

CENTURION FOOTNOTES

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President	Ian Jack (C 17)	03-95706195
Vice-President	Terry O'Neill (C 18)	03-95435753
Secretary	Tim Erickson (C 13)	03-90125431

DATES...DATES...DATES

18-22 Nov 2009	Ultracentric 24H Run/Walk (see http://www.ultracentric.net)	Flower Mound, Texas, USA
12-13 Dec 2009	2 nd Putrajaya International 12 Hour Walk 2009 See http://racewalkermalaysia.synthasite.com	Putrajaya, Malaysia
6-7 March 2010	24 Hours Bourges (French C'ship and 2010 Paris - Colmar qualifier)	Bourges, France
7 March 2010	Coburg 6 Hour Walk/Run Championships	Coburg, Victoria
27-28 March 2010	24 Hours de Chateau Thierry (2010 Paris - Colmar qualifier)	Chateau Thierry, France
17-18 April 2010	2010 Australian Centurions 24 Hour Walk	Coburg, Victoria
24-25 April 2010	24 heures de Dijon (2010 Paris - Colmar qualifier)	Dijon, France
6-12 June 2010	6 Day Race, Antibes	Antibes, France
21-22 Aug 2010	2010 British Centurions Qualifier	Isle of Man

The Isle of Man Veteran Athletes Club will organise the 2010 British Centurions 100 mile event on 21-22 August next year. The course will be the same as in 2006 at the National Sports Centre in Douglas. More information to follow.

NEWS ON OUR MEMBERS

On 17-20 September, the inaugural Commonwealth Mountain and Ultra Distance Championships were held in Keswick at the heart of Cumbria in the English Lake District. **Sandra Brown (C 36)** was in action as one of the runners selected to represent England in the 24 Hour Division and she performed excellently, finishing 13th with a distance of **187.119 km**. See <http://www.cumbriacommonwealthchampionships.org/Results.htm> for the full results.

As reported in our last newsletter, **Gerald Manderson (C 31)** completed his solo walk from Melbourne to Brisbane in July/August, finishing in 33 days 6 hours including a three-day break. I asked Gerald for a suitable photo and he has obliged – boy, that is a fair bit of stuff he carried over his long trek!



Stu Cooper (C 5) is back from a trip to England with his wife Wendy and, amongst his various family commitments, he had time for a race and made sure he caught up with Mark Wall, new English centurion and old mate. Here are a couple of photos and some excerpts from his correspondences

The second race was scheduled to be held in the village of Simister in Lancashire. It was listed as the 'Simister Nightmare', a 10km slog over 18 steep climbs and drops - not, apparently, for either the faint-hearted or the remotely intelligent! I was digesting the prospect of this lunacy (and the possible toll on hamstrings, knees, PT tendons, you name it), when I received an e-mail saying the event had been changed. It was now a 20km trophy event over a much kinder, undulating course. Somewhat relieved, I headed over the Pennines and met the members of Lancashire Walking Club. The race started in two packs - slow and faster. I went with the slow pack and was passed in the last 3km by one of the faster guys, Greg Smith, to be 2nd across the line, 7th overall, in 2h 13m 35s - a season best. It was a pleasing result on a course choked with village traffic, including buses and hay trucks.

The next day it was down to Northampton to meet up with Mark Wall. He hasn't changed much below the hairline (and not at all behind it) - still fit, funny and enthusiastic, as ever. We had lunch with him and his partner Sue, followed by a tour of Northampton city which - naturally! - included some of the parks where he trains and coaches. It was great to meet up with Mark again and reminisce about old times, and to see how active he still is in the sport. They need more like him over here.



Racing in the Simister 20km ... 5k to go!



Reliving memories of past Albert Park battles with Mark Wall!

Rudy Schoors (C 55) and **Caroline Mestdagh (C 56)** were back in action last month with a further walk and have more hitouts planned for later in the year.

