

CENTURION FOOTNOTES

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President	Bill Dyer (C 15)	03-98174349
Vice-President	John Smith (C 16)	02-96361500
Secretary	Tim Erickson (C 13)	03-93792065

DATES...DATES...DATES

719 February 2006	8 Hours de Charly	France
24-26 February 2006	American Centurions Qualifier	Houston, Texas, USA
4-5 March, 2006	200 km de Bourges (postponed from October 2005)	Bourges, France
18-19 March 2006	200 km de Chateau Thierry	France
?? April 2006	200 km de Dijon	France
22-23 April 2006	Australian Centurions 24 Hour Walk	Coburg, Victoria
29-30 April 2006	200 km de Bar Le Duc	France
30 June 2006	Paris Colmar classic begins	France
11-13 August 2006	Australian 48 Hour C'ship and Queensland 24 Hour C'ship	Gold Coast, Qld
19-20 August 2006	British Centurions Qualifier	Ramsey, Isle of Man
30 Sept – 1 Oct 2006	Sri Chinmoy Australian 24 Hour Championship	Adelaide, SA
Sat 14 October 2006	British Centurions Annual Dinner and AGM	Picadilly, London
6 Nov 2006	Victorian 6 Hour Track Championship	Moe, Victoria
29-25 Nov 2006	Australian 6 Day Championship	Colac, Victoria

Entries are now coming in for our annual Centurions event at Coburg. We already have our first European entrant and the indications are that we could have 4 or overseas walkers competing. Entry forms are available on our Centurions website - <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~austcent/index.html>

VALE BOYD MILLEN (C 41), 1936 - 2006

Lilian Millen made the following brief announcement to notify fellow walkers that her husband Boyd Millen had finally lost his battle against cancer. The brief details were as follows

I am sorry to tell you that Boyd died peacefully on the 26th January. He celebrated his 70th birthday in the Hospice surrounded by many friends and family on the 25th. His condition deteriorated very quickly, we feel he was waiting for his birthday. He fought so hard all the time and we did everything we could in the last year. He walked 20 miles cross country using his crutches and even went climbing on the high fells. He also did a 68 mile cycle ride over the fell roads. He will be missed by many. There is a tribute on www.ldwa.org.uk

It was a sad announcement but not unexpected by those of us who knew of Boyd's battle. Lilian and Boyd had made the decision to share their remaining time to the full and not to publicly announce the details of Boyd's condition. During the year since the initial diagnosis, Boyd deteriorated gradually but relentlessly but he continued to lead a full life and do what he loved most – enjoy the wild country he had so often walked in healthier times.

The LDWA obituary summarises Boyd's great contribution to the sport of Long Distance walking in England.

We are very sad to have to report the death, after a year's illness, of Boyd Millen of Morecambe Bay & Bowland LDWA. Boyd, an instantly recognisable figure on events with his slight frame and his trainers without socks, was a very early member of the LDWA (membership number 485), joining in 1973. In the same year he joined the Bob Graham Club (membership number 14) and became the first man to complete a double Bob Graham Round. He also enjoyed a distinguished career as a race-walker. As well as completing almost all the LDWA Hundreds, he helped to organise, with his wife Lilian Millen, the 2002 Lakeland Hundred, with all the problems of its having to be postponed from 2001 owing to the national Foot-and-Mouth outbreak.

During Boyd's illness, he managed more than one Lakeland summit on crutches before turning to his bike, on which he took part in at least one large event. He celebrated his 70th birthday in the hospice on the day before he died.

Sandra Brown wrote her own moving obituary about Boyd

I've just heard from Ann Sayer the very sad news that Boyd Millen died on Thursday. He had been unwell for some months, but showed characteristic spiritedness, courage and humour throughout. He continued to walk his beloved Lakeland fells on

crutches, determined to fight the good fight. I shall cherish very fond and happy memories of the many walks we enjoyed together, including Centurion events in the UK and abroad, LDWA walks, and Paris - Colmar walks on which Boyd was a great team member. Boyd always kept everyone smiling, through highs and lows.

Before becoming a Centurion, Boyd was for many years an outstanding fell runner, and was the first to accomplish a double Bob Graham round - the circuit of all the Lakeland tops over 3000 feet, over 70 miles, twice, back to back. Life shouldn't be measured in years but in what you do with it. It would be hard to live a fuller life than Boyd did.

