



## President's Report



The first three months of the new committee has been busy with preparing and collating the results of a survey that was sent to all

members and with a rule change that followed. Steps were also taken to provide monthly emails to all members with up and coming walks, base camps and reports shown at face to face meetings. Two new roles were created on the committee. The welfare officer (job shared by Francis and Jim) will follow up on new and existing members. The social convenor (Anna) will co-ordinate social events.

### Survey results

Apart from requests to have fewer meetings and more social events, respondents also requested more public transport - accessible walks, and more medium graded walks and base camps. There were as well requests for some themed (wildflowers, photography) and urban/social walks. A few said the website could be simpler, and an opt in share a ride/room tick box on registrations would be useful. Some expressed interest in leading or co-leading walks and receiving some training.

Over the next six months the committee will look at ways to address some of this survey feedback. In the meantime, plans are underway to recruit and train more leaders. More details to follow.

### Rule change

The rule change to reduce the number of general meetings from 12 to four was carried

by more than the required 75 percent of those who voted and has been approved by Consumer Affairs Victoria. From the start of 2026 the club will move to holding general meetings every quarter based on a theme with social events in between.

### Walks program

The walks program continues to offer a range of weekday and weekend walks and base camps. Since the last issue of OME, the club has had base camps in Sydney (led by Col Purchase), Wilsons Promontory (led by Greg Passlow) and Mount Buffalo (led by Darren McClelland). And there's more!! Listed below are base camps coming up for the remainder of 2025 and into 2026! If interested in attending, please register on our website.

#### 2025

Cowombat Flat Pack Walk, 3- 8 December  
Cape Liptrap Coast Walk, 13-14 December  
Howmans Gap, 27 December -1 January 2026

#### 2026

Marysville Base Camp, 27-30 January  
Wimmera River Discovery Walk, 9-13 February  
Cycling around Bright, 1-2 March  
Bunyip State Park Base Camp, 23-25 March  
Warburton Base Camp, 21-23 April  
Apollo Bay & the Otways Base Camp, 1-3 May  
Wangaratta Base Camp, 15-18 June  
Yarram Base Camp, 7-10 September  
Federation walks – Portland, 10-11 October  
Loddon Valley Base Camp, 19-25 October

*Congratulations Didimo Tonelli*

*Now I understand why I don't see Didimo on many walks.*

*Didimo, a long-term club member, came first in his age group (80+) in the Javelin Throw at the Oceania Master Athletics in September this year in Brisbane. He recorded a distance of 26.49 metres.*



*You can add this one to your other medals!!*



# *A Piece of History*

## The Hume & Hovell Great Expedition Story. 1824/1825.

By Peter Whelan



On October 17, 1824, Hamilton Hume, aged 27, an Australian born farmer and bushman, and William Hovell, a 38-year-old retired English sea captain, left Gunning near Yass after being commissioned by the NSW Government to find an overland route to Westernport in Victoria.



A popular opinion amongst many was that an inland sea existed beyond the Blue Mountains and was yet to be discovered.

They were to share the leadership.

The party would include six convicts, three each assigned to each leader. Colonial funding under Governor Sir Thomas Brisbane, was modest in the form of six pack saddles, one tent, two tarpaulins, a few bush utensils, a small quantity of arms and ammunition and importantly two skeleton charts on which they were to trace their journey. Otherwise, the expedition was self-funded. Hume supplied his own resources that included selling farming implements to pay for supplies. Hovell did likewise. Their livestock consisted of three horses and five bullocks. The carts would be loaded with supplies and driven by the bullocks. Each man would be provided with a musket; and Hume brought along his kangaroo dogs to run down meat, Hume also provided food rations and equipment loaded into drays and stored within certain outstation huts for replenishment on the return journey to sustain them. Unfortunately, the two leaders never worked in harmony. Hume was an adventurous optimist, whereas Hovell, a dour pessimist. These characteristic differences were exposed on the third day out when the party came across the flooded Murrumbidgee River. After three days of waiting for the flooded river level to subside, and with time precious, Hume decided to attempt a crossing. Hovell objected deeming the fast-flowing waters too dangerous to attempt. Hume trusted his judgment and succeeded in making the crossing. Pressing onward the party experienced great hardship crossing the unknown snowy mountains with Hovell, continuously advocating the expedition's abandonment. However, Hume accurately foresaw further clashes ahead between the two leaders.

