

# Great Walk News

[www.greatwalk.org.au](http://www.greatwalk.org.au)



December '07

## What is the history - Vision of the Walks

*The Great Walk started as a protest walk from Denmark (WA) to Perth to raise awareness about the logging in old Growth Forests. It was also a Bi Centenary Celebration to appreciate our environment. People on that walk enjoyed it so much that since then different individuals in the Great Walk have organized walks a few times a year. Most walks still are organized with an awareness raising focus about the land we walk and the way we live. The Great Walk is a non-profit voluntary organization*

Hi Everyone,

It was so wonderful to be on the last walk that it brings a smile to my face just thinking about it. I was so looking forward to sitting around an open fire again with the Great Walk mob & we did as we stayed on 3 private properties & had a great supply of wood. Thanks to the reconnoitre group of Sarah, Michael, Mark & Alan for planning such good camp sites & walks. Also Sarah did such a good job as overall Co-ordinator. She was really together & knew what was going on around the camp & was really organised. Looking forward to the next one Sarah.

Our first campsite at Nambung National Park beside the Pinnacles was amazing. I always love camping where you don't hear any traffic noise. In our every day life most of us are surrounded by noise. It is so uplifting for the soul to have a peaceful & quiet place to be. We settled in & sorted out the food trailer with most people giving a hand - even Carolyn's little children are now looking for jobs. They are starting to be independent & this is the first walk that Carolyn hasn't bought her pram. I walked with them for a day & found I was having to be very creative to get Ki walking along a hot track but he made it. Thanks for making the effort to come on walks with your children Carolyn. The next days walk was amazing being led by the owner of the property Brian, along the sand dunes with the Pinnacles rising to greet

us out of the sand. The best part was we were the only ones there & felt very honoured to be able to wander along & amongst the limestone structures. The shapes & colours were amazing & everyone loved the day. We finished it off with a swim in a natural pool with lovely soft green weed under foot (instead of mud). It was also the warmest day that most of us had experienced for a long time - hot even.

We moved reluctantly the next day as everyone was enjoying the energy of the sand dunes & the Pinnacles but onto High Valley Farm with the most wonderful wildflowers. This was the start of our walk in 92 & encouraged Don & Joy into an eco tourist business after the enthusiastic response from the Great Walkers. Joy remembered me as the girl from Mt Isa. Nice to be remembered as a girl when you get past 50. We were given a warm welcome & taken to a scenic camping spot with views towards the coast & breakaway country in the other direction with wandoo trees to pitch our tents under. Don took us on a wildflower walk that afternoon. What an interested character he is & so knowledgeable about the flora on his property - some only found here & the most diverse in the world - what a claim to fame. The next 2 days were spent walking in the Coomallo Nature Reserve with a combination of rather hot weather - we didn't mind that the billabong had lots of mud under foot - we just needed to cool off and amazing

wildflowers. The Tuart/Mauri forest had us all thinking for a short time before it got too hot to even think. We found another dam to cool off in & did laps until we felt recharged enough to carry on but the front shepherds pulled the pin & our ever trustful pick up man Grant whisked us back to camp.

Our rest day was that with not a whole lot of activities on the agenda except for the kitchen crew of Debbie, Bron, Katrin & Grant heading off to supplement our supplies at the thriving metropolitans of Jurien. We were hopping for a hot shower but managed a cold one & a special treat of market day where Bron caught up with an old friend of hers. We did have a Women's Circle where Carolyn & Kiara were both given the Woman's shield - Carolyn said she has been waiting nearly 20 years for it to come her way. Good things come to those of us who wait patiently.

Day 7 loomed overcast & drizzly but we set off, of course, to Mt Leseur leaving Adele in charge as she needed a rest (she had just spent a week with her extended family & paddled half way up the Murchison River). It was cold, blustery & raining most of the day, however we still managed to dry off in between showers. Good views from the top of the mesa & of course the wildflowers once again put on a marvellous show just for the Great Walk. Our first sight of the camp when we returned was the marquee flat on its back & other tents rolling around the paddock. Adele spent most of the day running from one tent to another pushing tent pegs into the ground & found when she got to Bron & mine that the fly had ripped & all our bedding was getting wet. Great rest & a big Om to Adele. Stan encouraged us away from the marquee to attend to our own flattened home & with the wonderful help we got secured ourselves another tent (somewhat smaller) & dried off our bedding that night. One of the highlights that night at circle, was that everyone just got in & helped & didn't complain & just did it - up it went & the chopping started for yet another delicious Great Walk meal.

