

## 2018 AUSTRALIAN CENTURION HIGHLIGHTS

**15-17 March 2018**

**Canberra 48 Hour Carnival, AIS Track, Belconnen, ACT**

Unfortunately, the staging of the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Canberra 48 Hour Carnival saw very hot weather which wrought some damage, with performances definitely down on past years.

A small number of walkers were also in action, with results as shown below. It was great to see Australian Centurion **Geoff Hain (C49)** back in action – he last competed in Australia in 2009 and has been circling the world since then with his wife Annie, as global travellers based in Buenos Aires. **Linda Christison** of NSW, who was diagnosed with Parkinsons Disease some 14 years ago and who now walks with the aid of a walking stick, was one of the standouts. For the last 2 years she has walked with her sister Heather in the 48 Hour division. This year, she dropped down to the 24H division, recording an excellent 154.027km. In fact, I feel that she may well have made the centurion distance (100 miles or 160.9km) if not for the dreadful conditions. Her sister Heather took the opportunity to compete in the 48H run, recording an excellent 271.2016km. They are a talented couple of women! **Justin Scholz (C61)** also walked very well, finishing the 12H with 92.457km. Unfortunately **John Kilmartin (C67)** succumbed to the conditions and was forced to retire mid race. The good news is that he was back at the race venue the next day and seemed ok. Others to walk included **Robert Osborne** (well known NSW racewalker) and **David Attrill** in the 48H and ACTRWC member **Phil Essam** in the 6H. Well done to all the walkers. On the running side, **David Billett (C50)** was in action, finishing 5<sup>th</sup> in the 48H with a distance of 284.475km.

### 48 Hours Championship

|     |                |     |            |
|-----|----------------|-----|------------|
| 22. | Robert Osborne | NSW | 174.562 km |
| 23. | David Attrill  | NSW | 163.843 km |

### 24 Hours Championship

|    |                  |     |            |
|----|------------------|-----|------------|
| 8. | Linda Christison | NSW | 154.027 km |
|----|------------------|-----|------------|

### 12 Hours Championship

|     |                      |     |           |
|-----|----------------------|-----|-----------|
| 5.  | Justin Scholz (C61)  | VIC | 92.457 km |
| 16. | John Kilmartin (C67) | VIC | 36.982 km |

### 6 Hours Championship

|     |                  |     |           |
|-----|------------------|-----|-----------|
| 14. | Geoff Hain (C49) | QLD | 38.874 km |
| 16. | Phil Essam       | ACT | 33.009 km |



*Geoff Hain, Justin Scholz and Linda Christison in action in Canberra last weekend*

**21-22 April 2018**

**Coburg 24 Hour Carnival, Harold Stevens Athletics Track, Coburg, VIC**

2018 saw the Coburg 6 Hour and 24 Hour events merged into one weekend, with the additional 12 Hour category added into the mix. The change proved popular, with 56 athletes (34 runners and 22 walkers) toeing the line for the midday start on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018 in the 35<sup>th</sup> annual staging of this iconic Victorian ultra event. The forecast promised good weather and it proved correct. The first few hours were still, warm and sunny, until late afternoon cloud cooled competitors. A cold and misty night was followed by another sunny day, but again not too hot.

The walk divisions had an international flavour with entrants from Belgium, Netherlands, the Isle of Man and USA joining their Australian counterparts. The women's 24 Hour race saw an easy win to Dutch walker **Gertrude Achterberg**. She had passed the half way mark with 85.146km and looked set for a big total. Alas, she slowed in the second half, finishing with 138.040km. **Dawn Parris** walked strongly as always to take second with 131.745 km. **Lorraine Billett** impressed with her third place distance of 101.378km, setting five new W70 Australian walking records along the way.

In the men's 24 hour walk, **Justin Scholz (C61)** and **Colin Heywood** headed out fast, with **Chris Burn** in close pursuit. Justin's pace was too demanding for the others and they gradually gave ground in their chase. He passed the half way mark with an impressive 97.7km, nearly 5km clear of Colin and a further 1km clear of **Jantinus Mients** and Chris. The race complexion changed when Justin retired just after the 14 hour mark. By then, Colin, Jantinus, Chris and **Adrie Ros** 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 Ros with 22:33:31 followed by race retirement. Colin was next to reach the 100 mile mark with 22:46:53 but he then surprised by doing one further lap before retiring, thus ensuring a win in the 24H race. But it is fair to say that the 24H placings were of minor importance to these walkers, with their new Australian Centurion statuses of greater significance.

