

AUSTRALIAN CENTURION DETAILS

37. *Herbert Neubacher (03/03/53)*

21:03:07
 18-19 September 1999
 Coburg Athletics Track, Coburg, Vic

Herbert Neubacher from Germany was one of 9 overseas walkers who converged on Coburg for the 1999 Australian Centurions qualifying event at Coburg. It was and remains our highest quality centurion qualifier ever.

The 50 mile splits told the story for the first half of the race with overseas competitors filling 5 of the first 6 places at that stage.

Sandra Brown	09:08:52	(Australian Open Record)
Gerald Manderson	09:58:28	
Jill Green	10:08:00	
Robin Whyte	10:15:08	
Herbert Neubacher	10:20:47	
Gerrit de Jong	10:43:04	

Sandra's final 100 mile time of 19:14:56 was all the more amazing given that this was her 6th 100 mile walk for the year. She was only 14 minutes outside the recent world record she had set in winning the New Zealand Centurions 24 hour event in July and she finished relatively fresh.

Behind Sandra, attention was focused on Gerald Manderson (NZ), Jill Green (England) and Herbert. Gerald was eventually caught by the more evenly paced Jill and a great battle developed between these two with Herbert only 3 laps adrift. For many hours, all three lapped consistently until Herbert finally caught and passed the other two at about the 15 hour mark. Then he powered away and Jill and Gerald were left to fight it out for third place. At the 19 hour mark, Gerald paid the penalty for his aggressive early walking and faded. Jill came home strongly for a clear third place while Gerald limped home in fourth spot. Herbert, Jill and Gerald all produced personal best times for 100 miles. Robin Whyte of Canberra was next to finish, completing his second 100 mile finish in Australia (1996 was his first one). Carol Baird came through strongly to be the 5th finisher in what was only her second ultra distance walk. She set new Australian Residential standards for the 100 km, 100 mile and 24 hour distance along the way. The only other walker to finish the 100 mile distance was Dutchman Gerrit de Jong. Like the other European walkers, he was both experienced and fit and had no trouble in beating the 24 hour mark.



The 1999 finishers – Herbert, Gerrit and Gerald in the back row, Jill, Robin, Carol and Sandra

For completeness, the finishing list reads:

Sandra Brown	England	100 miles	19:14:56	C36
Herbert Neubacher	Germany	100 miles	21:03:07	C37
Jill Green	England	100 miles	21:15:35	C38

Robin Whyte	ACT	100 miles	21:34:48	C29
Gerald Manderson	NZ	100 miles	21:36:09	C31
Carol Baird	ACT	100 miles	22:16:43	C39
Gerrit de Jong	Holland	100 miles	22:51:24	C40

This was Herbert's third Centurion badge, having already qualified as a Continental Centurion in 1989 and as British Centurion only a month previously. Since then, he has added American and New Zealand badges to his collection which now stands at 5 - second only to Sandra Brown and Jill Green who have all 6 badges to their credit. His performance list read as follows:

May 1989	Holland	21:21:57	Continental Centurion 203
13-14 Aug 1999	Battersea Park, London	21:40:38	British Centurion 959
18-19 Sept 1999	Melbourne, Australia	21:03:07	Australian Centurion 37
19-20 Sept 2000	Golden, Colorado	23:36:38	American Centurion 54
07-08 July 2001	Auckland, NZ	22:18:08	New Zealand Centurion 9



Sandra Brown, Herbert Neubacher and Jill Green in January 2004 – 17 centurion badges between them

I was lucky enough to catch up with Herbert and his wife Cornelia in 2009 when Lois and I were in Europe.



2009 in Aachen, Germany - Cornelia and Herbert Neubacher, Tim Erickson, Rudy Schoors and Caroline Mestdagh

Herbert is still a regular walker on the European ultra distance circuit and made his first appearance in the British Centurions walk this year, to mark their centenary. He showed that he has lost little of his form over the years, completing just under 90 miles.

Tim Erickson, 11 August 2011