

## Convenor's Report 2023

It's the end of another successful year for our Great Walk family. We are having Summer Camp at the Tribal Grounds again before moving to Boranup. The Tribal Grounds are looking beautiful, the planting we started 18 months ago is flourishing and the dam is still almost full. We dedicated plaques to our tribal elders, Stan and Jeanette, in March and we will gather there for the Nannup Music festival again in March 2024. Also in March one of our dear elders, who is still with us, celebrated a living wake. It

was a wonderful opportunity to let him know how much we treasure him and appreciate all he has done for the Great Walk and the environment movement. We love you John Vukovich.



In April we celebrated 35 years of walking at the Blue Shed in Young's Siding and we walked some of the tracks we first walked all those years ago. We stayed at the property of Paul Jack and we were joined by Mark Parre, who took us for a walk over Bald Head. Both Paul and Mark supported GWN for many years and it was lovely to spend time with them again.

Moving into the future, in September/ October we walked the Cape to Cape track again. I coordinated this walk and it was very successful, thanks to assistance from Marjan Van Dijk, Alice Wolfe, Tim Dwyer and others. We had young families join us and it was lovely to have children walk with us again. Alice is dragging us into the 21st Century with our registration, welcome pack and food coordination procedures and I am hopeful for the future of GWN. We had many proactive younger people join us and we all had so much fun doing face yoga and drama games as well as printing t-shirts.

We now have a volunteer list for people to put their names on if anyone would like to contribute to our organisation, without being on the committee. Basil will coordinate a walk

near Cheyne's Beach in April 2024 and I am thinking it may be good to focus some attention on Julimar Forest, near Toodyay, in September/October. This State forest was proposed as a National Park in the 70's and is still waiting. Moore River, north of Perth is another threatened beauty that we could look at and there is always the threat of

Alcoa in the Northern Jarrah. If anyone would like to pursue any of these options, please get in touch with us. Our organisation was formed to educate and increase awareness in our members about issues threatening the environment, and consider positive actions and potential solutions to mitigate those threats. We are also a community and we endeavor to support each other and build that community. Although any contribution is appreciated throughout the year, the Autumn and Spring walks need people who can help with finding campsites and coordinating walk routes, transport and food. If anyone has an idea for a walk they can commit to I encourage you to bring it to the Committee. It is the Committees responsibility to make the walks happen and I encourage active members to nominate for 2024.