Lilian's address is
 Lilian Millen
 92 Bleaswood Road
 Oxenholme
 Kendal
 Cumbria LA9 7EW



Boyd climbing Walla Crag on the weekend of the 2005 LDWA 100, as big a feat as his Centurion walks

I well remember Boyd's trip to Australia in 2000 when he became Australian Centurion number 41 with a fine walk under adversity. He was unable to really eat or drink anything during the whole 24 hours and had to dig deep into his own reserves to somehow keep the pace going and keep on schedule. With this walk, Boyd became a triple centurion, adding to his 1995 British and 1999 Continental Centurions finish.

1995	British Centurion 930	Battersea Park, London	22:28:25
1999	Continental Centurion 289	Weert, Netherlands	23:13:25
2000	Australian Centurion 41	Melbourne	23:25:43



Boyd gratefully accepts a can of Aussie beer after finishing the Australian Centurion walk in 2000

At 64 years of age, he was second oldest person to have achieved the feat in Australia. (the honour of the oldest Centurion finish belonged to Merv Lockyer (C30) who achieved his membership at 65 years of age).

Boyd came to Australia specifically for this event and his single minded determination paid off. He confided to me after the event that this might be his last Centurion race due to his feeding problems. He planned to restrict himself to the various Fells events and Long Distance Walking Association events and this proved to be the case.

To say the Boyd was as tough as nails was an understatement. He had worked as a stone mason, a specialist field that meant days on end spent in inhospitable conditions refurbishing old stonework - he worked for 19 years on Liverpool cathedral and the memorial service was held for him there. He loved stone work and did stone carvings as a hobby. When I noticed that he did not wear socks in our event and commented that he should perhaps rug up a little for the cold night conditions, he confided to me that this would not be necessary – it was not really cold and he never wore socks. He was as good as his word, walking consistently through a cold Melbourne night with seeming nonchalance.

We pass our deepest condolences onto Lilian. Boyd will be sadly missed by us all - walking has indeed lost a wonderful ambassador.

VALE CHRIS CLEGG (C 11), 1913 - 2005

I was surprised to read in the British Centurions Christmas letter that Chris Clegg's name was amongst the list of members who had died during the year. I had heard nothing about this and have asked our British compatriots for further details. Chris was living in retirement in Santa Monica in California and, at 92 years of age, was our oldest living Australian Centurion.



Chris Clegg in England for his second British Centurion finish in 1979

Chris was born in England on 4th May 1913 and developed his love for racewalking during his early working days when he was a member of the Leicester Walking Club. He joined Leicester in 1941 and went on to help the club to many team victories. In June 1947 he became Leicester's first centurion in the London to Brighton and back, passing 100 miles in 21:39:42. (He returned to the Shoefayre 100 miler in England in 1992 and was the special guest starter.)

At the end of the second world war, Chris found that it was hard to find work in Britain and so migrated to Canada where he worked for a period of years. At one stage, he travelled to the USA for a racewalk and decided to stay. He lived there for the rest of his life. But it is fair to say that, even though he lived in America/Canada for over 50 years, he never lost his English accent and he remained a 'Brit' in manner and attitude.

He worked for many years as a postal worker and eventually retired to California where he lived in Santa Monica. In retirement, he no longer racewalked but kept fit with long strolls in the hills outside Santa Monica.

It was many years after his first Centurion walk that he decided to try again. The American Centurions had recently formed and their first few walks saw few finishers. Chris joined the field for the 1971 scheduling and became American Centurion Number 7 with a time of 22:46:14. He was 54 years of age.

This seemed to rekindle his love affair with long distance walking. In 1975 he travelled to Australia where he recorded 22:34:14 to become Australian Centurion Number 11. Then in 1977, he travelled to Holland to become Continental

