

CENTURION FOOTNOTES

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DATES...DATES...DATES

April 28-29, 2007	200 km de Dijon, France	Dijon, France
April 21-22, 2007	Australian Centurions 24 Hour Qualifying Event	Coburg, Victoria
May 19-20, 2007	Continental Centurions 24 Hour Qualifying Event	Weert, Holland
June 2-3, 2007	American Centurions 24 Hour Qualifying Event	Minneapolis, USA
June 6-9, 2007	Paris-Colmar and Neuilly-sur-Marne-Colmar classics	France
July 28-29, 2007	British Centurions 100 Mile Qualifying event	Battersea Park, London
August 11-12, 2007	4th Malaysia International 24 hour walk	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
November 24, 2007	12 Hours of Penang	Penang, Malaysia

Khoo Chong Beng has announced that the **4th Malaysia Centurions qualifying event** will be held on August 11-12 2007. Depending on your Chinese, you can read the Press Release which announced this exciting event, held every 2 years: http://www.runnersmalaysia.com.my/events/images/press_24hrs1.jpg. The event will start at 8AM on Saturday 11 August and the competition venue will be a 628 m course at Dataran Merdeka (Independence Square) in Kuala Lumpur rather than the venue in Genting Highlands that has been used in the previous three editions of the event.. The new venue sounds exciting! I can forward entry forms to anyone who wants one. The entry form advises that the temperature during the day is expected to be in the range 27 - 33 C and the night time temperature is expected to be in the range of 25 -29 C.

Ulli Kamm has also announced that the **American Centurions** will be hosting another qualifying event this year, in conjunction with the FANS 24H event (<http://www.fans24hour.org/>) in Minneapolis on June 2-3. For entries, contact

NEWS ON OUR MEMBERS

Ken Walters (C 26) made a rare racing appearance in the Victorian Masters track championships, winning the M70 3000m walk in the fine time of 20:29.84. Ken still looks good at 74 years of age. Well done mate.



Ken Walters (C) leads fellow masters walker Col Silcock-Delaney in the Victorian Masters 3000m walk.

Jill Green (C 38) has written once again to bring us up to date with the goings on of some of our English and European based fellow Australian Centurions. Thanks Jill.

Sue Clements (C 35) and I went to walk the Plombieres Hauffalize (100 km) again, just before Christmas. We went in group 2 who walked at 6.4 km/hr; the fastest group are supposed to walk at 6.7 km/hr but they go a lot faster than that actually. There were 40 people in the first group and only 12 in the second group. We had a bit

of a party at the end because Marc Collenet, a good friend and centurion, was celebrating his 300th 100 km non stop event. Marc also had the ambition to walk 200 km in 24 hours and he did this in Bar le Duc one year and I was there to cheer him in.

Winter has been wild and wet, we have had gusts of 100mph here on the Isle of Wight with loads of trees down.

You will find enclosed a picture of 3 Australian centurions. This was in Belgium on 29th January. We had been walking all night and the photo was taken at a feeding station near the end. Lucy (whom you don't know) and **Herbert Neubacher (C 37)** have whistles around their necks to make people keep in and Lucy has a baton to stop traffic. They have torches at night and overall 120 people took part in this walk. The very next weekend I went back across the seas to do the Bossche 100 on 26-27 January. This race was special because it was the 20th edition. Annie van der Meer, Klaas Baller and Will van Dorn were all given free entry as they have done them all. It was my 9th time so I will have to return to make it 10. This year was very wet and the mud was slippery because the ground underneath was frozen. Dave was our helper as usual.

There is a famous canoe race here via canal to Westminster in London, 108 miles, and Sue and I plan to walk it all with the canoes. It's non stop, I have got the maps to make certain there is a tow path all the way.



From right to left: Jill Green (C 38), Herbert Neubacher (C 37), Sue Clements (C 35) with friend Lucy – Belgium

Bill Dyer (C 15) will not be at our centurion event this month as his daughter Chelsea is in the Victorian team to contest the Australian Little Athletics Championships in Perth. Chelsea will contest the racewalk and javelin events. It's good to see the next generation carrying on the walking tradition. Well done Bill. Good luck Chelsea.

Stan Miskin (C 23) has agreed to be the official starter at the Coburg 24 Hour carnival. Now that Stan has retired from competitive mode, it is only fitting that we should use his services in a capacity that recognises his wonderful contribution to our sport.

AUSTRALIAN CENTURIONS 24 HOUR EVENT SET TO GO

As usual, the Australian Centurions 2007 qualifying event will be held in conjunction with the Coburg Harriers 24 Hour carnival. We keep the field size to a maximum size of 45 runners/walkers and this year demand was so great that we filled our field with 4 weeks to go. Although the carnival offers 24 Hour, 12 Hour and 6 Hour events, this year has seen a huge influx of 24 Hour competitors (20 runners and 11 walkers). The 11 24 Hour walk entrants will see lots of experience and a few new faces and I am confident that we will once again see a number of centurion performances. Details of the 11 walk entrants are as follows. Good luck everyone.

