

# CENTURION FOOTNOTES

MAY 2007 – VOL 14 NUMBER 3

*The Official Magazine of Australian Centurion Walkers Inc*  
*Founded 1971, Incorporated 2000, No. A0040301S*  
<http://www.vicnet.net.au/~austcent/index.html>

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## DATES...DATES...DATES

May 19-20, 2007	<b>Continental Centurions</b> 24 Hour Qualifying Event	Weert, Holland
June 2-3, 2007	<b>American Centurions</b> 24 Hour Qualifying Event See <a href="http://usatfnn.org/racewalk/events/2007centurion.htm">http://usatfnn.org/racewalk/events/2007centurion.htm</a>	Minneapolis, USA
June 6-9, 2007	Paris-Colmar and Neuilly-sur-Marne-Colmar classics	France
July 28-29, 2007	<b>British Centurions</b> 100 Mile Qualifying event See <a href="http://www.surreywalkingclub.org.uk">http://www.surreywalkingclub.org.uk</a>	Battersea Park, London
August 11-12, 2007	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Malaysia International 24 hour walk</b>	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
August 10-12, 2007	Australian 48 Hour Championship	Gold Coast, Queensland
September 28-29, 2007	sri Chinmoy Australian 24 Hour Championship	Adelaide, South Australia
November 5, 2007	Victorian 6 Hour Track Championship	Newborough, Victoria
November 24, 2007	12 Hours of Penang	Penang, Malaysia
November 2007	Australian 6 Day Championship (date to be confirmed)	Colac, Victoria

If any of our Australian women ultra walkers are interested in doing the 24 hour walk in Kuala Lumpur in August, they should contact Peter Bennett (C 24) - [p.bennett@ozemail.com.au](mailto:p.bennett@ozemail.com.au). Race liason officer Khoo Chong Beng has indicated to Peter that the organisers would pay hotel and meal expenses for overseas competitors. He is also trying to get sponsors to reimburse some of the airfare, but can't promise anything as yet. There is good prize money which would help with the fare if you do well enough. But expect a challenging 24 hour race in hot and humid conditions. It could be a great trip.

## VALE TIM THOMPSON (C 6) : 16/03/1946 - 01/05/2007



Stu Cooper (C 5), Tim Thompson (C 6) and Clarrie Jack (C 4) at the 2007 Centurions event at Coburg

I am very sad to announce the untimely death of Tim Thompson, Australian Centurion number 6. Tim, who won his club membership in the toughest of conditions in 1972, was someone who regarded his centurion status as his greatest athletic achievement and he greatly prized his friendships with us old timers in the club.

For the last few years, with the support of his wife Bev and his family, he had bravely battled against the debilitating effects of an aggressive brain tumour. In the early hours of Tuesday 1 May, he finally lost his long battle, suffering a brain haemorrhage and passing on, with his family present. He was only 61 years old.

Knowing how sick he was, we were surprised to see him and Bev turn up as spectators and supporters at the Coburg 24 Hour Carnival only 2 weeks ago. It was Tim's last big effort and gave us all a chance for one final meeting. It was obvious then that Tim was weakening quickly but it was still a shock to get the final phone call from Stu Cooper. I had spoken to Bev only days before and Tim was scheduled for an operation in early May to try to relieve the effects of the tumour.

To Bev and the family, we offer our deepest condolences. Our thoughts are with you in this time of grieving. Tim will live forever in our club memory as Centurion Number 6. We will cherish our memories of Tim, his prodigious memory for all things athletic and his warm and welcoming personal style.

Stu Cooper attended the funeral in Adelaide and filed the following report.

Tim's funeral was held in the Bridgewater Public Hall in the Hills, near his home. There were roughly 90 mourners, many of whom were from St John's Ambulance with whom he'd been a volunteer for 40 years. Tim had been one of seven surviving siblings, most of whom were present along with a substantial extended family and friends. Also there were Geoff Peters, Bill Starr (SARWC) and Lillian Harpur, whom I was delighted to meet once again.

Despite the numbers present it was a simple and intimate occasion, with sadness and love there in abundance. Tim's coffin was bedecked in the special memento blanket on which he'd attached dozens of souvenirs of his life and achievements - cloth badges from travel spots, competition numbers and walking insignia, St Johns memorabilia and other trophies. The green and gold tracksuit top and cap we last saw him in was nearby, along with collections of articles and photos of his life. Needless to say, walking featured heavily among them.

