

CENTURION FOOTNOTES

JANUARY 2011 – VOL 18 NUMBER 1

The Official Magazine of Australian Centurion Walkers Inc
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Vice-President	Geoff Peters (C 20)	08-83564201
Secretary	Tim Erickson (C 13)	03-90125431

DATES...DATES...DATES

The number of ultra distance events in Australia is growing each year and 2011 looks set to provide many opportunities for both walkers and runners. The best source of information remains the Australian Ultra Runners Assn (AURA) website – check out <http://www.aura.asn.au/events.html>. Here is a selection of local and overseas walk events.

12 Feb 2011	Caboolture 6H and 12H events	Caboolture, QLD
13 Feb 2011	8 hours Charly Charly sur Marne	Charly sur Marne, FRA
26 Feb 2011	24 hours of Bourges	Bourges, FRA
Sat 5 March 2011	Coburg 6 Hour Run/Walk Championships	Coburg, Melbourne, VIC
Sun 6 March 2011	6 Hours of Valencia	Valencia, ESP
26 March 2011	24 hours of Chateau-Thierry (French Championship)	Chateau-Thierry, FRA
16 April 2011	Nacht van Loon op Zand (15 hours and 80km)	Loon op Zand, NED
16-17 April 2011	Australian Centurions 24H Walk Qualifier	Coburg, Melbourne, VIC
14 May 2011	British Centurions Centenary Dinner, House of Commons	London, ENG
4 June 2011	FANS 24 hour – American Centurion Qualifier	Minneapolis, USA
4 June 2011	Continental Centurions 24 Hour Walk Qualifier (OLAT)	Weert, NED
5 June 2011	French Ultra Festival (6 days, 72 hours, 48 hours)	Antibes, FRA
18 June 2010	Sri Chinmoy Australian 24 Hour Track Championship	Brisbane, QLD
22-25 June 2011	Paris Colmar Classic	Paris-Colmar, FRA
25 June 2011	Parish Walk (135km)	Isle of Man, UK
25 June 2011	24 hours Haute Saintonge Montguyon	FRA
16 July 2011	6/12/24 Hour race (details to be added, date to be confirmed)	Adelaide, South Australia
29 July 2011	Australian 48 Hour Championship (and Qld 24 Hour champ)	Caboolture, QLD
20-21 August 2011	British Centurions 24H Walk Qualifier	Lingfield Race Course, Surrey
20 August 2011	24 hours Graide	Graide, BEL
17 Sept 2011	28 hours of Roubaix	Roubaix, FRA

Our own 2011 Australian Centurions 6 Hour walk (March) and 24 Hour walk (April) look set for big fields. With entry forms out now for only 2 months, we have already confirmed 16 walkers in the 24 Hour event and 11 walkers in the 6 Hour event. Entrants read as follows

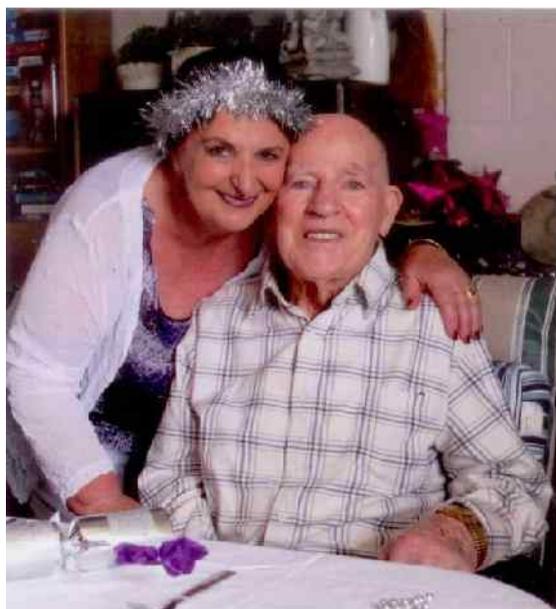
24H Walk Women	ABLETT, Katrina	VIC
	KELLY, Diana	VIC
	O'NEILL, Karyn	VIC (Aust Centurion C45)
	PARRIS, Dawn	VIC
	QUEENEY, Serena	ENGLAND
	THOMPSON, Michelle	VIC
24H Walk Men	COMMINS, Louis	NSW
	JACK, Clarrie	VIC (Aust Centurion C4)
	JORDAN, Steve	VIC
	McKAY, Doug	VIC
	MANDERSON, Gerald	NZ (dual Australian and New Zealand Centurion)
	O'NEILL, Terry	VIC (Aust Centurion C18)
	SHELLEY, Andrew	NZ (New Zealand Centurion C16)
	TINSON, Laurie	VIC
	Van den BOOGAARD, Martijn	HOLLAND (Continental Centurion C385)
	VOITIN, John	VIC
6H Walk Women	PARRIS, Dawn	VIC
	THOMPSON, Michelle	VIC