COMPETITOR	PERSONAL INFO
ATTRILL, David	David came 4 th in the 2007 Gosford Classic 12 Hour walk with 81.21 km and has a best 12H walk distance of 85.54 km. He should be a serious contender over the 24H Walk in his first such event.
COMMINS, Louis	Competed in his first ultra at Coburg last year, finishing 7 th in the 24H Walk with 131.517 km. His gutsy effort earned him the Gordon Burrowes Trophy for the most meritorious performance of the carnival. He is back again this year and hoping to improve on that first effort.
FISHER, Pat (C 53)	Pat walked 87.8 km in the Gosford 12 Hour in January 2006, then followed it up at Coburg with a 24 Hour distance of 166 km to win the 24 Hour walk event and become Australian Centurion number 53. He is back again this year and will be a serious contender for yet another hundred.
HAIN, Geoff (C 49)	Geoff became Australian Centurion 49 in October 2004 and then proceeded to complete 5 centurion qualifiers on the trot in a period of less than 2 years. He won the male 24H walk in our Coburg event in 2005 and came 3 rd in 2006. Last year he became British Centurion number 1051 and he is also a New Zealand Centurion. This is a new career for Geoff who was an accomplished ultra runner for many years before making the switch.
O'NEILL, Terry (C 18)	Terry is Australian Centurion 11, having completed his 100 mile walk in 21:13:08 in 1979. In last year's event, he reappeared after a long absence and walked the 100 km in 13:19:08, indicating that he has lost little of his fitness. This year he has had a more thorough preparation and we can expect to see an even better walk. Will he attain the 100 mile mark again?
SKINNER, Deryck (C 51)	Deryck became Australian Centurion 51 with an astonishing walk in the 2005 Sri Chinmoy. Aged 72 years, he completed the 100 miles walk in 22:39:55 to set a whole swag of new Australian M70 running and walking records. Over the next 12 months he took his total number of centurion qualifiers up to 4 and walked an unbelievable 257.877 to finish 3 rd overall in the Australian 48 Hour championship (as a walker) and set new Australian 48H M70 run/walk records – at 73 years of age!.
SKRUCANY, Rudolf	Rudolf completed 86 km in his first ultra at Coburg last year before the legs packed up. He has been honing his walking skills over the intervening year and is back again to retest himself in the 24H walk. With last year's experience behind him, we can expect a much longer total distance this year.
WEBBER, Bruce	Has walked 48 km in 6 hours, 87.5 km in 12 hours and 140 km in 24 hours so will be a good show for breaching the elusive 100 mile walking barrier.
BOLLEN, Karyn (C 45)	Successfully walked 100 miles in 24 hours in our 2002 event. Walked the 12 hour event in 2003, ran 141 km in 2004, walked 132 km in 2005 and 154.725 km in 2006. Is back for the walk again this year and will be looking for a further 100 mile finish.
CHOMYN, Sharon	In her first real ultra, Sharon won the 12H Walk last year with a very good 82.814 km. She also completed 100 km walking in 15:21:37 at the Sri Shinmoy 24H later in the year. This year she will be a serious contender in the 24H Walk.
COX, Catherine	Has been getting a bit of tuition from the SA based centurions and is jumping in at the deep end and doing the 24 Hour walk in what is her first ever ultra competition.

8 HEURES DE CHARLY-SUR-MARNE, FRANCE, 18 FEBRUARY 2007

The first of the top class European ultra distance walks was held in Charly-Sur-Marne in France in mid February and it saw the winner, Girod Urbain of Switzerland, walk just over 80 km in the requisite 8 hours. He was 1 lap ahead of 2 other walkers, Gilles Bellior of France and Polish legend Grzegorz-Adam Urbanowski. There were 63 finishers in what was a huge men's race. I show here the first 30 – look at the amazing depth. Two of the big guns of women's walking clashed in the female event and Kora Boufflert was victorious against Sylviane Varin. You can view a short videocam from the race at the following link: <http://www.ultrawalking.net/videos.html#Charly> and you can view an extensive race report at <http://www.marchons.com/charly-sur-marne.html>

Men

1	Girod Urbain	CM Montey	SUI	80,972 km	7:57:45	10,169 km/h
2	Belloir Gilles	ULA Quimper Cornouaille	FRA	78,391 km	7:57:24	9,852 km/h
3	Urbanowski Grzegorz-Adam	WKS Slask Wroclaw	POL	78,391 km	7:58:58	9,820 km/h
4	Heinrich Thierry	GASM Ligny in Barrois	FRA	78,391 km	8:00:53	9,781 km/h
5	Tournois Pascal	ASM Bar le Duc	FRA	75,810 km	7:51:25	9,649 km/h
6	Morel Philippe	AC Château Thierry	FRA	75,810 km	7:58:14	9,511 km/h
7	Costils Alain	SPN Vernon F	RA	75,810 km	8:00:54	9,459 km/h
8	Thibaux Philippe	CA Agéen	FRA	73,229 km	7:47:01	9,408 km/h
9	Paille Stéphane	Bsma Bruges St Medard A	FRA	73,229 km	7:47:43	9,394 km/h

