

CENTURION FOOTNOTES

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Treasurer	Stuart Cooper (C 5)	0421 470 949

DATES ... DATES ... DATES

Hello everyone. It's been a while since my last newsletter (December 2020) so time to dust off the keyboard and bring us up to date.

What can we expect in 2021. I am hopeful that most of our ultra races will take place, but no one is expecting them all to make to the start line.

- Sadly, the **Ned Kelly Chase** has come to an end. This was held each October in country Victoria and was one of my go-to events. Organisers Justin and Sharon Scholz had to cancel it last year, due to covid concerns, and have now decided to pull the plug on the 2021 edition. If someone else puts up their hand, it may progress. We will await developments. In the meanwhile, we have to congratulate Justin and Sharon on the great job they did each year.
- The French Athletics Federation decided in late January to cancel a whole swathe of national championships, including the **French 24 Hour Walk Championship (Chateau-Thierry 27-28 March)**. The organisers of the **24 Heures de Bourges** also cancelled their annual event, which is normally held around this time. And as I write, France has just gone back in a third Covid lockdown, a very worrying development.
- The **English Centurions annual qualifier** had been pencilled in for the weekend of 7-8 August at Southend (Essex) but, as of 22nd March, the event has now been cancelled, due to the unknown nature of the year ahead. So no English centurions qualifier this year.

I have dates for the 2021 100 Mile qualifying races for 4 of our Centurion organisations (note two qualifying opportunities in the USA this year). Only South Africa remains to be set.

Apr 17-18, 2021	Coburg 24 Hour Carnival (Australian Centurions 100 Mile Qualifier)	Coburg, Victoria
May 22-23, 2021	30 th OLAT Internationaal Wandelevenement (Continental Centurion 100 Miles Qualifier See https://www.olat.nl/iwe)	Weert, Netherlands
Jun 2-5, 2021	Paris-Alsace Classic	Across France
Aug 28-29, 2021	FANS Ultra Race (USA Centurions 100 Miles Qualifier) See https://fansultraraces.org/ and https://www.unitedstatescenturionwalkers.com/?page_id=1717	Minneapolis, USA
Sept 2021	Not Just a Walk in the Park (USA Centurions 100 Miles Qualifier)	Owego, NY, USA.
Nov 13-14, 2021	Sri Chinmoy 24 Hour Track Race (NZ Centurions 100 Miles Qualifier)	Auckland, NZL

The Australian Ultra scene has also bounced back in 2021 with lots of events. As always, check the AURA calendar (<http://aura.asn.au/>) for the latest news.

JUSTIN SCHOLZ WALKS ANOTHER HUNDRED

I ventured to Canberra on the weekend of 27-28 March to watch the annual Sri Chinmoy 48 Hour Carnival (see <https://au.srichinmoyraces.org/events/48hour>). Held at the AIS Athletics Track in Belconnen and featuring a whole swathe of options (48 Hour, 24 Hour, 12 Hour, 6 Hour and Marathon), the carnival attracted good fields in all divisions and went off without any hitches, although the changeable weather (hot days, torrential rain overnight, etc) did make for challenging conditions.

My main reason for going was to watch **Justin Scholz (C 62)** who had entered the 48 Hour Track Championship and was intending to walk. Justin wanted to complete another centurion walk (100 miles within 24 hours) and he did just that, passing the mark in **22:50:00**. He also wanted to see how far he could get in 48 hours, but that second goal proved just too tough this year, and he retired at the 24 hour mark, after covering 166.000km.

Australian Centurion **Anyce Melham (C 65)** was also in action, but as a runner, in his first ever 48 Hour race. He started off very conservatively and just kept at it, having very few breaks over the 48 hours, to finish in 8th place with 256.155km. Great work by both athletes.