6H Walk Men	ABLETT, Tim	VIC
	COMMINS, Louis	NSW
	JACK, Clarrie	VIC
	JORDAN, Steve	VIC
	McKAY, Doug	VIC
	O'NEILL, Terry	VIC
	SHARP, Philip	NZ (New Zealand Centurions Secretary)
	TURNER, Gary	VIC
	O'NEILL, Karyn	VIC

NEWS FROM THE CENTURION WORLD

Deryck Skinner (C 51) has changed address – to 18/222 Payneham Road, Evandale, SA 5069. Alas, Deryck is currently out of action, having managed to fall off his bike onto his knee while stationary at a traffic light! No don't laugh as I did it myself once – I had just got new clip-on bike shoes and did not take quick enough action when rolling to a stop at the lights. It was indeed embarrassing to fall to the ground for no apparent reason as the pedestrians walked across in front of me. So I can sympathise, Deryck! I hope you are back in action soon.

I received a letter a few days ago from Julianne Bingham, the daughter of our oldest Australian Centurion **Dudley Pilkington (C 7)**. She commented that although Dudley is now 91 years of age, he is still in reasonably good health and well remembers and talks often of his earlier walking pursuits and his working life, etc. He will be 92 years old on 18th June 2011 and it is a milestone he wants to reach, as he will be twice the age of his father who died aged 46, in his efforts as a key rescuer at the Queenstown Mount Lyall disaster many years ago when Dudley was 3-4 years old. This photo, taken on Christmas Day 2010, shows Dudley with his daughter Julianne.



This got me to thinking about the longevity of our members and, on checking, I found that an amazing 9 of our centurions are aged 78 or older. Consider

Dudley Pilkington	91 years of age
Mike Porter	85
Stan Jones	85
Stan Miskin	85
Geoff Peters	83
Jim Gleeson	79
Merv Lockyer	79
Ken Walters	78
Deryck Skinner	78

2011 will see 80th birthdays for Jim Gleeson and Merv Lockyer. It says a lot for the healthy lifestyle associated with lots of walking that we have so many healthy and sharp older members. Well, I can't talk – I turned 60 last year!

LAUNCESTON 12 HOUR TRACK RACE, LAUNCESTON, SUNDAY 16 JANUARY 2010

The annual Launceston 6 Hour and 12 Hour track races were held at the Northern Athletic Track in Launceston on Sunday 16th January. With a 5:30AM start and a 5:30PM finish, it was a long day and sunny with warm conditions adding an extra element of stress for the entrants. There were two walkers amongst the runners and they performed well, with provisional results as follows

12 Hour Walk

1. Michelle Thompson VIC 96.417 km
2. Steve Jordan VIC 79.385 km

Michelle, who has excelled in a series of 6 Hour walk events over the last 12 months, decided to up the ante and attempt her first 12 hour walk – with immediate success. Her distance of 96.415km is a new **W40 Australian Masters Record for the 12 hours track walk** (beating the current record by a whopping 8 km) and she was only 1 km outside the Australian Residential Record, held by Carol Baird of ACT. Michelle must like this event as she holds the records for the 6 Hour run (61.919 km in 2009) and the 12 Hour Run (109.055 km in 2010). Now she has successfully transitioned to the walk and has added yet another event record to her growing list. Note that she also holds the Australian Open Residential 6 Hour Walk Record with 53.560km, set in Queensland in June 2010.

Melbourne walker Steve Jordan also walked well to complete 78.555km in the tough conditions. Their next outing will be in the Coburg 6 Hour walk on Saturday 5th March.



Michelle Thompson in action at the Victorian Race Walking Club event at Albert Park in November – on that occasion, she racewalked 2:08:39 for 20km.