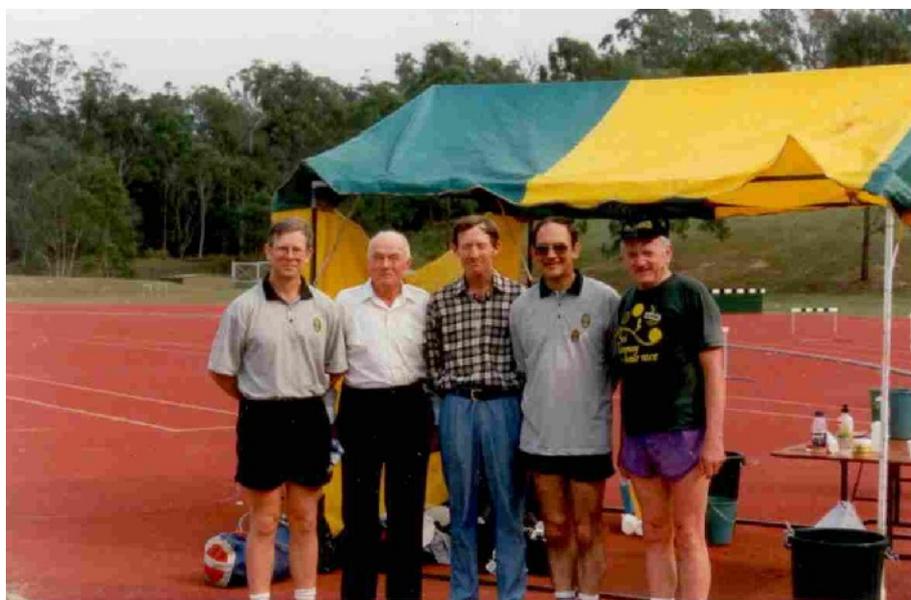
Centurion Number 53 with a time of 23:18:55. With this performance he became the first walker in the world to capture all 4 Centurion badges – England, America, Australia and Continental.

Not content with that, he then travelled to England in 1979 and finished a second British Centurion walk, his time on this occasion being 23:07:51. He was aged 62 at that time.

He was an insatiable traveller and in retirement he made many trips to various locations around the world. His regular postcards were always from a different overseas location. In 1996 he decided to make a trip to Australia to coincide with our Melbourne based Centurion event and it was great to see Chris once more after such a long absence. He was at that stage 79 years of age but showed with his enthusiastic approach that age is no barrier to someone so full of life. He stayed with me in Melbourne and saw more in his few days here than most of us see in a year!. Chris and I caught up with Mike Porter during his lunchbreak at the Melbourne Ports Historical Area and Mike was able to show him around the Port area in which he worked.

After the race, Chris ventured north to Sydney, then to Brisbane where he caught up with various old friends, then to Canberra and hence back to Melbourne. This was his third trip for the year, having travelled to Turkey and Greece in May and then to England and Scotland in July.

He returned to Australia a year later and turned up unannounced to watch our 1997 Centurion race in Brisbane. With the weather oppressively hot, he took over the sponging table and spent the day handing out water to the walkers. He was 84 years old at the time.



Chris in Brisbane in 1997 with fellow centurions Tim Erickson, John Harris, Tim Thompson and Stan Miskin

Chris was for many years our most decorated Centurion, having completed the 100 mile distance on 5 occasions as follows

June 1947	Age 30	London to Brighton and Back	21:39:42	British Centurion 135
Sept 1971	Age 54	Colombia, Missouri, USA	22:46:14	American Centurion 7
Oct 1975	Age 58	Melbourne, Australia	22:34:14	Australian Centurion 11
June 1977	Age 60	Sint-Oedenrode, Holland	23:18:55	Continental Centurion 53
June 1979	Age 62	Ewhurst, Surrey, England	23:07:51	

On top of this, he completed the Rouen 24 hour walk in France and came 22nd out of 50 starters with a distance of 157.47km (at the age of 63).

On a personal note, Chris was one of our most generous financial supporters and his regular large bequests helped us set up many of the things we now take for granted.

His superb record shows that age is no barrier if you are keen. We shall all miss Chris who was truly our 'elder statesman'.

NEWS ON OUR MEMBERS

Gerald Manderson (C 31) sent a Christmas email to say hello and to advise that he is fit and well and settled back into life at Palmerston North in New Zealand

My income is too tiny to let me get back into ultra racing yet, but I am doing around 50 kms per week of running and walking to keep the rust off my muscles. The urge for the big races has never left me. I rowed a marathon in 3.52 on Thursday in the gym and felt I could have gone on to 50,000 metres if it wasn't about to close for the night.

Herbert Neubacher (C 37) finished his year as usual by participating in the 110 km Plombières – Houffalize walk. He walked with **Jill Green (C 38)** in the first group and once again enjoyed a successful event. Cornelia tells me that after a Christmas break they will start walking training again and are looking forward to some interesting events in the new year.

