

AUSTRALIAN CENTURION DETAILS

52. Jens Borello (09/10/1947)

22:33:01

22-23 April 2006

Coburg Harriers Track, Coburg, Vic

The 2006 Coburg 24 Hour carnival was held on the weekend of 22-23 April at the Harold Stevens Reserve in Coburg with a field of 25 walkers and 27 runners entered. The carnival started at 10AM on the Saturday morning in typical Melbourne autumnal weather – variable and impossible to predict! The forecast threatened showers but luckily the race was spared and conditions, although slightly on the cold side, turned out to be nearly ideal for such an event.

The 24 Hour Walk events saw 4 walkers – Jens Borello, Pat Fisher, Deryck Skinner and Geoff Hain - reach the 100 mile mark and thus achieve the Centurion standard.

Jens, from Denmark was already a triple centurion - Continental (C317 22:15:34 2004), British (C1026 23:17:36 2005) and American (C62 23:21:14 2006) – and he made the trip to Australia specifically for this event. He judged his pace perfectly, sitting back in the field as others pushed the pace early. His patience was rewarded as those ahead of him came back to the field. He took the lead soon after the 100 km mark and was untroubled to become Australian Centurion number 52 with a fine time of **22:36:14**. He also finished second in the Australian 100 km championship with a time of 13:33:01.



Jens Borello (C 52) on his way to his Australian Centurion badge

In August 2007, he travelled to Malaysia in search of a fifth centurion badge but the race, held in central Kuala Lumpur rather than Genting Highlands, saw oppressive and humid conditions which put paid to his efforts and he retired from the race around the 14 hour mark.

In October 2007, he returned to the Southern Hemisphere to compete in the annual NZ Centurions 2007 qualifier in Auckland but his attempt was thwarted when the event was cancelled at the last minute by the Sri Chinmoy organisers after the sudden death of Sri Chinmoy. This was too late for some competitors and they had an informal race. Jens attempted the 24 hour walk but the weather and possibly other factors got the better of him and he quit after about 10 hours.

He returned in to Auckland a year later in November 2008 to try once again for his New Zealand centurion badge but once again, it did not work out. To quote Zealand Centurions secretary Philip Sharp

Jens had trained well for the event and he seemed to have sorted out his back problem. He started well in the race and had done 59K after eight hours. A few laps later, he sat down beside me and said that he was pulling out as he did not have the spirit to continue and that this would be his last 24 hour race. Without being too forceful, Simahin and I encouraged him to continue but to no avail.

True to his word, he does not seem to have surfaced in any further European results so it seems that he has indeed retired from competition.

Tim Erickson
9 August 2011