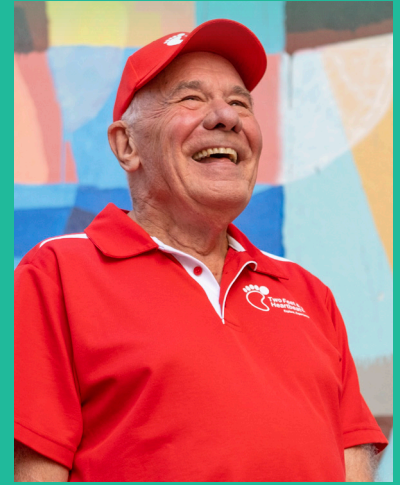


VAUGHAN SADLER

TOUR GUIDE, TWO FEET AND A HEARTBEAT,
AND CITY OF PERTH

“Who would have thought that at 76 I would be making sure I knew all the restaurants and bars in the city? It’s wonderful.”



WHEN VAUGHAN RETIRED FROM THE EDUCATION SECTOR IN HIS 60S, HE STARTED VOLUNTEERING TO HELP VISITORS TO PERTH. BEFORE LONG, HE WAS BEING PAID TO GUIDE THEM THROUGH THE CITY. WHETHER HE’S EXPLORING LANEWAYS OR GARDENS, CRIME DENS OR WHISKY BARS, VAUGHAN COULD NOT BE HAPPIER WITH HIS LATE CAREER CHANGE.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO YOUR JOB?

I was a teacher and then worked as a school administrator, financing and building schools, before retiring at the end of 2012. I have a passion for history and wanted to give back, so I started volunteering at the City of Perth visitor kiosk. After about a year, I went to Two Feet and a Heartbeat and asked if they would like to use me for their walking tours. And they did!

Then, myself and another colleague were asked if we would write a Perth crime tour. It was so popular that Two Feet asked if we could write a crime tour of Fremantle. I also do garden tours with the City of Perth, most often with my wife. She also does art tours. There’s a lot of variety working in tourism.

WHAT’S THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

I love telling stories and you’re always finding new ones to tell. And then it’s the opportunity to meet and interact with people, from Spain, Singapore, Sydney ... everywhere. I love being able to share knowledge and stories with guests and get them involved to create a memorable experience.

I’ve been working in tourism for over 10 years, and you just never know what is round the corner. Last week, I was in three different bars with a group of half a dozen people drinking whiskey - who would have thought that when I retired?

WHAT’S YOUR ADVICE FOR ANYONE CONSIDERING A CAREER IN TOURISM OR HOSPITALITY?

People our age bring a lifetime of experience and we can use that in the tourism and hospitality industry in different ways. We’ve got a lot to offer. If you have an interest in a particular area, like I did with history, follow it up because you never know what unfolds. Don’t be afraid to learn new things, either. There is invariably some formal training, like a first aid certificate, and I got trained to walk around the street with people.

It can be surprising and tremendously rewarding. It gets you involved, active and entertained and all of that is life-extending, life-giving really. I was down at Fremantle getting a group off a cruise ship when a woman who was ushering people on a bus said ‘Vaughan, I’ve got to tell you, I heard you speak at the town hall (about working in tourism) and as a result I’m in this business now’. How good is that.

STEPPING STONES

1.

Worked in education, as a teacher and administrator before retiring



2.

Started volunteering at Perth City visitor kiosk



3.

Began working in tourism as a tour guide



4.

Co-wrote crime tours of Perth and Fremantle



5.

Leads a range of tours for Two Feet and the City of Perth