Mike Porter (C 9) is celebrating being 80 years young with a fantastic overseas trip. He email me to advise that I am having a wonderful visit to Alaska, a beautiful country and I am glad I have seen it in winter . Feels like living inside a Xmas card, trees laden with snow and snow falling every day. I have warm clothing and keep well rugged up. It feels great crunching over snow in my waterproof boots ,my runners are out for the present. Best wishes to all from Mike "snowman " Porter

George Audley (C 22) is having a break from his ultra running and is back into some walking training for a change. He is aiming to walk in the Bunbury 12 hour track race on Sat 12 March 2006 and is aiming for about 84 km. Good luck George!

Ken Walters (C 26) has just come home from hospital after an unexpected stay. A couple of weeks ago, he was taken by surprise by severe pain and forced to take a quick trip to the hospital. He reports

G'Day Tim. Just to let you know that I had got myself out of my state of lethargy and was three weeks into a serious training regime when one early morning Judy took me off to hospital emergency where they removed my gall bladder. I will never again complain about pain during or after a race as nothing could compare with the pain associated with this complaint. Regards Ken

Ken tells me that he is now back on deck and starting to do some quiet exercise but is very tired physically. Good luck with your recovery Ken.

Claude Martin (C 14) sent me a Christmas letter from his home in northern Queensland and he was yet another one of our members in the battles. He wrote

In October I had an accident while pushbiking around my place. I was run down by a caravan – ahh those tourists!. This resulted in 3 days in hospital, 3 fractured ribs and a fractured vertebrae plus abrasions on my body, mostly on my bum where I landed hard. It was very painful but I survived. I am very lucky for that. Now I am a lot better, just starting to ride again after 6 weeks but I am using back roads and paddocks. The bike was a write off.

I'm glad that Claude has survived to tell the tale. Coincidentally Claude gets a mention in this month's newsletter in the article on Bill Dyer's centurion walk. Claude was the other finisher on that occasion and went on to become the first Australian to complete the 100 mile run/walk double.

Tim Thompson (C 6) turns 60 on 16th March and a few days later the family are having a party at Tim's daughter's place at Plympton, before Tim and Bev head west on an Australia Trip. Any club members who will be in Adelaide at that time are most welcome to join in the celebrations. Details are

From 12-00 noon to 6-00pm on the 19th of March.
79 Waterhouse Ave PLYMPTON SA 5038
Lunch is at 12-30pm, with cake being served at 3-00pm.
RSVP By 3rd March on (08) 8388 5550 or 0428 828 209,
or reply to - PO Box 227 PLYMPTON SA 5038.

Fred Brooks (C 42) and **George Audley (C 22)** will be amongst the lucky Australians carrying the torch baton in the Queen's Relay for the Commonwealth Games. George will carry the torch on Day 16 (9th February) as it progresses from Margaret River to Mandurah in WA. Fred will carry the torch on Day 37 (2nd March) when it progresses from Phillip Island to Frankston. Round-Australia walker Deborah DeWilliams will carry the torch on its final day (15th March) as it progresses through Melbourne to the MCG. Congrats Fred and George.

SUGGESTIONS PLEASE

Peter Bennett (C 24) wrote recently

The club has come a long way since it was formed in 1971. This year it will be 35 years for the Australian Centurions. So how do we mark the occasion? A Jubilee dinner - very hard to organize and many would be unable to attend. There would

be so many stories told it might go on for days! A special commemorative medallion, promotional items (shirts,caps etc), a club history book, a dedicated race – these are just a few of the ideas that spring to mind. Bear in mind, however, that such an occasion should not have a negative financial impact on the club.

Now over to you all for your ideas.

Regards... Peter

One possible suggestion might be to publish our Centurion history which is actually a lot bigger than just that – it is a history of ultra distance walking in Australia. It is a research piece that I have been gradually building up over a number of years and it could be completed this year with the help of an editorial committee to review the project and fill in the missing pieces of the jigsaw. And then again we had our own Centurion calendar for a number of years and these were well supported. I still have the complete collection. Like Peter, I welcome all suggestions.

COASTAL CLASSIC, GOSFORD, NSW, 7-8 JANUARY 2006

The 9th staging of the annual Coastal Classic 12 Hour walk/run event was held in early January in the NSW coastal city of Gosford. This excellent event, spearheaded by NSW walkers Frank Overton and Paul Thompson, is one of the best events on the Australian ultra calendar and always attracts a good field of walkers. This year was no exception.

