

## Passion for peace

JEAN Belliveau is walking around the world for peace. Last week he walked into our midst, taking in the South Gippsland highway on his way into Melbourne.

He celebrated the tenth anniversary of his walk and his 55<sup>th</sup> birthday last week. He set off from Montreal in eastern Canada on August 18, 2000 and has been walking ever since.

"I have stayed with over 1300 families during my walk. I've slept under a bridge and even in a jail," he said.

Walking down through North America into South America, he then travelled up through Africa across Europe down through Asia and he is now heading to Tasmania and then New Zealand.

This incredible journey has been undertaken to promote a peaceful future for our children. He was inspired by the United Nations proclamation that the decade 2001-2010 would promote a culture of peace and non violence for the children of the world.

"I like to think of it as an intellectual way, not raising money but raising awareness hopefully," he said.

He has travelled through over 62 countries and more than 67,500km. You might have seen him coming down the highway, walking alone with just a three wheeled buggy containing basic supplies.

Jean has been through 47 pairs of shoes in his long journey, but has been lucky enough to gain sponsorship and always replace them.

Great hospitality has been shown to him throughout his endeavour but he had plenty of challenges along the way including snakes and marauding dingos near the top end of our continent.

"It was so hot, farmers were telling to me to stop. I ended up drinking 10 litres of water a day," Jean said.

His supportive wife and family have visited him many times already and they all eagerly await his homecoming which is set for around October next year.

Children and adults all over the world have been inspired by the tenacity and passion he has shown and he has touched so many on a personal level.

"When I was in the Philipines 1000 people walked with me, and they raised \$5000. It might not be much here, but over there it's huge," Jean said.

Visit [www.walk.org](http://www.walk.org) to view a map of his path and find out more about his mission or to send him messages of support.

## Cap

Buggy help: Jean Belliveau with his buggy that accompanies on his walking missions.