CHANGE OF EXECUTIVE

Our Constitution dictates that our Presidency and Vice Presidency roll forward and are offered to new centurion members each two years, in ascending Centurion badge order. For the last 2 years (2009 and 2010), **Ian Jack (C 17)** has been our President and **Terry O'Neill (C 16)** has been our Vice President. As we enter our new cycle, Ian steps down as President, Terry steps up to take his place and **Geoff Peters (C 20)** takes on the role as Vice President. Our new Executive now reads as follows

President	Terry O'Neill (C 18)	03-95435753
Vice-President	Geoff Peters (C 20)	08-83564201
Secretary	Tim Erickson (C 13)	03-90125431
Treasurer	Lois Erickson	03-90125431

To Ian, our thanks for his support over the last 4 years. For my own part, it has been most enjoyable working with one of my old training partners. To Terry and Geoff, thanks for stepping up into your new roles.

KEN WALTERS WAXES LYRICAL

Ken Walters (C 26) recently emailed me with this great poem – I didn't know that Ken's many talents extended to the literary – well done mate.

HIS FIRST BIG MARATHON by Ken Walters



He awakes in the hours of the early morn
To prepare and psyche up for the Marathon
With aches and pains, where before there were none
The three hours barrier he had set to run
Will give way today to a run for fun
His first big Marathon

He cannot eat a thing but at least he tries
His stomach is full of butterflies
Drinks plenty of fluid as the experts state
And has spent the last week on carbohydrate
To be certain the distance he will make
In his first big marathon

His bag is packed with odds and ends
Like Vaseline, Powder and mysterious things
But just to be sure he checks it again
Then nature calls, giving him time to spend
Reflecting on how he will be at the end
Of his first big Marathon

He is at the start with his mates and more
Got a pain in the gut and the ankle is sore
Becomes a bit of a joke, they have heard it all before
Sign of a good run coming up for sure
In his first big Marathon

The starter says go and wouldn't you know
He is off like a rocket, forgotten the tales of woe
He runs 21 minutes the first five kays
He pictures a run of perhaps three hours
Makes his heart pump, gives him adrenalin powers
For his first big Marathon

The weather is hot but that doesn't mean much
He is holding his rhythm and time as such
Has a drink at each "station" and jelly beans to munch
At thirty five kays though, comes the crunch
With a stagger, leg pain and shoulders hunched
Must finish the first big Marathon

Hot and weary and covered in sweat
Staggers over the line face firmly set
How did you go? From his mates comes the call
Oh! Got a pain in the gut and the ankle is sore
But never, never, never no more
Will I run another big Marathon

As time goes by and he recaps on his run
His time wasn't bad considering his sickness and sun
Perhaps with some luck could better it some
Must check the calender which has it upon
The date of the NEXT big Marathon



JOE SCOTT – NEW ZEALAND'S MOST AMAZING ATHLETE?

The name of Joe Scott is probably not known to readers of this newsletter but hopefully we can redress that oversight. Let me start with this article, reproduced in the latest issue of the Racewalking New Zealand newsletter, written way back in 1935 for the New Zealand Railway Magazine.¹

¹ See http://www.nzetc.org/tm/scholarly/tei-Gov10_09Rail-t1-body-d30.html

THE NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS MAGAZINE, VOLUME 10, ISSUE 9 (DECEMBER 2, 1935)
NEW ZEALAND'S MOST AMAZING ATHLETE. — TEN-YEAR-OLD LAD DEFEATS CHAMPIONS
AND LATER WINS WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP

Specially Written for "N.Z. Railways Magazine," by W. F. INGRAM

NOT so long ago I had a discussion with "Dorrie" Leslie, perhaps the best known athletic official in New Zealand and a champion athlete in his day. I asked him his opinion of who was the greatest track athlete seen in New Zealand. Without hesitation he informed me that the palm should go to Joe Scott.

How many of the present generation of sporting enthusiasts have heard of this athlete? Not many, I'll warrant. But Joe Scott was a household name in the years immediately following 1875 and when he passed away, in 1908, the sport lost a most famous personality and a great champion.

On January 1st, 1875, New Zealanders saw the first of many fine performances by this wonderful walker. It was in the days when walking events were exceptionally popular, and on that day at the Caledonian annual sports meeting at Dunedin, history was made. Joe Scott, at that time, was only ten years of age, stood 3 ft. 4 ins. in height and weighed 3 st. 9 lbs., but he was entered in the two miles open championship walk. Sixteen of the country's best heel-and-toe artists were in the field, including J. Spence, the winner in 1874. Spence was a perfect giant, standing 6 ft. 4 ins. in height. Just imagine the contrast—Scott, 3 ft. 4 ins. and Spence, 6 ft. 4 ins.!