On November 16<sup>th</sup> Hume returned to camp in a joyous mood. He had been scouting ahead of the party and had discovered a mighty stream in flood far bigger than the Murrumbidgee. He had decided to name it after his father Arthur Hamilton Hume. He logged it on the skeleton map as 'The Hume River.' to the agreement of everyone. In later years (between four & six years 1828/30) the mighty river would be renamed the Murray by Captain Charles Stuart.

From November 16<sup>th</sup> until December 14<sup>th</sup> the day the Party arrived near where Melbourne Airport is today and set up what turned out to be a six-day base camp the expedition discovered the Mitta Mitta, Kiewa, Ovens, and Goulburn Rivers.

Article supplied by Ron Pearce.

## A Journey That Shaped Victoria

In 1824–1825, Hamilton Hume and William Hovell set out from Yass on a 1,800 km expedition that opened the route into Victoria and laid the foundations for modern settlement.

### Major Discoveries

- Crossed the Mitta Mitta, Kiewa, Ovens, Goulburn & the 'Hume' (Murray) Rivers
- Named Mt Disappointment
- Camped near today's Melbourne Airport (marked by a stone monument)

### Hardship & Survival

Facing summer heat, smoke from land burning, and dwindling supplies, the party survived thanks to Hume's hidden supply depot near the mountains.

### Modern Legacy – The Hume & Hovell Walking Track

The 426 km walking track between Yass and Albury commemorates the route. It offers day walks, multi-day pack carries, huts, campsites and interpretive signs.

Details: [www.humehovelltrack.com.au](http://www.humehovelltrack.com.au)

### For Essendon Bushwalking Club

An ideal future EBC trip: explore key sections of the historic track, link the club's heritage interests with one of Australia's great walking journeys.

# Remembering Kevin Drever

Kevin was born in December 1934 and lived with his family in Wonthaggi until they moved to Moonee Ponds in 1940.

During WWII Kevin attended the Moonee Ponds Central State School and could remember helping to dig air-raid trenches; in 1942 Japanese midget submarines had entered Sydney Harbour and people thought Melbourne would soon be attacked, too.

Kevin attended Essendon Technical School from 1946 to 1950. He wanted to become a commercial artist but was told he didn't really have the flair for it. His art teacher suggested drafting as a career. Upon leaving school at 16, Kevin became a trainee draftsman with the State Electricity Commission (SEC), where he met Don Marsh. Kevin worked with the SEC for 39 years.

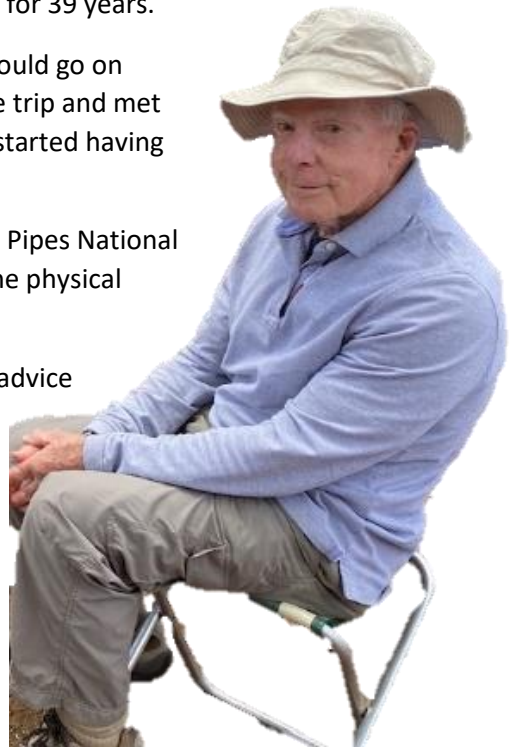
Kevin attended the Essendon Methodist Church where he would go on holidays with a group of young men. Don went along on one trip and met some of Kevin's other friends. Soon a small group of mates started having regular camping trips to Wyperfeld and the Grampians.

