



1975

50 Years

2025

March 2025

*Old Man Emu*

Issue 97

## 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

Our Summer break has concluded and we can reflect on having met up with family and friends over the summer break. We deeply appreciate the many walks and base camps our leaders were able to organise for members to get together. We delight in the photos and walk reports where we were unable to attend ourselves. Putting walks together require a commitment of time and resources, involving travel, pre-walks and ensuring provision of appropriate Plans "B". Please be kind to the Leaders and offer what assistance you can.

Schools and workplaces have now returned to normal. Melbourne is entering its finest season, autumn. The long, fine days continue, but spare us the high summer heat, flies, fire-risk and mugginess. While weekday city traffic is congested, the clear crisp days and cooler temperatures make it great bushwalking weather. The perfect time to see our state's oceans, mountains, rivers and colourful landscapes. Our thanks to all Leaders and their assistants for organising the variety of walks and monthly base camps which are on the program ahead.

2025 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Essendon Bushwalking Club. We thank all those members, past and present, who have made the Club the active one it is. We need to thank founding members, Vince Aitkin and Ken Readwin, who met and began organising groups of friends to jointly journey out on bushwalking weekends away. Vince and Ken are still current members of the Club. Other members developed the Club to arrange a variety of outdoor activities for all seasons. These have ranged from social nights to annual regional base camps to explore regional environments. The Club's Leaders have enabled members to explore and learn about new environments at minimal cost on trips, interstate and overseas, as well as our annual Marathons. These trips all required creative thinking and

detailed organisation. They provided a focus for members to engage with regional local communities and contribute to local economies. They provided participants with an opportunity to socialise with each other and learn about new environments in a safe manner.

The recent Pandemic lock-downs demonstrated the need for increasing community and social interactions. We are indebted to past and current Leaders, and should acknowledge the value of all members, who have contributed to events in a myriad of ways, as well as the voluntary contribution of Leaders and Committee members, past and present, who have stepped forward to provide ongoing management of the Club.

The Committee and members are planning a dinner to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> year of service by the Essendon Bushwalking Club. The dinner will be held at the Moonee Ponds Bowls Club, Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds from 6 pm on Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2025. Current, former members and friends are invited. The details are available on the Club's website. Members can register online. All others, please contact the [secretary@essendonbwc.org.au](mailto:secretary@essendonbwc.org.au) for bookings.

The Club's Annual General Meeting is scheduled prior to the General Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2025. All positions will become vacant. Every member has a valuable contribution to make. Please consider joining the Committee.

I am looking forward to catching up and celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the dinner.

Laurie Charleson

President, Essendon Bushwalking Club.

Fifty-years ago, in 1975, colour television commenced in Australia; the Tasman bridge in Hobart had a partial collapse; North Melbourne won its first AFL premiership; the Whitlam Government was dissolved by the Governor-General; Microsoft was formed; and, the Essendon Bushwalking Club was founded.

Started by a small group of people, including Ken Readwin and Vince Aitkin, the Club has seen and weathered many changes, including, but not limited to, GPS technology enabling navigation without knowledge of how to use a map and compass; new ultra-light materials used in tent construction etc., and internal pressures that could have resulted in the Club's total dissolution.

Fortunately for us, EBWC dusted off its backpacks and managed to continue, and this year marks its fiftieth year. A great achievement for any organization.

This edition of Old Man Emu focusses mostly on the history of EBWC and the Life-Members who have contributed greatly to the life of the Club. We, the editors, invite you to celebrate the resilience of your Club as we enter the second-half of our first-century as a group dedicated to bushwalking and other activities promoting inclusion, health, and wonder of the world outside your door.

David Isaacs & Michele O'Connor  
Editors OME

**ESSENDON BUSHWALKING CLUB**  
**50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER**

Please join us in celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of EBWC.

6pm, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May at Moonee Ponds Bowling Club. \$39 for a 2-course meal with drinks at bar prices.

Members may book online. Former members and friends of EBWC please contact [secretary@essendonbwc.org.au](mailto:secretary@essendonbwc.org.au) for booking details.

# From the Vault

## Old Man Emu

Volume 1 Issue 1

May 1996



### Editorial

**W**elcome to the first issue of Old Man Emu.

With the club membership being spread over a wide area, and as we continue to grow, it becomes harder to communicate the changes and events to all of our members.