As to eulogies, the celebrant read out one written by Tim's family. One was given by a brigadier of St John's (who finished by turning to the coffin and giving a solemn salute - quite moving.) Bev honoured me by requesting that I give a short address on behalf of the walking fraternity, which I gladly did. (I've attached a copy in this letter).

At the burial at Stirling Cemetery, the coffin was draped with Tim's gold AFRWC singlet and green Adidas shorts plus his old walking shoes before being lowered to rest. It was very gratifying to see Tim's walking background given such prominence at this ceremony (he was buried wearing his St John's uniform and hat.)

We then adjourned back to the Hall for refreshments and reminiscences. I had some nice chats with Geoff and Bill, after which I spent the afternoon with the Thompson clan at their home - a place I'd been in many times before but never without Tim there (not for long, anyway). There were tears, many laughs (with Tim's kids around laughs surface sooner or later) and not a few 'drops' consumed - to say nothing of the baiting directed at this poor sole Victorian by a house full of rabid Crows and/or Power supporters!

I caught the mid-evening flight back to Melbourne grateful to have been there, but weighted with the sense of loss. We'll never see anyone quite like Tim Thompson again. He was more than a mate and a fellow walker. He was a brother.

And I will finish with the eulogy that Stu delivered at Tim's funeral service.

There are two specific memories that remain with me, and that I treasure. The first is of a night (perhaps it was early morning) in November 1972, exactly a year after I had qualified for membership of the newly-formed Australian Centurions. This exclusive club has but a single entry requirement - to join, you must walk 100 miles in less than 24 hours. The year I did it, I was one of three such lunatics to succeed, the others being Jimmy Gleeson and Clarrie Jack. Jim was the particular hero of the event, going beyond 100 miles to set an Australian 24-hour record that stands to this day. A year later Jim was back at the Preston track to try again. I was at a party that night and missed much of the early action, but got to the track a little after midnight to lend my support to Jim.

As the night wore on into morning it became clear that Jim was struggling a bit and would be little likely to improve on his record. He did, however, look in better shape than the other guy on the track - someone I hadn't seen before. He moved at an agonised shamble and was clearly in need of all the support he could get. Clarrie was there beside him and I joined them, exchanging idle banter and offering tips from my own experience from the previous year. The wannabe Centurion, though suffering and slowing progressively, was alert enough to express both appreciation and admiration: 'I wish I could get one of those badges like you got, Stewie', to which

I replied something like 'You will, mate – and you'll do it now.' And that was the beginning of my friendship with Tim Thompson of South Australia – one that lasted for nearly 35 years.

Tim passed the 100 mile peg that day with a meagre 11 minutes and 52 second to spare, sobbing as he collapsed: 'I never thought I'd make it!' before being bundled into an ambulance with his feet in a state that probably left the ambos wishing they'd gone into merchant banking instead. The Centurions' honour board bears fifty-three names now, yet I have no hesitation in saying that no place on that board was harder-earned than Tim's, nor more dearly prized. Tim achieved more than Centurion membership that day – he earned the admiration and respect of the strong Victorian race walking community for what all knew was a display of sheer guts and determination, of resolute mind over blistered, tortured matter.

The second memory is from five years later. I'd already met Beverly, of course, but it wasn't until 1977 that I got to know her. That year the National Racewalking Championships were held in Adelaide, and it was the scene of one of Tim's proudest achievements – a fourth place in the 50km title race behind two internationals, both Victorians. I wasn't one of them, sadly – I finished a distant eighth in that race – but I will always remember Tim hiring a minibus the next day and taking the Victorian squad on a tour of the Adelaide Hills with his young family – in particular, with four-year old Tania perched on my lap (no compulsory seat belts in buses then). It was a magical day, one that cemented our friendship. It also demonstrated Tim's boundless hospitality and generosity, and again reinforced the high regard in which he was held east of Bordertown.