10	Jose Mora Bernardo	Standing Palma	ESP	73,229 km	7:50:44	9,334 km/h
11	Naumowicz Dominique	Gohelle Athletisme	FRA	73,229 km	7:59:07	9,171 km/h
12	Genin Sébastien	C M Monthey	SUI	70,648 km	7:45:17	9,110 km/h
13	Blaizy Cédric	CS Meaux Athlétisme	FRA	70,648 km	7:47:04	9,076 km/h
14	Pellerin Alain B	azancourt AC	FRA	70,648 km	7:48:21	9,051 km/h
15	Ruelle David	US Melun	FRA	70,648 km	7:49:09	9,035 km/h
16	Bunel Pascal	Neuilly sur Marne Athletisme	FRA	70,648 km	7:50:56	9,001 km/h
17	Dien Daniel	ASCA -CL	FRA	70,648 km	7:52:05	8,979 km/h
18	Maurel Eric	N.L LIGNY in BARROIS	FRA	70,648 km	7:56:42	8,892 km/h
19	Gicquel Bernard	P L M Conflans	FRA	70,648 km	7:58:59	8,850 km/h
20	Georgelin	Serge ASC Rennes	FRA	70,648 km	8:00:44	8,818 km/h
21	Van der gulik Frank	SV de LAT Amsterdam	HOL	70,648 km	8:03:15	8,772 km/h
22	Biebuyck Pascal	UA Flobecq Athletisme	BEL	68,067 km	7:47:36	8,734 km/h
23	Fréchengues Bernard	Sénart Combs Brie	FRA	68,067 km	7:48:13	8,723 km/h
24	Grassi Alain	MJ Trouville	FRA	68,067 km	7:48:33	8,716 km/h
25	Poirot Pierre P	LMC Conflans	FRA	68,067 km	7:48:48	8,712 km/h
26	Schaerlaeckens Ludo	Sparta Bornem	BEL	68,067 km	7:49:23	8,701 km/h
27	Cys Jérémy	AC Château Thierry	FRA	68,067 km	7:54:48	8,602 km/h
28	Chatillon Dominique	NL Fublaines	FRA	68,067 km	7:55:21	8,592 km/h
29	Labarre Bertrand	NL Saint Brice	FRA	68,067 km	8:02:51	8,458 km/h
30	Maréchal Pascal	AC Château Thierry	FRA	65,486 km	7:52:10	8,322 km/h

Women

1.	Boufflert Kora	AS Cheminots Havrais	FRA	70,648 km	7:53:12	8,958 km/h
2.	Varin Sylviane	Coulommiers Brie	FRA	68,067 km	7:55:30	8,589 km/h
3.	Goleret Isabelle	OCT Thierville	FRA	65,486 km	7:51:17	8,337 km/h
4.	Dols Corinne	AFA Feyzin	FRA	65,486 km	8:00:21	8,180 km/h
5.	Anxionnat Claudine	RESDA des Vosges	FRA	62,905 km	7:56:37	7,919 km/h
6.	Berthault-Korzhyk Annie	Neuilly sur Marne Athletisme	FRA	60,324 km	8:00:0	7,541 km/h
7.	Quinqueton Bernadette	AM St Thibault des Vignes	FRA	57,743 km	7:53:42	7,314 km/h
8.	Gautier Janine	Senart Combs Brie Athletisme	FRA	57,743 km	7:54:12	7,306 km/h
9.	Moineau Isabelle	NL Etampes	FRA	55,162 km	7:51:45	7,016 km/h
10.	Douet Christiane	Neuilly sur Marne Athletisme	FRA	55,162 km	8:07:53	6,784 km/h



Sylviane Varin, Kora Boufflert and Urbain Girod (<http://www.marchons.com/charly-sur-marne.html>)

BOURGES 200 KMS AND 170 KMS, FRANCE, 3-4 MARCH 2007

Thanks to **Sandra Brown (C 36)** for the following report from the Bourges 200 km event in France.

Bourges, a stunning UNESCO World Heritage Site with its great gothic cathedral, was an important Gallic, Roman, medieval and Renaissance town, and for a few years in the fourteenth century was the French capital when things got too hot in Paris. Like so many ancient settlements, the old town of Bourges stands on a hill and is visible for miles around across the flat countryside which surrounds it. Today, it is the administrative centre of the Cher Department, and, deservedly, a tourism and shopping centre. On the Friday before the race, having

enjoyed our Eurostar and French rail journey via Paris the previous day, Richard and I had an enjoyable time exploring the cathedral, museums, cobbled lanes, ramps, and tea shops.

On Saturday and Sunday, the weather for the race was perfect - what a relief, after last year's snow which caused the race to be abandoned after 6 hours, especially as the race had been selected this year to host the French national championships for 200kms (men) and 170 kms (women). The course is a pleasant 2.66 kms, with a few undulations which seem to grow (don't they always) as the hours pass!

Seven women and six men made the championship distances, and a further 2 women and 21 men did over 100 miles. In the men's race, the walking style of the winner Christophe Erard looked dubious, but David Regy and Alexei Rodionov in 2nd and 3rd both walked very well. In the ladies event, Kora Boufflert, the favourite, and Anne-Marie Mesmoudi, a relative newcomer to long distance, had a close race. Both come from speedy backgrounds at shorter distances. After my third place, there was an hour and a half gap to the fourth finisher. Russian Marina Tarasevich walked well to finish 5th this time. Dorit Attias of the USA narrowly missed the 170kms, and can be pleased with her 168kms. Along with many of the French ladies, she hopes to walk the Paris-Colmar in June. She told me how much she enjoys reading the Australian Centurion newsletter, and that she hopes to take part in the Australian Centurion event some time soon.