There has been discussion for some time for the need to produce our own newsletter. The hardest thing when contemplating commencing a newsletter is finding someone willing (silly enough) to undertake the task of putting it together.

The anaesthetic from my operation obviously hadn't worn off by the April committee meeting, I apparently volunteered for the job.

The writing of a newsletter cannot be performed by one person, it can only survive if contributions are made by many.

I will be looking for help from you, the members, to contribute stories, walks reports, hints and tips and anything else that you may think will be of interest to your fellow club members.

The deadline for the first issue will be the 1st August. Contributions, (preferably on floppy disk) can be handed to me at club meetings, or mailed to 26 Willow Drive Avondale Heights 3034.

Des Sunderland Editor

### Annual General Meeting

**T**he Annual General Meeting is to be held on the 12th June 1996.

All positions on the committee are open for nomination, and can be filled by any member of the club.

The positions on the committee are: President; Vice President; Secretary/Treasurer; and six committee members. Indications are that several members of the present committee will not be restanding.

If you intend nominating someone for a position on the committee, talk to them before the AGM to see if they are interested. You might even want to ask them a few questions on their views on how they see the future of the club. It may influence your decision on whether to nominate them.

### Membership Fees

**C**lub fees are due to be paid by all members as at the 13th June 96. and under the constitution must be paid within two months. Fees can be paid direct to the Treasurer at club meetings or mailed to PO Box 32 Moonee Ponds 3039.

The fees for the next year will be \$25. This has been the first rise in the club's fees for many years. But with increased costs and projected expenses in the ensuing year the committee has found it necessary to raise the fees.

At present we have 149 paid financial members, plus 7 Life Members.

Remember, to vote at the AGM, you have to be financial for the year ending 12th June 96.

### Children

**D**o you know the club's policy on children?

Under rule 5(4) of the constitution, A member must be at least 15 years of age.

This does not preclude children from walking with the club, but the following guidelines apply:

**It is at the discretion of the walk leader as to the suitability of the walk, and to approve the participation of a child under the age of 15 years.**

**Visitors are unable to bring a dependant child under the age of 15 years.**

**Any children participating on a walk must be registered on the walk booking sheet for insurance purposes. The visitors fee will be waived.**

If you require any clarification of the above please discuss with either the President or Secretary.

### New Members

**T**o encourage new members to participate on pack walks, the following initiative is effective from the 1st April 96.

**On approval of their membership, new members will be given a voucher for the use of a full set of the club's hire equipment.**

The following conditions apply to the voucher:

1. The voucher must be used within 12 months from date of issue.
2. The voucher is non transferable and must be used on a club scheduled activity.



## EBWC 2024 Christmas get-together



The Essendon Bush Walking Club held their Christmas get together on November 24th at Woodlands Park in Essendon. The event was a delightful mix of outdoor activity and festive cheer, despite the day's rainy start.

In the morning, participants embarked on a walk led by Gina around the streets of Essendon, where they enjoyed the area's rich history, diverse architectural styles, and beautiful gardens. Although the morning was very wet, the sun graciously made an appearance just in time for the lunch festivities.

Lunch was a highlight of the day, with everyone enjoying a delicious meal that was catered to perfection. The event's pinnacle moment came when "Mary Christmas" arrived, bringing joy and ice creams for everyone.

Many thanks are due to Leanne and her helpers for organizing such a well-coordinated and enjoyable event. Their hard work and attention to detail ensured that the Christmas get together was a memorable occasion for all members of the Essendon Bush Walking Club.



## **The early years of the Essendon Bushwalking Club – a brief History.**

I should begin by providing some background of my involvement in outdoors activities. Sydney was my hometown. I started cycling and bushwalking at a young age, and upon entering the workforce, I was able to financially support my adventures further afield. In the late 1950's I used to regularly spend my weekends in company with likeminded people walking the 10 kilometres from the Lilydale Railway Station (on the Illawarra line south of Sydney) to, and camping over weekends at Burning Palms, a delightful beach on the east coast some 50 kilometres south of Sydney. Travel to and from Sydney to that railway station was by steam train. Around that time, I joined the Sydney Bushwalking Club and this expanded my bush walking to the lofty heights of the Blue Mountains west of Sydney. It was here I discovered the Jamieson, Megalong and Grose valleys and many walks in those beautiful places. Exploration of abandoned mines led to an interest in speleology and much caving was had in the Wombean and Bungonia cast caving systems. A workplace transfer to Darwin saw me walking many areas in the top end, and 4wd driving trips to discover WW2 aircraft that had crashed in and around remote war time airstrips in the Northern Territory. Whilst living in Perth I was for a brief time a member of the fledging Perth Bushwalking Club and saw a lot of areas to the east and south of Perth.