Over the years Tim and Bev visited often when over in Melbourne for walking events or fabric buying trips, staying at my home as my wife and I did at theirs. We saw their funny, bubbly kids grow up, they fed our cats (the wrong food at one point, Tim – another vet's bill!), and how happy was the last visit during the Melbourne Masters' Games when Tim and Bev manoeuvred their Jayco camper onto our front lawn and demonstrated how to unfold and pack up in three minutes a contraption that would have had me calling the manufacturer after two unsuccessful hours. Walking was, of course, never far from our conversations, and Tim's recall of past races – especially, but not only, the ones he did well in – was beyond phenomenal. Never one to be content only with memories, long after the motor accident and major surgery had consigned his best walking years to the past, he was still at it, venturing to all parts of Australia to take part in Masters' events, even when he could no longer train. Tim walked because he loved it, because he could do it and was grateful that he could. Lacking the fast-twitch muscle fibre that is often mistaken for talent, he made up for this with a near-unfathomable capacity for hard work. Few walkers impressed as much with their sheer endeavour, nor were so appreciative of what they were able to achieve, however it stacked up against that of their peers. Tim Thompson was a model ambassador of race walking, of his state, of the fraternity of sportsmen. With only days left to him, it was still so precious for him to be able to visit us once more at Coburg for the 24-hour walk. There is a lesson there. When things start to seem pointless, when another hamstring goes bung, when the urge to complain and give up starts to take hold, the vision of that green and gold tracksuit with its glistening Centurion No 6 badge and the wicked, knowing grin of its wearer will continue to inspire this Victorian for years to come.

From Jim Gleeson, Clarrie and Ian Jack, Tim Erickson, Robin Wood, Alan Lucas (whose shoes you borrowed in your 100-miler), Ron Miller, Bob Gardiner, Ray Smith and all at the VRWC and Centurions Clubs, and from Wendy and Stewie ... rest well, Tim. You've earned it.

#### AUSTRALIAN CENTURIONS 24 HOUR WALK, COBURG, 21-22 APRIL 2007

2007 saw the 20<sup>th</sup> annual edition of the Coburg 24 Hour carnival, held as usual at the Harold Stevens Athletics Track in suburban Melbourne. Once again, the event was a popular choice for many experienced and first time ultra competitors and potential entrants had to be turned away when the event filled with 4 weeks to go.

53 of the 54 entrants made it to the start line and the mix saw 35 runners and 19 walkers spread across the 24 Hour, 12 Hour and 6 Hour categories. Of the 54 entrants, 31 chose the 24 Hour event, a pleasing sign for the future of the sport. The starter was our own **Stan Miskin (C 23)** who must have been a bit itchy firing the gun and seeing the race unfold without him (as mentioned in a previous newsletter, Stan has now officially retired from racing).

The race started on the Saturday morning at 10AM in warm sunny conditions but in less than 2 hours, rain had set in as Melbourne turned on one of its famous weather changes! The showers did not clear until late afternoon and all were then diving for dry clothes and shoes. From then on, the skies remained overcast and further squalls, some quite heavy, created an ongoing challenge for competitors, support teams and race organizers. The flip side was that night time conditions were relatively mild and competitors were not forced into too many layers of clothing.

The 24 Hour Run category included some of our top runners and the race lived up to expectations. Current Australian 48 Hour champion Martin Fryer passed the half way mark in just on 123km, already well in front of his nearest rivals. His final distance of 228.686 km was not far outside his best and made him a comprehensive and worthy winner. The first 8 finishers all ran further than 100 miles (160.9 km) in what was a high standard event.

On the walking side, two of the 24 Hour competitors, **Terry O'Neill (C 18)** and **Geoff Hain (C 49)**, walked in excess of 100 miles to make it 10 in all for the meet. Terry won the walk overall with 169.741 km to add a second centurion badge to his first, achieved way back in 1979! It's been a long wait to see him back in a 24 Hour event. For Geoff, it was his 6<sup>th</sup> centurion walk finish in less than 3 years, a great effort in consistency and mental toughness. It was nearly a case of triplets but NSW entrant **Louis Commins** eventually fell 2 laps short of a centurion finish, coming third with 160.150 km. Louis had in his first ultra at Coburg last year, finishing 7<sup>th</sup> in the 24H Walk with 131.517 km. His gutsy effort last year earned him the Gordon Burrowes Trophy for the most meritorious performance of the carnival. The good news is that he is not giving up and he has already entered the Australian 48 Hour championship which will be held in August in Queensland. He will walk the first 24 hours of the race in another attempt to reach his hundred.



