

CENTURION FOOTNOTES

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DATES ... DATES ... DATES

The Australian Ultra scene has bounced back in 2021 with lots of events. As always, check the AURA calendar (<http://aura.asn.au/>) for the latest news. Sadly, there are not many international walk ultras left standing. The big news is that the Continental Centurions qualifier, that was canceled in late May, is now back on the calendar and scheduled for the weekend of 9-10 October 2021. This is fantastic news. See more at <https://www.olat.nl/iwe>.

Aug 25-28, 2021	Paris-Alsace Classic	
Aug 28-29, 2021	FANS Ultra Race (USA Centurions 100 Miles Qualifier)	Minneapolis, USA
	See https://fansultraraces.org/ and https://www.unitedstatescenturionwalkers.com/?page_id=1717	
Sept 18-19, 2021	Roubaix 28 Hour Walk	Roubaix, FRA
	http://www.paris-alsace.fr/wp-pa/index.php/circuits-selectifs/2-uncategorised/101-28h00-roubaix	
Sept 25-26, 2021	Not Just a Walk in the Park (USA Centurions 100 Miles Qualifier)	Owego, NY, USA.
	See https://raceroster.com/events/2021/15288/not-just-a-walk-in-the-park-v30-2021 .	
Oct 9-10, 2021	Continental Centurions 100 Miles Qualifier	Weert, NED
	See https://www.olat.nl/iwe	
Nov 13-14, 2021	Sri Chinmoy 24 Hour Track Race (NZ Centurions 100 Miles Qualifier)	Auckland, NZL
	See https://nz.srichinmoyraces.org/races/auck/24hr	
	and https://www.facebook.com/NotJustAWalkInThePark	

I had announced in our last newsletter that the 2022 Coburg 24 Hour Carnival would be on 23-24 April 2022. Due to a scheduling clash, we have decided to move it back 2 weeks to the weekend of 9-10 April 2022.

Apr 9-10, 2022	Coburg 24 Hour Carnival (Aust Centurions 100 Miles Qualifier)	Coburg, VIC
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SANDRA BROWN AND ED ETTINGHAUSEN MILES AHEAD OF THE REST

USA Ultra historian Davy Crockett shared the following post a few weeks ago:

Congratulations to Ed "Jester" Ettinghausen, age 58, of California who TIED the world best for career 100+ mile race finishes of 207. He is tied with Sandra Brown, age 72, of England who finished her 207th in May, covering 102 miles in 31:30. Ed reached his 207th finish this week when he finished Badwater 135 in 38:45:16. This was also his 10th Badwater finish. His first career 100-mile finish came in 2009 and he should get #208 by the end of July. There are 19 known ultrarunners in the world who have reached and surpassed the milestone of 100 100-miler finishes. Read about these determined athletes: <https://ultrarunninghistory.com/100-100-milers/>.

Both Ed and Sandra were going for their 208th last weekend, with Sandra doing a 145-miler, London to Bristol and Ed in New Jersey at a 24-hour race. I haven't heard how Ed went but I am excited to report that Sandra was successful. Here is Davy's latest post:

The amazing Sandra Brown, age 72, of England, finished running her world best 208th 100-miler yesterday when she finished the Kennet & Avon Canal 145-miler from London to Bristol in 43:55. There were 74 starters and only 39 finishers. The winner, Ugis Datavs, finished in 26:56. The race runs along canal towpaths, rivers and rail trails, with one significant "hill" descending 237 feet in two miles through 29 locks. Read about Sandra's amazing running career: <https://ultrarunninghistory.com/15-sandra-brown/>.

This was the second of three Canal races held each year in England. The full series reads as follows

Sat 29 th May 2021	Grand Union Canal 145 mile Race (GUCR)	The Long Run	Birmingham - London
Fri 23 rd July 2021	Kennet & Avon Canal 145 mile Race (KACR)	The Great Western Run	London - Bristol
Sat 28 th Aug 2021	Leeds & Liverpool Canal 130 mile Race (LLCR)	The Trans-Pennine Run	Liverpool - Leeds

If you do all 3, you have a total distance of over 400 miles. To check out more about the races and to see the full results set from KACR, see <https://canalrace.org.uk/kennet-avon-canal-race/>.

