

Ten years on road and still walking

STEPHANIE BEDO
 bedos@goldcoast.com.au
 twitter.com/GCBedo

WORLD walker Jean Beliveau has been in jail eight times.

But not because he has done anything wrong, just because he needed a place to stay.

The French Canadian, who says he is promoting peace, has been walking across the world for 10 years, relying mostly on the generosity and hospitality of those he has met along the way.

Mr Beliveau started his journey in August 2000 with just \$4000 to get him through.

But the trip hasn't been without its mishaps.

On one occasion, he was left stranded in a South African jail because the police changed shifts.

"They forgot me in the morning and there was a new shift of police and they locked the main door so in the morning I was shouting through a small hole 'please come open the door, I'm not a prisoner, I'm a Canadian walking around the world,'" he said.

The police did not believe him. Experiences like that pale in comparison to meeting Nelson Mandela and taking in the cultures of 62 countries.

Australia is the 62nd nation in that journey and Mr Beliveau is now on the last legs of his journey, leaving here in October to travel across New Zealand and finish his last stretch in Canada.

Mr Beliveau said he was having a mid-life crisis and got the idea in his head to travel across five continents.

His wife visits him for a month each year before he continues on his way.

He also has two children and two grandchildren he misses a lot.

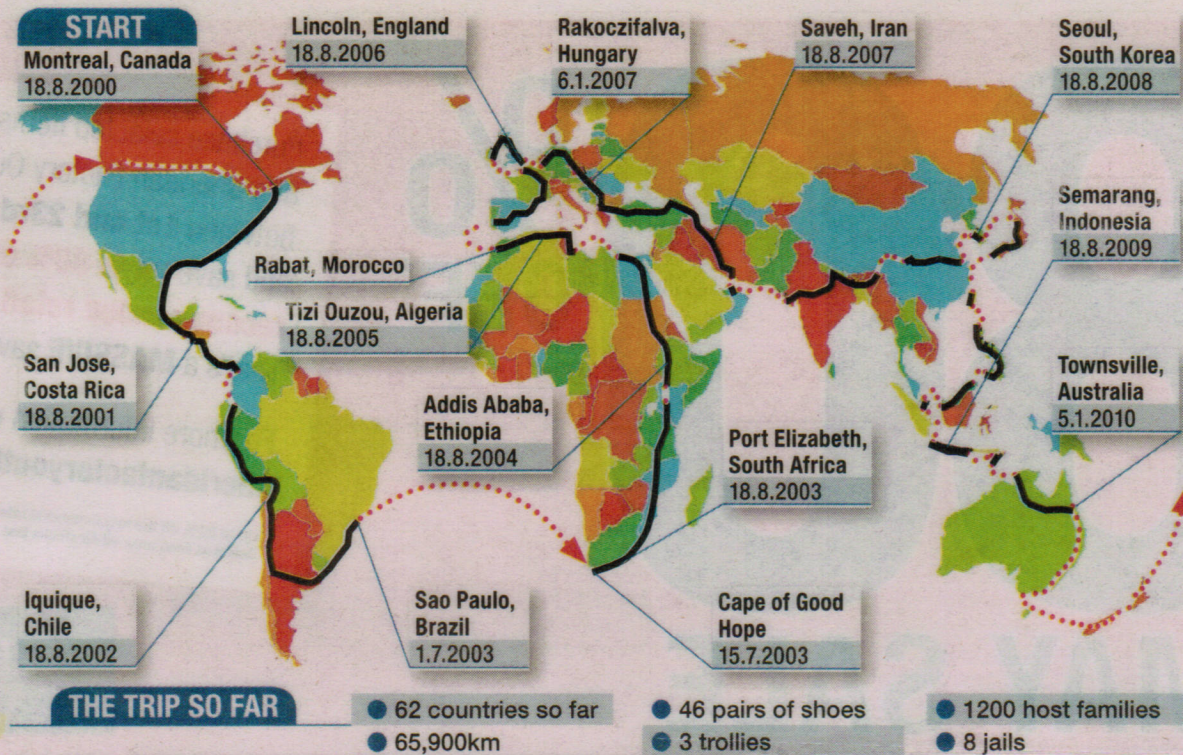
His hardest experiences were walking through the Andes in South America and 45C heat in the deserts.

He is staying on the Gold Coast at the moment thanks to the Canadian Australian Club Gold Coast chapter, which is based at the Laver Medical Centre in Robina.



World walker Jean Beliveau is pushing for peace and wearing out shoe leather

Photo: MIKE BATTERHAM



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