



WA Wanderers 2024 Chairman's Report

We have had a great year of walks.

I would like to thank all the men who has helped organise the year's events, **Terry, John, Alex, Greg, Phil, Rob, Pete**, and all those who attended, and to **Gary and Phil** for the upcoming 18 December Christmas Lights trail. Also big thanks to **Terry, Jeff and Pete** for delicious food here today and at the Fairbridge weekend away.

I'd also like to thank Pete for his efficiency in running the group and the website, nagging members to respond or commit. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes. Please appreciate that and respond promptly.

Our paid member numbers are stable at 49 men. I would like to remind everyone that paid members get additional benefits, such as early booking on weekends away and events with limited places available.

Facebook membership has grown 7.5% to 592 men. Facebook allows us to see the pictures of past walks. I'd like to thank **David, Gabe, Graham** and others for posting great pics of this year's walks.

As I said last year, it feels like the group is almost at capacity, because some of our walks are already getting difficult to manage. However, the average age of the group is 60 and seems to be climbing, and we should encourage younger men to join.

The key to our success as a social walking group is our reputation for being friendly and approachable. On almost every walk we have some men you may not have met before. Introduce yourself; chat with them. Introduce them to others. Include them in the conversation. Make them feel welcome. Try to remember to bring your name badge.

We are aware of a new Facebook group, Queer Trails Perth which aims to organise a walk every Sunday and is open to women.

I would also encourage men who may want to grow into leadership roles to talk to Pete, Terry or me. The first step is probably to plan and lead a few walks.

I wish everyone a happy Christmas and a great year in 2025.

Ro Richardson

1 December 2024