The event started at 7PM on the Saturday evening and took advantage of the cooler overnight timeframe. Conditions were excellent and a big field (48 entries, 41 starters and 35 finishers) recorded some excellent times. Five of our Centurion members were in action – **Peter Bennett (C 24)**, **Robin Whyte (C 29)**, **Geoff Hain (C 49)**, **Stan Miskin (C 23)** and **Carol Baird (C 39)**. A large contingent of ACT walkers made the trip and we are hopeful that they will also be down in force for our Centurion event in April.

The walking division was won by Peter Bennett with a superb 97.880 km, only 240m behind Robin Whyte's race record of 98.120 km. Peter's hourly laps were very consistent – 22, 21, 21, 20, 20, 20, 21, 20, 18, 19, 20, 22.

But the big news was the performance of Stan Miskin whose distance of 74.077 km broke the **Australian** (and I think also the World) M80 running **record** held by Ken Matchett – and Stan was walking! Ken held the record with 73.600 km so Stan added some 477m to the standard. Stan's next outing will be in the Coobulture Historical Village Dawn to Dusk event (another 12 hour event) in Queensland on Saturday 4 February. Good luck Stan!

Carol Baird came 3rd in a very strong Women's Run category and her distance of 101/67 km may well have been a PB .

Full walk results were as follows

12 Hour Walk Men

1.	Peter Bennett	QLD	97.880 km
2.	Patrick Fisher	ACT	87.813 km
3.	Robin Whyte	ACT	84.703 km
4.	Geoff Hain	QLD	81.452 km
5.	Lachlan Wilkinson	ACT	78.415 km
6.	Mark Worrell	ACT	76.868 km
7.	Stan Miskin	VIC	74.077 km
8.	Keith Knox	NSW	40.000 km
9.	Paul Thompson	NSW	30.000 km
10.	Dip Chand	FIJI	30.000 km

12 Hour Walk Women

1.	Val Chesterton (F)	ACT	69.503 km
2.	Sharyn Chomyn	ACT	40.000 km

For completeness, running placings were as follows in this high quality event.

12 Hour Run Men

1.	John Mergles	NSW	121.423 km
2.	John Robins	NSW	111.802 km
3.	Rodney Ladyman	QLD	107.072 km

12 Hour Run Women

1.	Vivian Kartsounis	NSW	115.133 km
2.	Michelle Thompson	NSW	103.922 km
3.	Carol Baird	ACT	101.267 km

REMEMBERING THE 1977 CENTURION EVENT



Bill Dyer becomes Australian Centurion Number 15 with a time of 22:50:33.5 – at 16 years of age

The 1977 Australian Centurion event was one of our most memorable one and I reproduce the report written by Mark Wall for the Victorian Amateur Walking Club newsletter

Several figures, clad in various layers of warm-up gear, were strutting around the circuit in last-minute preparation for whatever goals they had set themselves. The main event, the Centurions' 100 Mile walk, had several satellite events accompanying it, although the popular speculation abroad was how many competitors would strike out for the big one and hopefully succeed in swelling the Centurion ranks beyond the 13 it presently boasted.



Centurions at the 1977 event

**Back row – Stu Cooper, Dudley Pilkington, Bill Dyer, Jim Gleeson, Claude Martin, Tim Thompson
Front row – John Harris, Mike Porter, Clarrie Jack**

The shielded sun had, if anything, increased in warmth when 1PM arrived and the motly mob of masochists were sent on their way. From the outset it appeared that the wind would play no part in assisting the walkers as it blew in petulant defiance straight into their faces in the back straight. Tim Erickson opened a big lead in what seemed to be a record attempt on his 50 mile record, however his lack of distance work caused him to abandon this effort just before 40 kms. South Australian visitor

Tim Thompson overcame the effects of illness to win the 50 mile event, although he too was forced to give up a record attempt. Between them, these two kindled real interest in the longer event and their departure left all eyes focussed on **Claude Martin** (whom everyone tipped to be No. 14) and **Bill Dyer** (whom people gradually began to realise was genuinely out to finish) and total newcomer to any kind of walking, Neil Coult of Frankston.

The crowd, which diminished very little as the cold night settled upon the field of battle, helped with track suits, drinks, walkie-talkies and encouragement in the darkness. Up in the officials' room and down on the track, a kind of shift system seemed to be operating, with a few keen ones staying awake lest they miss anything interesting.

