



**Day One:** Twelve participants in the 2022 *Walk for Wilai* gather in Geelong from NSW, Victoria and South Australia and board the Walk's minibus to journey to the starting point of Portland on Victoria's south coast. The sponsored camino will benefit 14-yr-old Wilai and other stateless and orphaned girls in Myanmar and Thailand. The Wilai Foundation Board with its co-founders, Joanne Shears and Fr Jim Carty SM, oversees the Walk. COVID-19 had caused two earlier Walks to be cancelled.



**Day Two (22 km):** Walkers are taken to Portland to begin the 200 km trek. Each carries at least one pilgrim stone to be placed eventually at the shrine of St Mary MacKillop at Penola, S.A. Finish point for the first day of walking is Cape Nelson lighthouse.







**Day Three (21 km):** Walkers leave Cape Nelson lighthouse for a day's trek along the beach. Temporary drama begins when veteran camino pilgrim and co-Founder of the Wilai Foundation, Fr Jim Carty, suffers a painful and immobilising muscular spasm. A '000' call brings SES and paramedics to the coastline where our walkers help identify his location.

Fr Jim is eventually reached and brought to safety and treatment at Portland Hospital. Good news: in the evening he is released and returns to the Portland Bay Lodge camino accommodation, but advised not to walk in coming days.

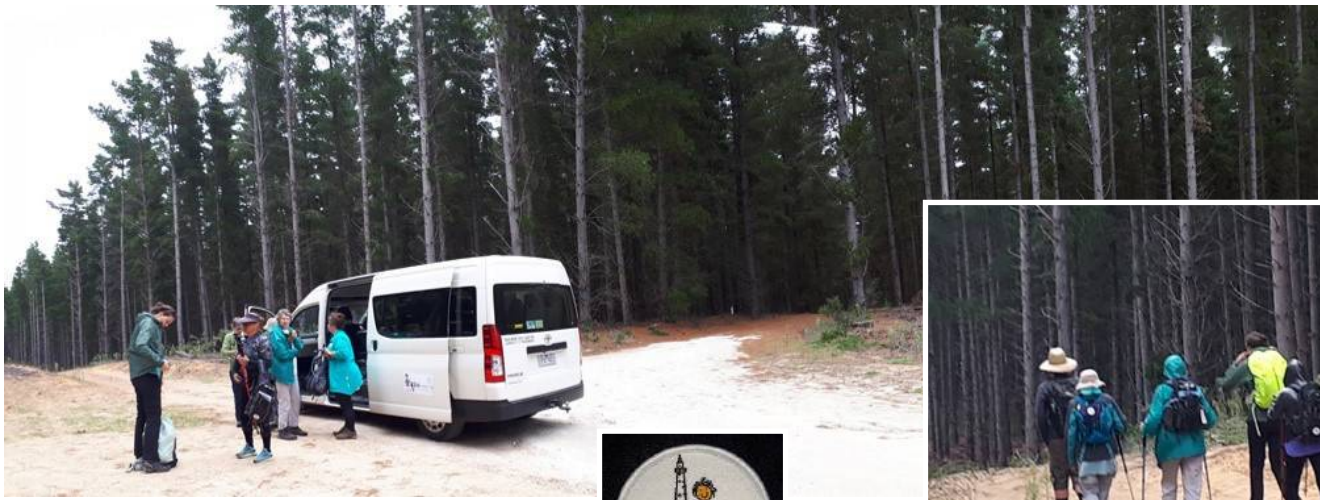






**Day Four (18 km):** Cape Bridgewater to Bridgewater Lakes. As usual, the morning begins in prayer before the pilgrims continue to follow the *Great South West Walk* along the scenic cliff top track. There are daily check points when all walkers are accounted for. Volunteer support members oversee other stops for lunch, snacks, water top-ups and possible first-aid. The Walk's minibus provides transport to/from the starting and pick-up points as well as scheduled and random check points.





**Day Five (19 km):** Bags are packed as the vehicles leave for the next accommodation at Nelson. Our walkers are taken through pine forests to start today's trek. Then another beach section, after which the comfort of cabins for two nights at Nelson.

The Walk's several support vehicles ensure daily monitoring, with water, food, snacks and attention for anyone finding the going tough. Sore limbs and blistered feet are taking their toll. If necessary a bus seat is ready for part of the journey.





**Day Six (22 km):** Crossing into South Australia the walkers begin today's trek at Piccaninnie Ponds for 10 km along the beach and coastal walk to Port MacDonnell and its statue of the Crayfisherman.

**Day Seven (25 km):** Back to Port MacDonnell for the mercifully flat walk to the lunch stop at Mt Schank and on to Mt Gambier's famous Blue Lake where the bus takes them to the next accommodation centre: the Old Mt Gambier Gaol. In recent years the heritage-listed historic gaol has been developed as a popular tourist facility.







**Day Eight (21 km):** Released from their cells, our walkers are bussed to Dismal Swamp Road where the walk takes them through forests and open farmland to the pick-up point at Tarpeena. **Day Nine (30 km):** The final day's walk begins at Nangwarry and follows scenic forestry plantations before ending at the Mary MacKillop centre at Penola - with Fr Jim walking the final kilometre. Well done, pilgrims !







**Day Ten:** After a well-deserved rest morning our group busses to Penola for a relaxed visit to the Mary MacKillop centre where morning tea and a guided tour await. There is time for meditation and prayer, especially for camino sponsors and Josephite friends. Vigil celebration of 'Pine Sunday' in the gaol's exercise yard precedes a festive dinner to conclude the 2022 **Walk for Wilai**. Departure day begins with a tour of the historic premises before the return road trip to Geelong and beyond. ###



For more about supporting Wilai and the cause of stateless and orphaned girls in Myanmar and Thailand, go to [www.wilaifoundation.org.au](http://www.wilaifoundation.org.au), [www.facebook.com/wilaifoundation](https://www.facebook.com/wilaifoundation) or [www.instagram.com/wilaifoundation](https://www.instagram.com/wilaifoundation).