

KIM JANSSENS C76: 22:19:38

Belgian walker Kim Janssens became Australian Centurion number 76 with his successful 100 mile walk in the 2019 Coburg 24 Hour Carnival.

For 45 year old Kim, it was his third centurion badge, with the list reading as follows

English Centurion	2013	20:43:08
African Centurion	2017	22:11:52
Australian Centurion	2019	22:19:38

Kim is now an experienced ultra competitor but this was not the case when he attempted his first long walk in August 2010. It was the famous Dodentocht, a distance of 100 kilometres organized annually in Bornem, Belgium. A gruelling walk, it derives its name from the length of the walk and the rough and forested terrain.

He finished it in a time of 22 hours and 4 minutes. He had never walked a long distance before and it was a tough initiation.

This was a turning point for Kim who now decided to learn more about this “long distance stuff”. Five more 100km marches followed in 2011 and then he upped the ante with seven 100km marches in 2012.

Kim lives near Belgian walkers Rudy Schoors and Caroline Mestdagh (who are both multiple centurions) and he was joining them for lots of walks and for training. After some very good performances in 2012, Rudy and Caroline mentioned the centurion and Kim decided to go to the Isle of Man in 2013 and give it a go.

It turned out to be a great decision. The full quota of 100 spots had been filled and the Isle of Man 100 Mile walk was expected to be a highly competitive event. But who could have imagined that it would see a record 24 new centurions of whom 17 (including the first 3) were from the Isle of Man. In fact, there were an amazing 36 centurion walks from the field of 100 - what depth! Kim finished 8th (6th new English centurion) with an excellent 20:43:18.



Kim competing in the Isle of Man in 2013 – his first Centurion badge

More 100km marches followed over the next few years – 11 in 2014, 9 in 2015, 12 in 2016 and 11 in 2017.

2017 also saw him earn his second centurion badge, this time in South Africa. Being held in late October, it was his last long walk for the year. Kim was one of 5 Belgians who started the race, which was held on Robben Island in Cape Town, and all five achieved the South African Centurion title, Kim leading the way with third place overall and a time of 22:11:52.



*Belgian finishers in the African Centurion walk in October 2017
Kim Janssens, Luc Soetewey, Caroline Mestdagh, Rudy Schoors and Nour Addine Ayyoub*

With two badges now to his credit, Kim next travelled to New Zealand in October 2018 for their annual centurion qualifier, but was forced to stop after only 26km, having come down with a stomach bug and food poisoning. It was one of his very few non-finishes.

And now to 2019, when Kim decided on another trip “down under”, this time to Australia. He warmed up with finishes in the 161km Bello Gallico walk in Oud-Heverlee in December 2018 and the 125km Euraudax walk in Sint-Job in January 2019.

His race in Coburg in April 2019 was outstanding. He led from start to finish, covering the first 50 miles in 10:37 and holding on strongly for his final 100 mile split of 22:19:38.



Kim in action at Coburg

Has he been resting since his success at Coburg? Not likely! Just 2 weeks after Coburg, he completed the 106km Oostburg walk in Holland. Then one week later he completed the 100km Gindentocht walk in Belgium.

Three badges down and three to go. Kim plans a repeat visit to New Zealand in October and, all going well, subsequent trips to USA and Holland to complete a full set of centurion badges.

Stay tuned!

I finish with a full listing of Kim's long walks, from his first in 2010 to those done so far this year. The tally of races of 100km or further now stands at 75. Nearly all of them are non-competitive marches. The only 'races' are his centurion walks and his races in Sittard and Loon op Zand.

1. Dodentocht Bornem 2010, 100 km
2. Gildentocht Schaffen 2011, 100 km
3. Dodentocht Bornem 2011, 100 km
4. Euraudax Lommel 2011, 100 km
5. Nacht van Bocholtz 2011, 110 km

6. Gildentocht Schaffen 2012, 100km
7. Sloebertocht Zingem 2012, 100 km
8. Nacht van Vlaanderen 2012, 100km
9. Binche 2012, 100 km
10. Dodentocht 2012, 100 km
11. Andenne 2012, 100 km
12. Nacht van Bocholtz 2012, 110km

13. De Bossche 2013, 110 km
14. Nacht van Loon op Zand 2013 (122.65km in 15:11:00)
15. Gildentocht 2013, 100 km
16. Nacht van Vlaanderen 2013; 100 km
17. Centurion Isle of Man 2013 (100 miles in 20:43:08)
18. Dodentocht 2013 (100km in 14:40:00)
19. Doornik 2013, 100 km
20. Z/Z Zeewolde 2013, 110km

21. De Bossche 2014, 110km
22. De Wase 2014, 100km
23. Francorchamps- Mortier 2014, 100 km
24. Gildentocht 2014, 100 km
25. Nacht van Vlaanderen Torhout 2014, 100 km
26. Binche 2014, 100 km
27. Dodentocht 2014 (100km n 14:22:00)
28. Flanders fields 2014, 100 km
29. Slag om Landen 2014, 111 km
30. Euraudax Düsseldorf (D) 2014, 100km
31. Euraudax Arhus (DK) 2014, 100 km

32. Euraudax Schilde 2015, 100 km
33. Baudour 2015, 100 km
34. Gildentocht 2015, 100km
35. Nacht van Vlaanderen Torhout 2015, 100 km
36. Binche 2015, 100 km
37. Dodentocht 2015 (100km in 13:45:00)
38. Goeree - Overflakkee (NL) 2015, 110 km
39. Slag om Landen 2015, 111km
40. Plombières - Houffalize 2015, 110km

41. Euraudax Stembert 2016, 100 km
42. De Wase 2016, 100 km
43. Francorchamps - Mortier 2016, 100 km
44. Gildentocht 2016, 100 km
45. Sloebertocht Zwalm 2016, 100km
46. Euraudax Brakel 2016, 100 km
47. Tielt 2016, 100 km
48. Binche 2016, 100 km
49. Dodentocht 2016 (97km in 13:37:00)
50. Flanders Fields 2016, 100 km
51. Euraudax Zottegem 2016, 100 km

52. Plombières - Houffalize 2016, 110 km
53. Euraudax Schilde 2017, 100 km
54. Waterpoortloop (NL) 2017, 110 km
55. Euraudax Brussels 2017, 100 km
56. Diest 2017, 100 km
57. Euraudax Herzele 2017, 150km
58. Nacht van Vlaanderen Torhout 2017, 100 km
59. Euraudax Brakel 2017, 100 km
60. Rheinbach (D) 2017, 100 km
61. Binche 2017, 100 km
62. Dodentocht 2017 (98km in 13:34:00)
63. Slag om Landen 2017, 111 km
64. Centurion South Africa 2017(100 miles in 22:11:52)
65. Francorchamps - Mortier 2018, 100 km
66. Gildentocht 2018, 100 km
67. Nacht van Vlaanderen 2018, 100 km
68. Rheinbach (D) 2018, 100 km
69. Binche 2018, 100 km
70. Dodentocht 2018, 100 km
71. Bello Gallico Oud-Heverlee 2018, 161 km
72. Euraudax Sint-Job 2019, 125 km
73. AUSTRALIAN CENTURION 2019 (100 miles in 22:19:38)
74. Oostburg (NL) 2019, 106 km
75. Gildentocht 2019, 100 km (last week)

This is indeed an impressive list. Like Sandra Brown, Kim has the ability to string a lot of long walks together each year, and keep coming back for more.

I predict that the centurion badges will keep flowing over the next few years!

Tim Erickson
13 May 2019