



Old Man Emu

April 2024

ISSUE No. 94

COVID-19

Wearing a face mask is highly recommended when participating in indoor club activities; for example: during meetings and while carpooling, and when travelling on public transport.

President's Report

We have made it through an unexpectedly mild summer, with only a few oppressive days interfering with our walks. Our club is a voluntary organisation, so we rely on all to support our leaders who make the walks possible. The Committee thanks all those who have stepped up to actively lead walks. We have had new leaders conducting marvellously well researched walks, and former leaders stepping up and bringing forward a variety of events, with flexibility of days and types of events. We urge all to help principally by participating in the activities, which will be found on the club website at <https://essendonbwc.org.au/online-events/fullcalendar>.

Special thanks go to those organisers of special events which included base-camps and social events.

Congratulations and appreciation must go to Mark Lucey for volunteering to take on the role of Walks Coordinator to manage the smooth operation of walks

and events. Our thanks go to Col Purchase who is taking a rest after many years of dedicated service. Mark is an experienced and active leader himself, but his role would be easier to manage if other members could also participate to learn the role, so that Mark is not left without support. We also need members to assist learning other roles of the committee, including the duties of Secretary, Treasurer and an IT Co-ordinator. Please consider it an opportunity to develop your own skills and to assist with the good governance of the club.

We are now approaching Autumn, with milder and calmer days, and colourful scenic landscapes all close by to our region. We plan events including a Suitcase Sale after our April meeting, and guest speakers to be arranged for the monthly meetings at the held at 7.30 pm on the second Wednesday each month, at the Moonee Ponds Bowls Club, and will continue keeping the meetings an important get-together.

The club's Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), necessary for emergencies when hikers are out of phone range, had ended its useful life. We needed to replace it to enable walkers to have support in remote areas. Remember that even many parts of the Wombat Forest, our backyard, have poor phone coverage. We have now replaced it with a current model PLB, a GME MT610G GPS Accusat (PLB). It is an emergency beacon with a built in GPS, with a 7 year warranty, a long battery life and is small and lightweight. Details of the unit are available at www.gme.net.au. It is being registered with Australian Maritime Safety Authority control centre in Canberra <https://beacons.amsa.gov.au/> and we urge leaders planning hikes in remote areas to consider carrying it for back-up. Contact Jim S, Membership Secretary for details.

Happy walking.

Laurie C

Meet a Member:
Leonie Mogford



How long have you been a member of EBWC?

I joined EBWC in 2014 I had been bushwalking with Keilor for 10 years previously. After my husband died, I met Ron Bell. He said would you like to come on a walk at Docklands. I thought I don't know about this chap, then he started telling me about his Elaine and I thought ok, I will go. No need to say anymore!

Why did you join?

I joined because Ron suggested it. At the start of the walk, we stood in our circle and I met Trish Reddan, a walking friend. So that was my introduction to EBWC. I made friends straight away and was made comfortable.

What were some of the best walks you have done with the club?

I loved the Wednesday walks.

Have you got some highlights of EBWC membership you would like to share?

Making new friends, our colourful Rod, Jeff and Hilary, the 2 Rons. I also love the base camps at Walhalla, Warburton and Marysville.

Why would you recommend being a member of EBWC?

Sometimes it is the people

Can you tell us something about yourself we would be surprised to know?

I could be really good at croquet, but I've only had one lesson.

Membership Milestones

30 years continuous membership

Congratulations to Jenny James and Russell Christensen both of whom have achieved 30 years of continuous membership of EBWC.



Jenny (centre) receiving her certificate with Des Sunderland (left) who was the Leader on Jenny's first walk. Club Secretary, Kathy Anderson is on the right.



Russell Christensen

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

Recipe

ANZAC biscuits

1/2 cup butter	1 cup sugar
2 tblspn. golden syrup	1/2 tspn. baking soda
1 cup S.R. flour	1 cup rolled oats
1 cup shredded coconut	1 tblspn. Water

1. Preheat oven to 130 - 140 degrees.
2. Melt butter, sugar, syrup and coconut.
3. Mix melted ingredients into dry ingredients.
4. Place soup spoonfuls on a lined tray. Allow plenty of room for spreading.
5. Bake 20 - 25 mins. Some ovens may take less time.
6. Allow to cool for 10 - 15 mins.



Membership Secretary's Report

Current membership: 199 members



Daniel Jach, Frances Grech, Louise Prendergast, and Qingli Lan



30 members enjoyed a fun evening playing barefoot bowls before the meeting on 13th March.

Fortunately some experienced members were on hand to share their knowledge and assist with keeping the bowls on line

A delicious spread was then enjoyed. Thank you to all involved in the organization and catering.



enjoyed. organization and



Words & photos: Michele O'Connor

Suit Case Sale after EBWC meeting Wednesday, April 10

The club is selling some excess equipment, and members are invited to bring along any bushwalking gear – equipment or clothing – they would like to sell.

Walk Reports

Howmans Gap Base Camp Wednesday 27 December 2023 to Monday 1 January 2024

Run by the YMCA, Howmans Gap Discovery Camp is situated about 370 kms from Melbourne and 6 km from Falls Creek, and is about 4 hours, 30 minutes by car from Melbourne. For over 20 years it has been the site of one of the most popular bushwalking base camps in Victoria.