Together with Don, Kevin got involved with Friends of Organ Pipes National Park, not in planning or political lobbying, but to help with the physical labour, the "hackwork".

Kevin first joined Essendon Bushwalking Club (EBWC) to get advice about walking the Overland track in Tasmania, which he and some friends were wanting to do.

Kevin became very active in EBWC and was a valued member for many years, contributing not only as a leader and walker, but also as a friend to many members.

He passed away in September 2025.



Editor's note: most of the information in this article came from a biography on Kevin Drever in a longer newsletter by Friends of Organ Pipes NP supplied by Neil Duncan.

Image of Kevin from his 90th birthday taken and supplied to OME by Helen Coleman.

## Bunyip State Park base camp 23 to 25 March 2026



Bunyip State Park is Victoria's largest state park and is situated on Melbourne's doorstep, adjacent to the small township of Gembrook.

It is not far from Essendon as the crow flies, but a bit of a drive to get through suburbia. Accordingly, I am putting on a base camp to make the most of our time there.

Dyers Campground is a beautiful location, with fire pits and toilets (which were very clean when I visited earlier this year). You will bring all your own camping gear, water and food for the three days.

Subject to weather conditions, the plan is to do a 12km medium grade walk in the south of the park on the first day, taking in the Buttongrass Nature Walk along the way. We will then proceed to our campsite.

On day two, we will do either a 15km easy medium grade walk south of Dyers Campground or a 16.5km medium walk to the north.



On our final day after packing up, we will do a half day walk in nearby Kurth Kiln Regional Park with a lunch stop at a café in Gembrook before we head home. I am unsure of the grade of this walk (as it is exploratory in nature) but would expect it to be easy-medium or medium grade.

Article submitted by Darren McClelland

Images of Bunyip State Park taken from [parks.vic.gov.au](https://parks.vic.gov.au)

## Tocco, Italy, June 2026

Hi everyone,

I've been contacted by Jim de Stefanis, a member of Diamond Valley and Waverley clubs to forward information to you all about a tour of Italy he is conducting in June next year. It's an unofficial tour that he has been leading annually for about 15 years. I was on this tour several years ago and recommend it to adventurous members. Other members, who have also been on the tour, came away with mixed feelings - but mostly positive.

*Note: You will need to arrange your own airfares, but Jim will manage accommodation in Tocco. You will need to contact Jim direct for more information, as there is no club coordinator for this tour.*

Cheers,

Col Purchase

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**Note:** This is a private tour lead by a member of Diamond Valley and Waverley clubs - Jim de Stefanis. Jim was born in Tocco Italy and migrated here as a young boy after WW2. Jim has kept in contact with the locals since living in Australia and has led these tours for walking club members for nearly 15 years. The group will rent vacated (but furnished) properties from the owners during the tour. This helps their local economy while giving members the opportunity to visit remote areas of Italy not generally covered by the tourist industry. Jim has an extensive knowledge of the area but is not a registered tour guide – and therefore not covered by public liability insurance.

### Summary

Tocco da Casauria is about 40 km west of the seaside resort of Pescara.

We will sojourn in the medieval village of Tocco in the confines of the historic centre for 15 days from Monday, June 1st until Monday, June 15th 2026.

### COST

Rent 300 euro per person for the 15 day's duration which is paid directly to the landlord plus bussing to the national parks. (35 euro per trip x 6= 210 euro per person)

The rental accommodation has cooking facilities however there are places where you can dine out. So, in summary total cost is about 510 euro plus your food and other incidentals.

As you will need to buy food in the village where no one or very few speak English it may be a good idea to arm yourselves with a few words.

PASTA , SPAGHETTI (diminutive of spago meaning little strings) SALAMI, PROSCIUTTO, PIZZA, FOCACCIA, GELATO, CAPPUCCINO, CIAO, ARRIVEDERCI etc. the words you all know.

