

## AUSTRALIAN CENTURION DETAILS

**49. Geoff Hain (12/08/1946)**  
 23:30:38  
 16-17 October, 2004  
 Santos Stadium, Adelaide, SA

Geoff Hain, born 1946 and a long time Queensland resident, started his career as an ultra runner. When I asked him some years ago for a brief summary of his running career, he commented

*Actually I have walked more 100's than run them - 9 versus 5 running. Plus a couple of runs around 140km in 24 hours but they don't count. I have probably done about 60 or 70 ultras (ie greater than a standard marathon) as well as about 25 marathons and about 20 1/2 marathons.*

For some time Geoff had dreamed of achieving Centurion membership and so with only five weeks preparation, he entered and walked the Gold Coast 24 hour event in August 2004 to test himself out. In an excellent first up effort, he reached 82 km in 12 hours and stopped after 100km in 15h25m. His heels were very sore and he was obviously not going to make the 100mile in time.

At that stage he contacted the Centurions and asked whether he could make an officially sanctioned attempt at the 100 mile walk in the annual Sri Chimnoy 24 hour event in Adelaide two months later, in October 2004. With monitoring in place, he passed the 50 mile mark in **10:52:51** and reached the 100 mile mark in **23:30:38**, thus becoming the 7<sup>th</sup> Queensland based walker to become an Australian Centurion and the 9<sup>th</sup> of our group to have both run and walked 100 miles separately within 24 hours. He was awarded centurion badge number 49 for his efforts.



**Geoff Hain (C 49) reaches the 100 mile mark in Adelaide**

In the same event, South Australian walker Deryck Skinner, a Masters racewalker from Adelaide, rewrote the M70+ record books with new standards for 50 Miles (**11:15:30**) and 12 Hours (**85.583** km).

This was the start of an illustrious walking career. Highlights include

Oct 2004	1 <sup>st</sup>	Sri Chinmoy 24 Hour Walk, Adelaide	23:30:38	C49
January 2005	1 <sup>st</sup>	Coastal Classic 12 Hour in Gosford	90.656km	
April 2005	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Australian Centurion Qualifier, Coburg	23:27:49	
Oct 2005	2 <sup>nd</sup>	New Zealand Centurion Qualifier, Auckland	162.474 km in 24H	C14
Jan 2006	4 <sup>th</sup>	Coastal Classic 12 Hour in Gosford	81.452 km	
April 2006	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Australian Centurion Qualifier, Coburg	23:38:25	
Aug 2006	38 <sup>th</sup>	British Centurion Qualifier, Isle of Man	23:31:43	C1051
April 2007	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Australian Centurion Qualifier, Coburg	23:33:47	
Nov 2007	5 <sup>th</sup>	American Centurion Qualifier, Grapevine, Texas	23:25:14	C68
June 2008	21 <sup>st</sup>	Continental Centurion Qualifier, Schiedam, Holland	23:18:30	C368

April 2009 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Centurion Qualifier, Coburg 23:24:50

His final hundred, done at Coburg in April 2009, was a particularly difficult one as Geoff suffered from leg and hip pain most of the way. Personally, I think it was only his pride and immense toughness that enabled him to get through to the finish.

Let's put this in perspective with some comments

- He has 5 of the 6 available Centurion badges on offer. If the Malaysian Centurion had not gone into remission, I am sure that he would have added the sixth in the above timeframe.

16-17 Oct 2004	Adelaide, SA	23:30:38	Australian Centurion 49
1-2 Oct 2005	New Zealand	162.474 km	New Zealand Centurion 14
19-20 Aug 2006	Isle of Man, UK	23:31:43	English Centurion 1051
17-18 Nov 2007	Grapevine, Texas	23:25:14	American Centurion 68
31 May – 1 Jun 2008	Schiedam, Holland	23:18:30	Continental Centurion 368

- His ability to back up is fantastic. He did his last 6 centurion walks in a period of 3 years. His fastest was 23:18:30 and his slowest was 23:38:25 - very consistent.
- He was a trend setter in every way. He was the first Australian to become a British Centurion in 2006, the first to become an American Centurion in 2007 and the first to become a Continental Centurion in 2008.



**Left: Geoff reaches another hundred milestone in April 2007, this time in 23:33:47. Geoff is shown with his son Peter who supported him during the event.**

**Right: Geoff completes his most recent hundred in April 2009**

Soon after his last Centurion walk, Geoff and his wife Annie sold their property in Queensland and embarked on a never-ending tour of the world. Over the last couple of years, they have danced their way through South America, trekked from Lands End to John O'Groats (the length of the Britain) and hiked in Europe and North America. I receive regular emails of their latest encounters. This one, from October 2010 sums up their current lifestyle pretty well.

*Hi Tim,*

*Hope you are fit & well and getting out & about plenty. Annie & I are still in the travel/wandering mode, discovering plenty of incredibly interesting places in the world. Backpack globe trotting seems to agree with us and so we now find ourselves in Toulouse, France. It was a strange coincidence that you mentioned Piet Jansens in the last newsletter completing his staged Lands End to John O Groats walk in the UK over 4 years because we have recently done the same walk. We, however, did it in one go, taking 12 weeks to walk the complete route we chose, some 2030 km. It is quite an iconic thing to do, to travel*

*the longest distance possible on mainland UK, although most people do it as a bike ride on roads which is considerably shorter. Annie & I followed the major long distance paths where possible & connected them together via other minor or lesser known public rights of way. We had a thoroughly wonderful time & would recommend this epic walk to anyone who loves to walk on a daily basis as a lifestyle because this is what it becomes after such a long period.*

*Our route followed the South West Coastal Path along the northern coastline of Cornwall & Devon - this is surely one of the most beautiful coasts in the world, probably better than the Great Ocean Walk in Victoria which we did a few years ago. After that we travelled over Exmoor & the Quantocks & crossed the Bristol Channel into Wales where we followed another well known path called the Offas Dyke Path along the England/Wales border. It was then across the Midlands to pick up the start of the Pennine Way. The Pennine Way is probably the toughest LDP in England as it traverses the hill/mountain range going north/south through the middle of England all the way to Scotland. After that we followed a canal system going northwesterly to just north of Glasgow from where the very popular West Highland Way heads north to Fort William and Ben Nevis, England's highest mountain. We then walked along the Great Glen Way alongside Loch Ness but failed to see the "monster". Having reached the east coast of Scotland, we then continued northwards until the final destination on the north east corner of the UK, a little place called John O Groats.*

*We averaged around 24km/day carrying all our gear, Annie with 8kg & myself with 15kg, staying at B&B's or pubs along the way. Life on the paths is really great, meeting other fellow walkers, mostly doing shorter distances or just daily saunters. Folk in England walk a lot, often setting out for a long days walk with their dogs. The weather doesn't seem to stop people from venturing out, they just wear the appropriate clothing & so it was with us. Rain, wind (gale force at times), mist, fog, & absolutely perfect sunny days greeted us on our daily walking, but it didn't matter, it is hard to beat long distance walking in the UK, no matter what the weather.*

*So there you have it, almost a quarter of a year spent but life doesn't get any better than that.*

*Bye for now, Regards, Geoff Hain*



**Geoff and Annie start their walk at Lands End**



**Geoff in walking mode**

Yes, life doesn't get much better than that. Geoff and Annie - may your travels be many and varied and may the weather be fair as you continue your never ending journey.

Tim Erickson  
10 August 2011