Our walks are getting better again. Last week we walked the 80km of the Langstraat in Waalwijk-Holland. More than 2900 participants started. We ended together in 6th place. We were very satisfied with this result. Normally we do two more long distance again this year: The Night of Bocholtz (Holland) and the Houffalize-Plombieres (Belgium) - both are 110km, but there is no rush: most of the time you walk in a group: average speed 6.5 to 7 km/h. It is fun with the other walkers and chatting with each other.

Take care and greetings to you all, Rudy and Caroline.

Charles Arosanyin (C 46) emailed me recently from Samoa - he was there when the earthquake and tsunami hit last month. He said to let everyone know that he is ok but was badly shaken up by the experience. Good on you Charles.

Dutch Centurions secretary **Piet Jansens (C 389)** continues with his quest to walk Great Britain from West to East and South to North - what exciting stuff!

From 31st August till 14th September I walked my third section of LEJOG (Land's end to John O'Groats), mostly following the Pennine Way and beyond there over St.Cuthberts Way and Southern Upland Way, passing the new Falkirk Wheel to Glasgow. The walk was a distance of 470 km. Next year I do the last section over the West Highland Way, Great Glen Way to Inverness and along the East Coast of Northern Scotland to John O'Groats. Best wishes and kind regards, Piet Jansens

On further questioning about the wet weather, he replied

Yes, it was very wet, especially on the Pennine Way. An old Navy man told me in the Youth Hostel in Bymess, where we have an overnight and drinking a beer together, that when he was walking down the hill, the salmon was swimming to the top of the hill.

One day, two other Englishman walked together with us along the Hadrian Wall and said: "Don't sunbathe on a bog, the mud be good for your skin, but not when you are two feet below the surface".

Very nice walking, is it not ?? But surprise !! When we passed the border of Scotland the sun started shining and all the days after were clear and easy going.

NEW PHOTOS OF GORDON SMITH (C 1) UNEARTHED

I was excited recently to receive further info from Belinda Keir of the Sydney Bush Walkers and two further photos of Gordon Smith, Australian Centurion Number 1. The first, from 1937, shows the Tiger Walkers, an elite group within the Sydney Bush Walkers, who explored and mapped many of new areas for which topographic maps did not exist. See http://www.sbw.org.au/Content_Common/pg-About-us-Sydney-Bushwalkers-Sydney-Bush-Walkers-Walking-Club-Sydney-Bushwalking-Bush-Walking.seo for this photo in context.



Tigers at Carlons Head, 25 April 1937. Left to right - Jack Debert, Gordon Smith, Bill McCosker, Len Scotland, David Stead, Alex Colley, Hilma Galliot, Dot English, Norbert Carlon, Max Gentle. Photo: Alex Colley.

The second is a further photo from his time in Malaya as a member of the 2/19 Infantry Battalion doing Intelligence Duties. Able to read maps and negotiate unknown terrains, he was an obvious choice for such a key role.



Gordon Smith (in middle, without hat) in Malaya in 1941

Official Caption: Lubok, Malaya. 1941-06. Members of 'I' Section, 2/19th Battalion, beside a truck enjoying a drink and a smoke. Identified are: Private (Pte) V. A. H. (Vern) Benjamin; Pte S. J. (Stan) McAlister; Sergeant (Sgt) W. H. (Bill) Tozer; Gordon Smith; Sgt M. J. (Maurie) Brennan; Pte R. S. (Bob) Evans; Sgt Jack Christie and Pte I. A. V. Melouney (driver, seated on the ground). (Donor R. Newton). See <http://cas.awm.gov.au/photograph/P00102.047>

I have amended my biography of Gordon to add in these additional photos and related information. You can read the updated document at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/wa-gordon-smith.pdf>

28 HEURES DE ROUBAIX, 19-20 SEPTEMBER 2009

The French city of Roubaix holds two big sporting events each year – the Paris-Roubaix cycling classic in April and the 28 Hour walking classic in September. This year marked the 56th edition of the annual 28 Heures de Roubaix and the event brought together the cream of European walking, both male and female - boasting walkers from 10 nations, it was indeed an international event. All the usual trimmings were present (brass band, etc) combined with the unique course winding through the city streets.

