – igloo

he club developed Leadership training courses – under the leadership of Antarctic expedition member Geoff Sadler and Chris Jarvis.

In 1984 there was a Rubber Duckie trip to the Franklin River Tasmania. Other walks included the South West Walk Cockle Creek to Malleuca (Danny King), Sea plane supported trip Port Davey, Window Pane Bay and Easter trips to Frenchman's Cap.

There were bike riding events and a mountain bike ride to Falls Creek to the Arboretum. Some of the mountain bike riders formed a group called the Essendon Mountain Bike touring club.

Throughout the years, changes slowly crept in – Introduction of a visionary Federation of Walking Clubs, Introduction of the Associations Incorporation Act, and the need for insurance brought on by the greed that spawned from litigious legal suing for duty of care issues and a convenient attitude of "It's always someone else's fault mentality", These changes saw modifications in the way clubs and societies operated in our landscape.

But in those early unharnessed days, we were about having adventures and doing the hard yards safely.

The Club was Always striving to attract young walkers – Scouting via Bob Bushell and Dave Wren, talks at local schools and public meetings.

Many of you may not know that the Club Logo was drawn and designed by Greg Jorgensen.

Early this century a group of the not so active club pioneers joined together to form what we loosely call "The Four Seasons" and still to this day enjoy the walking memories of yester year whilst walking and cycling away those few but precious years still allowed us.

How pleasing to observe that after 47 years, there remains a strong and active local walking group that



strives successfully to introduce individuals to the pleasures of walking in all its forms to so many places so often with safety with the opportunity for strong social interaction and companionship.

May ever it remain so.....

In the late 1980's New Zealand – where I discovered sea kayaking

I enjoyed long distance cycling tours – cross country USA. I did sea kayaking trips to many parts of Tasmania – Macquarie Harbour

I enjoy walks around Falls Creek and e-biking the aqueducts.

I will be relocating to Wodonga where the upper reaches of Lake Hume and the upper Murray River await my return.

Vince Aitkin



Seen while on a walk at Woodlands

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

This year we will again be having a number of EBWC Committee Members stepping down from the Committee, so if you would like to step up to help run the club, could you please let a member of the Current Committee know. I will still be producing OME, assisting with problem solving associated with the club's web platform, and leading a number of walks.

***Michael Howes,
OME Editor***

INFORMATION

YOUR COMMITTEE

For 2021-2022

President: Kevin Egan

Vice President: Darren McClelland

Treasurer: Glenda Bradley

Secretary: Kathy Andison

Committee: Leanne Cleary ,
Louise Williams, Didimo Tonelli,
Michael Howes and Mark Lucey.

CONTACTING THE CLUB

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

Postal Address: The Secretary,
Essendon Bushwalking Club Inc.,
P.O. Box 32, Moonee Ponds 3039.
Email: secretary@essendonbwc.org.au

CLUB WEB PAGE:
www.essendonbwc.org.au

LOAN EQUIPMENT

The contact for loan of equipment is Ron Bell, Ph. 9361 3236.

Equipment available for loan:
Tent, backpack, stove.

WALKS PROGRAMS

These are currently emailed to members, and are also available online. For several reasons they currently cover around two months, although updates are emailed to members when there are changes.

CLUB FEES

Annual Membership 2022/23 \$45 Plus \$10 if you require a Hard Copy of OME and The Program posted to you. Visitor's Fee (per event) \$5.00

Annual Membership fees apply from June 1st to May 31st.

Membership fees not paid two months after the June AGM render the member nonfinancial. There are no pro-rata membership fees as the Club is required to pay an annual Federation/Insurance premium.

A nonfinancial member is required to pay the visitors fee for every event they attend .

As a nonfinancial member, the Club's Personal Accident and Public Liability Insurance on any Club activity does not cover you.

Nonfinancial members and visitors attending more than three events in a Club year are required to pay the full membership fee.

New members fee due within 28 days of their membership application being approved by the Committee