

AUSTRALIAN CENTURION DETAILS

- 38.** Jill Green (10/10/1941)
 21:15:35
 18-19 September 1999
 Coburg Athletics Track, Coburg, Vic

I first met Jill Green in September 1999 when she and her husband Dave travelled from England to compete in our Australian Centurions qualifying event. She was one of a large number of overseas walkers to make the trip that year.

The pace was evident early with Sandra Brown of England well out in front and overseas competitors filling 5 of the first 6 places at the half way mark. Jill was in third place overall at that stage with a 50 mile split of 10:08:00.

Sandra won of course with a phenomenal 100 mile time of 19:14:56, 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, Jill and Herbert Neubacher. 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. The list of 100 mile finishers read as follows

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



Jill finishes her first Australian Centurion walk at Clifton Hill in 1999

We did not expect to see Jill back in Australia again so were pleasantly surprised when she returned with Dave in April 2005 for another walk. Once again she produced the goods, being the first of three walkers to reach the 100 mile mark (the other two were Geoff Hain and David Billett). Jill's time was **22:58:31** and was the overall winner with 165.996 km. She competed with a torn hamstring but this did not seem to slow her as she led the whole way.

Aged 63, she became the oldest women to complete a Centurion walk in Australia and she set inaugural Australian W60 Open Records for 50 Miles (10:41:12), 12 Hours (89.835 km), 100 km (13:28:55), 100 Miles (22:58:31) and 24 Hours (15.986 km).



Jill and husband Dave in our 2005 Australian Centurion qualifying event - her second hundred in Australia

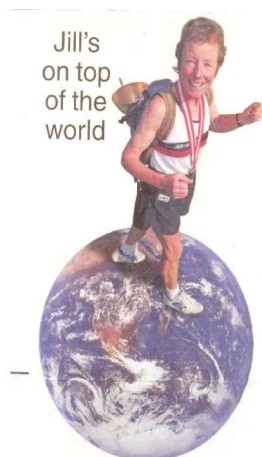
We were pleased once again when she returned in 2011, this time to support fellow English walker Serena Queeney who was attempting her own Australian Centurion qualification.

Jill, who lives on the Isle of Wight, is a legend in the world of ultra distance walking. Like Sandra Brown, her appetite for long distance walking is extraordinary. A great supporter of the LDWA and a regular walker in the various continental classics, she was the second person behind Sandra Brown to earn all 6 Centurion badges worldwide. Her list reads as follows

01/08/1992	British Centurion	Leicester, England	23:13:59	C898
May 1999	Continental Centurion	Weert, Holland	22:13:52	C282
19/09/1999	Australian Centurion	Coburg, Victoria	21:15:35	C38
05/07/2000	American Centurion	Golden, Colorado, USA	23:35:07	C53
08/07/2001	New Zealand Centurion	Auckland, NZ	22:18:08	C8
05/08/2003	Malaysia Centurion	Genting Highlands, MAL	164.350km in 24 Hours	C22

Jill had the following fantastic article published in 2007 in the Isle of Wight newspaper and it is well worth reproducing for everyone – it celebrates Jill's marvellous achievement of a 100 mile finish at 65 years of age.

Race Walker Jill Green, 65, has walked the equivalent of two-and-a-half times around the globe



A 65 year old women has been around the world two-and-a-half times – not by cruise ship or long haul flights but by foot. Long distance walker Jill Green has put in the leg work to rack up the miles over years of taking part in ultra-distance treks around the world.

A former European champion at endurance walking, her feats include waling 200 miles non-stop in America and taking part in the 210 mile Paris-to-Colmar race in France three times.

She has done 63 100-mile, 120km and 100km non-stop walks and has lost counts of the number of times she has walked around the Isle of Wight.

Jill's latest achievement saw her become the first woman aged over 65 to walk 100 miles in under 24 hours, under race walking rules. She walked into history at the weekend after finishing the Centurion race at Battersea Park in London, with about 15 minutes to spare.

An elated Jill told the CP: "I'm absolutely thrilled. I did the first 50 miles in under 11 hours, which would have given me a good time, but during the night it was so cold I had to stop and put dry clothes on and I also got cramp."

Jill, of Alverstone Road, Apse Heath, was the second British woman to finish and the fifth woman overall. She was supported throughout the epic walk by her husband Dave and good friends Marie and Graham Doke.

She was one of 58 walkers to line up for the race which has been held annually since 1911.

A trophy, which has never been awarded in the history of the event, capped her amazing achievement.

"There is no real secret. When I turned 60, I decided I would try to stay fit and keep training because I really wanted to be the first woman over 65 to finish the Centurion. That is what kept me motivated through the walk and everyone was very encouraging," she said.

"I think this might be my last race. It does take up so much of your life training in all weathers. At my age, if you stop for a while, you quickly lose the fitness.

While most people would give themselves and their feet a well-earned break after such a feat of endurance, Jill was yesterday (Thursday) due to go on a walking holiday in Yorkshire. "It will be a lot more gentle and relaxing", she said.

And here is what Jill herself had to say about her efforts in the final few years leading up to this milestone. What inspirational stuff.

When I was 60, I celebrated my Birthday with a 100 mile walk on the Isle of Wight, never using the same footpath. It was a wonderful day for me in the company of good walking friends and helpers. My 60th year was a happy walking one; in April 105 miles in 24 hrs in Perpignan France, in May 103 miles in 24 hrs in Dijon France, in June the New Zealand Centurion in 22.08 mins, then this memorable 100 mile walk in August, not actually my Birthday that's October.

Was this the time to hang up my racing trainers and enjoy more normal walking? Could I, should I try to keep it up to perhaps be the first lady over 65 to do the Centurion race in the UK and claim the trophy. I had bunions coming. I'd been offered an operation on the National Health Service because "they would only get worse", I thought - no way could I get back if I stopped, just wear wider fitting trainers and keep going. So I decided to see how I got on.

In 2002, to my joy, I managed the Blackpool Centurion in 23.05. The decision was made - keep up the training, keep yourself motivated Jill. 2007 seemed a long long way ahead.

In 2003 I went to Roubaix France for the 28 hour race and made 115 miles so I was still up to it. Then 2004 I went to Germany and I did my very very best and made 99.5 miles. This meant nothing to them, they don't think in miles, I won it for the ladies and I was treated like a Queen, but it knocked my confidence. Confidence restored in the October with 105 miles in 24 hrs at Tooting Bec London on my 63rd Birthday.

2005 saw me back in Australia for the Centurions race; you all made me so very welcome and I did it again, thank you.

Last year I had a good Bar Le Duc France another 105 miles in 24hr 10 mins so off I went to Germany to get that half mile off and make the 100 miles, again I did my very very best like I always do, 95 miles only 95 miles Oh dear!!!! My feet are now really hurting, two separate Doctors have said "arthritis" as well as "bunions", so I spent quite a bit on orthotics, these don't work a miracle just help a little.

Now the test came, the BIG day. We had a hard time of it, 9 hours of rain, lots of good walkers stopped, I tried my very very best as I always do and I managed the 100 miles with just 11 minutes to spare, battling with cramp and sickness, 9 hours of hard cold rain. I am on top of the world.

This week I've had a letter from my friends in Germany telling me they would love to see me again in 2009!!!

Regards
Jill

Jill is indeed one of the legends of the walking world. Jill, may you have many more years of enjoyment with your many walking friends world wide.



Jill with fellow Australian centurions Sue Clements and Herbert Neubacher in Belgium in January 2007