All three UK walkers walked steadily and sensibly to get over 170kms and another 100 miles (160.9kms) under the belt. We were pleased with our performances, especially as we were self-supporting, so had to rely on the organisers' feeding table and stop to get anything we wanted.

In my musings as I walked in Bourges, I realised that 2007 is the 25th anniversary of my first forays at 100 miles: in May 1982, I completed my first LDWA (Long Distance Walkers' Association) cross- country 100 miles; then in August (not thinking of myself at all as an "athlete"!) I donned numbers for the Leicester WC Centurion race. My completion at Bourges was my 123rd event of 100 miles or more, so I hope to complete the 125th some time in 2007.



Jean Paul Spieser (35), Anne Marie Mesmoudi (80), Dorit Attias (86) - <http://www.marchons.com/chateau-thierry.html>

Full results may be seen at <http://www.marchons.com/chateau-thierry.html> but here is a short summary of the main placings. Congratulations to Sandra on her huge performance – 170 km in 21:28:31. Wow, that's motoring!

200 km de Bourges Men (52 starters)

1	Christophe Erard	FRA	22h27'23"
2	David Regy	FRA	22h54'29"
3	Alexei Rodionov	RUS	23h03'42"
11	Kevin Marshall	ENG	176.000 km
14	Richard Brown	ENG	173.334 km

French Championship, 200 km Men

1	Christophe Erard	FRA	22h27'23"
2	David Regy	FRA	22h54'29"
3	Thierry Heinrich	FRA	23h16'16"

French Championship, 200 km Masters Men

1	Thierry Heinrich	FRA	23h16'16"
2	Gilles Belloir	FRA	23h54'24"
3	Alain Costils	FRA	24h02'44"

Elite Ladies 170 kms (19 starters)

1	Kora Boufflert	FRA	20h51'17"
2	Anne Marie Mesmoudi	FRA	21h00'17"
3	Sandra Brown	ENG	21h28'31"

French Championship, 170 km Women

1	Kora Boufflert	FRA	20h51'17"
2	Anne Marie Mesmoudi	FRA	21h00'17"
3	Dominique Alvernhe	FRA	22h47'15"

French Championship, 170 km Masters Women

1	Kora Boufflert	FRA	20h51'17"
2	Anne Marie Mesmoudi	FRA	21h00'17"
3	Dominique Alvernhe	FRA	22h47'15"

24 HEURES DE CHATEAU-THIERRY, FRANCE, MAR 24-25, 2007

For the 2nd consecutive year, the Russian Serguéï Dvoretzki won the 200 km de Chateau-Thierry, this time in front of Polish legend Grzegorz-Adam Urbanowski and Frenchman Thierry Heinrich. These 3 along with Philippe Morel achieved Paris-Colmar qualifiers by completing the required 200 km within the 24 Hour period. Urbanowski may have been giving away quite a few years on his younger rival but it was a great race between the two and we can expect to see more of the same in the Colmar classic. Conditions were cold and wet as per the photos below which are taken from the web page <http://www.marchons.com/bar-le-duc.html>



Mens winner Serguéï Dvoretzki



Irina Putintseva (38) and Grzegorz-Adam Urbanowski (1)

Pre race favorite Radder Willems from Holland was a last minute withdrawal and that opened up the women's event. It was French walker Corinne Fauqueur-Duna who stepped forward and walked to the easiest of wins, ahead of the Russian Irina Putintseva, both walkers reaching the required 170 km. Brief results follow but full results are available on webpage <http://www.marchons.com/bar-le-duc.html> (yes, it's just wrongly named!)

Men

1.	Serguéï Dvoretzki	(Russie)	200.000 km in 22 h 51'
2.	Grzegorz-Adam Urbanowski	(Pologne)	200.000 km in 23 h 04' 35
3.	Thierry Heinrich	(GASM. Ligny-en-Barrois)	200.000 km in 23 h 39' 59
4.	Philippe Morel	(Athlétic-Club de Château-Thierry)	200.000 km in 24 ti 09' 54
2.	Thibaux	(ÇA. Agéen)	196.270 km in 23 h 57' 29
3.	Simon	(République Tchèque)	196.270 km in 23 h 58' 46
4.	Gilg	(Neuf-Brisach)	192.540 km in 24 h OS1 21
5.	Fréchengues	(Senart-Cormbs-la-Ville)	188.810 km in 23 h 57' 11

6. Phister	(ASM. Bar-le-Duc)	185.080 km in 23 h 46' 50
7. Letessiet	(PLM, Conflans-Sainte-Honorine)	185.080 km in 23 h 52' 31
8. Maréchal	(ACCT)	185,080 km in 24 h 14' 17
9. Pellerin	(AC. Bazancourt)	185,080 km in 24 h 15' 50
10. Georgelin	(Janzé Athlé)	181,350 km in 24 h 05' 15

Women

1. Corinne Fauqueur-Duna	(CM. Roubaisiens)	170,160 km in 23 h 04' 26
2. Irina Putinstseva	(Russie)	170,160 km in 23 h 53' 31
3. Nicole Rodier	(Efsra)	162,700 km in 24 h 18' 05
4. Brunet	(CM. Fribourg)	158.970 km in 24 h 00' 39
5. Berthault	(Neuilly-sur-Marne)	151.510 km in 23 h 51' 18

WILL THE COLAC 6 DAY RACE BE ON IN 2007?