Sri Chinmoy 48 Hour Track Championship

8.	Anyce Melham (run)	640 laps	256.155 km
20.	Justin Scholz (walk)	415 laps	166.000 km

This was Justin's 14th sub-24 hour one hundred mile walk and he sits in second place amongst us Australians, behind Peter Bennett with a count of 21. Here are Justin's 100 mile walks

22:09:03	14-15 July 2012	Road 2200m circuit, Adelaide, SA	
19:43:21 (PB)	15-16 June 2013	Blacktown, NSW	
22:40:37	14-15 Sept 2013	Middle Park, VIC	
21:03:00	14-15 June 2014	Blacktown, NSW	
22:29:51	6-7 June 2015	Minnesota, USA	(USAC 76)
22:24:28	03-04 Oct 2015	Auckland, NZ	(NZ C 20)
21:45:13	14-15 May 2016	Schiedam, NED	(CC 437)
20:43:51	18-19 June 2016	Sydney, NSW	
21:04:54	5-6 Aug 2017	Bury St Edmunds, ENG	(C 1173)
21:48:12	2-3 June 2018	Campbelltown, NSW	
22:47:46	20-21 Oct 2018	Cape Town, SA	(SAC 32)
22:40:08	15-16 Mar 2019	Canberra, ACT	
22:43:53	9-10 May 2019	Balatonfured, Hungary	
22:50:00	26-27 Mar 2021	Canberra, ACT	



Justin in action in Canberra in late March (photo <https://augallery.srichinmoyraces.org/Canberra>)

I will point out in finishing that Justin's prep for this race was rather unusual. He and Sharon (C63) rode their tandem bike from Wangaratta (country Victoria) to Canberra (a distance of over 400km) in the days leading up to the race, carrying all their gear with them. Then, after the race, they dusted off the bike and rode home again, another 400+km under the belt.

This is all part of their preparation for a forthcoming tandem bike ride around Australia. Justin will walk in the Coburg 24H Carnival in 2 weeks time, then he and Sharon will return to Wangaratta, pack their goods and start their circumnavigation. They expect to take around 6 months. I am so impressed. I would not even know where to start inplanning such a challenging endeavour.

I look forward to providing updates as their journey progresses.



Justin with the bike. Justin and Sharon will have to carry everything they need for their Around-Australia trip

THE PARIS-ALSACE CLASSIC RETURNS

Last year the Paris-Alsace classic was cancelled. This year, the organisers have announced it will be back on, but in a slightly different format. It will start on Wednesday 2nd June and finish on Saturday 5th June and will be held in stages (like previous editions). But there will only be two options this year

- A 300km option, with stages not exceeding 90km
- A 200km option, with stages not exceeding 60km

Both stages will be open to men and women, with entries based on rankings.

- The Wednesday will remain the same as in previous years, with a morning prologue in the streets of Neuilly sur Marne and then in the evening, a loop in the south of the Aisne, starting and finishing at Chateau Thierry.
- On the Thursday, competitors will walk from Châlons-en-Champagne to Vitry-le-François via a loop through Sermaize-les-Bains.
- On the Friday, competitors will walk from the city of Neufchâteau to Epinal.
- Finally, on the Saturday, the traditional Plainfaing to Kayserberg-Vignoble stage will be used, with the climb of the Cols du Bonhomme and du Calvaire, the route adapted to around 50km.

There is a new 2021 event website at <http://www.paris-alsace.fr/wp-pa/>. Check it out for all the info as it unfolds.

THE 100 X 100 CLUB

USA Ultra Historian Davey Crocket's latest article welcomes yet another athlete who has joined the 100 x 100 Mile Club. Congratulations to USA runner **Pam Reed**, the newest member of this elite group. She is the 17th in total. Read all about it at <https://ultrarunninghistory.com/100-100-milers>.

Of course, **Sandra Brown** of England leads the group with 206 hundreds, mostly achieved in walking competitions. She is 10 ahead of runner Ed Ettinghausen of California with 196 hundreds. Sandra responded to the article and Pam's feat as follows:

I'm glad there are some events which are happening. For the past year, there's been very little going on, and travel has been limited. My events sheet for 2020 stopped in early February with GB W70 race-walking records for 5kms and 10 kms at a regional championship. Give me 100 miles any time!

