

CENTURION FOOTNOTES

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DATES...DATES...DATES

There are always ultra opportunities on offer for those walkers wanting a challenge. Some are shown below. In addition, the AURA calendar shows additional Australian ultra events that may suit serious ultra walkers – see <http://aura.asn.au/>.

Jan 4, 2020	Narrabeen All-Nighter (12H)	Narrabeen, NSW
Jan 25-26, 2020	SA 100km Track Championships See https://ultrasa.com.au/events/track-100/	Adelaide, SA
Mar 20-22, 2020	Sri Chinmoy Canberra 48 Hour Carnival See https://www.aura.asn.au/event/canberra-48-hr-race/	Canberra, ACT
Apr 4-5, 2020	Canberra Walking Festival (IVV an IML badged event) See http://aussiewalk.com.au/cwf/cwf/	Canberra, ACT
Apr 18-19, 2020	2020 Coburg 24H Carnival (2020 Aust Centurions qualifier) See http://www.coburg24hr.org/24hr/race-entry/	Coburg, VIC
Sept 26-27, 2020	Just A Walk In The Park (2020 USA Centurion Qualifier) See https://raceroster.com/events/2020/15288/not-just-a-walk-in-the-park-v30	Owego, NY, USA

I have always wanted to do the **Canberra 2 Day Walk** but have never got around to it. I am determined to rectify that omission in 2020 when the event will be staged for the 28th time, on the weekend of 4-5 April. The options for Day 1 are marathon, 21km and shorter distance walks, while Sunday sees a 28km walk on offer, along with shorter distances. The Festival is a non-competitive challenge walking weekend for all ages – running is not permitted. The walks take you along Canberra's extensive footpath and recreation path network. Routes pass national buildings and Lake Burley Griffin and go through a number of Canberra's Nature Parks and are different both days.

Everyone who completes any route on both Saturday and Sunday will receive the Canberra Two Day Walk Medal. There are also optional International Awards on offer - the **IML and IVV badges** that see walkers travelling the world. The Festival is accredited by both organisations.

Check it out at <http://aussiewalk.com.au/cwf/cwf/>



COBURG CARNIVAL 2020 ENTRIES ARE BUILDING!!!

Entries continue to come in for our 2020 Coburg 24 Hour Carnival, with 33 thus far. We have 7 entries for the 24H Walk (which will be our official Australian Centurions qualifier), with 3 from overseas – **Dave Talcott** (USA), **Arie Kandelaars** (NED) and **Remy Van Den Brand** (NED). Those are great early numbers and augur well for 2020.

Entries and race info at <http://www.coburg24hr.org/24hr/race-entry/>.
Centurion specific info at <http://centurions.org.au/event2020.shtml>.

OUT AND ABOUT

- The annual Adelaide 6 Day Run (see <https://ultrasa.com.au/events/adelaide-6-day/>) was underway as I published my September newsletter. It was duly completed, with **David Billett (C50)** taking third place in the 6 Day run with a PB distance of 680.810km and **Sharon Scholz (C62)** winning the 3 Day run overall with an inaugural and very impressive 403.088km. I believe that Sharon was treating it as a bit of a test as part of her buildup to her first 6 Day run. Based on her performance in Adelaide, she is right on target. Full results at <https://eventstrategies.racetecresults.com/results.aspx?CI=90&RI=290&EI=1>. David commented:

I just managed to surpass last year's personal best, by just under three kilometres. I maintained the proud tradition of an increasing sequence of Six Day distances, setting a new PB every race! Though, surpassing my 677km did require me to run 34km in the last four and a half hours. Not easy with an inflamed shin and ankle.



Sharon in action in Adelaide on the cement circuit (photo facebook Ultra Runners South Australia)

- Tim Erickson (C13)**, **Michelle Thompson (C58)** and **Albin Hess** all walked the 50km event at the Ned Kelly Chase in Wangaratta on Sunday 27th September. Tim and Michelle finished together in 17th and 18th spot with 5:56:07 while Albin finished 28th with 6:54:00.



Michelle and Albin and Tim at the end of the race in Wangaratta on Sunday

- 77 year old **John Timms** is one of our regular competitors at Coburg, doing either the 24H run or the 24H Walk. As many of our readers will know John, I thought they might like to see this short TV interview with him, done recently: <https://www.abc.net.au/7.30/meet-the-77-year-old-man-winning-ultra-marathons/11609664>

WORLDWIDE CENTURION WALKERS COMMUNITY

I have a couple of new centurion related links for our readers, for a newly branded group called the **Worldwide Centurion Walkers Community**. Their manifesto reads as follows

The Centurions Worldwide Community website brings together all Centurions from across the globe with a common interest.