Local readers will be aware that the 2006 Colac 6 Day Australian Championship was dropped last year when insufficient volunteers were found to run this demanding event. The following news flash last month gives us significant hope that this iconic event will be back in 2007. Fingers crossed!

<http://planetultramarathon.wordpress.com/2007/03/05/colac-2007-rises-from-the-ashes/>

DORIT ATTIAS BECOMES THE FIRST AMERICAN WALKER TO CONTEST THE COLMAR CLASSIC



Dorit Attias in action in Rouen in 2006 (<http://www.marchons.com/chateau-thierry.html>)

It is around this time that the organisers of the Paris-Colmar and Neuilly Sur Marne-Colmar events start confirming places for this classic event. Most of the qualifying races have now completed and the stars have stamped their authority and announced their intentions. Well known American ultra walker Dorit Attias will be amongst those elite few who successfully gain a start. She made the following announcement last week:

DORIT ATTIAS - Qualifies for Paris Colmar - Neuilly Sur Marne
Longest non-stop walking competition in the world

After participating in the National 24 Hour Championship in Grapevine, Texas in November of 2006, where she completed 100 miles at 23:39:30 with a total of 101.52 within 24 hours and competing in Bourges - Championship of France of the 200 km for men and 170 km for women within 24 hours, where she completed 100 miles in 23:01 and finished at 168 km/105 miles, Dorit earned an invitation to the 60th edition of Paris Colmar - Neuilly Sur Marne.

The Paris Colmar - Neuilly Sur Marne will be held in France June 6th - June 9th of 2007. Dorit is the 1st American woman walker to be invited to participate in this difficult and challenging race. In 2006 only nine women from around the world were invited to participate. This competition is broadcasted on French TV and Internet TV (sometimes in Czech and Slovak as well) and there are articles in French, English, Czech, Polish newspapers and magazines.

To participate in Paris - Neuilly Sur Marne Colmar requires a lot of support. Generally every walkers needs a supporting team of consists of 8 to 12 members.

Well done to Dorit..we wish her all the best and hope that she makes it to the end in what will be without doubt the toughest race of her career.

AUSTRALIAN TRANS-CONTINENTAL EXPLOITS – THE BEST OF THE BEST

I had a ring a few weeks ago from a well known ultra runner who wants to walk across the continent from the most westerly point (near Monkey Mia) to the most easterly point (northern NSW) and wants to do it via the barren interior rather than via the coastal route. He wanted to know if I had any info about previous attempts. He had found a few documented expeditions and was keen to know of the best such performance.

This prompted me into action and, although I was not able to provide him with much information on any interior crossings, I did find that there have been quite a number of coastal crossings or full circumnavigations of the continent. As usual, I must acknowledge Phil Essam whose many ultra writings contain so much information. I am not sure if I have captured all the performances but the following list makes for pretty impressive reading. An Australian continental crossing is one of the toughest runs or walks in the world from the perspectives of length, logistics and climatic extremes. My hat goes off to the following supermen and superwomen of our sport.

1973 : Tony Rafferty - Fremantle to the Gold Coast

From August to October 1973, Tony Rafferty became the first person to run from Fremantle on the West Coast to the Gold Coast on the east coast, a distance of 3686 miles. In the process he became the first person to run across the Nullabor Plain. It is now history that George Perdon started a week after Rafferty and beat him into Sydney by 1 day. But Tony continued on the Gold Coast, an additional distance of 789 miles.

1973 : George Perdon - Fremantle to Sydney

George Perdon ran from Fremantle to Sydney (in what was termed the Trans Continental Run) in 47 days, 1 hour and 54 mins. This was a distance of 2,897 miles, averaging 62 miles a day. He gave Tony Rafferty a week's start and beat him to Sydney by 1 day.

1983 : Ron Grant's Run around Australia

Ron completed the circumnavigation of 113,383 km in 217 days for an overall daily average of 61.67 km. His run was in an anticlockwise direction, starting in Brisbane, then to Townsville, Mt Isa, Darwin, Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and back to Brisbane.

1991 : Ffyona Campbell - Sydney to Perth

Ffyona Campbell was born in Totnes, south Devon in 1967. At the age of 16, she walked from John O'Groats to Lands End. Two years later she walked from New York to Los Angeles. At twenty-one, she walked a distance of 3,200 miles from Sydney to Perth in 95 days.

1993-1994 : Nobby Young's Walk around Australia

Through 1993-94, Nobby Young became the first person to walk around mainland Australia. The 16,000-kilometre journey, which took exactly a year to complete, was duly listed in the Guinness Book of Records.

1998 : Jesse Dale Riley – Perth to Sydney

Jesse Dale Riley, an American adventurer who revived transcontinental racing in the United States in the early 1990s, arrived at the Sydney Opera House at 12:30pm on October 9 1998, 3847.3 kilometres after setting out from Perth on August 8. His elapsed time for all 63 days on the road was 624 hours, 30 minutes and 50 seconds.