**Winner Terry O'Neill crosses the 100 mile mark in 21:48:35. Runner up Geoff Hain also reached another hundred milestone, this time in 23:33:47. Geoff is shown with his son Peter who supported him during the event.**

In the women's 24 Hour Walk, first timer **Catherine Cox** from Adelaide won with 149.021 km, an excellent debut. She is someone who can challenge the centurion distance of 100 miles with further training. Australian 50 mile walk record holder **Clarrie Jack (C 4)** was too strong in the men's 12 Hour Walk and won in 88.370 km while last year's 6 Hour Walk winner **Steve Jordan** upped his distance successfully to take second with 85.980 km. The women's 12 Hour Walk saw **Val Chesterton** break her own W65 50 km Australian record by over 1 hour. She passed the 50 km mark in 7:05:57 and then called it quits, well satisfied with her day's work. In the men's 6 Hour Walk, first timer **Paul Kennedy** won with 52.800 km, beating **Robin Whyte (C 29)** by just over 2 km.

So, all in all, the carnival produced a whole swag of top quality performances and lived up to its rating as one of Australia's top ultra events. Although we did not get any new Centurion members, the signs are promising. Results and a selection of photos from the events will be posted on the following websites

- The Coburg Harriers event website <http://www.coburgharriers.org.au/>
- The Australian Centurion Walkers website <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~austcent/index.html>

And now onto the walk results:

#### 24 Hour Walk Male

Place	Laps	Total Distance	Race No	Name
1	424	169.741	58	O'NEILL, Terry
2	406	162.444	57	HAIN, Geoff
3	400	160.150	55	COMMINS, Louis
4	352	140.950	54	ATTRILL, David
5	293	117.447	62	SKRUCANY, Rudolf
6	289	115.600	63	WEBBER, Bruce
7	263	105.302	56	FISHER, Pat
8	223	89.200	59	SKINNER, Deryck

#### 24 Hour Walk Female

1	372	149.021	66	COX, Catherine
2	317	126.941	64	BOLLEN, Karyn
3	119	47.702	65	CHOMYN, Sharon

#### 12 Hour Walk Male

1	220	88.370	68	JACK, Clarrie
2	214	85.980	72	JORDAN, Steve

3	159	63.718	69	JACKSON, Ross
4	120	48.052	67	CARTER, Ken

**12 Hour Walk Female**

1	130	52.000	73	CHESTERTON, Val
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**6 Hour Walk Male**

1	132	52.826	74	KENNEDY, Paul
2	126	50.400	76	WHYTE, Robin
3	9	3.600	75	POORE, Alex

**Centurion Walks**

O'NEILL, Terry	21:48:35
HAIN, Geoff	23:33:47

**Australian 100 Km Walk Championship Male**

1	O'NEILL, Terry	13:08:08
2	HAIN, Geoff	14:04:47
3	COMMINS, Louis	14:21:09

**Australian 100 Km Walk Championship Female**

1	BOLLEN, Karyn	14:51:40
2	COX, Catherine	15:00:11

**Perpetual Trophies**

Gordon Burrowes Endurance Award	MATCHETT, Ken
Jack Webber Trophy	O'NEILL, Terry



Louis Commins (160.150km) and Cathy Cox (149.021 km)



24 Hour walk competitors Pat Fisher, Bruce Webber, Rudolf Skrucany, Louis Commins, Terry O'Neill and Geoff Hain with Tim Erickson. Australian 100 km Championship winners Terry O'Neill and Karyn Bollen with Tim Erickson

## ROUEN 24 HOUR WALK, FRANCE, 7-8 APRIL 2007

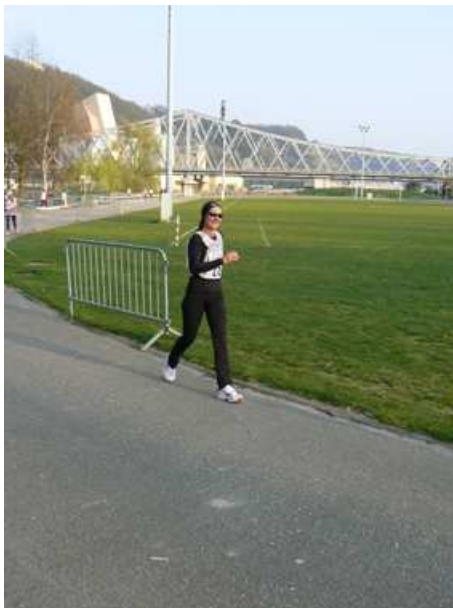
The European ultra walk season is well underway and the Paris Colmar classic is only 3 weeks away. The first race on which to report is the 38<sup>th</sup> Rouen 24 Hour Walk which was held in early April. Last year Peter Bennett (C 24) made the trip and walked in atrocious conditions. This year it was a complete change with good conditions and a new inspirational course setting alongside the water.

