



the aussie camino

for pilgrims everywhere

Edition 8 - Autumn 2018

www.aussiecamino.org

aussiecamino@hotmail.com

In the Press - Aussie Camino

G'day to all pilgrims across the nation!!

In April we welcomed home two groups out on the Aussie Camino. In the first group we were lucky enough to have Sue Neales from 'The Australian' who came for the first night and day. Sue was keen to find out about the camino after a trip with her husband to Portland, and talking to a few locals. I'd like to thanks Sue and photographer Aaron for taking out the time and giving the Aussie Camino some great interest. ([see full article](#)) In the wake of this ABC Melbourne and Ballarat were keen to find out more with some morning interviews on breakfast radio.



As always when pilgrims go out on the camino it slowly builds for those that come afterwards. The Camino de Santiago de Compostela is over 1000 years old. Literally millions of pilgrims have walked 'The Way' and the biggest dangers in those days were not blisters as they may be today. In fact thieves and bandits were far more common which was

why very few women walked in medieval times. Thankfully times have changed, many would say the biggest barrier these days is getting the time off work. Perhaps the rewards have changed a little bit too. Cultural, tourist and spiritual reasons are probably the most popular today with eternal salvation slipping down the order a little. What simpler times!!

I have also received some news from the Sisters of St Joseph who have a pilgrimage this year across three states over 10 days. Very enticing indeed!!

Enquiries to: national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au

¡Buen camino!

Luke



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF
MARY MACKILLOP

2018 Australian Pilgrimage
23 October to 3 November

2018 April Groups



Group 1



Group 2

The Aussie Camino is still in its infancy but a huge amount of progress has been made by the efforts of many. When walking with Group 1 on Day 5 from Mt Gambier to Bush Haven we met Sharyn de Nys out walking her dog along Hinton Road. Sharyn, a teacher at Tenison Woods College was interested in finding out all about the camino and promised she would help the next group. Sure enough as the next group passed her front gate there was a most welcome stop with drinks and snacks. All pilgrims were most grateful and we hope that this (with a bit of notice) will become a great tradition.

Muchas grazias, Sharn and family!!



Left
Outside the De Nys
house Hinton
Road , Mt Gambier

...from our readers.

In the last newsletter I reviewed husband and wife team Anne Buist and Graeme Simsion's book *"Two Steps Forward"*.

Anne contacted me afterwards and was good enough to send through some background notes about how they came to walk the Camino Santiago.



It's just a walk, right? How hard can it be?

We had never thought of ourselves as walkers. We still don't at some level, because we don't carry tents and stoves and forfeit showers, comfy beds and the daily glass of wine—though for the record, we've both done that, too, when we were younger. But after the age of fifty we've walked four thousand kilometres of Camino (no taxis and carrying our packs) and maybe another thousand kilometres of other walks in Ireland, England, Scotland, NZ, Peru and Australia (varyingly carrying packs or not)...so I guess we are walkers after all!

Our first Camino in 2011 (2038km), Cluny to Santiago (via Le Puy, the del Norte and Primitivo) hadn't been planned...or rather we thought the 300km to Le Puy would be enough...and then the next 900km to St Jean looked okay...but when we arrived in St Jean the sun shone, the rosé was excellent, and there was the amazing buzz of the other walkers. When we heard there was the quieter route (what we needed at the time), well we had been infected with the Camino bug, so there was no turning back. Had we had another three months, when we got to Santiago, we would have considered turning around and walking back.

As it happened, the time to walk it again didn't come for another five years, in 2016, when we were finishing off our mid-life renewal / romcom novel *Two Steps Forward*, set on the Camino. We again walked from Cluny, this time finishing off on the Camino Frances.

Those who haven't experienced a Camino wonder at such idiocy—my mother notes it is much faster in a car.

At first we saw it as a way of seeing new places, meeting new people and getting exercise to justify the eating and drinking, and it was. But it was also much more. The Frenchman who set us along the way with our passport and advice on the first occasion (we turned him into Monsieur Chevalier in *Two Steps Forward*) told us we would get blisters (none on the first, multiple, Anne only, on the second—getting into character because Zoe the heroine does too!), that we would cry when we got to Santiago Cathedral (Anne only, both times though it wasn't until the botafumeiro swung on the second occasion) and that we would change.

The latter is really what differentiates this walk from the Coast to Coast, The Overland, The Inca trail or any other walk, however great they are. It isn't just walking. Walking eight hundred kilometres (the Camino Frances) or more, does change you. If you open yourself to it, The Way teaches you to take one day at a time, put life into perspective and know what is truly important. For us it also meant becoming writers—Anne decided to go part-time in her day job and take up writing after the first Camino, Graeme to turn his screenplay into a novel, *The Rosie Project*, which became a best-seller around the world.