I love being around the kids on the Great Walk although they would prefer us to call them our youth - old habits die hard but this walk I was so impressed by how much they wanted to help in the kitchen. One afternoon when we pulled into camp there they all were taken it upon themselves to check out the recipe book to see what was on the menu & to start chopping - how impressive is that. Future co-ordinators just nipping at the bit. Om to our youth.

We pulled it down & packed it up & the rain started to lift as we headed to Holmes Farm (Pete's aunt & uncle) to another prime camp spot under big trees & a great supply of wood near by. We had huge fires here & heaps of flies as well, did I mention the ticks yes if it wasn't one it was the other. Fly nets were high on our shopping list when we went to Jurien. I know I talk a lot but I must of swallowed at least 10. Yes the ticks were in every crevice you could imagine & we were soon checking each other out as people would drop their daks as they felt the familiar feel of yet another tick.

We did a quick trip into Grass Head I mean Green Head looking for a hot shower for 20 people - the Camp Ground declined our \$100 as we must of looked like a motley crew but the flash B & B that Joanna rang were happy to take our money. We pulled up at a very clean & modern 2 story house & all thought hope they like us & they did. The young people loved the TV, cordial & muesli bars that the lovely Scottish woman pushed onto them. Best \$10 Morgan has ever spent for her & Billy. Back to Pizza for tea that night (1<sup>st</sup> on a Great Walk) I think. I won't mention the abundance of onions again John as it was the most delicious sauce.

Drove & walked out to Stockyard Gully to the limestone cave where we all enjoyed the cool & dark cave after a hot walk along a sandy track. A few of us did an amazing walk in the afternoon following Gerard & his compass along an old fire break. Grant picked us up & took us to a wonderful wet land he had observed from the road - such a beautiful meditative space.

Our last day was spent on the beautiful beach at Sandy Cape walking south to North point where Gerard, Katrin, Anneka & myself rehearsed a few skits for our variety show after dinner. Billy & Josker were our compares & did a fine job. Once again what an entertaining night with highlights from the Widows of the Great Walk, Show us your Ticks, The overweight Tim Tams girls doing Yoga to get slim again, Rumplesstiltskin & 2 clairvoyants.

Day 11 - clean & pack up, farewell to another wonderful & amazing Great Walk & home by that night. Om to the truck & bus & the drivers.

*Love,*

*Debbie*

## The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Great Walk History

### Newsletter Committee?

For the last few years, Gerard has compiled the Great Walk Newsletter (more often than not with Debbie's assistance) and embellished it with his beautiful photos. Gerard is happy to continue doing this, but isn't really interested in collecting material for the newsletter.

Those who've been with the Walk for a while will remember that the newsletter used to be quite an 'occasion' in itself...containing poetry, drawings from children and adults alike, environmental information about our unique Western Australia and much more.

Are there creative Walkers who are interested in coming together on a regular basis to help collect/request/generate material for the Great Walk News? There are three to four issues per year, and really the only requirement 'set in stone' would be that the newsletter has to be mailed one month before each organised Walk and the Summer Camp.

Most newsletters are emailed and someone always steps forward to fold the copies destined for snail mail... if you have a creative flair and would like to get involved, please contact Adele at [coordinator@greatwalk.org.au](mailto:coordinator@greatwalk.org.au) or on 9335 6894.

### What is consensus? (Morgan Morris)

"True" consensus in my definition cannot mean that everyone 100% agrees and is 100% happy with every decision - that would be impossible. From my experience, it is more about going with the flow and bending to the group and choosing your objections carefully, about not sticking your neck out and being content not to get your own way most of the time - with the assurance that if an issue is of major concern to you, you will be heard. There are times when consensus is impossible - where an issue is equally important to people who are of opposing opinions. In order for consensus to work (ie not fracture the group) it takes, I think, self-discipline, self-control and an extreme love and respect for the well-being of the group as a whole. The word consensus in my dictionary is defined as " 1. an opinion held by all or most 2. a general agreement."