Congratulations to **Sandra (C 36)**.



Sandra and the other runners in action on the Grand Union Canal (photos Davy Crockett)

A SITE TO BOOKMARK

I have mentioned USA Ultra distance historian **Davey Crockett** on a few occasions. He has been re researching and writing and podcasting for quite a few years now, so he has indexed his many contributions, along with contributions from other sources. It makes for a huge list - <https://ultrarunninghistory.com/history-links/>.

I stand in awe of his achievements. Plenty of reading there!

THE LDWA VIRTUAL HUNDRED

I mentioned above that the LDWA Virtual Hundred was Sandra's 207th official hundred. Here are further details.

The annual 100 mile walk is the LDWA's flagship event. Held every year in a different part of Great Britain, to coincide with the late May Bank Holiday, up to 500 people gather to walk 100 miles in 48 hours. After a covid related cancellation in 2020, the LDWA was hoping that the 2021 hundred, labelled *the Y 100 Sir Fynwy*, could go ahead as scheduled in South East Wales.

Alas, with covid-19 still rampant, the difficult decision was made to cancel the annual event for a second year. However, not all was lost, as the LDWA Committee decided to allow a Virtual Hundred, with walkers walking an archived LDWA 100 mile event route, or creating their own 100 mile route which could be one circular loop, a linear route or a route that followed multiple loops. Entrants would be expected to provide proof that they had walked their 100 mile route, with evidence in the form of GPX tracks, witness statements, time stamped photos at different locations or receipts from shops or ATMs on their route.

It was all spelt out on LDWA page <https://ldwa.org.uk/2021Hundred/W/7698/virtual-100-route.html>.

Sandra (C36) and Richard Brown and Jill Green (C38) and partner **Jim Catchpole** all took up the challenge. Jill and Jim devised their own route in the Isle of Wight, while Sandra and Richard devised their own route in Dorset. Their walk results were validated by the organisers so they can each now add another hundred to their list. It was Sandra's 20th LDWA 100, so was memorable for various reasons, while Jill must now have done around 30. Sandra commented:

I very much liked the positive, inclusive spirit of the virtual 100, allowing members to walk their 100 wherever they are. There must be so many fascinating stories to be told about people's experiences! Each of us then

submitted our evidence packages afterwards for validation by the organisers, with requirements to submit GPS or mapping, photos, sightings, receipts etc. It was all good fun and so wonderful to be out there again doing a "long one".

RECORD UPDATE

Although the opportunities have been few and far between in 2021, I am pleased to acknowledge the following new Australian Masters records, done thus far this calendar year.

Justin Scholz	24 Hour Walk	M45 Residential	166.000km	Canberra	27-29/03/2021
Pramesh Prasad	6 Hour Walk	M45 Residential	52.693 km	Coburg	17-18/04/2021
Pramesh Prasad	12 Hour Walk	M45 All Comers / Residential	100.652 km	Coburg	17-18/04/2021
Pramesh Prasad	100 km Walk	M45 All Comers / Residential	11:49:11	Coburg	17-18/04/2021
Pramesh Prasad	100 Miles Walk	M45 All Comers / Residential	20:43:42	Coburg	17-18/04/2021
Heather Lee	6 Hour Walk	W90 All Comers / Residential	26.358 km	Sydney	05-06/06/2021
Linda Christison	50 Km Walk	W60 Residential	6:46:44	Sydney	05-06/06/2021
Linda Christison	50 Miles	W60 Residential	11:19:51	Sydney	05-06/06/2021
Linda Christison	100 Km	W60 Residential	14:27:00	Sydney	05-06/06/2021
Linda Christison	12 Hour Walk	W60 Residential	85.100 km	Sydney	05-06/06/2021
Linda Christison	24 Hour Walk	W60 Residential	151.881 km	Sydney	05-06/06/2021

JUSTIN AND SHARON ARE GOING WELL



Time for an update on **Justin Scholz (C 61)** and **Sharon Scholz (C 63)** as they continue their cycle around Australia. Since my last update, they have had a number of dramas.