**Luc Soetewey** from Belgium was next with a very creditable 155.114 km. He looked well in contention right up the dying stages of the race, when his body just gave out. I was also very impressed with Wangaratta based walker **David Evans** who completed a fantastic 141.911 km in his first ever long walk. Our fourth Dutch walker **Arie Kandelaars** entered the race with an injury but was hoping for the best. Unfortunately, it flared and he was forced out after 77.406 km.



*Gertrude Achterberg, Dawn Parris and Lorraine Billett*



*Chris Burn, Jantinus Meints, Adrie Ros and Colin Heywood*

#### **24 Hour Walk Women**

|    |                     |     |            |
|----|---------------------|-----|------------|
| 1. | Gertrude Achterberg | NED | 138.040 km |
| 2. | Dawn Parris         | VIC | 131.745 km |
| 3. | Lorraine Billett    | SA  | 101.378 km |
| 4. | Iesha Young         | VIC | 64.9350 km |

#### **24 Hour Walk Men**

|     |                       |     |            |
|-----|-----------------------|-----|------------|
| 1.  | Colin Heywood (C75)   | NT  | 161.364 km |
| 2.  | Chris Burn (C72)      | IOM | 160.934 km |
| 3.  | Jantinus Meints (C73) | NED | 160.934 km |
| 4.  | Adrie Ros (C74)       | NED | 160.934 km |
| 5.  | Luc Soetewey          | BEL | 155.114 km |
| 6.  | David Evans           | VIC | 141.911 km |
| 7.  | John Timms            | VIC | 118.844 km |
| 8.  | Justin Scholz (C61)   | VIC | 111.808 km |
| 9.  | John Kilmartin (C67)  | VIC | 81.916 km  |
| 10. | Arie Kandelaars       | NED | 77.406 km  |
| 11. | David Cogan           | VIC | 60.817 km  |
| 12. | Peter Gray            | VIC | 46.574 km  |
| 13. | Ken Carter            | VIC | 23.221 km  |

The 24 Hour walks also hosted the Racewalking Australia 100km walk championships, with placings as shown below.

#### **RWA 100km Walk Championship Men**

|    |                 |     |          |
|----|-----------------|-----|----------|
| 1. | Justin Scholz   | VIC | 12:18:45 |
| 2. | Colin Heywood   | NT  | 12:53:08 |
| 3. | Jantinus Meints | NED | 13:04:51 |

#### **RWA 100km Walk Championship Women**

|    |                     |     |          |
|----|---------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. | Gertrude Achterberg | NED | 14:20:01 |
| 2. | Dawn Parris         | VIC | 18:40:22 |
| 3. | Lorraine Billett    | SA  | 23:01:14 |

The meet also included 12 Hour and 6 Hour Run and Walk Championships. The 12H races started at midday on Saturday and the 6 Hour races started at 6AM on the Sunday morning. Only 5 walkers overall but it was great to see American **Mickey Campaniello** walk a strong 49.172km in the 6 Hour event.

#### **12 Hour Walk Men**

|    |               |     |           |
|----|---------------|-----|-----------|
| 1. | Laurie Tinson | VIC | 73.262 km |
|----|---------------|-----|-----------|

2. Ian Hoard VIC 61.780 km

**6 Hour Walk Men**

1. Mickey Campaniello USA 49.172 km  
2. Albin Hess VIC 40.801 km  
3. Ernie Hartley VIC 34.807 km

Our two walk perpetual trophies were awarded as follows

Jim Gleeson Trophy Justin Scholz (VIC) and Gertrude Achterberg (NED)  
Jack Webber Trophy Chris Burn (IOM)

As mentioned above, **Lorraine Billett** excelled with a whole swag of W70 records.

|                  |                   |           |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Lorraine Billett | W70 50 km Walk    | Australia | <b>8:43:09</b>    |
|                  | W70 12 Hour Walk  | Australia | <b>65.154 km</b>  |
|                  | W70 50 Miles Walk | Australia | <b>16:33:21</b>   |
|                  | W70 100 km Walk   | Australia | <b>23:01:14</b>   |
|                  | W70 24 Hour Walk  | Australia | <b>101.378 km</b> |

**2-3 June 2018 Sri Chinmoy 24 Hour Championship, Sydney, NSW**

Conditions for the annual Sri Shinmoy 24 Hour Track Championship at Campbellfield were ok from a temperature point of view (7 – 18°C), mostly cloudy but with buffeting winds in the 35-45 km/hr range. Thankfully it had been raining the previous day but cleared on the Friday night.