American Dorit Attias continued her top ultra walking form by winning the women's event with a distance of 172.5 km (107 miles), an improvement of 21.5 km over her 151 km in the same event last year. This was only five weeks after she walked 105 miles in the Bourges 24 Hour event. She will be a strong contender in the Chalon-Colmar event next month.

Unfortunately I could not find the full results anywhere on the web so you will have to be content with the intermediate splits recorded at the 20 hour mark. I believe that Bernard Gicquel won the men's so positions probably did not change drastically over the last 4 hours after these times were recorded

20 hour mark interim times:

1	Gicquel Bernard	P L M Conflans	FRA	159,000 km	7,950 km/h
2	Courcy Jean Claude	SPN Vernon	FRA	146,280 km	7,314 km/h
3	Begin Jean Pierre	Sotteville		139,125 km	6,956 km/h
4	Spieser Jean Paul	CSL Neuf Brisach	FRA	127,200 km	6,360 km/h
5	Randriana Drasan	PiÃ©tron Madagascar		127,200 km	6,360 km/h
6	Boufflert Eric	CO Harfleurais	FRA	117,660 km	5,883 km/h
7	Renoncourt Christian	SPN Vernon	FRA	112,890 km	5,645 km/h
8	Lefevre Bruno	Yerville		111,300 km	5,565 km/h
9	Costils Alain	SPN Vernon	FRA	110,505 km	5,525 km/h
10	Kirouane Riad	AlgÃ©rie		101,760 km	5,088 km/h
11	Burlot Pascal	SPN Vernon	FRA	89,835 km	4,492 km/h
12	L'Huillier Bruno	Grand Quevilly		73,935 km	3,697 km/h
13	Begin Edouard	Sotteville		45,315 km	2,266 km/h
14	Heinrich Thierry	GASM Ligny en Barrois	FRA	28,620 km	1,431 km/h
15	Gomis William	SÃ©nÃ©gal		27,825 km	1,391 km/h
1	Attias Dorit	USA	USA	135,945 km	6,797 km/h
2	Berthault-Korzhyk Annie	Neuilly sur Marne	FRA	112,095 km	5,605 km/h
3	Devillers Christine	Marromme		100,170 km	5,009 km/h
4	Anxionnat Claudine	RESDA des Vosges	FRA	94,605 km	4,730 km/h



**Women's winner Dorit Attias in action. Jean Claude Courcey takes second place in the Men's event.**

**100 KM FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIP, BAR LE DUC, FRANCE, 15 APRIL 2007**

English centurion Kathy Crilley wrote the following report on the annual Bar le Duc classic, held in France during the Easter break.

Hi Tim

I've just got back from Bar Le Duc, France. Normally this is a 200km/24hour event but this year it was the French (men) 100km Championship along with an open 50km race for women. Well, as I was on holiday in France over Easter, it seemed churlish to not to put in an appearance! Chris Flint journeyed over from the UK to join us. Europe, however, decided to have an out of season heatwave that day and we all staggered round the 2.6km course (no shade) in 36 degrees. Pascal TOURNOIS (FRA) won in 10:16:17 (Chris FLINT was 17<sup>th</sup>) The 50km was won by Claudine ANXIONNAT (FRA) in 06:01:21 - the times for everyone were particularly slow. I came 6th (very very slowly!)

All the best

Kathy Crilley

Here are the main results.

**100 Km French Championship for Men**

1	TOURNOIS Pascal	54	Asm Bar-le-duc	10h16'17"
2	MOREL Philippe	65	Ac Chateau Thierry	10h41'42"
3	HEINRICH Thierry	63	Ga Meusien	10h45'40"
4	RODIONOV Alexei (RUS)	57	Neuilly Sur Marne Athletisme	10h57'45"
5	NAUMOWICZ Dominique	63	Gohelle Athletisme	11h08'49"
6	RUELLE David	73	Us Melun	11h23'50"

**50 Km for Women**

1	ANXIONNAT Claudine	51	R.e.s.d.a. Vosges	6h01'21"
2	BERTHAULT-KORZHYK Annie	52	Neuilly Sur Marne Athletisme	6h19'25"
3	QUINQUETON Bernadette	61	A Marcheurs St Thibault Des	6h33'59"
4	NAUMOWICZ Veronique	62	Gohelle Athletisme	6h40'10"
5	HARBULOT Renata	53	Club Des Marcheurs Dijonnais	6h53'36"
6	CRILLEY Cathy (GBR)			7h39'16"