As our June newsletter went to press, they were 420km SE of Darwin and riding towards the Northern Territory capital. Withing a day, Darwin went into a snap covid lockdown and they had to stop and quickly adjust their plans. They now decided to continue west towards the Western Australia border and bypass Darwin. Than further angst as WA shut its border to NT. They were stuck in the NT and would face 2 weeks of quarantine if they crossed the WA border. They decided to take the chance, eventually crossed the border and settled in for 2 weeks in the outback town of Kununurra. Luckily, the lockdown worked and they only had to spend 8 days there before being cleared to continue on with their ride.

Within a day, they had a much more significant problem, with the rear crank set broken. They had to bot a lift back to Kununurra where the bike could be fixed. Then the next day, as they tried to push on, the rear chain stay broke. It was a case of one issue after another and it was now a case of finding a lift to take them the 800km NW to Broome, where it could be looked at. It was a big job that took a couple of days – lots of welding of the frame and complete rebuilds of the rear crank set and the rear wheel.

By this stage, they were significantly behind schedule so the newly built bike had to be tested out in the toughest possible way – a riding day of 319 km from Broome to the Sandfire Roadhouse (very few towns in this part of WA)! I stand in awe.

As I write, they have spent last night at the Fortescue River Roadhouse, still in northern WA but on their way south towards Perth (1459 km). They are now roughly halfway around, as the following map shows. What a story!



VALE ROGER QUÉMENER: 1941 - 2021

Last week, with the passing of **Roger Quemener**, we lost one of the legends of European walking. 80 year old Quemener (17th June 1941 – 18th July 2021) represented France internationally as a racewalker on a number of occasions, but rose to fame as an ultradistance walker, setting a new world record for the 100,000m track walk and winning the Paris-Colmar classic a record seven times.



A life between two cities, a biography of Roger Quemener, by Jean Pierre Grange

Born in Brittany, Quemener joined the Parisian police in 1963 and later became a member of the AS Police Paris sporting association. He started racewalking late, at 25 years of age, but progressed rapidly, obtaining four selections in French 50km teams between 1970 and 1973.

1970	June 27	SUI-FRA-FRA 50km, Schweig (SUI)	11 th	5:10:28
	Aug 15-16	Lugano Trophy 50km, Odense (DEN)	9 th	4:52:55
1971	June 19-20	SUI-FRA-FRA 50km, Vittel (FRA)	7 th	4:39:18
1973	Sep 8-9	Lugano Final 50km, Boras (SWE)	11 th	4:37:10

He went on to achieve a 50km lifetime best of 4:22:45 in 1976 at St Laurent du Pont, at 35 years of age. This was a competitive time for that era, especially given his age at that time.

Undaunted by even longer distances, he also contested the annual French 100km racewalk championships from 1969 to 1981, winning in 1971, 1972 and 1975, taking second place in 1980 and 1981 and taking third place in 1976 and 1977. His 3 wins were as follows

1971	Sep 5	French 100km, Flers (FRA)	1 st	10:12:16	
1972	Sep 10	French 100km, Saint-Berthevin (FRA)	1 st	9:45:03	French Best
1975	Sep 14	French 100km, Still (FRA)	1 st	9:42:03	French Best

He set French 100km Bests in 1972 (9:45:03) and 1975 (9:42:03) but the greatest walk of his career was in 1976, when he set a World Best for the 100,000m Track Walk in Saint Maur de Fossés with a spectacular time of 9:23:58.

1976	Mar 28	100,000m, Saint Maur des Fossés	1 st	9:23:58	World Best
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March 1976: Quemener leads Roger Hennebois on his way to a 100,000m world best time of 9:23:58

To give some idea of his ongoing excellence, consider the stats for his best 26 100km walks, in chronological order. The occasional 100km time under 10 hours is outstanding, but he did it on 8 occasions.