Claude toiled into the night, fighting off ever-recurring pains and cramps which never hurt so much as the memory of the previous year's abortive attempt on the Kensington track in Adelaide. Every effort to spur Bill onwards was met with an increasingly more croaking "No worries, mate". As dawn broke, Bill steadily began to cut down Claude's lead and as the morning sun beamed the message that the end was in sight, both athletes struck out for home. Elsewhere on the field, life stirred and as club athletes appeared for Sunday training, yesterday's supporters re-emerged to witness the climax and tents, sleeping bags, etc. were packed away.

In a genuinely emotional moment, Claude crossed the line to generous applause in 22:42:53.6, a very worthy and gutsy performance. Bill's impetus had mounted over the last 10 miles, and after 22 hours, 50 mins 33.7 secs he was officially No. 15 in the Centurions' pantheon. Subsequent research confirmed Bill as the world's youngest member of the elite body.

The efforts of Claude and Bill and the rest will be remembered long after the tireless work of the recorders and timekeepers, feeders and other indispensables has been forgotten. Let's hope that they found some reward for their zeal in seeing the final results.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS ?

Fred Brooks has suggested that we think about formally instituting Associate Membership of the Australian Centurions. At the moment, we informally endorse this concept and send our newsletter to various supporters. Fred correctly notes that many of our members are now in their seventies or eighties and we must continue to work to ensure our ongoing viability. The more people we attract to the club, the more secure our future will be.

Again, over to you, the members, for your thoughts on how we might go about this.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Stan Miskin (C 23) has been known to put pen to paper in the past and produce the occasional poem but on this occasion, he has drawn on the existing pool of English history and found this beauty which he dedicates to his mate Fred.

We all know that **Fred Brooks (C 42)** is a retired (???)bricklayer, but how many of you know that in his early days Fred used to be a bricklayer's labourer?. On at least one occasion he had a little trouble and wrote a letter to his employer. A copy of this letter recently came into my possession so I reproduce it here for your information.

Dear Sir, I write this note to you, to tell you of my plight,
For at the time of writing I am not a pretty sight,
My body is all black and blue; my face a deathly grey,
And so I write to tell you why I'm not at work today.

Whilst working on the 14th floor, some bricks I had to clear
But to toss them down from such a height was not a good idea.
My foreman wasn't very pleased, (He is an awkward sod).
He said I'd have to cart them down the ladders in my hod!

But shifting all those bricks by hand, it was so very slow,
So I hoisted up a barrel and secured a rope below.
But in my haste to do the job I was too blind to see
That a barrel full of building bricks was heavier than me.

And so, when I untied the rope, the barrel fell like lead,
And clinging tightly to the rope I started up instead,
I shot up like a rocket, till, to my dismay I found,
That half way up I met the bloody barrel coming down.

Now the barrel broke my shoulder as to the ground it sped,

And when I reached the top, I banged the pulley with my head.
 I clung on tightly, numb with shock from this almighty blow,
 And the barrel spilled out half it's bricks some 14 floors below.

Now when these bricks had fallen from the barrel to the floor,
 I then outweighed the barrel and so started down once more,
 Still clinging tightly to the rope, my body wracked with pain,
 And half way down I met the bloody barrel once again

Still holding tightly to the rope I fell down to the ground,
 And landed on the broken bricks the barrel had scattered around.
 I lay there bleeding and in great pain---I thought I'd passed the worst,
 But the barrel hit the pulley wheel and then the bottom burst.

A shower of bricks rained down on me, I didn't have a hope,
 And as I lay there bleeding on the ground I let go the bloody rope.
 The barrel now was heavier and so started down once more,
 And landed right across me as I lay there on the floor.

It broke three ribs and my left arm, and I can only say,
 That I hope you'll understand why I'm not at work today.

