

BOOKS

Remote perspective

Footing with Sir Richard's C

Patricia Glyn



It took Patricia Glyn, professional speaker and adventure writer, 3m footsteps, four months and 3 200 km to follow in the steps of her hunting-and-shooting ancestor and to get from Durban to the Victoria Falls. Her great-great-granduncle, Sir Richard Glyn, did it the

FOOTING WITH SIR RICHARD'S GHOST

By Patricia Glyn
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easy way, by ox wagon, back in 1863. And, like her ancestor, Glyn kept a

diary, only hers was electronic and, come nightfall, she would rest her weary feet at the camp fire with her whisky and laptop while she consulted his handwritten notes for the next day's trip. She literally walked in his footsteps.

The result, apart from the sparkling speech she delivers to all kinds of gatherings, from schools to corporates, is *Footing with Sir Richard's Ghost*.

During her walk, Glyn had plenty of time to consider life and, as so often happens during adventures like this, she had an epiphany. By the time she got to Botswana she had seen "that the Free State was dying". She noted that maize farming and canned lion-hunting predominated where once a multitude of wild animals had peacefully trod.

And so she resolved to become vegetarian and to enlighten the rest of us about the consequences of meat eating.

Glyn says that writing the book was harder than the walk. The results of both efforts by this extraordinary woman, who walks her talk more vividly and courageously than most of us dare to dream about, are clear to see in this powerful document.

Reading each day about what once was, back in the 1800s, and by slogging through heat, dust and storms, she's made an elemental inspection of what we're doing to our world. It's not good enough and she wants us to know that. Her book shows us the way forward.

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Sue Grant-Marshall