Date	Age	Trk/Rd	Place	Time
05/09/1971	30	R	Flers	10:12:16
17/09/1972	31	R	St Berthevin	9:45:03
16/03/1975	33	T	St Denis	9:41:23
28/03/1976	34	T	St Maur des Fossés	9:23:56
14/09/1975	34	R	Still	9:42:03
26/09/1976	35	R	Salies de Bearn	10:13:22
02/10/1977	36	R	Château-Thierry	9:41:52
01/10/1978	37	R	Mehun-sur-Yevre	9:54:20
22/05/1980	38	R	Sur Strasbourg-Paris	11:01
05/10/1980	39	R	Ile d'Oléron	9:41:09
05/09/1981	40	R	Vallorbe	10:49
18/10/1981	40	R	Bar le Duc	9:49:59
16/03/1985	43	R	Lagny-sur-Marne	10:34
27/04/1985	43	R	Bar le Duc	10:56:51
15/09/1984	43	R	Roubaix	10:53
05/04/1986	44	R	Torcy	10:40:24
19/04/1986	44	R	Château-Thierry	10:47:39
15/03/1987	45	R	Lagny-sur-Marne	10:39:11
28/03/1987	45	R	Château-Thierry	11:04:41
09/05/1987	45	R	Cergy-St Christophe-Osny	10:30:27

19/03/1988	46	R	Torcy	11:07
09/04/1988	46	R	Salies de Bearn	10:14:24
23/04/1988	46	R	Bar le Duc	10:24
01/04/1989	47	R	Château-Thierry	10:38
22/04/1989	47	R	Bar le duc	10:22:15

He also completed a significant number of 200km races, all in impressive times.

But Quemener had his sights set on even greater challenges, and what challenge was greater than the annual Paris-Strasbourg Classic, held in June each year and contested over a distance in excess of 500km. Over an 18 year period, from 1972 to 1989, he contested this race on 13 occasions, winning a record 7 times (1979, 1983, 1985-89). The great Gilbert Roger had held the record at 6 wins (1949, 1953-54, 1956-58) so Quemener went one better. In a unique move, he used to stop to have a shave before his arrival in Colmar, making sure he was clean-shaven as he crossed the finish line in his usual first place. In 6 of his 13 appearances, he finished the course with an average speed greater than 8km/hr, a truly astonishing statistic. Imagine walking for nearly 3 days at that average speed!

1972	Strasbourg – Paris	513 km	5 th	75:08	6.763 km/hr
1973	Strasbourg – Paris	493 km	2 nd	65:50	7.488 km/hr
1974	Strasbourg – Paris	523 km	DNF	214km	
1975	Strasbourg – Paris	507 km	DNF	126km	
1979	Strasbourg – Paris	510 km	1 st	64:24	7.919 km/hr
1980	Strasbourg – Paris	506 km	2 nd	60:42	8.336 km/hr
1982	Paris-Colmar	508 km	DNF	148km	
1983	Paris-Colmar	518 km	1 st	64:21	8.068 km/hr
1985	Paris-Colmar	518 km	1 st	64:57	7.975 km/hr
1986	Paris-Colmar	517 km	1 st	62:27	8.278 km/hr
1987	Paris-Colmar	518 km	1 st	64:59	8.050 km/hr
1988	Paris-Colmar	533 km	1 st	66:17	8.050 km/hr
1989	Paris-Colmar	524 km	1 st	64:35	8.113 km/hr



Roger Quemener leads the 1979 Starbourg to Paris Classic

He then joined the organising team of this legendary event, eventually becoming the deputy director.



Both legends – Roger Quemener interviews Jean Dahm at the start of the 2014 Paris-Colmar

Emmanuel Tardi has forwarded me a list of some of the highlights from the long and illustrious racing career of Roger Quemener.