RECORDS RATIFIED

In 2005, a large number of new Australian age Group walking records were set

Jill Green	W60	50 Miles	10:41:12	17/04/2005	Coburg, Victoria
		12 Hours	89.835 km	17/04/2005	Coburg, Victoria
		100 km	13:28:55	17/04/2005	Coburg, Victoria
		100 Miles	22:58:31	17/04/2005	Coburg, Victoria
		24 Hours	165.986 km	17/04/2005	Coburg, Victoria
Val Chesterton	W60	100 Km	19:33:44	17/04/2005	Coburg, Victoria
		24 Hours	109.567 km	17/04/2005	Coburg, Victoria
Fred Brooks	M70	100 km	15:31:48	14/08/2005	Gold Coast, Queensland
		24 Hours	151.600 km	14/08/2005	Gold Coast, Queensland
		48 Hours	176.000 km	14/08/2005	Gold Coast, Queensland
		100 Miles	25:37:16	14/08/2005	Gold Coast, Queensland
Peter Bennett	M45	24 Hours	172.500 km	19/09/2005	Genting Highlands, Malaysia
Deryck Skinner	M70	50 Miles	10:23:05	16/10/2005	Adelaide, SA
		100 Km	13:10:44	16/10/2005	Adelaide, SA
		100 Miles	22:39:55	16/10/2005	Adelaide, SA
		12 Hours	92.161 km	16/10/2005	Adelaide, SA
		24 Hours	166.033 km	16/10/2005	Adelaide, SA
Stan Miskin	M80	50 Miles *	TBA	26/11/2005	Colac, Victoria
		100 Km *	29 hrs	16/10/2005	Adelaide, SA
		12 Hours *	63.2 km	26/11/2005	Colac, Victoria
		24 Hours *	101.703 km	16/10/2005	Adelaide, SA
		100 Miles *	2 days 6 hrs	26/11/2005	Colac, Victoria
		48 Hours *	174.4 km	26/11/2005	Colac, Victoria
		200 km *	2 days 22 hrs	26/11/2005	Colac, Victoria
		6 Days *	429.60 km	26/11/2005	Colac, Victoria
Ron McGregor	M60	200km *	TBA	26/11/2005	Colac, Victoria
		6 Days *	306.00 km	26/11/2005	Colac, Victoria

* these records are still subject to confirmation.

I am still waiting for the official timesheets from Colac to verify the new records set by Stan and Ron. And now, in the first few weeks of 2006, Stan Miskin has further improved on some of his records at the Gosford 12 Hour event (see the report earlier in the newsletter). Our new Age Group records are proving to be very popular with the walking community and we look forward to seeing many more records broken in the foreseeable future.

SID BARBER – ADELAIDE TO MELBOURNE, 1931

Nowadays, our planning for any athletic endeavour is detailed and thorough – money is normally not an obstacle and supporters, coaches and family are ready to do what is required to ensure success. But this has not always been the case – in the midst of the Great Depression, a South Australian walker attempted what would test us even now – a solo unsupported walk of nearly 600 miles.

Sid Barber, a well known pedestrian of earlier times and widely recognised throughout South Australia for his comments on athletics under the name of 'Old Ped', set out at midnight on Monday 16 February 1931 from the Adelaide GPO in an attempt to walk from Adelaide to Melbourne in 11 days. With a total distance of 596 miles, he would need to average 52 miles a day.



Sid Barber is bid farewell as he sets out from the Adelaide GPO at midnight on Monday 16 February 1931

The scheduling of his walk in what is traditionally the hottest month of summer was a gamble. All he was carrying was a small swag and a water bag, and he hoped that passing motorists would take them ahead for him and leave them at towns where he had arranged to spend nights.

He covered 63 miles on his first day, stopping at Wellington on the Murray on the Tuesday evening. On the way, he had stopped for an hour by the road and had enjoyed a swim in Lake Alexandrina. He commented that he had filled his water bag 5 times and used it mainly by gargling.

After a rest in Wellington, he pushed on to Meningie (93 miles) where he arrived mid afternoon the next day. He then slept until about midnight before setting out on the lonely track through the Coorong where hot weather was expected.

Barber reached the half-way house at Salt Creek on Thursday night and left on Friday. He was then slightly behind schedule but hoping to make up time on the better roads.

At one time employed in the postal department as a letter carrier, it was while 'padding the hoof' that he got his liking for the 'heel and toe' sport. Now, aged 50 and with a career in amateur walking behind him, the President of the Plympton Athletics Club had trained for about 5 weeks for his big task, his preparation being 14-mile walks in the evening. He had previous experience of long distance walking, having covered 50 miles on an Adelaide to Darlington course in 1916 in 9½ hours. That was 12 minutes better than the official Australian record but, being a road time, not eligible for record status.

Messrs. Griffiths Brothers had offered to provide him with supply of tea and chocolate and these had been forwarded to various places.

The Melbourne newspaper recorded his arrival in Melbourne some 2 weeks later

NEARLY 600 MILES Veteran's Long Walk

Sunburnt, a little tired and nursing a blistered heel, Sid Barber, 50, a South Australian athlete, walked into Melbourne on Monday and so finished his 596-mile walk from Adelaide. He was 13½ days on the road.