The race lived up to re-race hype and the victors were two very worthy champions. In the men's event, Russian Dmitri Osipov, the winner of the 2008 Paris-Colmar classic, who has been a regular place getter in Roubaix (2nd in 2004 and 2007, 3rd in 2005 and 1st in 2006 and 2008), took victory again with a superb 237km, almost exactly matching his 2008 winning distance. Hungarian Zoltan Czukor led from the start and it was not until he retired at the 100km mark that Osipov took the lead. French walker Gilles Letessier, second in 2006 and 2008, took silver again this year with a distance of 226km. Third place went to Russian Nicolaï Frolov with 219km.

In the women's race, Kora Boufflert went in as a firm favorite after her victory only a few weeks before in the St Thibault de Vignes (189km in 24 hours) and she performed as expected. Showing no ill effects from her most recent outing, she led from the start, powering to a total distance of 215km and finishing some 7km ahead of Sylviane Varin. Third place went to Claudine Anxionnat with 192 km, a good effort considering that she had participated in the World Masters championships and the Tour de Romandie in the previous few months. Her place ensured that the women's podium was an all French affair.



Daniel Foudjem, Nikolai Frolov, Dominique Naumowicz and Sylviane Varin in action (<http://www.roubaix.maville.com>)

Main results were as follows

Men's 28 Hour

1.	OSIPOV Dimitri	RUS	28:07:08	237.705 km
2.	LETESSIER Gilles	FRA	28:04:58	226.290 km
3.	FROLOV Nikolai	RUS	28:00:08	219.340 km
4.	LYKYANOV Sergey	FRA	28:00:48	216.855 km
5.	ALBRECHT Jacky	RUS	28:02:35	216.855 km
6.	NAUMOWICZ Dominique	FRA	28:00:31	210.895 km
7.	PETER Vincent	FRA	28:00:05	205.440 km
8.	GEORGELIN Serge	FRA	28:03:00	203.460 km
9.	PEDERSEN Per Kleis	DEN	28:00:51	201.965 km

10.	BUNEL Pascal	FRA	28:02:57	195.015 km
11.	ASSELOS Patrick	FRA	28:02:39	184.590 km
12.	BOVIN Laurent	FRA	28:09:02	184.590 km
13.	WATTS Ken	GBR	28:03:01	180.125 km
14.	DEKKER Marcel	HOL	28:04:14	179.989 km
15.	BAUDRILLARD Antonio	FRA	28:03:05	175.555 km
16.	ELIESER Jocelyn	FRA	28:03:06	172.185 km
17.	FOUDJEM Daniel	CAM	-	169.215 km
18.	PSUTKA Roman	CZE	28:09:39	167.215 km
19.	SEYNAEVE Serge	BEL	28:07:23	165.720 km
20.	WATTS Bob	GBR	28:02:07	162.750 km
21.	LEERMAKERS Ad	HOL	28:00:24	159.275 km
22.	HASSEVELDE Sébastien	FRA	28:04:41	156.285 km
23.	RASSAIND André	FRA	28:00:14	155.800 km
24.	MAUNY Claude	FRA	28:06:17	150.325 km
25.	CONSTANDINOU John	GBR	28:03:32	143.880 km
26.	DUJARDIN Bernard	FRA	28:02:48	142.890 km

Women's 28 Hour

1.	BOUFFLERT Kora	FRA	28:07:06	215.865 km
2.	VARIN Sylviane	FRA	28:07:09	208.915 km
3.	ANXIONNAT Claudine	FRA	28:01:30	192.530 km
4.	BORISOVA Olga	RUS	28:01:27	189.055 km
5.	PEREVALO Iryna	UKR	28:07:08	174.165 km
6.	NQUINQUETON Bernadette	FRA	28:03:29	154.810 km
7.	DAVIES Karen	GBR	28:01:32	150.830 km
8.	LUCIEN Francilla	FRA	28:03:32	148.880 km
9.	MIROCHNITCHENKO Vera	RUS	28:09:39	140.910 km



Roubaix winner Kora Boufflert (<http://en-marcha.blogspot.com/>)

32ND EDITION OF THE 24 HEURES DE VALLORBE, 3-4 OCTOBER 2009, VALLORBE, SWITZERLAND

The 32nd edition of the 24 Heures de Vallorbe was the fourth qualifier for the 2010 Paris-Colmar classic and took place two weeks after the highly successful Roubaix event.

