

Presidents Report

Welcome to Essendon Bushwalking Club AGM 2020. Since I cannot be President for more than 2 years. I will be stepping down, to let someone else run the club and the AGM. It's been a great Honour and Privilege in being your President for the past two years. When I was elected for the second time, I had hoped to continue on the Great Work of the past presidents and committees to keep the Club Running efficiently. I thank everyone for the support during the recent times. What a remarkable and unprecedented year it has been.

We have seen Bushfires throughout Australia. NSW they started in July 2019 in NSW and in Victoria started in September 2019 finally they were extinguished in March 2020.. During this period, the world as we know it was changed forever. December 27th there was an outbreak of a virus in Wuhan China It was a new virus called Coronavirus. WHO declared it a Public Emergency of International Health concern on the 20th January 2020 . 11th March declared a Panademic .Our Borders was closed on the 20th March and 21st March social distancing rules were put in place and Australia went to Stage 3 , Lockdown.. Our program and meetings had been postponed. Finally after 7 weeks in lockdown. we were able to resume a modified walking program in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines . Unfortunately Victoria experienced a second wave , the program is currently suspended I thank all members and leaders for their patience, support and understanding in these unprecedented times. We were able to offer discounted membership fee for 19/20,

I have been fortunate to have a committee of experience and dedication to EBC Volunteering their time and enthusiasm. Col in organizing the website, so photos and other items that have been added. Bushwalking Victoria for their prompt advice and support to all affiliated clubs during this crisis.

The club continues to flourish with around 180 members and a strong walks program. Thank you to the members the for participating in the walks, social events and activities, Welcoming new members and helping them feel part of this great club at the meetings and on the walks. Thank you to Hilary for your walk summaries at our monthly meetings. Nor would the club function without the considerable effort of the committee and many others in the club who did so much work. Anna Denham (membership coordinator), Ian Yarde, Treasurer

(Kevin Egan (Vice President, supporting Vivienne in the Secretary Role), Ron Bell (equipment and Information) Michael and Mark, Louise for Social Media- Facebook, Col Purchase(Walks Coordinator website) Stephen (website) Chris BSR and the Marathon Bill Casey Major Mitchell walks to Gina organizing Supper Brian Smith for another whimsical Christmas quiz, plus Inge, Helen Coleman, Ron Pearce and other members who helped out in various ways. Also, thank you to Howard Stokes for making the Upper Plenty Conference Centre available for our Christmas party. None of our walks could happen but for the efforts of our leaders who continue to put on great walks. Thank you to all of you who made that possible and will continue to do so into the future.

Thank you

Marek Turski-Szendzielarz

President