

Old Man Emu

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September 2022
ISSUE No. 87

Submitting articles/images for OME - these can be sent to:
editor@essendonbwc.org.au
Next Deadline: Saturday 22nd October 2022

COVID-19 Restrictions

Current restrictions allow us to hold club meetings at St John's Hall, Buckley Street in Essendon. The next club meeting will be on Wednesday 14th September from 7.30 pm. **On the evening of the October club meeting (Wednesday 12th) there will also be a Special General Meeting (see Vice President's Report).**

Club walks are also allowed with more than 15 participants, provided that the participants keep 1.5 m apart while walking. **All participants in Club events - be they meetings, activities, walks or "non qualifying events" - have the requirement to be fully vaccinated or have a valid medical exemption. Wearing a face mask is highly recommended when participating in indoor club activities; for example: during meetings and while carpooling, and is mandatory when travelling by public transport.**

Vice President's Report

Welcome everyone to the first issue of OME since our AGM. I am writing on behalf of Darren our newly elected President who is having a well-earned holiday. Firstly, there are a bunch of thank yous to acknowledge the outgoing committee members. Firstly, to Kevin Egan who had to navigate the committee and the club through the ever-changing COVID-19 challenges that were placed before him and keeping the club motivated through what was a challenging time for all of us. Next, to Michael Howes for his many years of putting together OME and ensuring that our members were kept up to date with news, upcoming and past events. As we are now finding out first hand this requires hours of tireless work to create and send out a polished product. Our thanks also goes out to Mark Lucey and Didimo Tonelli who contributed greatly to the functioning of the committee.

I would also like to welcome our new committee members, Carmel Kozolup, Diane Whitmore, Mary Moskal, and Rose Perich, who I am sure will bring to the committee their wealth of experience and insights which we will benefit from.

With Michael's departure from the committee, we are looking for an OME editor. If you are interested in assisting with putting together OME, the committee would be very keen to hear from you. OME is published every two months and there will be plenty of support from the committee to assist with putting together each edition. So, if you have always had journalistic talents or desires, now is the opportunity to put these to use. We would also like to hear from our members on what they would like to see in OME; this is a publication that the committee wants to ensure remains relevant for everyone. So if you have any ideas on what you would or would not like to see in future editions, please make contact with any one of the committee members.

Our October meeting will see the club holding a Special General Meeting to put to the membership some changes that the committee believes need to be made to our Rules of Association (ROA). The ROA were last updated in 2013 and since that time there have been various changes to how we run the club. We now have the option of video conferencing (thanks to COVID-19), new laws have been introduced in relation to working with children and we would like to simplify the requirements for having new members join the club. These changes will be communicated in detail to members prior to the October Special General Meeting. During the meeting attendees will have the opportunity to seek clarity regarding the proposed changes. Our ROA will only be changed if a majority of our members agree to the changes.

On a final and pleasing note, it is great to see that our calendar of events is looking well filled over the next few months. It looks like we have finally shaken the COVID lockdowns and restrictions and can resume a near normal walks offering for our members. Thanks to all those leaders who have taken the time out firstly to prepare and conduct a pre-walk and then to lead the walk. As a leader myself I know how much time this can take and with the organisation that goes into making a walk a successful, enjoyable and safe event for all those who attend. There are a variety of offerings that will suit all types of walkers, with weekday walks, weekend walks, basecamps and pack walks. Please check the event calendar on the website on a regular basis as new walks and activities are frequently added to the program.

On behalf of all the committee members, I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support of the club, particularly during the last couple of years, which has been a difficult time for all of us. It has been great to see so many people returning to the club meetings and joining in on the walks.

If you do have any suggestions on how we can make the club function even better, ideas for club monthly meetings, or even walks and other activities that you would like to on the program, please reach out to any of the committee members to share your thoughts.

