

1 February 2021

VICSES 'famous walker' hits the pavement after 2020 hiatus



A VICSES volunteer that truly “would walk 500 miles” has hit the pavement, after taking a break in 2020

- The COVID-19 pandemic prevented Whitehorse unit member Robert Olifiers undertaking his passion project of 6 years – walking through every Melbourne council in the inner and middle suburban ‘ring’
- Robert has been promoting the role of VICSES in the community, and also takes the opportunity to talk to locals on the way about PTSD awareness. His story has already been covered across multiple TV and radio networks, in local newspapers, and even as parts of a Ford navigation system campaign
- So far in 2021, the teacher by trade has completed walks around Hobsons Bay, Dandenong and Darebin. On the list next is Maribyrnong
- Robert has walked through 16 LGAs out of his goal of 22, equating to 7,900 km and 57,000+ streets
- An entertaining aspect of Robert’s work is his capturing of odd and unique letterboxes along the way

For more information, contact:

VICSES State Media Duty Officer (6am-10pm)
Phone: 1300 783 933
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Quotes attributable to Whitehorse unit member and Peer Support Officer Robert Olifiers:

“In addition to promoting and educating people about the role of SES, I get the satisfaction of completing a bit of a walking ‘jigsaw puzzle’ in each local council.”

“Through areas like Hobsons Bay, Dandenong, and Darebin, I wear my Community Education clothing. This means I can openly talk about issues like PTSD and how VICSES helps the local area.”

“This is a real passion project – I get to see wonderful sights, meet lovely people, flora and fauna, and walk through some remarkable areas. I’ve also been undertaking talks at local schools and SES units.”

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