1999 : Serge Girard – Perth to Sydney

A Frenchman, Serge Girard, ran "Trans-Australia" as a solo run (85km per day) covering the Perth-Sydney route and finishing in November 1999.

1999 - Gary Parson's Run Around Australia

Gary Parsons ran into Sydney at 2.30pm EST on Monday 25 October 1999, eclipsing the previous Round Australia Record by 34d 1h 12m. The Run began on ANZAC day, 25 April 1999, at 8.57 a.m. in Brisbane. Gary ran around Australia in an anti-clockwise direction, taking him through Darwin, Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne and on to Sydney. Distance covered : 13,383 kilometers or 8,315.8 miles. Time taken to cover this distance: 183 days 2h 33m. Passed the 13,383km mark at 11.30am est.

Average distance Gary covered each day: 72.8 kilometers/45.2 miles.

Gary's longest days run: September 6th 1999, started 0404hours finished 2030hours - 85.9km/53.3 miles from 31.3km east of Midgera roadhouse to Mundrabilla roadhouse. W.A.

1999 – Pat Farmer's Run Around Australia

At 12:57PM on Wednesday, December 8, 1999, Pat Farmer, reached his goal, completing his own lap of approximately 15000 km around Australia in 195 days, to raise awareness to the centenary of Federation.

2001 : Trans Australia Foot Race – “Race of Fire”

This was an invitational stage race of approximately 4,000km from Perth to Canberra over a period of 9 weeks (6th Jan 2001 to 11th March 2001). Each stage was approx 70km per day. Russian Anatoliy Kruglikov won with a cumulative time of just over 305 hours. Sadly this race saw the death of Australian running legend Brian Smith.

2003-2004 : Deborah de Williams Walk around Australia

When Deborah de Williams arrived back in her hometown of Melbourne at 11.00am on Friday 15 October 2004 at St Pauls Court, Federation Square, she had beaten Nobby Young's walking record and set the following 5 Walking World Records:

- World Walk Record for the first woman to walk around Australia
- World Walk Record for the longest walk in the shortest time – 15,669 kms in 343 days
- World Walk Record for the quickest walk over the longest distance – 343 days to walk 15,699 kms
- World Walk Record for the longest continuous walk by a woman
- The outright World Walk Record for the longest continuous walk by anyone on the planet

2004 : The Australian leg of Jesper Olsen's World Run – Sydney to Perth

Starting on 1st January 2004 in London, England, and finishing at the same point on 23rd October 2005, Jesper Olsen crossed 4 continents and ran an amazing 26,230 km. While running across Australia from Sydney to Perth, he contested and won the annual Colac 6 day Race with 756 km. The next day he resumed his solo trek towards Perth.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES UPDATES

I would not normally put such information in our newsletter but I have had lots of people asking me and so it is worthwhile just putting the latest information into the public arena.

Not long ago, we heard a rumour that the racewalks had been removed from the Commonwealth Games. After a fair bit of investigative journalism, it has now been confirmed that the decision has not yet been taken but that it is one of a number of events under review by the Commonwealth Games Association which feel that the Games are becoming too large and that they need pruning to more manageable levels.

The final decision as to which events are in and which events are out will be made at the next Commonwealth Games conference in May. Australia will be putting its own case to retain the walks and I believe that other countries like England and New Zealand are also supportive. All we can do at this stage is keep our fingers crossed and hope that the sport has sufficient support from the other Commonwealth Nations to keep its place.

FROM THE AUSTRALIAN CENTURION ARCHIVES - 1975

The 1975 Centurion event was awarded to the New South Wales Race Walkers Club, the date was set for 22-23 March and the venue chosen was the Epping Athletic Field, Epping, Sydney. Peter Wilson, a NSW official and racewalking judge, organised the event well but, due perhaps to the lack of long distance walking expertise in Sydney, only one starter toed the line, namely Keith Heness of the Ryde Athletics Club. The start time was set at 9AM on the Saturday morning and the lap was of 295 yards, requiring 596 laps to complete the 100 mile distance. Unfortunately, Keith was a relatively inexperienced distance walker and he did not finish.

At the next meeting of the Australian Centurions on 1 April 1975 at the home of Brian Parkinson in Melbourne, it was decided to approach the Victorian Amateur Walkers Club with a view to them hosting a 24 Hour event later that year. This request was successful and a second qualifying opportunity was scheduled for 18-19 October at the George Knott Athletics Track, the home of the Collingwood Harriers, in Clifton Hill in Melbourne. The venue had recently undergone a complete refurbishment which included a newly laid rubber bitumen 400m track.

VAWC rose to the occasion. This period coincided with a golden period of walking in Victoria with a large number of active distance walkers. This led to the largest field yet seen for the Centurion event with 21 starters. The weather was cool to cold during the night hours of Saturday night with light rain on the Sunday morning before clearing for the remainder of the race. These ideal conditions helped all competitors and the race saw the amazing result of 5 finishers and a new Australian record over the distance of 50 miles.

