



South Western Times

Regional WA Bunbury Herald

Fundraising walk for childhood heart disease arrives in Bunbury

Seth Carter Bunbury Herald

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 Liv and Finn, 5, Harvey. Credit: Supplied



Locals are being encouraged to put on their walking shoes this October as Heartkids' annual Two Feet & a Heartbeat annual community walk arrives at Jetty Baths in Bunbury.



The fundraiser in support of children, adults and families living with childhood-

chance to celebrate milestones, share stories, raise awareness, and honour the lives of those cut far too short.

Every day in Australia, eight babies are born with a heart condition, and many more will acquire a heart condition during childhood. About 250,000 Australians are living with CoHD, with an estimated one million Australians, including parents, carers and siblings, affected.

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Liv Harvey was 20 weeks pregnant with her son, Finn, when she was told he would need open-heart surgery shortly after birth for him to survive.

“The rest of my pregnancy, and much of Finn’s first year of life, is a bit of a blur – filled with uncertainty, worry, hospital appointments and simply surviving each day as it came,” she said.



📷 Ashton, Liv, and Finn Harvey, 5. Credit: Supplied

“But here we are, 4½ years later, with the most clever, kind and adventurous little boy. You would never know that he had such a tough start to life.”

This October, almost five years on, Finn and his family will be joining HeartKids and

Liv said the event is a chance to celebrate kids who have had to deal with so much hardship in their lives.

“HeartKids have been a community of support to remind us we aren’t alone and there are other families out there going through this too. It’s a beautiful network of people,” she said.

“The walk gives us a chance to celebrate kids like Finn who are so special, and connect with other people who have shared a similar journey.”

HeartKids chief executive Samantha Glastonbury said the walk was a day when affected families and the wider community could stand together.

“Every heart has a story. Every person who walks with us is showing children, young people, adults and families impacted by childhood-onset heart disease that they are not walking this journey alone,” she said.

“Whether you are a heart kid, heart adult, heart parent, grandparent, sibling, friend, supporter, healthcare professional or someone walking in memory of a loved one, this day is for you. We invite everyone to join us as one big heart community this October. Every step honours a heart story, and every heartbeat reminds us why we walk.”

HeartKids encourages people to register for the event on its [website](#), with registrations closing on Thursday.

The event begins at Jetty Baths for a 9am start on Sunday.

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