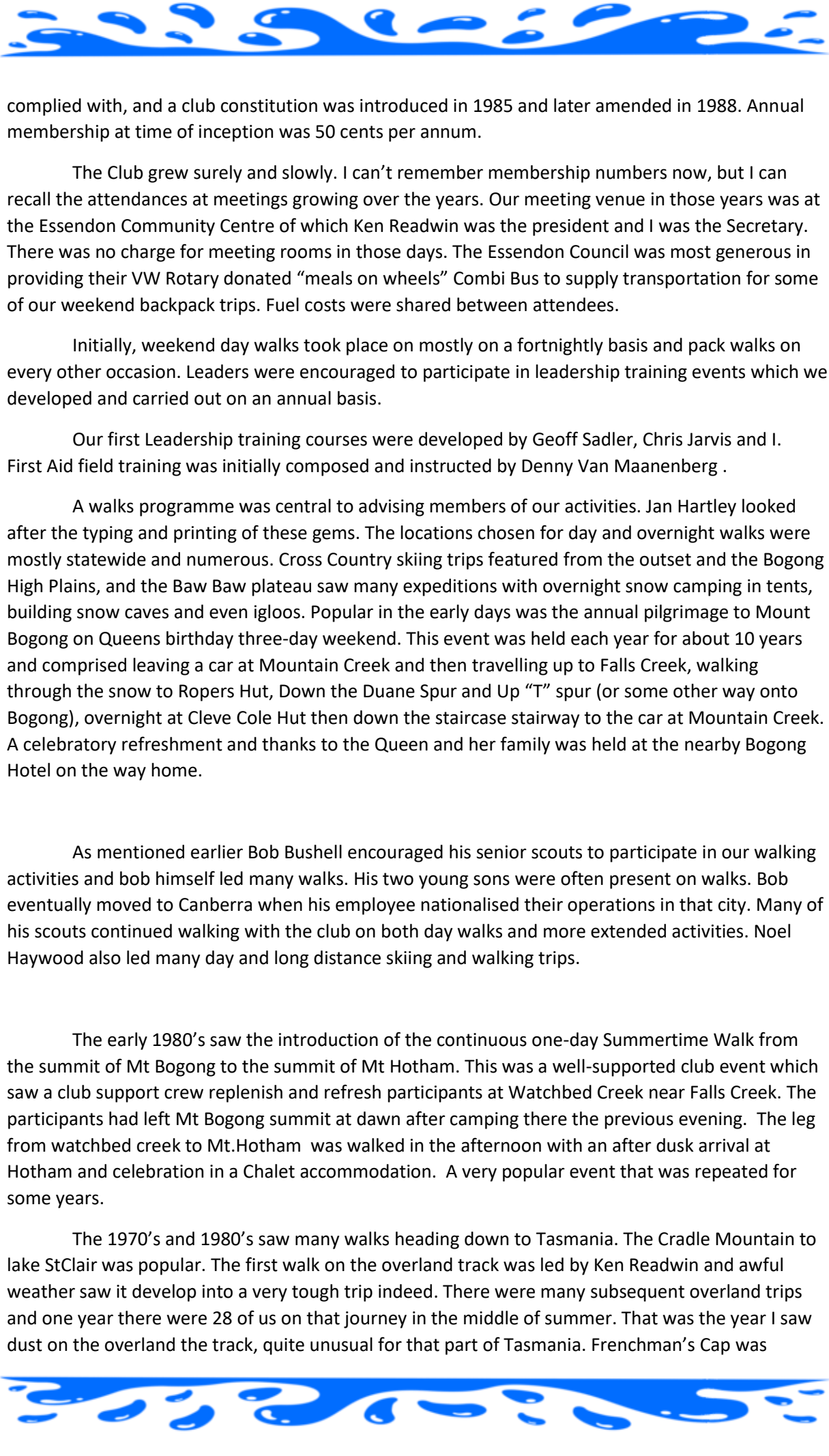
In 1973 saw a workplace transfer to Melbourne and I took up residence in Moonee Ponds. In those times the only bushwalking clubs were based in the city of Melbourne, and they included the Melbourne Bushwalking Club, MUMC and others. I found these associations rather clicky and aloof. Their mode of travel to and from walks was mostly in retrofitted furniture removalist vans. There were no bushwalking clubs in Essendon in the 1970's so I began to plan on setting up such a recreational facility in our area.