Three walkers were among the largely running field in the 24 Hour option and all did well. **Justin Scholz** (C61) completed yet another 100 miles walk, this time with **21:48:12**, his 10<sup>th</sup> 100 mile walk finish. NSW racewalker **Robert Osborne** walked well for the first half before slowing, his final distance still a good 124.232km. And 72 year old NSW walker **David Attrill** did an excellent walk, finishing 24<sup>th</sup> with 120.632km.

**2018 Sri Chinmoy 24 Hour Championship**

|     |                |            |      |          |
|-----|----------------|------------|------|----------|
| 13. | Justin Scholz  | 161.200 km | M45  | 21:50:43 |
| 22. | Robert Osborne | 124.232 km | M60+ | 23:56:49 |
| 24. | David Attrill  | 120.632 km | M70+ | 23:57:04 |



*Justin Scholz after completing yet another 100 mile walk (photo Sharon Scholz)*

**7-8 October 2018****NZ Centurions Qualifier, Auckland, NZ**

The annual New Zealand Sri Chinmoy 24 Hour Track championship in Auckland included, as usual, the New Zealand Centurions 100 Mile qualifying walk. Australian Centurion **John Kilmartin (C67)** was in action but was forced out with foot problems and blisters after covering 112.069km.

M9 John Kilmartin M65-69 AUS 112.069 km

**20-21 October 2018****African Centurions 24 Hour Qualifier, Cape Town, SA**

For the third and last time, the African Centurion qualifying walk was scheduled to be held on Robben Island, the penitentiary where Nelson Mandela was incarcerated for so many years, and the timing was of huge significance, given that this year marks 100 years since his birth. Unfortunately, the best laid plans are sometimes turned on their heads and so it was in this case when, due to inclement weather, no ferries were permitted to travel to and from the island, and the race had to be moved to the Bellville Stadium in the Cape Town suburb of Belville Park. So the event became a track based 100 mile rather than a road based course around the island. With less than 24 hours notice, a veritable tent city grew at the Stadium, requiring an effort that was a credit to the organisers.

8 walkers completed the hundred and there were 7 new African Centurions, 3 men and 4 women. Australian husband and wife team **Justin Scholz (C61)** and **Sharon Scholz (C63)** were among the finishers, Justin finishing as the third man with 22:47:46 and Sharon finishing as the first woman with 27:47:45.

As per their normal practice, Justin and Sharon walked together, completing the required 402 laps of the athletics track side by side. But what makes this walk even more significant is that it earned each of them their sixth centurion badge, thus ensuring the full set. Only a couple of weeks after Rob Robertson gained his sixth badge in New Zealand, Justin and Sharon followed suite, only the fifth and sixth persons world wide to achieve this feat.

|    |               |     |   |          |            |
|----|---------------|-----|---|----------|------------|
| 3. | Sharon Scholz | AUS | F | 22:47:45 | <b>C32</b> |
| 4. | Justin Scholz | AUS | M | 22:47:46 | <b>C33</b> |



*Sharon and Justin finishing their one hundred miles in Cape Town*

**2018 Record Update**

|                  |               |                            |            |        |               |
|------------------|---------------|----------------------------|------------|--------|---------------|
| Lorraine Billett | 50 km Walk    | W70 All-Comers/Residential | 8:43:09    | Coburg | 21-22/04/2018 |
| Lorraine Billett | 12 Hour Walk  | W70 All-Comers/Residential | 65.154 km  | Coburg | 21-22/04/2018 |
| Lorraine Billett | 50 Miles Walk | W70 All-Comers/Residential | 16:33:21   | Coburg | 21-22/04/2018 |
| Lorraine Billett | 100 km Walk   | W70 All-Comers/Residential | 23:01:14   | Coburg | 21-22/04/2018 |
| Lorraine Billett | 24 Hour Walk  | W70 All-Comers/Residential | 101.378 km | Coburg | 21-22/04/2018 |