Along with plenty of tips from experienced racewalkers for those who want to join us!

Also, the hope that many race walkers / walkers will aspire to join this unique community.

And not least, to pull together results from the many races over the years to form an "athletic archve" of ultra distance race walking.

The new organisation comes with both a traditional website and the obligatory facebook group

<http://www.centurionsworldwide.org.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/521359541645643/>

Well done folks. I look forward to seeing the sites grow and become a central resource for us all.

48 HEURES DE ROYAN, ROYAN, FRANCE, 4-6 OCTOBER

And now onto our race reports. First to Royan, in SW France, in early October for the annual 48 Heures de Royan. The meet included 48 Hour, 24 Hour and 12 Hour Walk and Run divisions. Event website at <http://www.48hderoyan.fr/>. Full results at <https://ok-time.fr/competition/12-24-48-heures-de-royan/>.

Walk wins to **Laurent Pineau** and **Francoise Arnault** (48H). **Yves-Michelle Kerlau** and **Monique Ray** (24H) and **Gerard Durand** and **Brigitte Courraud** (12H).

48 Hour Walk

1.	PINEAU Laurent	M	253.921 km
2.	ARNAULT Francoise	F	239.969 km
3.	ARNAULT Jacques	M	239.969 km
4.	ODOUARD Dominique	M	230.285 km
5.	ECHÉ Dominique	M	200.683 km
6.	ENSCH Didier	M	183.676 km
7.	PIERRE Patrick	M	176.986 km
8.	ANXIONNAT Claudine	F	173.288 km
9.	ESTATOF Bernard	M	107.305 km
	BURGER Alain	M	63.776 km
	CHEKHAB Saïd	M	77.990 km

24 Hour Walk

1.	KERLAU Yves-Michel	M	166.869 km
2.	DELANGE Dominique	M	153.376 km
3.	RAMBAULT Jean-Michel	M	145.985 km
4.	LEVAIQUE Raymond	M	127.114 km
5.	MICHEAU Jean	M	126.273 km
6.	EMONIERE Philippe	M	121.516 km
7.	RAY Monique	F	104.785 km
8.	DELARUE Michele	F	101.013 km
9.	QUILLE Corinne	F	84.972 km
10.	BUQUET Alain	M	83.592 km
11.	TRUBLET Sabrina	F	81.902 km
	GILLET Max	M	100.290 km

BAUGET Claudie	F	53.460 km
LAURENT Annabelle	F	41.195 km

12 Hour Walk (first 15)

1. DURAND Gerard	M	93.480 km
2. LAUBRETON Stef	M	88.579 km
3. COURRAUD Joël	M	86.637 km
4. COURRAUD Brigitte	F	86.637 km
5. VIGNAUD Annette	F	86.463 km
6. BIZARD Claudie	F	86.322 km
7. ELMON Sandra	F	84.687 km
8. GANNE Laurent	M	83.140 km
9. VERGNIOL-LEVAIQUE Corinne	F	78.544 km
10. DICHARRY Martine	F	77.693 km
11. CHEVALLIER Patricia	F	74.973 km
12. MEYSSON Rachel	F	71.887 km
13. DELRIVE Luc	M	66.927 km
14. ARNAUD Romuald	M	64.794 km
15. GRISEY Micheline	F	63.582 km

LDW WALK ANDENNE TO PÉRUWELZ, BELGIUM, 5-6 OCTOBER

Thanks to **Rudy Schoors (C55)** for this report on the LDW Walk from Ardenne to Péruwelz (Belgium), completed by him and **Caroline Mestdagh (C56)** in early October. Thanks Rudy – it's a great report!



Some years ago, Andenne-Péruwelz (155 km) was a classic Long Distance Walk in Belgium. When we started walking some 25 years ago, it had legendary status. Unfortunately, after the 10th edition, the organisation decided to stop the walk. In 2016, after a long break, the 11th edition took place but we'd already decided to go overseas for the first Centurion race in Owego (USA) where Caroline got her 10th Centurion finish. We were very pleased to hear that the walking club 'Les Marcheurs du Val de Verne de Péruwelz' was going organize this walk again for a 12th time this year (see <https://www.walkinginbelgium.be/de-wandelkalender/details/tocht/105704>).