The walk was regarded as a certainty for Spence, as he had lately carried off all before him in the North Island. Spence took the lead at the start and maintained it until the commencement of the last lap, Scott lying second, close up. The big chap did his utmost to shake Scott off his heels, but the little man answered spurt for spurt. Rounds of applause greeted the midget as he stuck to his rival, but the climax was reached when, at a signal from his trainer, Austin Smith, Scott made his final effort. Walking in grand style and in the fairest possible manner, he drew up level and amidst the wildest enthusiasm and to the delight and amusement of the crowd, Scott, with a magnificent spurt went clean away from the big fellow and won the race by forty yards.



Joe Scott, aged 12 years.

Fifteen thousand spectators went mad with excitement and broke into the enclosure, delaying the sports for nearly an hour. When order was restored the Governor of New Zealand, Sir George Bowen, who had been an interested spectator, sent for Scott and congratulated him, at the same time presenting him with two sovereigns. Scott was then carried round the ring in the arms of one of the directors, and a sum of nearly £50 was collected.

Publicity methods in those days had not reached the superlative heights known to-day, but the news of Scott's extraordinary walking ability soon spread and within a week his trainer had received offers from all over New Zealand asking that the little chap give displays. Eventually he was booked for a tour lasting twelve months, and visited Wellington, Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, and the other principal towns in the Colony. Scott proved a tremendous attraction and the theatres were packed wherever he appeared. His great pace—for one so young—combined with his graceful style of walking, was everywhere admired. Of course, in those days walking races were the vogue, just as wheelbarrow derbies seem to be to-day.

But Scott was just at the beginning of a great career. In 1877, William Edwards, who had been winning all his

aces in Australia, arrived in New Zealand and after defeating J. McGregor, who at one time held the seven miles championship of New Zealand, challenged all-comers from one mile to a hundred miles. Scott's trainer promptly accepted the challenge, and matched Scott to walk Edwards for £200 a side and the seven miles championship of New Zealand. At this time, mark you, Scott was only twelve years of age! This race took place in the Garrison Hall, Dunedin, and caused immense excitement. Over six thousand spectators paid good money to see the contest. Scott, weighing only 4 st. 2lbs., was naturally enough the favourite at heart, although sound judges voted for a win by Edwards. Edwards walked as well as he had ever done previously, but proved no match for the midget, and in the last mile, Scott just walked away from him and won easily in 57 min. 6 sec. A few weeks after this Scott walked against Edwards in a race of 100 miles and won just as comfortably. At the age of twelve years, Joe Scott thus held the seven miles and one hundred miles walking championships of New Zealand.

The craze for long-distance walking—then at its height in England and America—now reached New Zealand and, in 1880, the first big twenty-four hours, night and day, competition was organised. This attracted competitors from all parts of the world, but the 15-year-old New Zealander proved equal to the task, winning first place and with it a purse of £200 and the championship belt. To make this belt his own property he had to defend it successfully against all-comers for three years. This he did without any great inconvenience to himself.

During the next few months Scott won twenty-two races in the North Island, the events ranging from twelve hours duration to six days.

About this time Arthur Hancock, the English champion, arrived in Australia and found backers there to match him against Scott to the extent of £500 for a walk of twelve hours. This event, being of international character, excited an extraordinary amount of interest, and Dunedinites were fortunate in arranging the match. Special trains ran from all parts of the land and the Garrison Hall was packed to suffocation, many thousands being unable to gain admission. It was a great race PAGE 80 for fifty miles, after which the staying powers of Scott—uncanny for a lad so young—proved too much for Hancock, who finished a long way behind.

During Hancock's stay in New Zealand he met Scott four times in twelve-hour walks, but the New Zealander won all the races, His transparently easy victories caused unbounded enthusiasm and resulted in a sum of £1,000 being subscribed to send him to England to test him against the world's best heel-and-toe performers.