Yours in walking

Louise Williams
Vice President

BASECAMPS

Monday – Friday, 3- 7 October 2022

Grampians Peaks Trail (GPT); Stage1 (59km); Grade: Medium Plus
Leader: Bill Casey

Daily walks on each of the five days have now been finalised. Stage 1 longest daily distance is now 16km, but the walks are still rated Medium Plus because of many ascents, sometimes long and sometimes steep.

- Monday: 16 km - Mt Zero Car Park to Roses Gap Rd. All on GPT.
- Tuesday: 16 km - Roses Gap Rd to a point on Mt Difficult Rd North, 5km off the GPT. The first 11km is on the GPT, then walk 5km out to Mt Difficult Rd.
- Wednesday: 14km - Mt Difficult Rd North to the first point at which the GPT crosses Mt Difficult Rd. First walk 5km back into the GPT, then 9km on it.
- Thursday: 13km - From the above-mentioned crossing to Halls Gap. All on GPT.
- Friday: 10km - Halls Gap to Silverband Rd. All on GPT.

Tuesday - Friday, 1 - 4 November 2022

Walhalla; Grade: Easy/Medium
Leader: Ron Bell

Walhalla is a picturesque village, located north of Moe and Traralgon. Nestled in a steep sided valley at the southern edge of the Victorian Alps, the town is surrounded by a national park, lush forests and fern gullies. Walhalla is a historic gold mining town where in the 1860s onward the Long Tunnel mine produced 13.7 tonnes of gold. For more info see: <https://www.travelvictoria.com.au/walhalla/>

- Tuesday: Meet at 11:30am at the picnic ground where we'll have lunch, and then do a walking tour around town, including the famous cricket ground and the cemetery, and it's possible to do a tour of the richest gold mine in Victoria if you wish.
- Wednesday: Dinner tonight at the old pub where there's great food.
- Thursday: TBA.
- Friday: return home.

Accommodation: Walhalla or Rawson. To book your own accommodation you might try:

The Mill House 2br, 4 persons, ph 0427 899 709; Happy Go Lucky 3br, 8 persons, ph 0414 789 488; Jacomb Cottage 2br, 4 persons, ph 0450 385 483; Sancreed Cottage 2br, 4 persons, ph 8373 4049; Windsor House BnB 5 rooms 0407519215; Wild Cherry BnB, 0427 975 042.

20, 30 and 40 Year Membership Certificates

Congratulations to all who have been members of Essendon Bushwalking Club for 20, 30 and 40 years. We continue to search our records and recently these members received a Certificate to celebrate their significant membership milestone.

20 Years

- Laurie Charleston
- Loris Cassar
- Heather Craven
- Peter Whelan
- Ian Yarde
- Isabella Gulotta

Right: Laurie Charleston with his 20 year certificate



30 Years

Steven Davenport

40 Years

Anne Mahony

If you have not been contacted recently by the club but think you are due for a Membership Milestone Award, please contact the Membership Secretary. It would be great to get our records up to date and celebrate your achievement. Email: membership.secretary@essendonbwc.org.au

Congratulations

When a member was recently contacted with an invitation to attend the next club meeting to receive a milestone membership certificate the reply was, "Sorry, I will be at Government House". Well that is the best reason we had heard. Congratulations to our member, Geoff Sadler who will be attending Government House to receive a Member of the Order of St. John Ambulance. A very worthy recipient and we hope Geoff can come to a future club meeting to receive his milestone membership certificate in the near future. Well done Geoff.

New Club Members

Welcome to our new members Jenny Lieu, Jennifer Ratcliff and Harry Twining. We look forward to meeting you on a walk soon.

Vale Ray Sureda



We sadly announce the death of a much-respected friend and member, Ray Sureda. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Kim Sureda.

Vale Elizabeth "Jane" Jones

We extend our deepest sympathy to member and walk leader Peter Jones on the recent death of his wife Elizabeth "Jane" Jones.

Our hearts go out to Kim and Peter at this difficult time.

Meet a Member

Kevin Drever...