The walk takes you from Andenne to Péruwelz, situated in the South-West of Belgium. This is Wallonia, the French speaking part of Belgium. On Saturday at 10 AM, 49 participants (10 ladies and 39 men) started. A road captain led the group with a pace of 6.1 km/h for the first 21 km, through a natural and adventurous area. A second captain walked behind the group to make sure nobody got lost. After that, the roads became better paved, with gentle undulations. After 21 km the pace was increased to 6.4 km/h, with the arrival time at Péruwelz set for 3 PM on Sunday. Stops for food and drinks were calculated as follows: every ten kilometers a break for +/- 7 minutes in the open air and 4 longer stops where you could use the toilet, change clothes and eat or drink.

The weather conditions were good initially, with temperatures between 10°C and 14°C during the day and into the night. But the last 30 km was strong winds and lots of showers. This made it very tough going for the walkers.

After 29 hours we finally reached the finish at Péruwelz. On arrival, the mayor and alderman of sport welcomed the 45 long distance walkers. The ladies got a nice flower together with a nice T-shirt and brevet. The same for us, except the rose, of course. A walk to remember and at last, Andenne-Péruwelz joins our list of completed long distance walks. Hopefully they will organize this again in the future, but this is not certain.

The shower afterwards took off all the fatigue and we slept peacefully in the hotel with our Wallonia friends!!

A strong team of walkers did a great performance. Only 4 persons quit the walk and 45 walkers achieved this challenge in very good shape.



The walkers gather at the finish to celebrate their walk (Rudy and Caroline middle front)

2019 AFRICAN CENTURION QUALIFIER, STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA, 26-27 OCTOBER

The final Centurions qualifying event for 2019 was held last weekend in Stellenbosch, South Africa. Billed as the 4th African Centurions 24 Hour Walk, it attracted lots of walk relay teams but only a very small number of 24 hour solo walkers. I put this down mainly to the fact that the date and venue were not confirmed until August, giving little time to international walkers to organise their trips.

Overall, the meet saw an impressive 35 teams of four, six teams of 2 and two solo walkers finishing the 100-mile distance. Full results at <https://results.finishtime.co.za/results.aspx?Cid=35&Rid=2917&Eid=1>. See more at <http://africancenturion.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/AfricanCenturionWalk/>.

The two walkers to complete the full 100 miles were Dutch walker **Jimmy Millard** (21:35:17) and South African walker **Werner Alberts** (23:29:14), while South African **Melanie Cerqueira** completed 100.625km before stopping just after the 15 hour mark. For Jimmy, it was his third Centurion badge, having already achieved UK badge C1168 in 2016 and Continental badge C392 in 2013. For Werner, it was his second badge, having previously achieved Continental badge C439 in 2016. Rob Robertson has already updated his multiple-badges list at <https://www.walk100miles24hours.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Multi-Centurions.pdf>.

24 Hour Walk

1.	Jimmy MILLARD	NED	56 laps	161.000 km	21:35:17	AC38
2.	Werner ALBERTS	SAF	56 laps	161.000 km	23:29:14	AC39
3.	Melanie CERQUEIRA	SAF	35 laps	100.625 km	15:04:31	



2019 African Centurion winner Jimmy Millard in the orange colour of Nederland

SANDRA BROWN BLITZES THE DUTCH 50KM CHAMPIONSHIPS, TILBURG, SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER

Sandra Brown (C36) took a break from her usual 100 mile walk regime for a “short distance” race at the Dutch 50km Championship in Tilburg on Sunday 6th October. And she was definitely in "sprint" mode, being the first woman to cross the finish line with a time of **6:09:48**. This time bettered the W70 World Record which previously stood at 6.50.24 (Darlene Backlund, USA, 28-01-2017). Sandra had already bettered the time with her 50km split of 6.25.27 in the English Centurions 100 Miler at Castletown on August 17, but as she needed a performance done under full racewalking rules to claim the record. This she has now done at Tilburg.