One fine Saturday morning in 1974 or 1975 I was walking back home from the Moonee Ponds Markets tramping under the weight of my "A Frame" backpack full of green and other groceries. I walked down Coates Street, just adjacent to the Community Centre at the Moonee Ponds junction when I bumped into my local councillor (I think he may have been the mayor at this time or soon after). Ken Readwin was doing something in his front yard with his dog "Sam" (who was the size of a small pony) and he called me over to have a chat. Ken was a bushwalker and had done a lot of leadership training with the Outward-Bound Organisation. It was there we decided to establish a locally based bushwalking club with as free from stifling rules and regulations that besotted the city clubs.

So it was that notices were placed in the Essendon Gazette over calling on people interested in attending a meeting in the new Essendon Council Chambers meeting room to discuss forming a club in our district. Several meetings were held and attended by some 20 locals. Bob Bushell was a local scout master, and he attended the meeting and spoke of his desire to involve some of his senior scouts in such a community activity. Colin Greenwood also supported the formation of the group, and he was strongly supportive in efforts to get the show on the road.

The Essendon Council provided a grant which enabled us to purchase sleeping bags, tents and other equipment which we then rented out to members and others to participate on walks. Our first day walk probably took place in the Lerderderg Gorge but what we called our inaugural overnight club walk was held on a Queens Birthday weekend when a group of seven of us travelled to Falls Creek and walked to the Tawonga Huts and Niggerheads area (as it was called in those days).

The club was initially unincorporated and had a simple set of ten rules for members to follow. Unfortunately, there is no longer any record of what they were. Incorporation was eventually



complied with, and a club constitution was introduced in 1985 and later amended in 1988. Annual membership at time of inception was 50 cents per annum.

The Club grew surely and slowly. I can't remember membership numbers now, but I can recall the attendances at meetings growing over the years. Our meeting venue in those years was at the Essendon Community Centre of which Ken Readwin was the president and I was the Secretary. There was no charge for meeting rooms in those days. The Essendon Council was most generous in providing their VW Rotary donated "meals on wheels" Combi Bus to supply transportation for some of our weekend backpack trips. Fuel costs were shared between attendees.

Initially, weekend day walks took place on mostly on a fortnightly basis and pack walks on every other occasion. Leaders were encouraged to participate in leadership training events which we developed and carried out on an annual basis.

