

AUSTRALIAN CENTURION DETAILS

40. Gerrit de Jong (08/06/41)

22:51:24
 18-19 September 1999
 Coburg Athletics Track, Coburg, Vic

Gerrit de Jong from Holland 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 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. 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 Gerrit. 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

Gerrit was one of the most experienced walkers in the field, having completed the British Centurion 100 mile event an amazing 16 times in the previous 20 years. His first British Centurion qualification had been in 1970 (C456 - 22:27:29) and his tally has now risen to 19. His best time of 19:43:24 was set in 1976. The list reads very impressively

22:27:29	31/07/1970
23:34:24	28/07/1972
19:43:40	30/07/1976
21:15:46	28/07/1978
20:36:51	22/06/1979
22:15:12	24/06/1983
21:12:09	27/07/1984
22:02:30	25/07/1986
23:18:52	29/07/1988
21:35:21	29/07/1989
23:51:17	28/07/1990
21:48:32	28/07/1991
23:46:57	21/07/1992
23:41:24	21/07/1993
23:29:03	05/08/1995
23:55:51	03/08/1996
23:52:49	19/07/1997
23:31:54	14/08/1999
23:48:59	10/08/2002

He was also a Continental Centurion C62 (19.43.50 in 1980). Although he no longer races seriously, he still contributes to the sport in many ways and is now the President of C.V.N, the Dutch Centurion Brotherhood.



Gerrit doing the C.V.N. paperwork in 2008