USA Attorney at Law Paul F DeMeester, who has been so instrumental in the fight to retain the 50km racewalk, wrote a report for me for my weekly racewalking newsletter. I extract the bit on Sandra:

It was my personal privilege and honor to meet Sandra for the first time. Having represented several women 50K walkers fighting for equality, I know how hard it has been for women competitors to join their male counterparts at 50K start lines. Sandra did it years, indeed, decades, before most others. In 1990, Sandra set a world record on the track by finishing 100,000m in 11:17:42. Sandra may be best known for her ultra-distance performances. But if gender equality had existed in the 50K all along, we might be mentioning her name in the same sentence as that of Christopher Höhne or Robert Korzeniowski.



Sandra in action, and then with Paul DeMeester at the Dutch 50km Presentations

A LOST CENTURION PERFORMANCE?

When the Australian Centurions were setup in 1971, the founders searched for any retrospective 100 mile walk performances and found **Gordon Smith's** 1938 walk of 113 miles 1390 yards at Centennial Park in Sydney. In fact, they were even luckier as the newspaper article that they found confirmed the date and actually quoted his 100 mile split which was 20:58:09. They were then able to retrospectively award him AC Number 1 and that was added to the centurion honour board when it was created.

Back in the 1990s when I was browsing through the scrapbooks of the late Bert Gardiner, I came across a further cutting which talked of a NSW Amateur Race Walkers Club 24 Hour Walk held the previous year, also in Centennial Park in Sydney, which had also been won by Gordon Smith. On that occasion, he had achieved a total distance of 110 miles and 831 yards. Unfortunately the cutting did not include a 100 mile split or give the exact date. I made a decision to keep the honour board and the club records showing C1 for 1938, but did document this additional earlier walk in my centurions history archive.

The founders did not find any info on his earlier 1937 centurion walk when doing their research, mainly because the NSW Racewalking Club had lost all its archives in a fire in the early seventies. It was a tragic loss which meant much of this sort of historical info had been lost.

I was doing a few things historical this month and decided to search in Trove (the Aust online repository in which many of the old newspapers can now be accessed in digital form) to see if I could find out any more about that 1937 race. A lot of additional papers from years past have been added in recent times and I thought I might get lucky.

Lo and behold, when I browsed Trove, I found multiple newspaper reports of the 1937 NSW Amateur Walkers Club 24 Hour race. See for instance the article in the Sydney Daily Telegraph of Monday 12th October 1937: <https://tinyurl.com/yxmsknea>.

The newspaper reports all confirm the race date as 10-11 October 1937 and confirm Gordon's winning distance of 110 miles. The articles also identify one additional fascinating fact - Gordon was one of two walkers to complete in excess of 100 miles on that day in Centennial Park in Sydney. **Fellow NSW walker Jack Debert is recorded in the news reports as having covered 100 miles 266 yards to finish second.**

Here is the text of the article published in The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, Monday 11 October 1937, Page 17

24-Hour Walk Record Broken

*Gordon Smith, of the New South Wales Walking Club, yesterday established Australian and State records by walking 110 miles 831 yards in 24 hours at Centennial Park. The world's record is 131 miles 580 yards, made in September 1908 By T. E. Hammond, at London, on a specially prepared grass track. Smith, who started on Saturday at 1.30 p.m., was assisted by Jack Debert and Dave Stead. **Debert covered 100 miles 266 yards and Stead 80 miles 371 yards. Refreshments were taken on the move, but intervals for massage and changing of socks and footwear caused a loss of five minutes to Smith, 20 minutes to Debert, and 30 minutes to Stead.***

Like Gordon Smith, Jack Debert was a member of the Sydney Bush Walkers' Club and mixed racewalking with bushwalking, as was the done thing in those days. Gordon Smith had joined the Sydney Bush Walkers in 1928 as a foundation member and I suspect that Jack did the same thing, as a snippet in the Australian Women's Mirror of 17th May 1930 confirms him as the club secretary (see <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-405976411/view?sectionId=nla.obj-418696101&partId=nla.obj-406126404#page/n41/mode/1up>)

The headquarters of Sydney Bush Walkers' Club is third floor, 258 George-street, Sydney. Intending members of either sex, must be over 16, must attend at least two of the club's scheduled one-day (or longer) walks, and then be nominated by any member; seconded by an other and supported by five others. Annual sub., 10/-; badge, 2/6. Mr. Jack Debert, Ridley Court, Marine Parade, Maroubra, is secretary.

Jack was also one of the "Tiger Walkers" of Sydney Bush Walkers, a list that included Gordon Smith. The Tiger Walkers travelled light and fast in their explorations of new areas for which topographic maps did not exist. They were among the many who assembled information for the several Myles Dunphy sketch maps of the Blue Mountains.