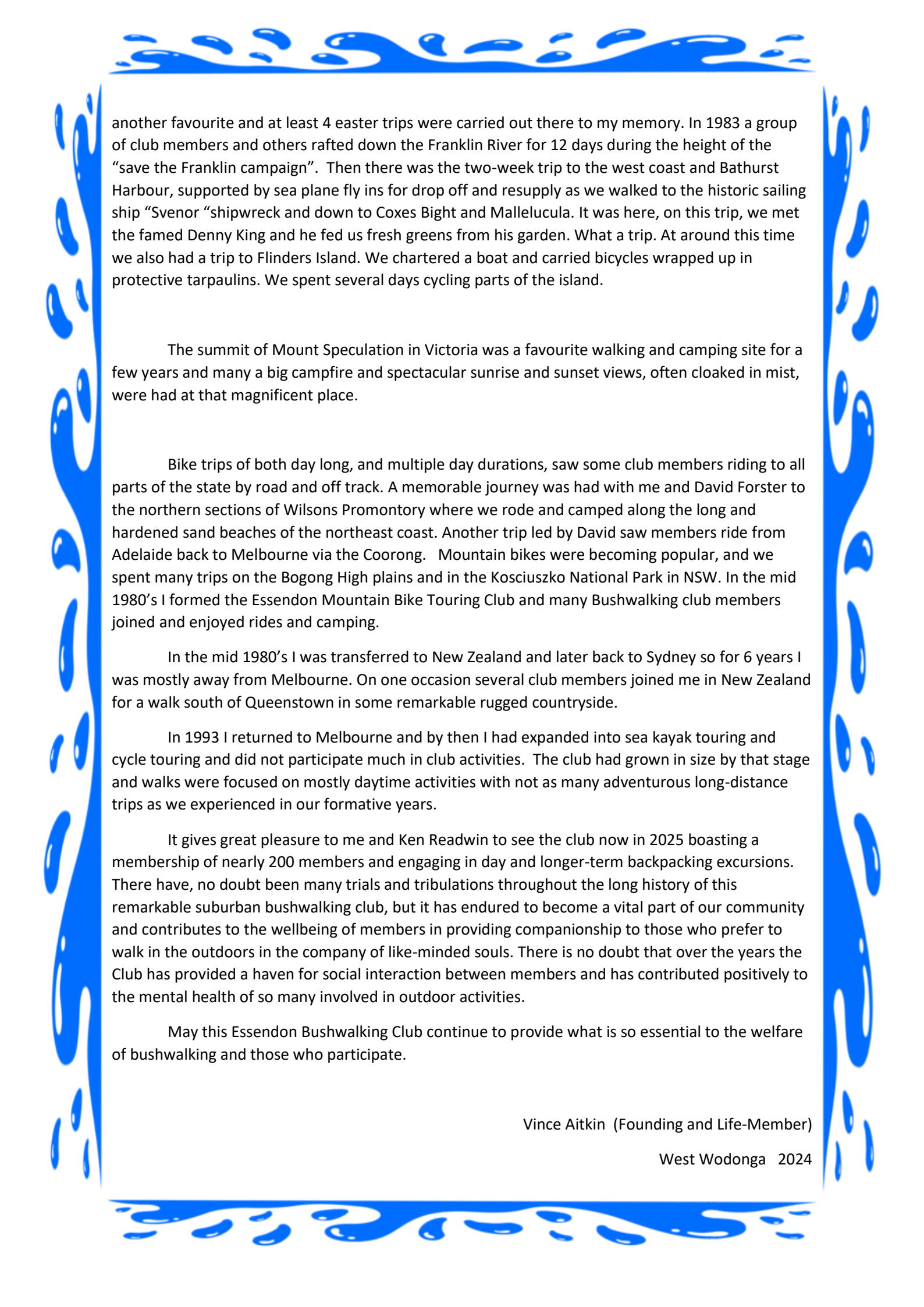
Our first Leadership training courses were developed by Geoff Sadler, Chris Jarvis and I. First Aid field training was initially composed and instructed by Denny Van Maanenbergr .

A walks programme was central to advising members of our activities. Jan Hartley looked after the typing and printing of these gems. The locations chosen for day and overnight walks were mostly statewide and numerous. Cross Country skiing trips featured from the outset and the Bogong High Plains, and the Baw Baw plateau saw many expeditions with overnight snow camping in tents, building snow caves and even igloos. Popular in the early days was the annual pilgrimage to Mount Bogong on Queens birthday three-day weekend. This event was held each year for about 10 years and comprised leaving a car at Mountain Creek and then travelling up to Falls Creek, walking through the snow to Ropers Hut, Down the Duane Spur and Up "T" spur (or some other way onto Bogong), overnight at Cleve Cole Hut then down the staircase stairway to the car at Mountain Creek. A celebratory refreshment and thanks to the Queen and her family was held at the nearby Bogong Hotel on the way home.

As mentioned earlier Bob Bushell encouraged his senior scouts to participate in our walking activities and bob himself led many walks. His two young sons were often present on walks. Bob eventually moved to Canberra when his employee nationalised their operations in that city. Many of his scouts continued walking with the club on both day walks and more extended activities. Noel Haywood also led many day and long distance skiing and walking trips.

The early 1980's saw the introduction of the continuous one-day Summertime Walk from the summit of Mt Bogong to the summit of Mt Hotham. This was a well-supported club event which saw a club support crew replenish and refresh participants at Watchbed Creek near Falls Creek. The participants had left Mt Bogong summit at dawn after camping there the previous evening. The leg from watchbed creek to Mt.Hotham was walked in the afternoon with an after dusk arrival at Hotham and celebration in a Chalet accommodation. A very popular event that was repeated for some years.