Of the 5 finishers, there were 4 new Centurions as follows:

C9.	Mike Porter	50	Frankston A. A. Club.	21:45:47
C10.	Stan Jones	50	St. Stephens Harriers.	22:04:59
C11.	Chris Clegg	58	United States of America	22:34:14
C12.	John Harris	25	Queensland	23:18:15



Mike Porter finishes



Chris Clegg circa 1979

The race was started by Cr. George Knott of the Collingwood City Council on the radio time 'pips' at 6.00 p.m, on Saturday, 18th October. Excellent facilities were provided by the Collingwood Harriers with dressing rooms, shower and canteen facilities. The public address system was used extensively to acquaint competitors of their progressive times. Although all Centurion performances are of great note, three of the finishers on this occasion deserve special mention.

- Tasmanian **Dudley Pilkington** still felt it necessary to finish a 100 miles in a Centurion race to verify his solo Devonport walk of 1972. On this occasion he was successful in a time of 22:59:07 (some 30 mins faster than his 1972 time). However, he developed haemorrhoids for the latter 9 hours of the walk and took 4 days to recover.
- **Stan Jones** did the physically impossible in finishing his 100 miles on that day. At that time, his son was ill and he drove across to WA, picked him up, drove him back to Melbourne and then did the 100 miler. This meant that he went for 5 days with literally no sleep - and the last 24 hours of this marathon was the worst of the lot (as we all know).
- **Chris Clegg** achieved the unique distinction of becoming a Centurion on three Continents. First in England 1947, then America 1971, and now here in Australia. Chris went on to complete a further Centurion performance 2 years later in Holland to become a quadruple Centurion, the world's only such. Then in 1979 at age 62, he completed a further 100 miler in England to round it off to 5 successful 100 milers. Thus, his final record reads as follows

• June 1947	Age 30	London to Brighton and back	21:39:42	C135
• Sept 1971	Age 54	Colombia, USA	22:46:14	C 7
• Oct 1975	Age 58	Melbourne	22:34:14	C 11
• June 1977	Age 60	Sint-Oedenrode, Holland	23:18:55	C 53
• June 1979	Age 62	Ewhurst, 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). Now that is a record of which anyone would be proud and which few could ever hope to match.

Results were as follows

1.	Mike Porter	50	Frankston A. A. Club.	21:48:47	C 9
2.	Stan Jones	50	St. Stephens Harriers.	22:04:59	C10
3.	Chris Clegg	58	USA	22:34:14	C 7
4.	Dudley Pilkington	56	Tasmania	22:59:07	C11
5.	John Harris	25	Queensland	23:19:15	C12
Retirees	W, Dillon	38	Glenhuntly A.A.C	119.2 km	17:43:32
	T. Erickson	24	Ivanhoe Harriers	50.0 Miles	8:14.44.2 (AR)
	K. Piscopo	26	New South Wales	64.8 km	8:46:02
	G. Breen	40	Melb. University A.A.C	54.0 km	7:10:31
	W. Sawall	32	Ballarat Harriers	51.6 km	5:37:22
	C. Martin	40	Collingwood Harriers	50.0 km	5:25:27
	T. Daintry	64	Collingwood Harriers	42.4 km	5:35:05
	D. Oliver	39	Frankston A.A.Club	40.0 km	5:44:25
	G. Ross	62	South Australia	39.2 km	6:01:27
	C. Jack	30	Glenhuntly A.A.Club	35.2 km	3:28:27
	I. Jack	30	Glenhuntly A.A.Club	33.2 km	3:25:53
	G. Ellis	24	Glenhuntly A.A.Club	18.4 km	1:57:03
	A. Johnson	40	Melbourne Harriers	18.4 km	2:26:09
	S. Cooper	24	St. Stephens Harriers	14.8 km	1:43:30
	M. Wall	19	Box Hill A.A. Club	13.6 km	1:20:32

The official race report by Centurions Captain Fred Redman was as follows:

On forwarding the enclosed copy of results of our recent 100 miles walk I take this opportunity to write a few words of my own and to acknowledge our indebtedness to so many people.

This was a highly successful and satisfactory event due in no small measure to the work of a devoted and dedicated few. Our thanks are directed to and unendingly given the Victorian Walkers Club, particularly to Alf Robinson for his management of the whole affair and to Bert Gardiner and Allan Minter for their painstaking and arduous task of lap recording. These three gentlemen were on call throughout the 24 hours and carried out their tasks almost without relief through the entire period.

To the Victorian Walkers Club and Collingwood Harriers in general we as Centurions owe a great debt. Being a non competitive organisation we are not in the business of promotion and indeed cannot be, not only because of our constitution but being few in number, we must rely entirely on the interests of walking clubs to put these events on for us.

We congratulate Mike Porter, Stan Jones, Chris Clegg and John Harris on their having earned the right of membership and in due course each will receive our certificate and badge for which in the normal way we would at this point call for donations from existing Centurions to defray the cost, since there cannot be in the usual sense an annual subscription You do not pay for something which is yours by right.

However, due to the generous support we have received from General Motors Holden these and other expenses are met on this occasion. Our grateful and sincere thanks are extended to them also.

Twenty five competitors faced the starter, Councillor George Knott for whom the field of honour was named, himself a former Australian Champion and Olympian.