BUON GIORNO - GOOD MORNING OR GOOD DAY

BUONA NOTTE - GOOD NIGHT

PREGO in response to GRAZIE

BIRRA

CARNE -MEAT

UNO 1

TRE 3

MILLE 1000

COME STAI - HOW ARE YOU (INFORMAL)

SCUSI - EXCUSE ME (FORMAL)

BUONA SERA - GOOD EVENING

GRAZIE -THANK YOU

CAFFE'

VINO

PESCE - FISH

DUE 2

CENTO 100

KILO

COME STA - (FORMAL)

SCUSA - INFORMAL

Please note that you can remain in Tocco beyond the scheduled finish date of Monday, June 15th. Also, I will arrange bus pick up (if requested) from Rome Fiumicino Airport to Tocco on Monday, June 1st at 9am outside Terminal 3 arrival area and drop off to Rome Fiumicino Airport on Monday, June 15th arriving about 11.30am.

Here is an itinerary of walks which include the Parco Nazionale D'Abruzzo, Majella and the Gran Sasso national parks. Also, some village hopping in this region of central Italy together with walks in and around Tocco's mountains which has the Majella snow-capped mountain as a backdrop.

Explore the south and east of Tocco via Osservanza to the monastery of Saint Francis of Assisi, contrata Viaro ... Tiburtina ... Rovegone ~ 6 km.

Tuesday is Market Day in Tocco so we will start the walk late morning and go to Marano, then along the creek arolle to the rock pool for a swim and northwards back to Tocco walking adjacent to the olive groves and cherry trees.

Visit Campo Imperatore to see where Benito Mussolini was held captive by the Partisans, then to the pretty village of Santo Stefano di Sessano... Walk from Rocca Calascio to the Norman castle the site of the film Lady Hawke and The Name of the Rose. See Castel del Monte (where The American was filmed with George Clooney), and if time permits, the 99 fountains in Aquila then back to Tocco via Navelli.

Civitella Alfedena (alt. 1100) to val di Rosa (2100 alt.) for the fit walkers. Others can walk along the river among secular beech woods to the cascades near the pretty village of Opi in the Abruzzo national park. This park is the biggest strict nature reserve existing in Italy where many specimens of rare and precious fauna may be seen: Marsican brown bear, Abruzzo Chamois, Apennine Wolf and Golden Eagle. Also see wild horses and if we are lucky lynx, badgers, ... Visit the confetti (sugared almond) factory/museum in Sulmona en-route back to Tocco.

Campo di Giove 1050m alt. to Fonte Romano 1600m alt. Wildlife - wild boar, pine marten, ibex, red deer and roe deer. We'll see a variety of fauna ... juniper, silver fir, alpine poppy, edelweiss, oleander and more. There are many springs so no need to cart too much water. On the way back to Tocco we visit PA Centro, the birthplace of Madonna's grandparents (so what? - but the town is worth a look).

Bolognano, Grotte, (caves) 2km, then to Caramanico Terme (spa & hot springs resort), walk the Valle D'Orfendo 4km. Then to Passo San Leonardo and walk to Rocco Caramanico 7kms. Option to walk the shorter 2km variant.

Pescara Fiume/Roccacasale/Scanno/ Villalago - walk up to the pretty village of Scanno from the lake where we will lunch and swim. Scanno is known for its pink panther festival to honour the birthplace of Henry Mancini's father.

Walk to the mountains south of Tocco.... round trip 8kms.

Cordiali Saluti  
Jim de Stefanis 0408 317784

PS: The international airport of Pescara is about 30km east of Tocco.

## 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)

**Club's Walk Program:** See the website's Event Booking Page.

### **EBC Committee for 2025 – 2026**

Mark Lucey: President

Frances Grech: Vice President, IT Support and joint Welfare Officer

Maree Hogan: Treasurer

Gail Greenwood: Secretary

Jim Stewart: Membership Secretary and joint Welfare Officer

Anna Denham: Social Convenor

Other committee members: Neil Campbell, Sharon Brennan and Dush Velcek.

**Submitting articles/images to OME** Please send to

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

before Friday, March 20, 2026.