**50 Km for Men**

1	BELLOIR Gilles	54	Ula Quimper Cornouaille	4h55'17"
2	TOURNOIS Pascal	54	Asm Bar-le-duc	4h57'42"
3	HEINRICH Thierry	63	Ga Meusien	5h04'26"
4	MOREL Philippe	65	Ac Chateau Thierry	5h08'11"
5	RODIONOV Alexei (RUS)	57	Neuilly Sur Marne Athletisme	5h09'21"
6	BOVIN Laurent	61	Ca Montreuil	5h15'28"

**200 KM DE DIJON, FRANCE, 28-29 APRIL 2007**

The event promised to be a big one with many of the Paris Colmar hopefuls having a final hitout before the big event and it did not disappoint. Thierry Heinrich went to an early lead over Phillip Morel and Gregorz Urbanowski while in the women's section, Marina Tarashevich went straight to the lead, followed a few minutes back by Claudine Anxionnat. By halfway the leading positions had been sorted out. Urbanowski, Lukashevich and Klapa held three first 3 places in the men's event with all on the same lap. In the women's event, Marina Tarashevich had already lapped everyone in the 3.6 km lap, with Anxionnat in second and Plee in third. The places did not change for the rest of the race and Urbanowski and Tarashevich had easy victories. Urbanowski must be the unbackable favourite for yet another Colmar win while Tarashevich will also be hard to beat.

1	Urbanowski Grzegorz-A.	WKS "Slask" Wroclaw	POL	23:08:29	200.000	8.643
2	Lukashevich Nicolai	Ind. Brest	BLR	23:48:35	200.000	8.400
3	Klapa Zbigniew	Individuel Lasowski	POL	24:00:05	192.657	8.027
4	Gilg Paul	PCA Neuf-Brisach	FRA	23:55:26	185.315	7.746
5	Albrecht Jacky	ASM Bar-le-Duc	FRA	24:10:04	181.644	7.516
6	Spieser Jean-Paul	PCA Neuf-Brisach	FRA	23:51:18	170.630	7.153
7	Marshall Kevin	Ilford AC	GBR	23:59:03	170.630	7.114
8	Bitard Michel	AM St-Thibaut des V.	FRA	23:45:36	148.602	6.254
9	Daloz Robert	Neuilly-sur-Marne A	FRA	23:51:12	148.602	6.230
10	Tabouret Guy	US Toul	FRA	23:57:10	133.917	5.591
11	Glaser Jean- Bernard	Neuilly-sur-Marne A	FRA	23:51:13	130.246	5.460

12	Nyström K-G	Individuel	SWE	23:43:43	111.860	4.683
	Baudour Raymond	UA Tarbes	FRA		108.219	Arrêt
	Penkalla Patrick	ASPTT Bar-le-Duc	FRA		100.876	Arrêt
	Thanron Bernard	Dynamic Aulnay Club	FRA		100.876	Arrêt
	Lachiver Piarrp	Coureur s/r Côte d'O	FRA		100.876	Arrêt
1	Tarashevich Marina	Ind. Brest	BLR	22:17:04	170,630	7,657
2	Anxionnat Claudine	RESDA Vosges	FRA	24:08:23	163,287	6,764
3	Plée Mary	line US Berry	FRA	24:04:28	153,274	6,325
4	Berthault-Korzhyk	Annie Neuilly sur Marne	FRA	23:51:09	126,575	5,375
5	Landru Noëlle	AS Corbel-Essonnes	FRA	23:51:08	104,547	4,383



Winners Grzegorz Adam Urbanowski and Marina Tarashevich (<http://www.marchons.com/dijon-printemps.html>)

#### FROM THE AUSTRALIAN CENTURION ARCHIVES - 1971

The Australian Centurions Chapter was formed in 1971 due to the hard work of 4 Australian-based people

- Tom Daintry who has been an Australian race walker for many years
- Brian Parkinson who was involved in racewalking as an official
- Fred Redman who had been a Centurion in England and who came to Australia in the Sixties (now deceased)
- Len Matthews, another expatriate Brit who was also a British Centurion (now deceased).