How long have you been a member of Essendon Bushwalking Club and why did you join?

It was 1979 and I was a member of Friends of the Organ Pipes and I wanted to do the Overland Track. We heard Essendon Bushwalking Club was doing it so we went too and some of us joined the club afterwards.



What were some of your best walks with EBWC?

In New Zealand we did the Milford Track and Routeburn. There were about 12 of us led by Ron Bell. It was very scenic.

Can you talk about any interesting walks with the club?

The hardest one was up Mount Bogong and we got caught in a blizzard. We had to rope up and go from pole to pole. Colin Greenwood was the leader. It was getting dark too.

How do you keep fit?

I do daily exercises at home, and walking of course. I have mainly a no salt, no sugar diet. I do 200 push ups per day in lots of 50. I do 1/2 hour of arm and bending exercises.

I've heard you are our most Senior member. Congratulations. What is your secret?

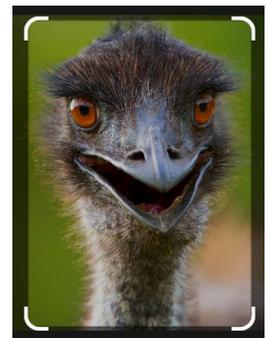
My family have always been long livers. My father got to 95 and my mother was just a couple of weeks shy of 100. My father was a coal miner and my mother came from farmers up near Tullamarine.

What's something we would be surprised to know?

I used to be a sports car enthusiast. I had a MG and an Austin-Healey Sprite, both white. We would drive down to Sorrento and meet girls and take them to the pub at Portsea.

Thank you Michael Howes

We extend a big thank you to our outgoing Old Man Emu Editor for seven years of dedication to OME publications designed to of keep club members informed and updated, then entertained with OME editions during the nearly 2-year COVID lockdown phase. Michael, we look forward to hearing of your new ventures.



The committee is still seeking an editor for our bi-monthly newsletter, Old Man Emu. The role involves collecting articles from members, and producing a newsletter using our template (Word Format). Please contact one of the committee if you are able to help us out: secretary@essendonbwc.org.au We would be delighted to hear from you.

Handy Hints about using the Online Booking System

See June 2022 OME for the excellent written instructions prepared by Col Purchase that are also available on the club website.

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

Update: The club's online booking system for walks has been revised by Col to include a series of radio buttons to record your travel preferences to arrive at a walk meeting point or a walk start. This information helps the leader to manage a timely walking event.



Walk Preview

Seniors Week Special – Bellarine Peninsula, Wednesday 5 October 2022

Leader: Ron Pearce

There has been a change to the venue given in the advance notice in the website programme. The walk on the day will now be around the Portarlington area. At this stage, Port Phillip Ferries haven't made any discount on tickets for the Victorian Seniors Festival. The one way ticket price for Seniors is \$16.00, and for non seniors is \$17.50. Bookings can be made at www.portphillipferries.com.au **(Do not book until nearer the date as there is no refund on unused tickets).**

The walk will be 10 kilometres maximum and will start at the W. G. Little Reserve opposite the Grand Hotel and proceed to the Portarlington Pier area and then west along the Bellarine Coastal Trail with views of the You Yangs across the bay, to Point Richards and the Portarlington Miniature Railway. A short walk south along Point Richards Road, will take us to the entrance of the Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve. Southern brown bandicoots once called this reserve home, but they appear to have left the area. The Reserve is named after Lieutenant Charles Richards who explored the area in 1837 and is made up of four circuits.

The 62 hectare reserve is one of the largest native bushlands and ephemeral wetlands on the Bellarine Peninsula. The 'ephemeral' classification means that the wetlands fill with water in the winter and drain in summer. The duration of this wetting/drying cycle has been altered due to an influx of freshwater from an adjacent storm water drain, as this writer found out during a prewalk. Two sections of track were covered with water (and I mean covered). I decided that if I wanted wet feet I can book on a Louise Williams walk, so I had to backtrack, but hope the areas have dried out by October. This was also once an active aviation site and we will walk along the disused airstrip, part of one of the circuits.

