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The adventurous world of a wonderful WALKMAN

A WALKMAN can find itself being used in some odd circumstances – but when it is owned by an explorer and adventurer such as Neil Wightwick then it can literally end up being played anywhere, anytime in some of the most extreme and challenging conditions in the world.

That's why a battered Sony NWE-99 Network WALKMAN arrived at Sony Village recently with a travel history that reads like a Boys Own adventure.

If it had a passport the xxx-year-old WALKMAN would list most of the countries in the world but that's only half the story. It has also, in freezing conditions, conquered the highest unclimbed peaks in Chile, suffered weeks of salty soakings and hurricanes as it rowed across the Atlantic Ocean, and endured the 50-degree heat and dust storms of the Kalahari Desert.

Amazingly, despite its explorer's patina of dents and scratches, corrosion on the outside and evidence of moisture penetration around its outer casing, the WALKMAN still works well. Even so, Neil Wightwick, 31, is not planning to take the WALKMAN with him on his next adventure – walking to the North Pole.

Neil has decided that it's time for his trusty WALKMAN to take a well-earned rest and retire from its extreme lifestyle. Neil, who manages the Glasgow Climbing Centre, has sent it to Sony CIC for potential product publicity purposes and display.

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“It has served me brilliantly but I am planning to take a newer model with me – a Sony WALKMAN, of course – when next year I try to retrace the footsteps of explorer Robert Peary who in 1909 became the first man to reach the North Pole.

“The WALKMAN becomes a valuable aid, almost an extra friend to me, when I’m facing my challenges. It’s a comfort tool if you like, which enables me to reach for the norm. If you are sitting on your own in the middle of a desert or monotonously rowing mid-Atlantic then you can switch on your WALKMAN and you are no longer alone.”

If you would like to find out more about the WALKMAN’S exploits (and Neil’s!), view www.neilwightwick.com

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Picture Caption JPEG X????XX:

Neil Wightwick listening to music on his WALKMAN while running across the Kalahari Desert last year.