These people put up the initial money to have the medallions and certificates made, and promoted the idea of an annual 100 mile/24 hour race. However, the first question to be decided was – had anyone previously completed the Centurion distance in Australia?

Len Matthews was able to find out that the previous record on Australian soil was 20:58:09, done by Gordon Smith in 1938. The race was now on to see who would be the first athlete to become a modern day Australian Centurion. While Len set to work to get the ball rolling in Adelaide, Brian, Fred and Tom set to work to put together a race in Victoria. The task for both groups was the same – to identify key candidates and get them to the starting line.

Len Matthews had his ideal candidate firmly targeted – Jack Webber. Jack had been for many years the South Australian walking champion over many distances and had attempted some longer walks. At 57 years of age, Jack was ready to take on a much greater challenge.

The first race date for the modern era was set – August 20-21 1971 with the venue being the Adelaide Harriers Track which was a cinders track set in parkland just south of the main Adelaide city area. The rest is history – Jack completed the walk in 22:44:53 without any major difficulties and became the first Australian Centurion under the new governing body. The only other starter was a young South Australian walker by the name of Tim Thompson who reached a distance of 47.75 miles before retiring.



The Victorians were not far behind. The Victorian Amateur Walkers Club had selected the Edwards Lake Track in Reservoir as a suitable venue. It was a recently laid rubber bitumen track set amidst parkland. The date was set for 23-24 October, barely 2 months after Jack's walk. Alf Robinson, the President of VAWC, had been busy getting a good field in place. Although top walkers like Ted Allsop had declined the challenge, Alf had been successful in getting Jim Gleeson to the line as his 'top gun'. Jim had won various VAWC 50 mile races, and had competed on a number of occasions in the Darwin Ultra-walk. Jim also held the best time for an Australian over the 50 mile distance, namely 08:15:19, set in 1963.

History shows that at Reservoir, in atrocious conditions, three further new members were added – Jim Gleeson with 18:33:58, Clarrie Jack with 20:39:45 and Stu Cooper with 21:36:53.. Stu recently sent me the following photos with the accompanying explanatory text..



Here are the photos taken by my brother at the 1971 100-miler. I've touched up a couple as they were pretty dark and obscure (it was only a box-brownie camera). Rest assured that the conditions were every bit as bleak as they look.

The shot of me making my (painful) way back to the marshalling area after the finish shows me being assisted by Charlie Jacobson with Ron Wood behind him. Mum and Dad are on the left. Mum had just got off night duty at Caulfield Hospital and when Dad picked her up she asked him 'How far did he get?' Dad replied: 'He's still going!' to which Mum said: 'Get me out there - quickly!' She got there in time to see me cross the line.

The shot of Jim and Clarrie was taken just after sunrise. Jim still looked strong. Between them in the distance is Ray Smith.

The one of me at about the same time features a guy with no athletic connection at all, who lived across the street from the track and noticed the activity as he arrived home from a party. He donned a pair of sandshoes and came over. He accompanied me for at least two hours, chatting and trying to keep pace even though the effort nearly killed him. It was much appreciated.

Hope you enjoy looking at them. I'm also enclosing a letter written to me by Tom Daintry, which I was very honoured to receive. It still saddens me that Tom was never able to achieve membership himself after all the work he did to get it rolling.

Thanks Stu..great stuff!

#### FINANCIAL NEWS

We have now completed our annual centurions event and I must report that it was the usual drain on our finances. As explained previously, we do not generate any income from our annual event but regard it as our contribution to the Coburg Harriers who bear the full costs, financial and manpower wise. Our finances have now fallen pretty low so it is time to call upon those members who have not recently made a donation – dig into your pockets and forward something to us.

Incoming	Tee shirt sales	90.00	
	Tim Thompson – newsletter subs	12.00	
Outgoing	Postage and Photocopying	67:15	
	Racewalking Australia 100 km medallions	41:00	
	V.F. Trainer – Jack Webber Trophy replica	35:00	
	Tee Shirt Company – centurion race tee shirts	465.00	
	Racewalking Australia affiliation fee	66.00	
	Tent Hire – Centurion event	77.00	
	Balance as at 16 May 2007		64:05

**UNTIL OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER**

Well, it's all over for another year. Thanks to the many members and supporters who helped during the weekend and ensured that the event went smoothly. Congratulations to all the walkers. You have tested yourselves out against one of the biggest challenges you are ever likely to face.

Yours in Centurion walking

Tim Erickson (C 13)  
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