Swiss walker Urbain Girod won the men's event for the third time, achieving a very respectable 202km. Behind him came two Frenchmen, Jean-Marie Rouault with 192km and Pascal Marshal with 190km. It was also great to see Russian legend Alexei Rodionov cross the finish line in fourth place with 178km.

The women's event was won as expected by French walker Sylviane Varin with 175km and second place went to Ukrainian walker Iryna Perevalo with 161km. Their walks are more impressive when you consider that they only had two weeks to recover from their Roubaix efforts. Third place went to Corinne Fauqueur but her distance of 152km was well below her best. US walker Dorit Attias was unlucky to stumble shortly after the 80th kilometer, hurting herself badly in the process and she was forced to retire around the 100km mark.



Vallorbe winner Urbain Girod (<http://en-marcha.blogspot.com/>)

1.	GIROD Urbain	CM Monthey	SUI	24:02:48	202.390	8,417
2.	ROUAULT Jean-Marie	Omnisports Pithiviers	FRA	24:03:23	192.174	7,988
3.	MARECHAL Pascal	AC Château Thierry	FRA	24:00:50	190.114	7,917
4.	RODIONOV Alexei		RUS	24:01:01	178.854	7,447
5.	VARIN Sylviane (F)	Non précisé	FRA	24:00:59	175.270	7,298
6.	VARAIN Cédric	AC Château Thierry	FRA	24:03:12	169.118	7,031
7.	BERT Dominique	AS Crédit Foncier de France	FRA	24:03:26	165.506	6,880
8.	PEREVALO Iryna (F)	Neuilly sur Marne Athlétisme	UKR	24:00:57	161.442	6,722
9.	GRASSI Alain	MJ Trouville	FRA	24:01:51	156.306	6,504
10.	FAUQUEUR Corinne (F)	US Dunkerque	FRA	24:01:51	152.722	6,355
11.	RASSAIND André	Amicale Laïque Voiron	FRA	24:01:20	149.646	6,229
12.	PICOT Gérard	Rando Montf.	FRA	24:02:10	148.094	6,161
13.	REYMOND Blaise		SUI	24:02:19	144.002	5,990
14.	PRUCKNER Jaroslav	AC MLADA BOLES LAV	CZE	24:01:28	139.882	5,822
15.	GLASER Jean Bernard	Neuilly sur Marne Athlétisme	FRA	24:03:53	136.834	5,686
16.	BAUDRILLARD Antonio	PCA/CSL Neuf Brisach	FRA	24:02:06	133.222	5,543
17.	SPIESER Jean-Paul	RESDA Vosges	FRA	24:04:44	124.022	5,151
	GUERINIER Christian	FAC Andrézieux	FRA	16:06:16	108,670	6.748
	GENIN Sebastien	CM Monthey	SUI	13:28:19	102,518	7.610
	ATTIAS Dorit (F)	Walk USA	USA	14:21:07	96,366	6.714
	HARBULOT Francis	CM Dijon	FRA	11:03:20	77,910	7.047
	PENKALLA Patrick	Athle 21	FRA	8:01:27	59,454	7.409
	FAUBERT Daniel	U.A Versailles	FRA	5:49:54	47,150	8.085
	FOVANNA Jean-Daniel		SUI	8:23:44	44,074	5.250
	BURGER Alain	Non précisé	FRA	20:38:06	44,074	2.136
	LESCURE Frédéric	Non précisé	FRA	4:37:40	34,846	7.530
	PANNIER Josianne (F)	Non précisé	FRA	3:42:50	28,694	7.726
	THANRON Bernard	Non précisé	FRA	3:02:58	22,542	7.392

8 HEURES DE ETAMPES, FRANCE, 18 OCTOBER 2009

Another 2 weeks and another ultra distance walk, this time over 8 hours. The results showed 36 men and 9 women, nearly all of them French – an indication of the ongoing strength of long distance walking in that country. Fabrice Henry (78.3km) and Claudine Anxionnat (63.8km) were the winners.