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.

A couple of other Sydney Bush Walkers photos of that era also capture Jack the bushwalker.



Left: Sydney Bush Walkers in the Blue Mountains in 1941 - Norman Hellyer, Jack Debert, May Boyd, Bert Whillier, Reg Alder and Dick Jackson

Right: Sydney Bush Walkers on an outdoor trip in 1940 - Gordon Smith, Mary Stoddart, Doris Young and Jack Debert are the rightmost 4 walkers

We see a wiry bespectacled man, obviously at ease in the bush and physically very fit. It is unsurprising that he should have put his hand up for the 1937 Centennial Park 24 Hour walk and that he should have completed 100 miles.

Jack Debert features in one further long distance walking race from that period. On 17th September 1938, the NSW Amateur Walking Club put on a 12 Hour Walking Trial at Centennial Park and both Gordon Smith and Jack Debert were amongst the starters. On that occasion, Gordon bettered his own 50 mile best time of 9:16, set in 1927 and went

on to set a swag of new records. The final result showed him winning the event by over 5 miles, with Jack Debert in third place with a fine 57 miles 781m (92.45km). Second placed H.W. Barrett was an English walker who had previously competed in the London to Brighton walk. Max Gentle, who finished fourth, was another of the Tiger Walkers who mixed bushwalking with racewalking. The impressive final distances confirm their walking credentials.

NSW Amateur Walking Club 12 Hour Walking Trial, Centennial Park, Sept 17 1938

1. Gordon Smith	65 miles 781 yards	(50 miles in 8:50:25, 100 km in 11:21:30)
2. H.W. Barrett	59 miles 1367 yards	(96.5km)
3. Jack Debert	57 miles 781 yards	(92.4km)
4. Max Gentle	54 miles 414 yards	
5. M Stannett	53 miles 1514 yards	

The lives of Jack Debert and Gordon Smith mirror each other in many ways.

- Jack was born 26th January 1900 in Western Sydney. Gordon was born 18th January 2002 in Burwood, an inner Western Sydney suburb.
- Both joined the Sydney Bush Walkers Club as inaugural members in 1928.
- Both were active members of the NSW Amateur Race Walkers Club.
- Both competed in the NSW Amateur Race Walkers Club 1937 24 Hour walk and the 1938 12 Hour Walk in Centennial Park, Sydney, and both finished the races with fine times.
- Both served in the Second World War. In June 1940 Gordon resigned from his Public Service position, said good bye to his wife and joined the long list of able bodied men who answered the call, enlisting in the 6th Infantry Battalion with the rank of Private. This was no easy decision – he was 38 years of age, had been married for 15 years (he married his wife Mary in 1923) and had a son Gordon, then aged 12. He was heavily involved in bushwalking and racewalking and had his own career. Jack joined the Royal Australian Air Forces (RAAF) in 1941, rising to the rank of Flight Lieutenant and serving until his discharge on 23 October 1945. Sadly, the same can't be said for Gordon who died on 8th March 1945 in the Sandakan Prisoner of War Camp in Borneo, from what the Japanese recorded as malaria. He had been just over 3 years in detention in horrendous conditions.

Jack died on 13th April 1976, aged 76. That means he was still alive when the initial Australian Centurion investigations were done. Alas, a lack of timely information meant he was never contacted to ratify his performance.

It is difficult to decide how to honour his centurion performance, 82 years down the track. While we can be sure that the above races would have been rigorously judged (The NSW Amateur Race Walkers Club would have conducted the events strictly according to the racewalking rules of the time), the race reports and other key informations are no longer available and any independent witnesses have long since departed this life.

I will add this biography to my ongoing History of Long Distance Walking in Australia and will add his profile, with a suitable notation, to our website. Then we can ponder what else we should do. Do we retrospectively award him a badge with an inserted number like 1A? I welcome your thoughts.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Another quiet month for us with no incomings or expense. (that's what I like!)

UNTIL OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

That's it for another month. It is a beautiful day outside here in Melbourne (27C) and I am just back from an easy stroll. Until our next newsletter, I wish everyone an enjoyable month and hope that you to can dust off the walking shoes.

Yours in Centurion walking

Tim Erickson (C13), 1 Avoca Crescent, Pascoe Vale, Victoria, Australia, 3044