Scott and his trainer arrived in England in 1888 and on arrival Austin Smith immediately issued a challenge for Scott to walk any man in the world for 12, 24, 48 hours or six days. It should be explained that a six-day walk meant six days of twelve hours continuous walking. There were no takers for the challenge and eventually Scott's trainer deposited £100 to be won by any walker who could defeat the young New Zealander. There were no walkers in England who would risk a side-wager, but there were quite a number willing to walk against Scott on the off-chance that a win would enrich them to the extent of £100 without incurring any financial responsibility. But, come one come all, they failed. Hancock tried Scott out over the 12-hours and lost; Hibberd took the New Zealander on over 24-hours, but did not see Scott after a few hours, while Howes tackled the New Zealander over 24-hours to suffer the same fate.

Scott's next appearance in England was at the Agricultural Hall in the world's championship walk of six days. This carried a cash prize of £200 and a championship belt. Here Scott met the cream of the English walkers, among whom were such striders as Munro, Hibberd, Granks and Giffen—men who were famous long before most of us were born—and fifty others. As was the case in his other races, Scott won this with ridiculous ease. A little later a similar contest was arranged at Bingley Hall, Birmingham. A cash prize of £200 attracted 75 competitors, but Scott won by over thirty miles! A few exhibition walks in Scotland concluded his one year stay in England and, in company with his old trainer, Scott returned to New Zealand.

By a singular coincidence they arrived back in 1889 just as the Caledonian Society's sports were about to commence, and at the request of the officials Scott walked a lap of honour, wearing his championship belt. If you should ever pay a visit to Wellington, call at the Arms Office of the Central Police Station and you will see a photograph of Scott wearing this valuable trophy. Fourteen years to the day after making a sensational debut Scott walked once more the cinders, but whereas he had been a stripling youth of ten years, he was now a well-built young man of 24 years and Champion of the World!

Scott did not do a great deal of serious walking after his return, although he continued to hold his superiority over the others; and it was at 43 years of age that he passed away from an illness aggravated by a habit of taking a mouthful of brass tangles when working at his trade as a bootmaker. These tangles set up an infection of the tongue and in his latter years Scott was a martyr to terrible pain.



Scott with his World Championship Belt - 1889

Scott's best records were: 12 hours, a distance of 72 miles 890 yards—over two miles better than the English record; 100 miles in 17 hours 40 minutes—twenty-four minutes better than the English record, and 72 hours, a distance of 363 miles 1,510 yards—54 miles better than the English record. These were recognised as world's records and although professional records are not officially endorsed or tabulated as is the case in amateur sport, I cannot find any trace of his efforts having been bettered in later years.

In a brief tribute in the “London Sporting Life” when Joe Scott passed away, in 1908, his old trainer wrote:

“His beautiful style of walking made him very popular with the crowd, for—even when travelling at a very high speed—he always came up to their ideal of fairness’. I have no hesitation in saying that his marvellous achievements as a youngster and his colossal records later on, will stand as a gigantic and everlasting monument to the pluckiest, most graceful and greatest little walker the wide world has ever seen.”

New Zealand has every reason to be proud of its athletes on track and field. Men of the calibre of Arthur Holder, George Smith, Gerald Keddell, Len McKay, Harry Kerr, Jack Hempton, Pat Webster, Dorrie Leslie, Norman Gurr, Bill Low, Jimmy McKean, W. F. Simpson, F. Creamer, Dave Wilson, Harry Goodwin, and W. H. Madill have done much to make our sporting name respected. They belong—as competitors—to a past generation, a generation we are sometimes apt to overlook when discussing the deeds of Jack Lovelock, Randolph Rose, Billy Savidan, Alan Elliot, George Davidson, Malcolm Leadbetter and others. But when it comes to quiet reflection, a study of the record books and the most pleasant of all sporting recreations—a quiet chat with one of the old-timers—I feel sure that one and all will agree with me that New Zealand's greatest track athlete was Joe Scott.

What an amazing athlete! Once I was pointed in the right direction by this article and I started my own browsing of the internet, I was amazed at how much information I found, all backing up the information given above and, in some cases, extending it.

- The above article
http://www.nzetc.org/tm/scholarly/tei-Gov10_09Rail-t1-body-d30.html
- 2008 Article from Otago Daily Times
<http://www.odt.co.nz/sport/athletics/23126/great-scott-one-best-walkers-all-time>
- Wikipedia entry
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Scott_\(walker\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Scott_(walker))
- New Zealand Hall of Fame entry
<http://www.nzhalloffame.co.nz/page.pasp?searchtext=scott&Go=Go>
- Entry in New Zealand Dictionary of Biography
<http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/2s8/1>

I also found that there is a special display on Scott at the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame at the Dunedin Railway Station and that, in his 700-page book, *King of the Peds* (Author House, United Kingdom, 2008) on international professional pedestrianism during the 1870s and 1880s, author Paul Marshall devotes a chapter to Joe Scott and race walking in Dunedin.

