



MEDIA RELEASE

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WALKING 1900 KILOMETRES FOR 1900 THREATENED SPECIES

From 18 September to December 2017, Tristan O'Brien (28) will walk one kilometre for each of Australia's 1900 threatened species to raise funds and awareness for conservation in Australia. He will be supporting two Australian conservation charities Bio^R Australia (SA) and Wollangarra Outdoor Education Centre (VIC).

The walk will cover one kilometre for every animal and plant in Australia listed as threatened or endangered, totalling over 1900 species. Starting in Adelaide on 18 September, Tristan will end the first leg of his journey in Melbourne, after which he will finish the 1900+ km journey in Tasmania by the end of 2017.

"Because the majority of Australia's, and the world's population now lives in cities, we have lost the benefits to childhood development, health and community that exposure to nature provides. This means we have also lost some of our understanding about why conserving and protecting nature is important, for our health as a society and for biodiversity conservation. 1900 Footprints is my way of highlighting why as a society, reconnecting with nature is needed now, more than ever," said Mr Tristan O'Brien.

Money received by BioR will go towards funding and maintaining restoration work on a 1700 ha property near Monarto, South Australia. Donations to Wollangarra will be used to sponsor financially and socially disadvantaged young people to attend empowering hands-on conservation camp programs in the Victorian Alps.

BioR is a not-for-profit organisation that generates funds, knowledge and practical skills to reconstruct habitats to support native wildlife in degraded landscapes. The Bio in BioR stands for Biodiversity, the R stands for Research, Reconstruct and Reconnect.

Wollangarra is an independent, non-profit, off-the-grid outdoor education centre that works with groups of young people who learn about building community and appreciating the natural world in life-changing, week-long programs.

For further information, please visit 1900Footprints.com or contact Tristan O'Brien.

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About 1900 Footprints

The purpose of 1900 Footprints is to raise awareness for conservation in Australia, and to encourage Australians to reconnect with the natural world around them for social, community and environmental benefits.

In this country alone, there are more than 1900 animals and plants listed as either threatened or endangered at a Federal level. Unfortunately, this list continues to grow and rarely are species removed from this list for reasons other than extinction.

From 18 September, Tristan will be walking to raise awareness and funds for two outstanding environmental organisations in Australia: *Bio^R* and *Wollangarra*.

“Because the majority of Australia's, and the world's population now lives in cities, we have lost the benefits to childhood development, health and community that exposure to nature provides. This means we have also lost some of our understanding about why conserving and protecting nature is important, for our health as a society and for biodiversity conservation. 1900 Footprints is my way of highlighting why as a society, reconnecting with nature is needed now, more than ever.” - Tristan O'Brien.

About The Walk

Setting out from Adelaide on 18 September, Tristan O'Brien will walk South-East along the Coorong and towards the Victorian coast, meeting a group from Wollangarra Outdoor Education Centre to walk the Great Ocean Walk. From Apollo Bay the walk will continue to Melbourne, from where Tristan will take a ferry to Tasmania. In Tasmania, Tristan will walk from the North coast, to the Overland Track, to the West coast and finally finishing the 1900 km journey in Hobart.

During this journey Tristan will be taking time to talk to individuals and groups about nature conservation, the need to protect threatened species and the charities he will be supporting along the way (see next page).



About Tristan O'Brien

I was born and raised in Adelaide, South Australia, where I was regularly exposed to nature in nearby parks and on family camping trips. In 2013 I completed a First-Class Honours Bachelor Degree in Science, majoring in ecology and environmental biology from the University of Adelaide. My Honours research project investigated the habitat use of woodland birds following controlled burns. I also completed a Diploma of Languages in Spanish.

Since then I have worked as a field ecologist for the University of Adelaide, Environment Coordinator of a national environmental program for the vegetable industry, Project Officer in biodiversity planning for Adelaide City Council and more recently as Program Manager at Wollangarra Outdoor Education Centre. In 2017 I worked as an Interpretive Guide for natural history in the Canadian Rocky Mountains.

These experiences highlighted to me the importance of positive communication and involving people in experiences in nature. I am now committed to highlighting the importance of nature-connection in our day-to-day lives, which not only includes experiencing wild places, but also green urbanism and landscape architecture.

About the Organisations Receiving Donations

Bio^R (<http://bior.org.au>) is a not-for-profit ecological restoration organisation and an Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) listed charity that recreates complex habitats to arrest the decline of threatened species in Australia. Its practices are informed by the latest science, funds provided by donors who wish to offset their own ecological footprints, and restoration works carried out by groups of volunteers who want to reconnect with the natural environment. BioR also guarantees protected sites for at least 100 years, which ensures ecological processes are restored. I have previously volunteered with BioR for a number of years, helping at both operational and on-the-ground levels.



Wollangarra Outdoor Education Centre (<http://wollangarra.org.au>) is a not-for-profit organisation and ACNC listed charity that helps young people connect with themselves, their community and the natural world. They are taken out of the comfort of their daily lives into a unique way of living: without electricity, in buildings made from recycled materials, and hiking in small groups.

I worked as Program Manager at Wollangarra in 2016 and was able to witness and facilitate profound experiences for the young people who stayed with us. Through these activities these young people grow up understanding that our actions as individuals have an effect on the natural environment. They enter adulthood as stewards of the land and proponents for conservation for the rest of their lives.



Key Information

Walk begins 18 September 2017, aiming to raise \$19000 for conservation organisations.

One kilometre will be walked for every species listed as Threatened in Australia.

Donate link: <http://chuffed.org/project/1900-footprints-walk/>

Social media:   /1900footprints,   @1900footprints

Contact

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