Hi all, I'm hoping to get most of the Great Walk history pieces I've gathered so far written up over the summer holidays and am making plans to travel to Denmark and also get recordings of some people with deep and long memories...so, very shortly, there will be a big push to compile, write up and record the history with visuals and song for the web page.

Can you contribute too? Now's the time! Please add to the history in time for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Walk. Joanna 9337 5561 or [joanna.hofmann@gmail.com](mailto:joanna.hofmann@gmail.com)

### The Great Walk Constitution

The new Great Walk Constitution was ratified at the Special General Meeting in October subject to clarification of the wording of the liability section. Thanks to everyone who participated in this careful consideration of the new rules for our association. The proposed constitution is online at <http://greatwalk.org.au/history/GWNProposedConstitution.pdf> I will be seeking some legal advice regarding the wording, and then forward the Constitution and appropriate fees to the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection (DOCEP) for acceptance according to their model rules for association. All should be ready for the AGM in January, and an email will go out as soon as the re worded Great Walk Constitution is available.

### Joanna

Hi everyone.

We have had a great year. Two interesting walks entailing lots of wonderful scenery, including the flora and fauna. The blackboys on the April walk were the most spectacular I have ever seen, and the wildflowers on the Mt Lesueur walk were as amazing as ever. We have our own bus now, and a healthy bank balance as well. We could definitely use some more members, but those we have presently are pretty special. John Vuchovitch's doing pretty much all the driving of both the bus and the truck on the April walk comes to mind. Kath taking over the job of equipment co-ordinator was pretty special too, and she has done a great job. Deb's back, and putting in a hundred percent as usual. Sarah has done an excellent job as our treasurer, Lisa as our secretary, Joanna

and Michael as our website people, Gerard puts out a great newsletter and all the committee members contribute as well. Hope I haven't left anyone out. So, to all our Great Walk members, who are all very special in their own way, all the best for a great holiday season, Love

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### Summer Camp

It will be from the Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> December to the 6<sup>th</sup> January at Annie Malcolm's property This is a private property on Old Ellensbrook Rd, just west (ocean) side of Caves Rd Old Ellensbrook Rd can be found south of the Gracetown turn-off (Cowaramup Bay Rd). To its left, you will see Carter Rd *Beware - there is another road in the area named Ellen Brook Rd (or Ellensbrook Rd) - no "Old". Thank you to Annie for your generosity for allowing the Great Walk to camp on your property again.*

We will have the food trailer & truck at the camp but will everyone bring their own food as it has been too hard to cater in the past. We can either cook communially or you can cook for yourself. The atmosphere is one of relaxation with swimming & walking being the most favoured activities.

The A.G.M. will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January at 2pm. All positions will be open but Sarah has already resigned as Treasurer so we are looking for someone to fill that position. Thanks to Sarah for doing such a fantastic job. Also Michael has resigned as

Membership person so if you have a good knowledge of computers & Data Base would love to contribute to the committee please think about this position. Thanks to Michael. We will miss you both at meetings.

### Walks planned for next year

April School Holiday's - Around Denmark as this is where we started our first Great Walk 20 years ago so is reason for a major celebration. David Bell & hopefully Basil will be involved but if you would like to be involved please email the committee on [coordinator@greatwalk.org.au](mailto:coordinator@greatwalk.org.au). Please network this information to anyone you know who has been on a Great Walk as we would love a huge mob for this walk.

July School Holiday's - Up to the Kimberleys. Organisation is very much in the pipeline but a few committed Great Walkers would like to see it happen. Communicate with us if you would like to come either by bus or by flying to Broome & meeting up with us there. We are thinking of an option very much like Uluru where you could travel up there by bus & be away for maybe a month or fly up & be away for 2 weeks.

Thank you to Gerard, Debbie & Joanna for compiling this newsletter.

Thank you to Melissa Parke's office for the use of your photocopier. Also congratulations on your new position as MP for Fremantle

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