

AUSTRALIAN CENTURION DETAILS

28 ***Caleb Maybir (28/11/1954)***
28-29 September 1996
23:34:20
ANZ Stadium, Nathan, Queensland

Although we had our own Centurions event planned for Melbourne in October 1996, the Queensland Race Walkers Club planned and put on their own event which was to be a fund-raiser for the Queensland Epilepsy Foundation. It incorporated a 24 Hour endurance walk, shorter walking races and a 24 Hour walk relay event. We gave this event our blessing, being of the mind that it was all good publicity for the club. Queensland based Centurions were present on the occasion to verify any Centurion performances. The event was held at the QE II Stadium in Brisbane, the site of the 1982 Commonwealth Games.

Caleb Maybir, who was born in Fiji in 1954, had come to Australia to work and had settled in Brisbane. He had represented Queensland over both 20 km and 50 km on many occasions and had also represented his native Fiji in the Oceania Games so was a well known racewalker. He certainly had the credentials to attack the 100 mile distance and was willing to give it a go.

He started fast, passing 50 km in 6:13:06 and his 50 mile mark of 10:25:43 indicated that he had enough time up his sleeve to ensure success. However, he suffered badly in the second half of the race and it was only with the utmost determination that he was able to hold his form and finish in **23:34:20** to become Centurion number 28. He was the only finisher in this event.

A year later and the Queensland Racewalking Club opted to put on a further 24 Hour qualifying event at the same venue. Unfortunately Brisbane turned on a hot and sunny day and the start time of noon on the Saturday meant that the field had to endure nearly 6 hours of sunshine and heat before the evening brought cooler weather. The cumulative effect of this was seen during the first hours of the race. What had promised to be a very toughly contested race deteriorated quickly into one of survival. Plans soon fell by the wayside as walkers struggled to maintain pre-race plans and the pace slowed. Although the night brought ideal conditions, the damage was done and the bulk of the field retired in the early evening hours. Caleb Maybir and Freddie Baker revised goals and decided to just keep going for the full 24 hours and were both rewarded with fine performances given the conditions. Results were as follows:

1.	Caleb Maybir	Qld	150.8 km 24:00:00
2.	Freddie Baker	Qld	124.0 km 24:00:00

Caleb's feet suffered no ill effects and his feeding was well organised. Perhaps the only reason he did not complete another 100 miler was because the desire was not so great second time around. But taking the early heat into effect, it was still a creditable walk.

Four months later in January 1998, Caleb was back in action in the Coastal Classic 12 Hour event in Gosford, NSW. The event saw 29 individuals (22 runners and 7 walkers) and 3 relay teams competing and Caleb dominated the walk, winning easily with **91.681 km**.

Alas, this was the end of Caleb's ultra distance career. The pressures of his full time job driving a taxi and his long work hours put paid to any chance of proper training. He still stays involved in racewalking at the local level and is as keen as ever but we are unlikely to see any serious return to the form of old.