Men's 8 Hour Walk

1.	HENRY Fabrice	66	FRA	07:58:14	78.3 km	9.824 km/hr
2.	HENRY Thierry	63	FRA	08:03:23	75.4	9.359
3.	FAUBERT Daniel	47	FRA	07:46:32	72.5	9.324
4.	VIT Philippe	53	FRA	07:49:57	72.5	9.256
5.	DIEN Daniel	50	FRA	07:57:14	72.5	9.115
6.	BUNEL Pascal	64	FRA	08:00:41	72.5	9.050
7.	CHATILLON Dominique	55	FRA	07:50:12	69.6	8.881
8.	LABARRE Bertrand	57	FRA	07:51:17	69.6	8.861
9.	PELLERIN Alain	68	FRA	07:55:49	69.6	8.776
10.	MARECHAL Pascal	62	FRA	07:57:12	69.6	8.751
11.	BAUDOUR Raymond	54	FRA	07:57:38	69.6	8.743
12.	CHAUMONOT Rémy	53	FRA	08:02:07	69.6	8.662
13.	LETESSEIER Gilles		FRA	07:49:55	66.7	8.516
14.	FRECHENGUES Bernard	49	FRA	07:53:53	66.7	8.445
15.	MARECHAL Jean	47	FRA	07:55:35	66.7	8.415
16.	GIRAUDEAU Denis	51	FRA	07:57:19	66.7	8.384
17.	RODIONOV Aleksei	57	RUS	07:48:14	63.8	8.175
18.	LAILLER Patrick	50	FRA	07:51:18	63.8	8.122
19.	BOUFFLERT Eric	65	FRA	07:51:46	63.8	8.114
20.	BORDIER Daniel	44	FRA	08:05:31	63.8	7.884

Women's 8 Hour Walk

1.	ANXIONNAT Claudine	51	FRA	07:51:44	63.8	8.115
2.	CAMUS Corinne	66	FRA	07:48:12	60.9	7.804
3.	MASY Antonietta	63	FRA	08:02:15	60.9	7.577
4.	MOINEAU Isabelle	67	FRA	07:47:12	58.0	7.449
5.	QUINQUETON Bernadette	61	FRA	07:50:09	58.0	7.402
6.	MORVAN Nicole	44	FRA	08:05:01	55.1	6.816
7.	DOUET Christiane	46	FRA	08:09:55	55.1	6.748
8.	BERTHAULT Annie	52	FRA	08:03:33	52.2	6.477
9.	VIT Martine		FRA	07:46:19	46.4	5.970

FOCUS ON GEOFF PETERS C-20

Geoff Peters, ¹ born 31 January 1927, is one of our oldest Centurions and one of our keenest. Geoff is South Australia's third centurion, coming chronologically after Jack Webber (C 2) and Tim Thompson (C 6), and Australia's twentieth one but more of that later. Let's start at the beginning.

Geoff and his wife Pat have been actively involved in athletics for over 60 years and are still going strong. Geoff started walking in 1942 when aged 15. He is considered to be the longest serving registered athlete and official in South Australia and Pat the longest serving official – Geoff for 66 years and Pat for 64 years. Their involvement obviously commenced well before the amalgamation of the men's and women's associations and well back before the 1956 Olympics.