My tally is 206 events. This hasn't increased since autumn 2019. The 200th was the wonderful Dublin to Belfast 107 miles race at the end of March 2019, completed with Richard, just before my 70th birthday.

The 206 comprise:

- 86 events of 100 miles [including many slightly longer fixed distances like the 107m Dublin to Belfast, 180kms Nijmegen to Amsterdam]

- 104 events of 24/28h [almost all 24h; 28h are the Roubaix, France race-walks]
- 16 events of multi-day.

The 206 also include:

- 54 judged “Centurion” racewalks [ie promoted by one of the Centurion race-walking associations around the world]
- 33 UK Centurion racewalks.

We look forward to things opening up and to more events for everyone to enjoy!

2021 AUSTRALIAN CENTURION QUALIFIER – NUMBERS BUILD

With 2 weeks to go until the 2021 Coburg 24 Hour Carnival, I have been kept busy coordinating a record entry list of 117 athletes, spread across 24H run and walk, 12H run and walk, 6H run and walk, 100km run and marathon run. Unfortunately, walk numbers are down this year, with only 9 walkers in the 24H, 2 walkers in the 12H and 5 walkers in the 6H. With international travellers still unable to enter Australia, we are missing that steady stream of overseas walkers who bolster our event each year. Good luck to all our walkers and runners.

Event: 2021 Coburg 24 Hour Carnival and Australian Centurions Qualifying 24 Hour

Venue: Harold Stevens Athletics Track, Coburg, Victoria

Date: 17-18 April 2021

Event Page: <http://www.coburg24hr.org/24hr/race-entry/>

Competitor Profiles: <http://www.coburg24hr.org/24hr/download/2021/2021-Coburg-24H-Profiles.pdf>

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our 2020 Australian Centurions AGM was held on Sunday 23rd February at the Glasshouse Restaurant in Caulfield. You can read the minutes at <http://www.centurions.org.au/documents/2020%20AGM%20Minutes.pdf>.

I will start with a photo of the attending Centurions – and what a fine group it is, if I say so myself!



*Back: Karyn O'Neill, Bill Dyer, Ian Jack, Tim Erickson, Stuart Cooper, Justin Scholz, Sharon Scholz, Michelle Thompson
Front: Clarrie Jack and Terry O'Neill*

Our 2021 Executive shows only one change: **Stuart Cooper (C5)** takes over as Treasurer, after the sad passing of long time treasurer Lois Erickson. Thanks everyone for your ongoing willingness to work for the club.

Club Executive	President	Terry O'Neill (C18)
	Vice President	Robin Whyte (C29)
	Treasurer	Stuart Cooper (C 5)
	Secretary	Tim Erickson (C13)
General Committee	Records and Rankings Officer	Tim Erickson (C13)
	Assistant Secretary	-
	General members of Committee	Karyn O'Neill (C45) Michelle Thompson (C58)

There was one item of General Business, namely the setting up of Australian Centurion Merit Awards. This was done via the following two motions

- 1. That the Australian Centurion Walkers Inc. institute a Merit Award to recognise any non-member who has made significant contributions to our club over an extended period of time.*
- 2. That inaugural Merit Awards be granted to our four founders (Tom Daintry, Fred Redman, Len Mathews and Brian Parkinson) and to past treasurer Lois Erickson.*

The Merit Award holders are now recognised on page <http://www.centurions.org.au/centmerit.shtml>.

UNTIL OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

It's just a short newsletter to let you all know that I am still kicking. Hopefully as 2021 unfolds, the ultra walking world will also come back to life, starting with our Australian Centurion Qualifier in 2 weeks time.

In the meanwhile, enjoy your walking and take care.

Tim Erickson (C13)
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