Barber attempted to make the journey in 11½ days but a blistered heel and strong head winds at certain stages of his walk robbed him of the chance.

Although he is disappointed at his failure to do the journey in the time he set himself, Barber believes it is possible to make the trip with favourable weather.

With the exception of four occasions, he slept under the stars, hedges being his only shelter. His staple food was a pound of chocolate a day and billies of tea.



Sid Barber with his swag and water bag en route to Melbourne

It took 48 years before Barber's 11 day projection was realised and it was achieved by another well known South Australian walking identity, **Jack Webber (C 2)**. Jack, then aged 64, set off from Melbourne on Wednesday 15 August 1979 and reached Adelaide on Saturday August 25. His performance set a new walk record for Melbourne to Adelaide with an epic 10 days 2 hours 30 mins. Jack regarded this as perhaps his greatest achievement and he had the privilege of being accompanied by former Olympian Marjorie Jackson over the last few hundred metres - amid a great reception - to the Adelaide Town Hall.

Presumably Sid Barber's 13 days still remains the record for a walk from Adelaide to Melbourne.

GORDON SMITH MEMORIAL AWARD

Voting has now closed for **Best Australian Ultra Distance Walking Performance of the Year**. A number of centurions commented that all 3 nominees deserved to win and that it was very hard to separate them. This is reflected in the closeness of the final vote. But I am pleased to announce that the inaugural winner of the **Gordon Smith Memorial Award** is **Deryck Skinner (C 51)**.

The final voting was as follows

Deryck Skinner (C 51)	54
Stan Miskin (C 23)	48
Jill Green (C 38)	45

Congratulations to Deryck who is the inaugural winner of our new award. We shall now arrange to get it made. A photo of the finished product will be included in the next newsletter.

THE AMAZING SANDRA BROWN GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

It was not long ago that I reported that **Sandra Brown (C 36)** had completed 100 hundreds. The count has been steadily rising since then as Sandra continues to clock up astonishing performances with seeming ease. She reached the century in 2001. Since then her yearly count of hundreds has been 4 (2002), 4 (2003), 5 (2004) and 5 (2005). The count is now 118 (thanks to Dudley Harris for this – we hope we are correct Sandra!). The 2005 hundreds were as follows.

114	April 2005	LDWA Chiltern LandMark	28h 52m
115	May 2005	Weert, Holland - 100 Miles	20:19:30
116	July 2005	Worschach GB Team Run – 24H	180.2k
117	July 2005	Kings Lynn England - 100m	19:25:07
118	Oct 2005	Tooting Bec London - 24H Run	123m 1420y

FINANCIAL NEWS

The new year has seen a flurry of activity on the financial front. Thanks to everyone for their donations and newsletter subscriptions. We now have enough in the bank to plan confidently for our 2006 Centurions event.

Inbound	Jim Turnbull – donation	20.00
	Ruth Webber – donation	10.00
	Ruth Webber – newsletter subscription	12.00
	Dudley Pilkington – donation	28.00
	Dudley Pilkington – newsletter subscription	12.00
	Tim Thompson – cloth badges	8.00
	Tim Thompson – newsletter subscription	14.00
	lyn Lewis – newsletter subscription	12.00
	Terry O'Neill – donation	39.00
	Terry O'Neill - newsletter subscription	12.00
	andrew Ludwig – donation	40.00
	Bill Dillon - newsletter subscription	12.00
	John Smith – donation	50.00
	Carol Baird – donation	38.00
	Carol Baird - newsletter subscription	12.00
	Stan Miskin – donation	50.00
	Fred Baker – donation	30.00
	Jim Gleeson – donation	26.00
	Jim Gleeson - newsletter subscriptions	24.00
	Geoff Hain – donation	30.00
	Clarrie & Ian Jack – donation	8.00
	Clarrie & Ian Jack - newsletter subscription	12.00
	Bill Dyer – donation	100.00
	Tim Erickson – donation	50.00
Outbound	Consumer Affairs Vic – annual Affiliation Payment	- 36.70
	Balance at 30/01/2006	821.85

UNTIL OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

It is always a sad occasion when we farewell one of our members. This month, we have to say goodbye to two of our fellow Australian Centurions so it is indeed a doubly sad occasion. But we celebrate 2 lives lived to the full and can only hope that our obituaries read as well as those penned for Boyd and Chris. Vale to our mates.

Yours in Centurion walking
 Tim Erickson (C 13)
 Secretary, Australian Centurion Walkers Inc.
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