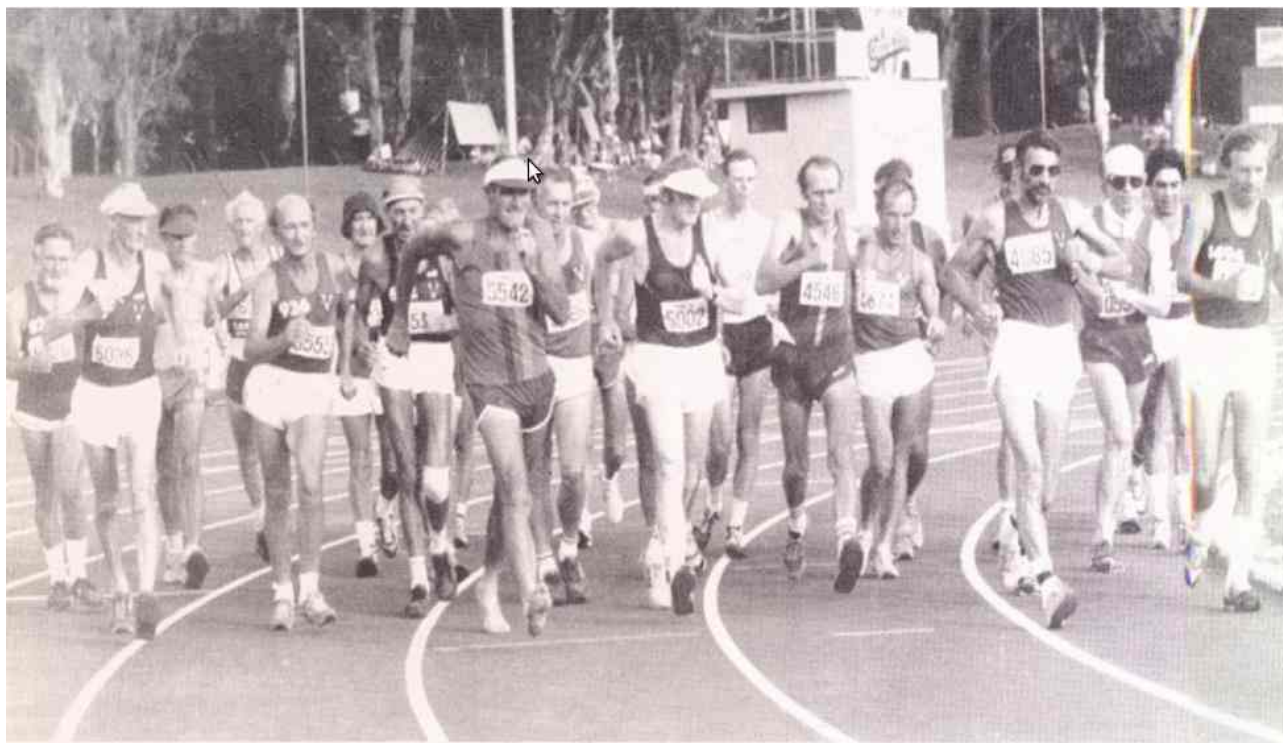
Both were instrumental in organising the interstate meets in alternate years between Western Districts Club and Brunswick Athletics Club in Victoria and their home was host to many interstate guests over many years.

Geoff and Pat have been married for 58 years and have four daughters. Both are life members of Western Districts Club, the South Australian Masters Association and Athletics S.A. Further, Pat recently received an Australia Medal for her contribution to sport.

¹ Much of the early information and the photos in this article are taken from Bob Cruise's 2009 book 'A History of Racewalking in South Australia'.

Geoff competed in a multitude of events over the years, initially in the throwing and walking competitions and the popular handicap mile runs at Adelaide Oval during breaks in the football matches. Like most men of his age, his sporting career was interrupted by the Second World War and he enlisted and served out his time like everyone else.

Once the War had finished, he returned to civilian life and restarted his stalled athletics career. He was Club Captain for many years at Western Districts and won the State hammer throw in 1950. Geoff eventually moved to distance and endurance events, running a marathon in 1956 and taking part in the Western Districts 1959 Adelaide – Port Pirie Relay event. He had success in the walks over a long period, one of his many medals being runner up in the State 50km walk in 1966. Geoff recalls with a smile the many times he and Bill Starr (long serving South Australian Walking Club President) enjoyed copious amounts of ginger beer following their race walking efforts in the sixties.



Australian Veteran's 5,000m, Adelaide 1986

Geoff (number 5542) competing in the Australian Veterans 5000m track championship in Adelaide in 1986. Note he is competing bare foot!

