



IT'LL BE WORTH IT IN THE LONG RUN

GEORGE HYDE

IF the thought of running a marathon makes you weak at the knees, then imagine running 700 of them across four continents.

That's exactly what French woman Marie Leautey aka Lootie, who arrived in Melbourne on Thursday, is trying to do.

Marie is attempting to achieve the fastest circumnavigation of the earth on foot by a woman.

Marie began her journey in December 2019 and was three months into the run before Covid caught her.

"I was actually crossing Italy, and Italy was the first country in the world to declare a national lockdown," she said. "So I was grounded for three

months, I couldn't move because all of Europe was completely locked down."

After running 21,000km solo, Marie was joined by a cyclist friend in Australia for the Nullarbor leg.

"There was long segments of road without anything on the way ... so it was great to have company," she said.

Marie is looking forward to exploring Melbourne.

"My first impression of Melbourne is that it is incredible. The architecture and where the old style meets the new style."

Marie is hoping to raise \$1 for every kilometre of her journey for Women for Women International, a charity helping women to reintegrate after wars.

www.lootie-run.com



Marie Leautey arrived in Melbourne yesterday, and was greeted by students from Caulfield Junior College French class (inset). Pictures: David Caird

Bell 'victim' can't sue