EBWC members: Gail, Nicole, Angela and Mario, Xi, Maree, Joanna, Rex, Laurie, Natalie and Col enjoyed perfect weather over four days of walking in the Falls Creek area.

There were 23 walks of various gradings on offer from Easy to Medium and Hard for the really adventurous walkers or, should we say, 'mountain climbers'. All were led by experienced leaders. The walks covered a total distance of over 280 kms through a wide variety of terrains. One of the most beautiful walks, the Pack Horse Trail, is a 6 km walk starting at Howmans Gap just outside where we stayed and winds its way up to Falls Creek following the historic track to the village. Wildflowers, waterfalls and forest on our door step.



For those walkers who are interested in the history of the High Country, the Three Huts walk is a must and an annual favourite for many walkers. In recent years, a wildflower walk which includes a short climb of Mount Cope has been offered as a photography walk, so something for everyone. Learn how to get the best out of the camera on your phone. Visiting Falls Creek village is also an optional walk or afternoon tea stop. Members of Diamond Valley were the main organizers of the event, with members from Koonung, Essendon, Waverley, Bayside and Eltham Environs also attending.

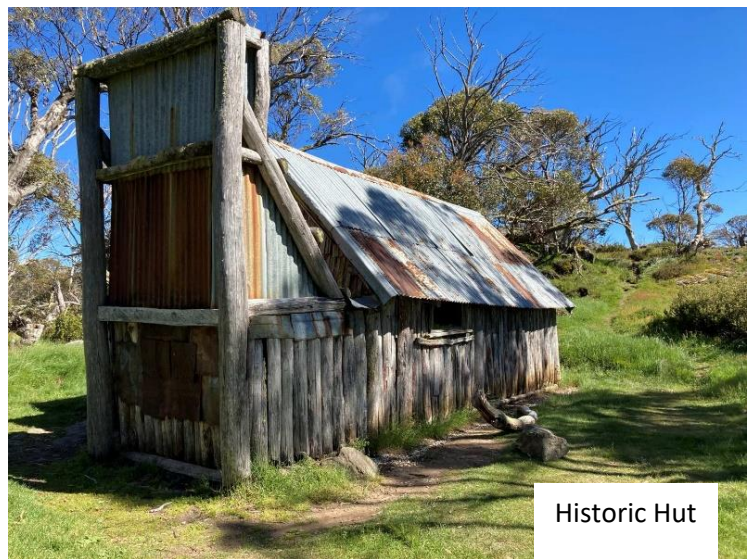
In total, 84 members from the participating clubs attended. Col Purchase has been Essendon's Howmans' coordinator for many years and we thank him for his work in making Howmans so successful each year and especially for his efforts this year.

Another successful Howmans Gap came to an end following an hilarious "Aussie" themed New Year's Eve celebration. The New Year's Eve party provided fun for all, which included trivia, nostalgia, music, competitions, themed costumes, dancing and two celebrations, one at 10:00 pm (New Zealand New Year's Eve Time) and, for the stayers, the real thing at midnight. Natalie took out first prize for the colouring competition and Pru and Tru were spotted as MCs for the evening. A big thank you to the staff at YMCA Howmans Gap for hosting the event and cheerfully providing us with delicious meals plus a packed lunch each day and a fantastic New Year's Eve dinner.

We thoroughly recommend Howmans Gap to all members if you would like to experience the High Country, meet new friends and are interested in walking in the Victorian Alps over the Boxing Day to New Year's Day period.



Alpine Hut



Historic Hut



Outhouse

Article supplied by
Nicole and Gail

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Ron's January – February 2024 Marysville Base Camp

For a few years now Ron has been a regular visitor to Marysville where most of us stay in 2-room cabins in the caravan park. In the cabins all bedding, towels and kitchen utensils were supplied. I shared with another person and we had a bedroom each, as well as a shared small lounge and kitchen area. Sure, this wasn't a suite at Crown but it was quite ok for us, and excellent value @ a total of \$160: a special price negotiated by Ron.

View from Keppel Lookout



Throughout Tuesday to Friday we had great sunny weather with temperatures in the low 20s. None of the walks selected by Ron were difficult and, as is typical with his walks, they went through beautiful temperate rainforest. Some of us, who are regular visitors, had walked some of the tracks before, but that's ok because the lush forest scenery is always beautiful, and it's not as if one walks these places every week. As it happened, many of the walks and locations were new for me, however, when I got home, I discovered an old photo showing I had previously been to Keppel Lookout with Rod Casey 26 years ago, before either of us had joined the club.

Across four days we walked along sections of the Taggerty River, Cambarville and Badger Creek near Healesville, including an old timber rail bridge; the Beeches Forest Walk, Keppel Falls, Cora Lynn Falls, and Steavenson Falls. All amongst some of the best rainforest and tallest mountain ash trees in Australia. The huge Mountain Ash trees at Cambarville, amongst the tallest flowering trees in the world, are always a highlight.