One of his many rivals and mates on the walking track was Jack Webber (C 2) and Geoff was a key player in Jack's record setting 1979 walk from Melbourne to Adelaide. Jack set off from Melbourne on Wednesday 15 August 1979 and reached Adelaide on Saturday August 25, setting a new walk record of 10 days 2 hours 30 mins. Jack regarded this as perhaps his greatest achievement and Geoff was there the whole way. He had taken two weeks off work and accompanied Jack on a bicycle for the full 10 days, attending to all his needs during the walking day and providing massages each night.

A year later, Geoff was back to help Jack in another record breaking performance which saw him create a world record (Guinness Book of Records) in an unforgettable performance around the Adelaide Harriers track, covering a staggering 1062.25 miles (4269 laps) in 38 days 2 hrs 30 mins, an average of more than 27 miles per day - at the age of 66!

Jack and Geoff had it all planned out. Jack would at 9 AM each day, walking a marathon a day for 38 days to complete his 1000 mile target. If he had any time up his sleeve, he would continue on to finish his endurance event just as Geoff started his own Centurion attempt on Saturday 6 September 1980.

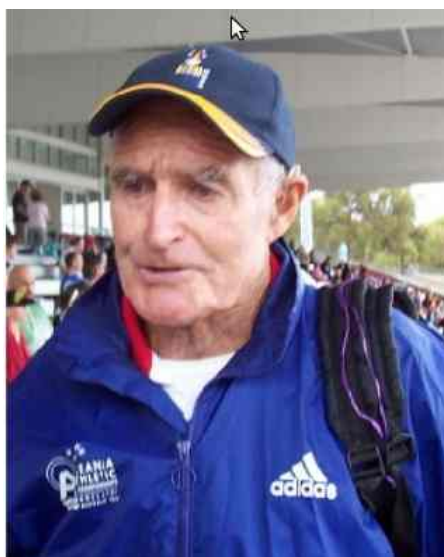
Jack had chosen the old cinders track at the Adelaide Harriers in preference to the tartan track at Kensington for Geoff's 1980 Centurion attempt and he had been training Geoff for the big effort. In fact, Geoff had walked many miles with Jack during his marathon performance and this set him up for his own successful Centurion attempt. The race started at midday on the Saturday and Geoff walked honestly to get in with some 25 minutes to spare to become Australian Centurion Number 20 – his final time being 23:34:10.

Since then, Geoff has been an enthusiastic member of our elite club, always on the lookout for prospective new members and regularly coming over to Melbourne to watch our Coburg event.



**Another medal for Geoff – this time a bronze in the 1987 South Australian 5000m track walk championship.
From left to right: Don Dohnt (starter) Col Hainsworth (2nd) Don Cox (1st) and Geoff**

Geoff and Pat are still involved as officials with the South Australian Athletics Association and the South Australian Masters Association and they help run the weekly Masters walking competitions. One of the most pleasant things about attending any athletics meeting in Adelaide is the almost certainty that I will be able to say hello to Geoff as he officiates or spectates.



Geoff officiating at Santos Stadium in Adelaide a week before his 80th birthday in January 2007

May Geoff and Pat have many more years of enjoyment from the sport to which they have contributed so much.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Our finances continue to go well. I have new silver and bronze medallions on order and will soon be finalising payment for our new honour board but we are well placed to cover both outlays and have plenty in the kitty. Thanks especially to Deryck Skinner who volunteered for a series of Adelaide Fun Runs as an official and donated his payment to us. Thanks Deryck – that is a very generous gesture.

Incoming	Ruth Webber – donation (including 2010 newsletter postal)	30.00
	Deryck Skinner – donation (for new honour board setup)	200.00
Outgoing	Postage	- 17.30
	New Honour Board (from VRWC)	<u>- 100.00</u>
Balance		1196.89

UNTIL OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Wow, the second last newsletter for the year already – the months have flown by us with their usual speed. As we head towards our summer here in Australia, the sun is shining, the lawns are green and the gardens are resplendant with spring colours. I might even go for a walk!

Yours in Centurion walking

Tim Erickson (C 13)
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