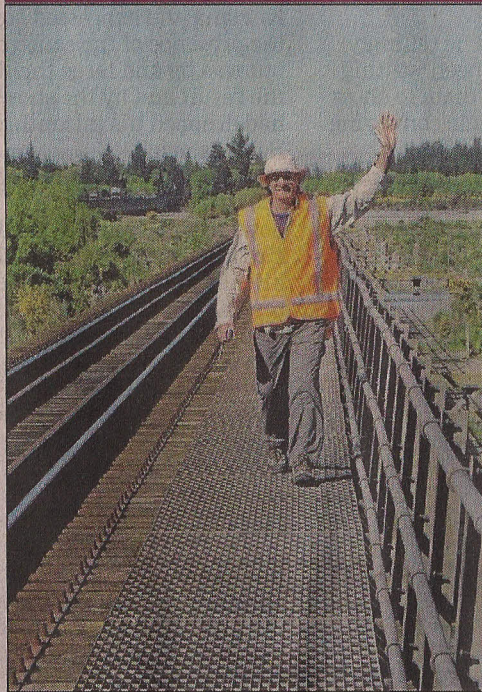


# THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD

## IN WELLINGTON



## ON RAKAIA RAIL BRIDGE



## IN BLUFF



## NEAR TIMARU



10-year walk and 49 pairs of shoes but he got here

## Shane Cowlshaw

NEW ZEALAND really is the end of the Earth for Jean Beliveau, who has nearly reached the finishing line of a 10-year walk around the world.

The French Canadian arrived in Wellington on Tuesday, halfway through the New Zealand leg of his stroll around the globe.

Mr Beliveau left Canada in 2000 in support of the Unesco

international decade for peace and  
non-violence for children.

He had travelled 68,300 kilometres when he arrived in New Zealand last month, well on his way to the goal of 75,000km over 64 countries.

During the journey he has stayed with 1500 families, crossed six deserts and met thousands of people including Nelson Mandela and the president of South Korea.

## The gregarious Mr Beliveau

dropped into the Shoe Clinic in Willis St, after a meeting with Wellington Mayor Celia Wade-Brown, to pick up his 49th pair of fresh shoes.

He now begins his trek up to Auckland, from where he will fly to Vancouver to make the final journey across his homeland.

Having sent home every pair of shoes as they are replaced, he can expect an impressive – if smelly – closet.

He has been raising money for children's charity Barnardos while in New Zealand, and adopts a different organisation in each country he walks through.

Mr Beliveau has mixed emotions about the end of his epic journey, which has seen him in accommodation ranging from mausoleums to police cells.

People treat him differently now, he says, no longer sceptical as they were in the beginning.

He agrees he probably has the most understanding wife in the world. She has flown out to visit him each year, no matter where he was. "I think we're both rather crazy people," he says.

Counting down the months rather than the years is a pleasure, but his crusade for children's rights is far from over and will continue long after the walk. "It will be my pleasure and duty to give back."