Of course, Wednesday night's dinner was at the Buxton pub (but to be honest not everyone appreciated it as much as Ron did), and we regularly had afternoon tea at the Marysville Bakery, where Ron was delighted to get some free bread before it was thrown out (I was happy, too. They had lime milkshakes!). Each afternoon we enjoyed friendly social gatherings in the open spaces of the caravan park.

Marysville has been a regular event on our calendar for a few years and is always a great trip.

Article submitted by Kevin Egan

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Beeches Rainforest



Steavenson Falls



Images by K. Egan

Culvert near Cambarville

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Kennett River Base Camp, 21-23 February 2024

A small group of 9 members signed up for Darren's Kennett River base camp in late February.



Over 3 days we did some lovely walks inland on 4 wheel drive tracks, which were beautifully shaded in some sections, and along the coast to Wye River.

Being coastal, nothing was flat, and we had to take our time going down some of the VERY steep gravelly paths.



While waiting for the local bus to take us back from Wye River to Kennett River, we enjoyed afternoon tea at the upmarket cafe.

When our air-conditioned bus finally arrived, we were told that the ticket machine was turned off and we didn't have to pay (and this seems to be the usual practice).

In our leisure time we went koala spotting along with quite a few busloads of tourists, and watched the endless stream of local surfers catching waves.

We all stayed at Kennett River Family Caravan Park, which was very pleasant, shaded and quiet mid-week.

On the way home on Saturday, a few of us stopped off in Anglesea for a stroll and a delicious lunch.

Thanks Darren.



Article & images by Linda Good

Dianne's First Walk

On 29th February, Dianne Whitmore led her first walk as a Leader around the Beaumaris area. Dianne put in much research to make this an enjoyable walk for 15 members focussing on architecture, coastal art and visiting the many golf courses in the area.



The group enjoyed walking by and hearing about several mid-century modernist homes, several which had official plaques which added to their history and value.

Dianne was even able to finish the walk at a bus stop with a bus pulling up within minutes for the return journey to the train station. Now that's good planning!

We look forward to seeing more of Dianne's walks on the program.



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Whisky Creek Circuit

A recent walk on the west side of Lerderderg River was a sweaty, challenging experience as eight of us followed Jim's lead on the Whisky Creek Circuit.

Whisky Creek Circuit is a 10.6km walk down into the gorge from near Mt Blackwood, upstream in the valley for a little over a kilometre then climbing back up to parked cars along a different track.



Jim explains a little of the area's geological history

Although not really far, it was rated a medium/hard (“at

least”) walk mostly over rocky trails.

Jim lured us along with promises of an upcoming geology lesson. But when that moment came, the sight of steep boulders ahead and his recommendation to put poles away “because you’ll need your hands for the next bit” quickly sunk in.

There’s something appealing about being Whip on walks like this - the luxury of being able to profusely sweat unseen and to slow up a bit. But after defeating the rock climb, one big killer hill took the concept of challenging to a whole new level.

They say that what doesn’t kill you makes you stronger. It also brings you closer to the people sharing the experience and to the rewards that awaited afterwards at Loot cafe in Bacchus Marsh.

Big thanks to Jim for the research and fearless leadership.

Article and photo by Denise Lucey

Thank You.

Force of Nature – The Dry 2

I wanted to thank the EBWC Committee for organising the Christmas Raffle tickets to see the Force of Nature (The Dry 2) with Eric Bana.

Peter and I went to Hoyts Watergardens as they had Advanced Screening of the movie. What can I say, it was just a brilliant, suspenseful, well-acted movie.



Eric Bana's image taken from

<https://classic.imgix.net/movies/thumbnails/forceofnature.jpg>

The film follows the story of five women heading out into a remote wilderness on an executive retreat. When only four return, Detective Aaron Falk (Eric Bana) investigates, discovering secrets lurking in the mountains, and tangled webs of friendships, suspicion and betrayal among the group.

The scenery was absolutely fantastic; dark, brooding, wet and mysterious. If you love a good whodunit, I highly recommend this movie.

Like The Dry, the film was shot on location across Victoria, featuring the landscape as an integral character.

While The Dry 1 was filmed in Victoria's rural Wimmera and Mallee regions, this sequel was mostly filmed in the Otways, Dandenong Ranges and Yarra Valley.

Our Bush Search and Rescue team kept coming to mind in certain scenes.

Many thanks again

Sabina and Peter Anderson

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

Clubs Walks Program: This is available on the Club website or posted to members who have paid for mail outs.

Club Fees:

- Annual Membership fees apply from 1st June to 31st May. Membership fees not paid two weeks after the June AGM render the member non-financial.
- 2024 -2025 Annual Membership fee is \$45.00 plus \$20.00 if you require a copy of Old Man Emu posted to you.

EBC Committee for 2023 – 2024

Laurie Charleson President, Leanne Cleary Vice President, Kathy Anderson Secretary, Gail Greenwood Treasurer, Jim Stewart Membership Secretary, Neil Campbell, Tess Murton, Dianne Whitmore, John Widmer

Submitting articles/images to OME – please send to

editor@essendonbwc.org.au

Next Deadline: Monday 15th of July, 2024