24 HOURS OF GUADELOUPE, GUADELOUPE, 4-5 DECEMBER 2010

Frenchman Dominique Naumowicz was the winner of the 24 hours of Guadalupe, held the last few years in the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe. The race was a tough one this year with temperatures around 35°C. Walkers had to cover an initial point to point section of around 80km before settling down to laps of a circuit located in the city of Bouillante. Thanks to Emmanuel Tardi for passing on a copy of the official results.

1	Dominique Naumowicz	FRA	180,7 km	23:49:52
2	Gilles Letessier	FRA	177,7 km	23:49:52
3	Yvan Obydol	FRA	170,2 km	23:55:54
4	Bernard Fregengues	FRA	158,2 km	23:49:52
5	Maggy Labylle (F)	FRA	144,7 km	23:49:52
6	Patrick Asselos	FRA	137,2 km	23:49:52
7	Eric Bibrac	FRA	134,2 km	23:49:52
8	Thomas Bastareaud	FRA	132,7 km	23:49:52
9	Franck Dambury	FRA	126,7 km	23:49:52
10	Willy Peramin	FRA	58.1 km	07:25:44

It is not a walk for the faint hearted. Apart from the torrid conditions, I believe that the road surfaces leave a bit to be desired and the terrain over the initial 80km is not exactly flat. Winner Dominique Naumowicz wore his Garmin watch and published the terrain map over the first 67km of the course. Is that a mountain or is it not!



I also found one photo from the event, contributed by Naumowicz to the Ultrawalking Spain December 2010 newsletter. See <http://ultrawalking.es/2010/UWE2.pdf>



WEBSITE REVAMP

I must have had too much time on my hands last month as I took on the task of revamping our Australian Centurion website – you can now view the finished product at <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~austcent/>.

The Australian Centurions

were formed in 1971 to honour the feat of those athletes who walk 100 Miles within 24 hours on Australian shores.
 Yep...that's right...WALK 100 MILES WITHIN 24 HOURS.

So far, we have 57 members of this exclusive club, the first in 1938 (Gordon Smith - C 1) and the last three in 2009. Who will be next?

Select any of the pages listed above to find out more about our club and the exclusive world of long distance walking.

Peter Bennett dominates the 2010 Australian Centurion qualifying race

Although we had no new Centurion qualifiers in our 2010 event, we did see centurion member Peter Bennett of Queensland walk dominantly with 171.668km covered in the available 24 Hours. Along the way, he passed the one hundred mile mark in a time of 22:01:39.

John Burroughs
 Last I find each day so short for all the thoughts I want to think, all the walks I want to take, all the books I want to read and all the friends I want to see.

Latest News/Notice
2011 AUSTRALIAN CENTURIONS 24 HOUR EVENT NOW OPEN
 Wed 1 Dec 2010
New!
 Entries are now open for the 2011 Australian Centurions 24 Hour Walk (Saturday 5 March) and the 2011 Australian Centurions 24 Hour Walk (15-17 April 2011). This is a combined event held in conjunction with Coburg Ferries Society's 2011 Qualifying Event in the website menu for further details.

FINANCIAL NEWS

It has been a quiet month as shown below. We have now started our new financial year and are still in the black! Our 2010 Annual Report and 2010 Treasurer's Report are being sent separately and spell out in detail the highlights of last year and current financial position. If the report indicates you have not contributed any donations over the last year, now is the time to rectify that and help us position ourselves for the costs associated with our 2011 events.

Incoming	Dudley Pilkington – 2011 Newsletter Postal Subscription	12.00
	Dudley Pilkington – Donation	20.00
Outgoing	Photocopying and Postage	14.40
Balance		\$987.45

UNTIL OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

A new year has kicked off and it is time for one good resolution in particular – get out for plenty of walking and enjoy the wonderful therapeutic value of the great outdoors. Go to it!

Yours in Centurion walking

Tim Erickson (C 13)
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 1 Avoca Cres, Pascoe Vale, Victoria, 3044