

MEDIA RELEASE

The Great Walk will commence Saturday 6 May 2017

4 May 2017

The 160th Anniversary Commemoration of the Walk from Robe organised by the Chinese Community Council of Australia Victorian Chapter (CCCAV) will commence on this Saturday in South Australia with the re-enactment of the epic walk.

A three-day Chinese festival (supported by CCCAV) and the opening of the 'Friendship Gate' will be held in Robe coinciding with the start of the Great Walk. South Australian Minister Kyam Maher MP, the President of CCCAV Mr. Chin Tan, Vice President Ms. June Anderson and the Chair of Advisory Council Mr. Hong Lim MP will attend the event to pay respects to the courageous Chinese gold miners who showed determination in face of adversity and discrimination.

Surrounded by a festival of celebration including lion dancing and dragon boat races across the bay, 10 Pioneer Walkers will embark on their heroic journey. The walk will last 20 days along a route over 500km. The walkers will camp, stay in residential homes and meet descendants of Chinese gold miners. They will gain insights into this epic overland walk from a unique perspective.

The team will go pass Lake Hawdon, the historical town Penola in South Australia and set foot in Victoria on the fifth day. During their journey in Victoria, they will walk through places including the 'Australia Felix' Coleraine, Goldfields towns Linton and Smythesdale, and the artistic City of Ballarat. Finally, the walkers will arrive in Melbourne on 25 May, and receive a formal welcome by the Victorian government on the steps of Parliament House.

The Great Walk starting on 6 May will be the first highlight in the series of commemorative events. The re-enactment is not only a salute to history, but also a landmark for the recognition of the Chinese community's contribution to Australia. Following the walk, the CCCAV will hold a 'Beyond the New Gold Mountain' Conference, 'From Robe to Chinese Fortunes' exhibition, and a gala dinner in honour of this meaningful year.

As a non-governmental, non-for-profit organization, CCCAV encourages groups and individuals to participate in this event through various forms including volunteering and making a donation. Support The Great Walk with a \$388.00 donation (per km). This will include your name in the 160th Anniversary Commemoration of the Walk from Robe Book, as well as your name on the CCCAV website. Please donate on the website: <http://cccavic.org.au>

Quotes attributable to Chin Tan, the President of CCCAV

"The Chinese of the old days have in many ways shown us the way, and so there are many lessons for us to learn from the Robewalk story, in order to help us, to inspire us, to guide us, to walk further and with confidence, courage, hope and trust into the future; a future whose destiny, we, individually and collectively, hold in our hands."

"Robewalk represents, both, our past and our future."

"Robewalk is our Chinese Australian and Australia's history. It is about all of us."