Leaving the Flora and Fauna Reserve near Boat Road, we will make our way through the Recreation Reserve and Sports Ovals to finish the walk next to the pier at about 2.00 pm. Walkers can bring their lunch as usual, and have it during the walk, or you can opt for a latish lunch and make use of the eateries in the town after the walk (or both!). At the end of the walk, you will be given the "Freedom of Portarlington" to check out the local shops for a bit of retail therapy or some afternoon tea at one of the cafes in the main street.

We will meet back at the pier by 3.30 pm. ready to board the ferry at 3.40 pm.

There is an option to return by bus and train instead of the ferry, but the bus leaves Portarlington at 2.16 pm.

Proposed timetable for the day	
Meet at Southern Cross Station near Vintage Clock	by 8.20 am
Train to Geelong departs Southern Cross Station at:	8.30 am
The train to Geelong will pick passengers up at the following stations:	
• Footscray	8.38 am
• Sunshine	8.43 am
• Deer Park	8.48 am
• Tarneit	8.57 am
Arrive at Geelong Station	9.32 am
Bus (No. 60) to Portarlington	9.57 am
Arrive Portarlington	10.39 am
Morning tea at Portarlington	before 11am
Walk start	11.00 am
Walk finish	~2.00 pm
Free time	2 – 3 30 pm
Ferry Departure	4.00 pm
Arrive Docklands	5.10 pm



Walk Report by Ron Pearce

Boundary Creek Paddle - Sunday 14 August 2022.

Leader: Louise Williams

There is a lesson to be learnt here. Never give the leader of your walk a hard time. It seems that I may have been guilty of doing this on Louise's walk the previous week, when looking for Mr. Hunt's Chimney along the Dry Diggings Track. Anyway, as a result of that, to get back into her good books, I have been asked (read told) to write a report for the Boundary Creek Paddle on the above date.

The website write up for the event looked interesting with some scrub bashing and multiple creek crossings – “usually dry” she wrote. Right! Never trust a leader. So having registered for the event, I set about checking my maps to see where the event was and how I would get to the start. The write up quoted the start as being at Ridge Road about 150 metres from the Vaughan Springs Road. The only map of the area I had was the First Edition of the Drummond Vic Map, prepared in 1982! I had obtained this map from Bill Casey a few years ago when he was having a clear out of his old maps. I now know why he was having a clear out.

With the help of the Mapping App on my phone and the 1982 map, I managed to find the start area and a few faint blue lines that indicated Boundary Creek. I could have gone to Moonee Ponds and got a lift, but that would mean an extra hour of travel, which I was keener to spend in bed. In the end, I left home early anyway, missing out on some sleep.

Surprisingly, I found the start point in plenty of time and waited for the cars to roll up with rest of the walkers, including Louise our leader for the day who greeted me with “what are you doing here?” I was tempted to answer with “back to annoy you”, but decided to behave for the rest of the day. We had to wait for a while for a couple to get to the start point as they had gone to the wrong start place. This made me have a small chuckle (to myself) because the culprit was one of our most experienced leaders who had given me a pass mark at the Leaders Training Course many moons ago. No names mentioned!

Anyway, A bit about the walk, or I'll be in trouble again. Eleven brave members had turned up and we headed upstream along Boundary Creek until Louise indicated it was time to cross the creek. Her preview has indicated that the creek was usually dry, so we thought she was having a joke, but no way. The problem was, the creek was no longer dry as in the prewalk. So we wander up and down looking for the most suitable spot to cross. But there was no suitable spot, the only option being to get wet feet. That wasn't so bad, but this was winter, and the water was freezing. This only made us quicken our pace across the crossings. Yes, I said crossings, plural. In the end I lost count of how many times we had to cross Boundary Creek, but believe me when I say at least eight times, you could be right.