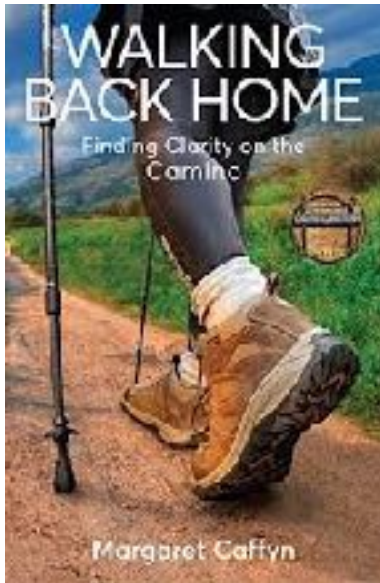
It won't be our last Camino or Pilgrimage... Rome and Shikoku are on our list!

Graeme and Anne

Book Review

Walking Back Home Finding Clarity on the Camino

by Margaret Caffyn



What a coincidence!

I'm always looking out for camino literature, especially from Australian authors as caminos invariably invite pilgrims to reassess one's life, and for local readers this can resonate all the stronger. I stumbled upon Margaret Caffyn's book but could only get an online version. After spending half a day trying to load Kindle on my iPad I was able to sit down with this enjoyable book and read it in just two sittings.

I was lucky enough to meet Margaret and buy a hard copy, that the same week when I received a last minute invitation to share some of my experience of the Aussie Camino with Council for Christian and Jews Victoria. Council member, Mark Walsh (AC 2017) invited Margaret, and me together with Sam Tattarka to talk about pilgrimages to various places around the world.



Walking Back Home is broken into two clear parts, the first of which are her musings and reflections of decluttering her life and letting go her of anxieties to embrace the uncertainties and hidden beauty presented in the camino. The second part is a much more practical guide of what to bring and how to prepare for the journey.

Margaret presents all of this in a no-nonsense manner focussing on the practicalities but all the time edging the reader towards the inner journey of the mind and soul. In *Walking Back Home*, Margaret has found her calling and has made substantial life changes as a result. All of this is presented with humour, and dare I say 'clarity'.

Highly recommended.



From right - Me, Sam Tattarka, Margaret Caffyn, Mark Walsh

Aussie Camino 2018 - 19

Taking registrations now

There is one remaining camino for 2018 and 4 scheduled groups for 2019.

If you are interested in attending then please contact me at aussiecamino@hotmail.com or at www.aussiecamino.org

The dates are:

2018

- Group 3 - Sept 28 - Oct 7

2019

- Group 1 – April 10th – 19th
- Group 2 – April 17th – 26th
- Group 3 – September 25th – October 4th
- Group 4 – October 2nd – October 11th

Group discount for bookings of 4 or more.

Book and pay by June 30th and receive free T-shirt and patch (see over)

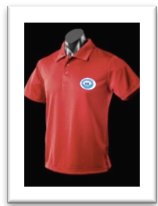
All groups will follow the same programme.

Day 1	Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre Registration and pilgrims' farewell mass Depart to Portland by train and bus
Day 2	Portland - Cape Bridgewater
Day 3	Cape Bridgewater to Bridgewater Lakes
Day 4	Lake Mombeong to Nelson
Day 5	Nelson - Port MacDonnell
Day 6	Port MacDonnell - Mt Gambier
Day 7	Mt Gambier - Bush Haven Cottages
Day 8	Bush Haven Cottages - Kalangadoo
Day 9	Kalangadoo - Penola
Day 10	Penola return to Melbourne

Aussie Camino Shirts and Patches

Now Available!!

Aussie Camino Merchandise Order



red



navy



white



maroon

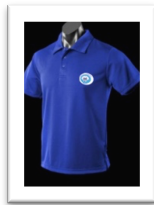


black

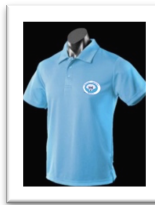
Shirts
\$40



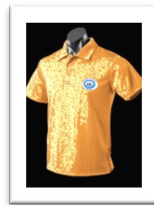
forest



royal blue



spring blue

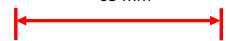


gold

Embroidered
Patches
\$10



65 mm



SIZES	
Women's	Men's
6	S
8	M
10	L
12	XL
14	2XL
16	3XL
18	4XL
20	5XL
22	
24	

SHIRTS			
QTY	SIZE	COLOUR	
			\$
PATCHES			
	X \$10	= \$	
	Subtotal		TOTAL \$

Payment
EFT: A/c Name: Aussie Camino
Bank: CBA
BSB 063-166
A/c No. 1026 9972

Name _____
Address _____