The 1970's and 1980's saw many walks heading down to Tasmania. The Cradle Mountain to lake StClair was popular. The first walk on the overland track was led by Ken Readwin and awful weather saw it develop into a very tough trip indeed. There were many subsequent overland trips and one year there were 28 of us on that journey in the middle of summer. That was the year I saw dust on the overland the track, quite unusual for that part of Tasmania. Frenchman's Cap was



another favourite and at least 4 easter trips were carried out there to my memory. In 1983 a group of club members and others rafted down the Franklin River for 12 days during the height of the “save the Franklin campaign”. Then there was the two-week trip to the west coast and Bathurst Harbour, supported by sea plane fly ins for drop off and resupply as we walked to the historic sailing ship “Svenor” shipwreck and down to Coxes Bight and Mallelucula. It was here, on this trip, we met the famed Denny King and he fed us fresh greens from his garden. What a trip. At around this time we also had a trip to Flinders Island. We chartered a boat and carried bicycles wrapped up in protective tarpaulins. We spent several days cycling parts of the island.

The summit of Mount Speculation in Victoria was a favourite walking and camping site for a few years and many a big campfire and spectacular sunrise and sunset views, often cloaked in mist, were had at that magnificent place.

Bike trips of both day long, and multiple day durations, saw some club members riding to all parts of the state by road and off track. A memorable journey was had with me and David Forster to the northern sections of Wilsons Promontory where we rode and camped along the long and hardened sand beaches of the northeast coast. Another trip led by David saw members ride from Adelaide back to Melbourne via the Coorong. Mountain bikes were becoming popular, and we spent many trips on the Bogong High plains and in the Kosciuszko National Park in NSW. In the mid 1980’s I formed the Essendon Mountain Bike Touring Club and many Bushwalking club members joined and enjoyed rides and camping.

In the mid 1980’s I was transferred to New Zealand and later back to Sydney so for 6 years I was mostly away from Melbourne. On one occasion several club members joined me in New Zealand for a walk south of Queenstown in some remarkable rugged countryside.

In 1993 I returned to Melbourne and by then I had expanded into sea kayak touring and cycle touring and did not participate much in club activities. The club had grown in size by that stage and walks were focused on mostly daytime activities with not as many adventurous long-distance trips as we experienced in our formative years.

It gives great pleasure to me and Ken Readwin to see the club now in 2025 boasting a membership of nearly 200 members and engaging in day and longer-term backpacking excursions. There have, no doubt been many trials and tribulations throughout the long history of this remarkable suburban bushwalking club, but it has endured to become a vital part of our community and contributes to the wellbeing of members in providing companionship to those who prefer to walk in the outdoors in the company of like-minded souls. There is no doubt that over the years the Club has provided a haven for social interaction between members and has contributed positively to the mental health of so many involved in outdoor activities.

May this Essendon Bushwalking Club continue to provide what is so essential to the welfare of bushwalking and those who participate.

Vince Aitkin (Founding and Life-Member)

West Wodonga 2024





## **Meet Life Member**

### **Vince Aitkin**

#### **How long have you been a member of EBWC?**

Foundation member. Myself and Ken Readwin decided on a Saturday morning in 1974 that Essendon needed its own bushwalking club.

#### **Why did you join?**

To provide the energy and guidance to establish a bushwalking club.

#### **Tell us about the "early" years of the club.**

You should refer to my word doc – History – Vince Aitkin

(The early years of the Essendon Bushwalking Club – a brief History. Editor)

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

Bogong High plains, South West Tasmania (several expeditions there), Lerderderg Gorge. Also numerous snow skiing trips throughout the high country. Nepal.

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

Creating a local club welcoming locals to enjoy adventures in the Victorian outback and exploratory outings throughout Australia and overseas.

#### **Why would you recommend being a member of EBWC?**

In those days to mix with locals and enjoy fair dinkum walking experiences.

#### **What is something surprising about yourself you can share?**

Nothing surprising at all. Just a plain ordinary bloke who wanted to create an environment for locals where bushwalking and outdoor pursuits could be enjoyed.



## Meet Life Member

### **Ron Bell**



#### **How long have you been a member of EBWC?**

Originally, I was a member of YHA, but I transferred to Essendon in 1981.

#### **Why did you join?**

The Essendon club was closer to home, and it seemed more organised than YHA.

