



### **Ben Rossiter:**

On a frosty and snowy walk from Covent Garden across the Thames in London, Ben Rossiter accompanies Andrew Stuck from Rethinking Cities. Ben is Executive Officer of Victoria Walks, a walking promotion body in the Australian state of Victoria.

<http://www.victoriawalks.org.au/>

Notes from the podcast interview by Andrew Stuck: Recorded in December 2010 and published in February 2011 on <http://www.talkingwalking.net>

Most of Victoria's cities are dominated by the car – walking as transport is very difficult in many of these cities. Victoria Walks promotes more than walking as transport, going to the heart of communities, supporting Walking Action Groups who want liveable communities.

Ben had attended the Walk21 conference in The Hague:

<http://www.walk21.com/conferences/thehague.asp>

While in London he had met with Living Streets [ <http://www.livingstreets.org.uk/> ], Sustrans [ <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/> ] and Walk England [ <http://www.walkengland.org.uk/>]. In Australia, advocacy for walking is at a fledgling stage. Victoria Walks is funded by VicHealth [ <http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au> ] and works with the Heart Foundation [ <http://www.heartfoundation.org.au> ], and with Kinect [ <http://www.kinectaustralia.org.au/> ], but Victoria Walks is the only walking specific body.

Victoria has recently published a Pedestrian Access Strategy:

<http://www.transport.vic.gov.au/DOI/Internet/ICT.nsf/AllDocs/3CD45929D980794ACA257792001E5E97?OpenDocument>

We walked across the Jubilee Bridge across the Thames [ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungerford\\_Bridge\\_and\\_Golden\\_Jubilee\\_Bridges](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungerford_Bridge_and_Golden_Jubilee_Bridges) ], and talked about the "wobbly bridge" between St Paul's and the Tate Modern [ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millennium\\_Bridge\\_\(London\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millennium_Bridge_(London))], and discussed how these bridges have created whole new walking streets.

### **Ben's Recommended Walks**

Flinders St station to the Melbourne Cricket Ground – across the William Barak Bridge that was built for the Commonwealth Games in 2006.

[http://www.architecture.com.au/awards\\_search?option=showaward&entryno=2008038406](http://www.architecture.com.au/awards_search?option=showaward&entryno=2008038406)

Around his local neighbourhood in Northcote, a suburb of Melbourne – in particular Union Street, where residents have created their own artistic trail of mosaics

<http://admin.victoriawalks.org.au/Assets/Files/Colourful%20pavers%20in%20Westgarrath.pdf>.

Ben's personal interest in walking and public space grew from his work with people living on the streets of Melbourne in the 1980s.