

ADRIE ROS C74 : 22:33:31

With a population of just over 17 million people and a size of just 41,000 square kilometres, Nederland has a smaller footprint than Australia against all the main measures. Yet, the Dutch long distance walking fraternity fights above its weight and leaves Australia far behind in its wake.

The country boasts many annual long distance walk classics such as *Nijmegen to Rotterdam*, *De Bossche 100*, the *Van Z. tot Z. tocht* at Zeewolde and of course the world famous *International Four Day Marches Nijmegen* which is the world's largest walking event, attracting over 40,000 participants each year.

The Dutch statistics are just as impressive when it comes to the 100 Mile walk. Over 300 Dutch walkers have successfully completed the English Centurion qualifier. Further, the Continental Centurions organization based in Nederland has awarded 457 badges, the vast majority to Dutch walkers. Finally, Dutch walkers have travelled around the world, winning Centurion badges in America, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and South Africa.

Adrie Ros is one of these globe trotting Dutchmen, with 3 centurion badges to his credit, along with numerous finishes in the various Dutch long distance walk classics.

Adrie, both 13th December 1962, was 55 years of age when he visited Australia earlier this year, one of a significant overseas contingent (4 Dutch, one Belgian, one IOM and one American walker) who had joined us in Melbourne for the 2018 Australian Centurions annual qualifier.

And what an interesting race our 2018 Australian Centurions qualifying event turned out to be. Australians Justin Scholz (C61) and Colin Heywood had headed out fast, with Chris Burn (IOM) in close pursuit. Justin's pace was too demanding for the others and they gradually gave ground in their chase. Justin passed the 12 Hour mark with an impressive 97.7km, nearly 5km clear of Colin and a further 1km clear of Jantinus Meints (NED) and Chris. The race complexion changed when Justin retired just after the 14 hour mark. By then, Colin, Jantinus, Chris and Adrie had come together and were within 2 laps of each other. They stayed within touch of each other until the final hours, when Chris eventually pulled clear, reaching the 100 Mile mark with 22:08:09 and then retiring, with his goal achieved. Jantinus was next to reach the 100 mile mark, with 22:25:34, then he too retired. The same was the case for Adrie who was the third walker to reach 100 miles, with **22:33:31**, then stopping. Colin was the fourth and final walker to reach the 100 mile mark, with 22:46:53, becoming Australian Centurion C74.



Adrie in action and finishing in Melbourne in April 2018 – Australian Centurion 74 (22:33:31)

It was yet another successful walk for Adrie, his third centurion badge (Continental 2015, English 2017 and Australian 2018) and his fifth centurion finish overall (May 2015, May 2016, June 2017, Aug 2017, Apr 2018).

A review of web page <https://www.wakkee.nl/atleten/adrie-ros> shows just how busy Adrie has been on the ultra walking scene since 2013.

The first race referenced on this webpage is the *Kennedymars Someren* in July 2013, when Adrie completed 80km in 11:42:00, this gaining his Kennedymarch Badge.

Further walks followed in 2014, including two Kennedy Marches (improving to 11:14:00 in August), 50 Miles at the *International Wandelevenement* in Schiedam (11:31:22) and 100km in the *Dodentocht* (15:23:00)

In 2015, he improved his 80km time in the *Kennedymars Sittard* to 11:00:00 in April, then completed his first centurion walk in the *International Wandelevenement* in Weert in late May, becoming Continental Centurion C416 with a time of **22.55.14**.

In 2016, he recorded a second one hundred mile finish at the *International Wandelevenement* in Schiedam, with a time of **23:17:21**, as well as a couple more Kennedy Marches and another *Dodentocht* finish.



Adrie (number 60) in action in the 2016 Continental Centurions qualifier in Schiedam

In 2017, he set his sights on a second centurion badge in England. He warmed up with a third Continental Centurion finish at the annual *International Wandelevenement* in Weert, walking a total distance of **166.553km** in 23:51:45. Then in August, he travelled to Bury St Edmunds in England for his next challenge. It was once again a successful walk, with Adrie earning English Centurion badge C1178 with his one hundred miles time of **23:05:03**.

2018 has been by far his best year. In March, he finished the *Kennedymars Sittard* (80 km) in a PB **10.33.00**. then in April, he earned his Australian Centurion badge with a PB **22:33:31**, as discussed above. Then, just 5 weeks later, he completed his fourth Continental Centurion hundred in the *International Wandelevenement* in Schiedam, with a time of **23:20:11**.



Adrie finishes his fourth Continental Centurion hundred in Schiedam in May 2018 (23:20:11)

Adrie has achieved a lot in a short time and I am sure there is a lot more to come.

We are very pleased to welcome Adrie to our Australian Centurion brotherhood and we look forward to reading about his ongoing walking exploits.

Tim Erickson
27 June 2018