#### **What were some of the best walks you have done with the Club?**

I led a group tramping in New Zealand; two weeks on each island. Leading various base-camps, and snow-camps, in areas such as the Blue Mountains and Mt Kosciuszko.

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

Leading the extended walk to New Zealand, mentioned above.  
Remote area walks on rough tracks.  
Doing other activities including abseiling, canoeing, and parachuting!

#### **Why would you recommend being a member of EBWC?**

Meeting like-minded people and the friendships you develop with them.

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

My greatest joy is getting out into the bush and sharing the beautiful surroundings.

## **Meet Life Member**

### **Geoff Sadler**



#### **How long have you been a member of EBWC?**

Since about 1979

#### **Why did you join?**

Social and to go walking

#### **What were some of the best walks you have done with the Club?**

The memorable ones are, often, those where we were very close to being out of our depth. Otherwise:

1. The Routeburn, Rees/Dart and whitewater rafting in NZ with Peter Fuller and Dave Forster
2. The various club formal dinners were always great fun
3. Any walks in the Wonnangatta – Moroka NP are always memorable; the best mountain scenery in Australia. The 8 hours of bush bashing 4 kms down the West Buffalo from Viking Saddle is VERY memorable.

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

1. Meeting my wife, Jenny
2. Being President during a period of rebuilding and refocusing the club
3. Implementing leadership training programs for members

#### **Why would you recommend being a member of EBWC?**

Outdoor activities and joining a community

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

I am a member of the Order of St John

## **Meet Life Member**

### **Ken Readwin**



**How long have you been a member of EBWC?**

50 years

**Why did you join?**

Foundation member

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

High Plains, pack walks

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

Equipment Hire

**Why would you recommend being a member of EBWC?**

Very good walks planning, training in Navigation, First Aid, Cooking

## First Event to Celebrate the 50th Anniversary BYO Dinner and Meeting at Queen's Park

It was a perfect summer evening, with members gathering in the serene shade of the trees to celebrate the 50th anniversary.

The event was held in Queen's Park, and the ambiance was nothing short of magical.



White tablecloths adorned the tables, complemented by elegant candelabras, which cast a soft glow over the gathering. The attendees had fully embraced the theme of formal or mock formal, adding a delightful touch of sophistication to the evening. The scene was a dazzling display of tiaras, pearls, lace gloves, bow ties, and even Scottish ties.



The evening concluded with Laurie running the monthly meeting.



The community had truly come together for this special occasion, each member contributing to the festive atmosphere.

As conversations flowed and laughter filled the air,

it was clear that this was not just a celebration of the

past 50 years but also a promise of many more joyful gatherings to come.



Photos supplied by Maree Hogan





## **MEET Life MEMBER**

### **Sylvia McLean**

#### **How long have you been a member of EBWC?**

Joined EBC in the latter part of 1989...that makes my membership about 35 years

#### **Why did you join?**

Walking, particularly in the natural environment, is in my genes and second nature. It is a break, an escape, from hectic life pressures. So, when a local GP had mentioned to me that his cousin had joined Bushwalking Club in Essendon and was very happy, that sounded like a good idea to me. It wasn't much after that I soon qualified and became a devoted EBC member.

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

Not sure about best walks, but there are the memorable ones, challenging ones and of course the worst ones...which are always about horrible weather! My first pack walk to Mt Speculation in 1993 was filled with excitement and new experience, and I must mention the 2 week walk in the Pilbara, which had everything – challenging cliff/gorge climbing and absolute beauty and uniqueness.

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

I guess my highlights are all the likeminded friends I have made, some for life. Ian and I met through the club, and married on the steps of Woodlands Homestead. The camaraderie and trust developed on multiday trips, adventures and experiences, and the skills I have learned and developed.

#### **Why would you recommend being a member of EBWC?**

Because of all the reasons above!

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

I was taught by my father to weld using Oxyacetylene equipment!



## **Meet A Life Member**

### **Michael Howes**

#### **How long have you been a member of EBWC?**

In 1986, while at a Youth Hostel Badminton Activity, an enthusiastic Ron Bell suggested that I come along to an EBWC meeting, which I did, and after doing the required qualifying walks joined.

#### **Why did you join?**

To enjoy walking in the company of like-minded people, and to explore new areas.