The main problem with the creek crossings was that we would no sooner get warm(ish) feet again and the imagination of dry feet, when Louise would wave her map in the air, smile, and say " 'ere we go again" ! The water didn't get any warmer either. Oh, how I wish I could still do my walking on water trick. In the end we walk along and across Boundary Creek for about 5 km. before walking along some tracks and doing some bush bashing and of course stopping to check out the various fungi spotted along the way. Some people can't resist the odd photo or four of these little "funguys".



Finally leaving Boundary Creek and its cold water, we made our way to Ridge road for the final few km. back to the cars. No more creek crossings, but wait for it, low and behold, along came the rain. By this stage, we were beyond caring about getting wet (well I was anyway).

Back at the cars, some went home the quickest way, but not before Judith tried handing out limes she had brought along with her. There was no vodka available with it so I left the limes with her and joined the hardy few in the rush to Taradale and a hot drink – but with no heater in the café! Can't win 'em all. C'est la vie.

Ah, yes. Bob friendly was conspicuous by his absence. His name didn't appear in the website preview so he decided that this one was obviously not for him. A wise decision Bob friendly.

Thank you Louise, for a great day out.



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From the Archive - Walk Report by Hilary May
Goldie Flora Reserve, near Lancefield
Leader: Tony Creedy

We recall on one occasion our walk leader, Tony Creedy, put us on a walk that has 17 creek crossings. However on this Saturday, we felt we had 17 hills as well as 17 fences. According to the GPS and pedometers, it was 12 km uphill and only 1 km downhill. Ron P. wanted to know why we hadn't done the walk in reverse!

The wildflowers were a carpet of yellow. We think Tony planned that this would distract us from all the hills en route. The flowers were lovely but the hills were a slog. Even when we took our pack off, it didn't seem to make much difference. However the views from the ridges were truly magnificent and well worth the uphill efforts.

Tony has the magic touch and manages to convince people that they don't mind bushwalkers on their properties. He had a key, from farmer Geoff, to open the gate to his property; the OK from the sheep farmer; and another OK from the goat farmer. Since we were running late in completing the walk (I wonder why?), Tony rang the Lancefield coffee shop and charmed them into staying open for us. We were glad they did. The mugs of coffee were the biggest we have ever come across. The same could be said for Ron P's muffin, it was half the size of a football! Thirteen kilometers for the day, less than a third of a marathon - and we ended up exhausted. Despite our failing flesh: thank you Tony for a great walk with superb views en route.

EBC Committee for 2022 – 2023



Left to Right:
 Kathy Andison (Secretary),
 Leanne Cleary (Membership Secretary),
 Louise Williams (Vice President),
 Mary Moskal,
 Rose Perich,
 Dianne Whitmore,
 Darren McClelland (President).

Missing from photograph:
 Glenda Bradley (Treasurer),
 Carmel Kozolop

Information

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

Club Web Page: www.essendonbwc.org.au

Club Walks Programs: These are emailed to members and are available online. Each edition covers a two month period. Significant changes to the program are emailed to members.

Loan Equipment: To hire a club tent, backpack or tent Contact Ron Bell (Ph. 93613236).

Club Fees:

- Annual Membership fees apply from June 1st to May 31st. Membership fees not paid two months after the June AGM render the member non-financial. There are no pro-rata membership fees as the Club is required to pay an annual Federation/Insurance premium.
- 2022 - 2023 Annual Membership fee is \$45, plus \$10 if you require a hard copy of Old Man Emu Newsletter posted to you. Visitor's Fee (per event) is \$5.00. New members fee due within 28 days of their membership application being approved by the Committee
- A non-financial member is required to pay the visitors fee for every event they attend. As a non-financial member, the Club's Personal Accident and Public Liability Insurance on any Club activity does not cover you. Non-financial members and visitors attending more than three events in a Club year are required to pay the full membership fee.