

Life is never better when there is water beneath his wings



Terry Bolland

by Josephine Allison

TERRY Bolland has been close to the water and canoeing for as long as he can remember, from enjoying the water himself, to teaching people outdoor activities, to running a canoe shop and travelling to many countries for award-winning canoeing activities.

At 74 and living close to the water at Ashfield near Bassendean, Terry's love of the water continues and he's out there with his canoe mostly twice daily.

For more than 50 years Terry has been paddling canoes and kayaks throughout Australia and overseas. He has volunteered, mentored and is a life member of the Paddle

WA and the Ascot Kayak Club.

In 2024, he took up stand-up board paddling. In 2025 he paddled 8967.20km and 1322km in December. He now holds several long-distance records, beating hundreds of paddlers around the world.

Terry has made more than 80,000km of expe-

ditions by foot, bike and kayak across Australia, North America, Canada and part of Asia.

He is an Avon Descent Legend, has competed in 30 Avon Descents and is the author of six adventure books including the popular Avon River guide.

"Now I'm retired, I have the time to spend six to 10 hours on the water every day to do challenges," Terry tells *Have a Go News*.

"I was brought up on a farm at Boston, Lincolnshire, and when I was 19 I hitchhiked around Europe for six months and, at 20, hitchhiked from Singapore to Australia.

"I had my 22nd birthday on an irrigation farm in the Kimberley and since then I've done various jobs such as helping make roads and car parks and doing earthworks before working as an outdoor pursuits instructor and owning a canoe shop.

In 1982 I did a 100-day solo canoe trip from Broome to the Mitchell Plateau and, the following year, from Kununurra to

the Mitchell Plateau.

"Similar trips followed and, in 1987, I did a 3500km kayak, cycle and run around the Kimberley. The following year I paddled, cycled and walked around Australia which took a year to complete so the 1980s were very active.

"Then I cycled, ran and kayaked 14,000km around America for eight months, paddling the entire length of the 4000km Mississippi River. It was after that I started paddling long rivers in North America which included the 4000km Missouri River.

"Long rivers in Canada were next, paddling a kayak the entire length of the 3300km Yukon River and another from Jasper all the way up to the Arctic Ocean around 4000km, before paddling 6500km right across Canada from the Rocky Mountains."

If that's not enough to make anyone feel tired, Terry marked his 70th birthday paddling a kayak on the Swan River, helping raise more than \$17,000

for the Prostate Cancer Foundation (and another \$3000 from his recent stand-up challenge).

On the kayak challenge he took photos of birds along the river and turned it into a book.

Since then he has ocean paddled from Vancouver in Canada to Alaska and been to China, Denmark, Croatia and Hungary for the world masters canoe championships. His long list of records and awards is impressive.

"The good thing about canoeing is there are so many different variations; you can do overseas trips, put your gear in a kayak or canoe, go down the river or the ocean and camp every night," he says. "You can be self-sufficient

or go to the world championships which I've done several times.

"There are so many different parts of canoeing. I have more than 50 types of boats which means I can go slalom paddling one day or white water paddling the next or just paddle flat water."

"It's easy for me to paddle as I live only 20 metres away from the river. When I first came to Perth 47 years ago I said to my wife, Jenny, 'I have to be close to the river' and it has been fantastic."

For Terry, life is never better when there is water beneath his wings.

For achievements and expeditions go to terrybolland.wordpress.com/.

Have you heard about WA Geoparks?



L-R; Dr Alan Briggs - Thrombolites at Lake Clifton

by Dr Alan Briggs

WE know about World Heritage Areas and Biosphere Reserves, but what do we know about UNESCO's Global Geopark program? UNESCO endorsed the Geopark program in 2015. It has rapidly grown to 229 Global Geoparks in 50 countries around the World.

Geoparks have become a worldwide phenomenon but there are currently none in Australia.

They are areas with a significant geological feature, a single boundary and managed by a local community. They foster regional development, growing local businesses and facilitating local pride through encouraging cultural awareness and development opportunities.

Two decades ago, Susan Turner wrote an article promoting geoparks in Australia. They were based on geological sites (geosites) and included among other areas she indicated features such as the Devonian rocks in the Northern Territory, dinosaur footprints in Queensland and the Naracoorte caves in South Australia.

What about Western Australia? From the Banded Ironstone of the Pilbara, Throm-

bolites in the Peel Region, basalt flows in the southwest (Nannup) and magnifi-

cent monoliths of the Wheatbelt and Great Southern such as Castle Rock?

In the Perth region we have extensive coastal limestone cliffs and caves (Yanchep), ancient dune systems across the coastal plains and of course the foothills of the Darling Scarp (Yilgarn Craton). And more.

While not a UNESCO Global Geopark yet, locally Nannup Geopark has been incorporated and launched within the shire.

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