#### **Tell us about the "early" years of the club...."**

When I first joined the EBWC we met in the Moonee Ponds Town Hall and our meeting point was library car park just behind it. We also drove further from Melbourne for day walks and often arrived back from day walks later, (sometimes around 8pm). (Rising petrol prices eventually meant that we reduced the number of day walks that are a long way from Melbourne, although our age now plays a part in this.)

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

Walls of Jerusalem pack walk in Tasmania led by Chris Jarvis, via Western Tiers. Lerderderg Gorge led by Bill Casey, 2013 Flinders Ranges base camp led by me, Lake Rhona via Lake Pedder led by Denny Van Maanenbergh, Howqua Plateau led by Rhonda Pawlik and numerous other walks, both day, pack, and base camp

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

Sharing the excitement of a new experience with friends. Visiting locales that one person alone would find very hard to do. The comradeship

**Why would you recommend being a member of EBWC?**

A very friendly club that offers shared walking experiences

**What is something surprising about yourself you can share?**

When I lead a walk, I do it for the enjoyment of others, not for my ego. I am generally quite shy, but like helping others.



Image: The unique alpine vegetation in the Walls of Jerusalem, by Ingrid Schnell

From website: [tasmanianexpeditions.com.au](http://tasmanianexpeditions.com.au)

## **Meet Life Member**

### **Bill Casey**



#### **How long have you been a member of EBWC?**

Since October 1991.

#### **Why did you join?**

I worked with EBWC member Kevin Drever at the SEC. He told me about the Club, and I was looking for less demanding exercise than running. Little did I know just how demanding bushwalking can be!

#### **What were some of the best walks you have done with the Club?**

Early on there were many EBWC walks in Lerderderg Gorge, some easy, others quite demanding - I loved them all. Ron Bell's base camps in Beechworth were an annual June feature many of us looked forward to. The two-week tour of Tasmania in early 2002 will always be an enjoyable memory.

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

I so much appreciate the caring friendship shown to me by so many EBWC members over the years. Base camps are a social highlight of my life. Bushwalking with Essendon is so much more than exercise - so many close friendships are formed.

#### **Why would you recommend being a member of EBWC?**

For the reasons mentioned in my previous answer.

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

I've been a member for so long, and have met so many people, that I doubt there is much that other members don't already know.



## **Meet Life Member**

### **Chris Jarvis**

#### **How long have you been a member of EBWC?**

I joined in April 1984, so that makes it about 40 years. I did my first walk with the club in December 1981 but then spent a year studying before doing the rest of my qualifying walks in March 1984.



#### **Why did you join?**

I have always enjoyed the bush, having a rural background in SA, and wanted to take on bushwalking as a hobby. I moved to Melbourne in late 1981 and in December 1981 whilst playing with the YHA Badminton activity group Ron Bell mentioned he had joined a great bushwalking club and suggested I come along on a walk to Werribee Gorge. I stayed on and have not looked back. Thanks Ron!

#### **What were some of the best walks you have done with the Club?**

Too numerous to mention! Mostly the challenging pack walks. Bogong to Hotham “Day walk” (twice, a hybrid walk). Frenchmans Cap (Tassie – epic walk out across the flooded Loddon Plain). Tasmania South Coast (14 days, as leader, with one food drop). The Viking - Mt Howitt circuit with Geoff Sadler. Twenty plus ‘Marathons’ with Bill Casey.

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

- Meeting lots of great and interesting people.
- Joining Bush Search and Rescue Victoria in 1985 – then known as the “Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs Search and Rescue Section”
- Great sense of community.

#### **Why would you recommend being a member of EBWC?**

Great people. Varied activities. Sharing bush skills and knowledge.

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

Nothing comes to mind.

## Information

### Contacting the Club /General Enquiries

Email: [secretary@essendonbwc.org.au](mailto: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](http://www.essendonbwc.org.au)

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

### EBC Committee for 2024 – 2025

Laurie Charleson: President, Leanne Cleary: Vice President, Gail Greenwood: Treasurer, Jim Stewart: Membership Secretary, Frances Grech: IT Manager, Neil Campbell, Tess Murton, Dianne Whitmore.

**Submitting articles/images to OME** – please send to

[editor@essendonbwc.org.au](mailto:editor@essendonbwc.org.au)

Next Deadline: Friday 20th of June, 2025