

# Long Walks Again

**A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.**



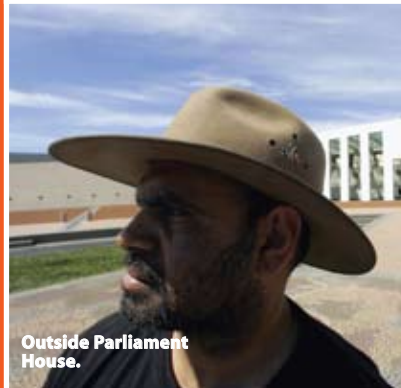
Cathy and Michael in 2005.



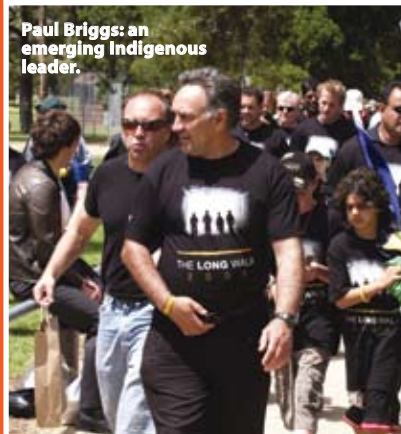
Where it all began - 2004.



Michael's dream is to unite us all.



Outside Parliament House.



Paul Briggs: an emerging Indigenous leader.

**B**ack in November 2004, AFL Legend and Aboriginal activist Michael Long set out to walk from his home in Melbourne to Canberra. Fed up with the lack of action being taken to address the plight of his people, Michael was determined to speak with Prime Minister John Howard in Canberra. Along the way he was joined by many Indigenous and non-Indigenous supporters, and his actions became international news.

What began as one man's desperation became a statement of strength, leadership and inspiration. It was a step towards uniting all Australians.

In December 2005, over 10,000 people joined Michael, Indigenous Elders, community leaders, sporting heroes, musicians and media celebrities to show support for The Long Walk.

The Long Walk is now a national institution. It will be held once again this year, with the aim of uniting all Australians in the hope of building a better future.

The Long Walk 2006 will be held on Sunday, December 3, with participants gathering at Junction Oval, St Kilda, before walking together around Albert Park Lake. All money raised will be donated to the Sir Douglas Nicholls Fellowship for Indigenous Leadership, a charity dedicated to supporting emerging Indigenous leaders, and improving the lives of all through those leaders' community projects.

To recognise the role that Indigenous women have played over the years in providing strength, compassion, direction and wisdom within communities, a special inaugural Long Walk Women's Luncheon will be held in Geelong, Melbourne, prior to The Long Walk.

The aim of the luncheon is to demonstrate the importance of future Indigenous women's leadership, and also to assist in the importance of unity with in our community.

Special guests will include Indigenous women who have made a difference in both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, including community and business leaders, sportswomen, musicians and actors.

A special Long Walk Schools Program has also been launched, to encourage school children, with their teachers, to break down the barriers through conversation and action within their own communities. The aim of the program is to help the community move towards tolerance and understanding, and to highlight the importance of role models, leadership and recognition of all cultures and races.

To register or to buy a Long Walk T-Shirt, head to [www.thelongwalk.com.au](http://www.thelongwalk.com.au)

To find out more about the Schools Program, or to get involved, head to [www.thelongwalk.com.au/schoolcentre.cfm](http://www.thelongwalk.com.au/schoolcentre.cfm)





### Preparation before reading

This report tells us about The Long Walk, inspired by ex-AFL football legend and activist Michael Long.

In December 2005, over 10000 people joined with Michael Long for The Long Walk, and now it is an annual event. The Long Walk 2006 will be held on Sunday December 3, starting from Junction Oval, St Kilda. All money raised will go to the Sir Douglas Nicholls Fellowship for Indigenous Leadership.

A special Long Walk schools program has been launched to encourage students and their teachers to become more actively involved in reconciliation activities.

### **ACTIVITY 1: READ LONG WALKS AGAIN ON PAGE 15.**

Scanning for specific information

1. What inspired Michael Long to set out on the first long walk from Melbourne to Canberra?

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2. What does Michael Long hope that The Long Walk will to achieve in the long term?

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3. According to this report, what is the purpose of holding the Long Walk Women's Luncheon this for the first time this year?

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4. What are the main aims of the Long Walk Schools Program?

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5. What is the main purpose for writing this report?

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## ACTIVITY 2: SCANNING FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION

1. Who was Michael Long hoping to meet with when he walked from Melbourne to Canberra in November 2004?

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2. What occurred in December 2005?

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3. What reasons does the report give for launching the Long Walk Schools Program?

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4. Summarise the main reasons that The Long Walk is such an important event each year.

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## ACTIVITY 3: FURTHER RESOURCES

The Sir Douglas Nicholls Fellowship for Indigenous Leadership

The Sir Douglas Nicholls Fellowship for Indigenous Leadership promotes and supports Indigenous leadership and advocacy. In its focus on leadership, the Fellowship recognises the vital contribution of role models to the health and development of all communities, particularly young people.

Through strong and inspirational leadership the Fellowship aims to strengthen the cultural identity of Indigenous communities and thus the identity of Australia as a whole.

The Fellowship provides financial support, networking opportunities and professional development to selected Aboriginal leaders. This commitment allows the Fellow to create or maintain programs that benefit their communities and act as a representative for their people in broader Australia.

The Fellowship also promotes the considerable benefits that mainstream Australia and its political and business leaders derive from contact with Indigenous leaders.