From the outset Ian Jack set a very fast pace obviously with the intention of assisting his brother Clarrie and Tim Erickson in their endeavour to crack Jim Gleeson's Australian 50 mile record. Tim and Clarrie pushed each other along for some 35 kilometres where Clarrie was forced to retire mainly due I feel to a very heavy seasons racing, which had sapped his strength rather more than he had imagined. This left Tim on his own to go on in fine style to add to his recent National 50 kilometre title a new Australian record of 8 hours 14 minutes 46 seconds for 50 miles. Congratulations Tim and we look forward in a year or two to welcoming you as a Member. Our President Jim Gleeson was on hand to congratulate Tim at his moment of triumph.

*Following on Tim's retirement at this point focus of attention again reverted to that gallant band of walkers steadily progressing toward our coveted goal. At this point **Stan Jones** was out in front walking with purpose and determination We were told he had had his sights on this for the past five months and concentrated all his efforts in training to reach the peak of fitness and concentration demanded by the arduous task of competing 100 miles of walking within the period of 24 hours. This is the only way to achieve success, everything else in racing must be subordinate and used only as an adjunct toward that end. You cannot walk 100 miles just by thinking about it, some sacrifice must be made to really do justice to yourself and to your effort.*

Stan of course had already unofficially some years ago made this journey and it says much for the spirit and calibre of the man to prove his worth in official competition and rightworthily has he done this.

Mike Porter at this stage was some laps behind in second place but also determinedly pressing on with the job in hand. Some weeks previously he had walked a particularly fine 50 miles which helped to give him the required confidence and so well did he walk as the race progressed that he was able to overhaul a slightly tiring Stan Jones in the closing stages and to wrest victory from the latter's grasp.

Chris Clegg, the third man to finish achieved the unique distinction of becoming a Centurion on three Continents. First in England 1947, then America 1971, and now here in Australia.

Dudley Pilkington from Tasmania, already a Centurion came next a very popular performance, all present without exception were pleased to see him complete his second hundred miles in such excellent company. His first of course was accomplished in 1972 alone in Tasmania and though there was absolutely no question about this, his walk on that occasion being officially controlled by the properly constituted Tasmanian authority he himself felt some obligation to come over and prove to us his worth. Not necessary of course but "Dud" as he prefers to be called is that kind of man. We respect him the more for it and congratulate him on a magnificent effort made under some physical duress.

The fifth to finish and fourth new Centurion was John Harris of Queensland. Many years junior to the others he found his early fast pace a sap on his strength and energy as the miles built up and indeed was only able to finish at all because of his stubborn determination to become Queensland's first. He tired visibly in the later stages of the race but never lost his style and cheerful disposition. A good effort John and though you were heard to say "NEVER AGAIN" I am sure that this was only a natural reaction. The number of times this plaintive cry from walkers has been heard over the years is countless, and does not signify. We are all gluttons for punishment. May you be the first of many from the Sunshine State. You are now our ambassador there.

This report would not be complete without reference to a very gallant performance by Bill Dillon, a truly amazing effort, glorious in failure and only a matter of time before Bill too will become a worthy addition to our steadily growing band. I am certain that Bill would have completed his 100 on this occasion but unfortunately running out of time as he was, he made the right decision to retire when he did and so avoiding unnecessary, further punishment although he still looked good. Bill was conned into the race only a few weeks before and I am sure did not know what he was letting himself in for. Only inexperience proved his undoing, but nothing is surer now that when he tries again, as try he will, he will convert this wonderful initial effort into success.

Bill was ably assisted by his family and I believe they too must want success for him.

Finally, I must add a word of thanks and congratulations to Alf Robinson for compiling the enclosed list of times which must be of tremendous value to every competitor and a record they will proudly keep as an ever constant reminder of a marvellous day. To the ladies too for a magnificent show, our congratulations and thanks for complementing our event with an equally fine effort of their own.

The year of 1975 finished with a change of Executive. As per the constitution, Jack Webber stood down after his term as President and Jim Gleeson moved up from the Vice Presidency to take the reigns of Presidency. Clarrie Jack, as the next Centurion in line, was elected to the position of Vice President. At this time, Brian Parkinson had to move to Papua New Guinea with his work and so Mike Porter took over as Secretary/Treasurer.

History shows that I got my Centurion badge the next year, Claude Martin did his hundred in 1977 and Bill Dillon and Ian Jack achieved their qualifications in 1979. And finally, contrary to his parting words of 'NEVER AGAIN', John Harris did two more subsequent qualifiers, in 1998 and 2002.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Thanks to everyone for the ongoing support. We now have enough in the kitty to see us through our annual Centurions event – I have ordered tee shirts, have to pay for medals and trophies and will hire a tent – that will take most of our current funds but we should hopefully keep above the red line!

Incoming	Jim Gleeson – donation	25.00
	Sandra Brown – donation	48.00
	John Smith – donation	50.00
	Geoff Hain – donation	30.00
Outgoing	Postage and Photocopying	20.00
	Balance of Account as of 08/04/2007	733.20

UNTIL OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

It's been a busy time for me so this newsletter is a bit later than usual. But hopefully it's still a good read. Thanks to everyone for their ongoing contributions and good luck to all the participants in the forthcoming Australian Centurions qualification event later this month. I look forward to seeing many of our members and supporters at Coburg.

Yours in Centurion walking

Tim Erickson (C 13)
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