1970	June 27	SUI-FRA-FRA 50km, Schweig (SUI)	11 th	5:10:28	
	Aug 15-16	Lugano Trophy 50km, Odense (DEN)	9 th	4:52:55	
1971	June 19-20	SUI-FRA-FRA 50km, Vittel (FRA)	7 th	4:39:18	
	Sep 5	French 100km, Flers (FRA)	1 st	10:12:16	
1972	Apr 30-1 May	200km du Conflans-Saint-Honorine (FRA)	1 st	22:25	
	Sep 10	French 100km, Saint-Berthevin (FRA)	1 st	9:45:03	French Best
1973	Apr 7-8	Tour du Var (220km)	1 st	25:28	
	Apr 28-29	200km du Conflans-Saint-Honorine	1 st	22:06	
	Sep 8-9	Lugano Final 50km, Boras (SWE)	11 th	4:37:10	
1974	Mar 30 -31	200km du Beaujolai	1 st	23:27	
	May 1-12	Torcy 200km	1 st	22:21	
1975	Apr 26-27	Tour du Var 177km	1 st	17:50	
	May 17-18	200km de Meru	1 st	22:22	
	Sep 14	French 100km, Still (FRA)	1 st	9:42:03	French Best
1976	Mar 28	Critérium National du 100,000m, Saint Maur des Fossés	1 st	9:23:58	World Best
	Apr 24 -25	Tour du Var 148km	1 st	13:57	
	May 9-10	Torcy 200km	1 st	22:22	
1977	May 14-15	200km du Bar Le Duc	1 st	22:10	
1979	Mar 31-Apr 1	200km du Narbonne	1 st	24 Hours	
	Apr 21-22	200km du Château-Thierry	1 st	21:37	
	June	Strasbourg-Paris: 510km	1 st	64:12	
1980	Apr 19-20	200km du Château-Thierry	1 st	21:29	
1981	Mar 14-15	200km du Lagny-sur-Marne	1 st	22:26	
	Sep5-6:	200km du Vallorbe:	1 st	22:23	
1982	Mar 13-14	Torcy 200km	1 st	22:11	
1983	Apr 23-24	200km du Nantes	1 st	22:45	
	June	Paris-Colmar: 518km	1 st	64:12	
1985	June	Paris-Colmar: 518km	1 st	64:57	
1986	June	Paris-Colmar: 517km	1 st	62:27	

1987	June	Paris-Colmar: 518km	1 st	64:59
1988	April 9-10	200km du Salies de Béarn	1 st	21:40
	June	Paris-Colmar: 519km	1 st	66:17
1989	June	Paris-Colmar: 524km	1 st	64:35

In finishing, two photos of Roger, remembering him as a walker (1975) and as an administrator (2014).



With the cancellation of the 2020 Paris-Colmar classic, it makes its 2022 return next month, with a start in the Aisne (Château Thierry) and a finish in Kayserberg-Vignoble. The 2021 edition will pay tribute to Roger Quemener.

MANUEL LORA (1905-1988)

With no races to report, time for another article, and it's one I have been meaning to do for a fair while now. Our current covid lockdown in Melbourne has given me the time to attack it.

Manuel Lora López, born 19th February 1905 and died 27th March 1988, remains a walker largely unknown outside his native Spain but his story is indeed an interesting one. ¹

An athlete from Valencia whose speciality was walking, he became a national hero as a result of his many long distance walks and his loyalty to the Spanish Republican cause.

I start with an aside. Valencia Club de Fútbol, commonly referred to as Valencia CF or simply Valencia, is a very successful Spanish professional football club that plays in La Liga. Valencia were founded in 1919 and have played their home games at the 55,000-seater Mestalla since 1923.

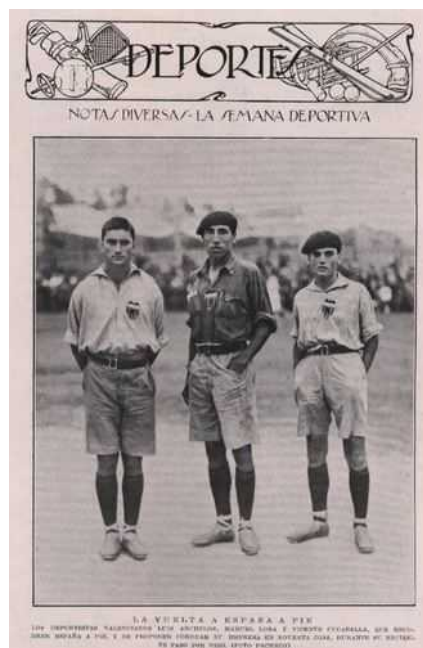
The growing popularity of athletics led Valencia CF to found an athletic section on May 11, 1924. ² In addition, the club played a key role in the creation of the Valencian Athletics Federation, born on December 19, 1924. The new athletics club soon garnered success, with a number of outstanding athletes. The club's most famous athlete of the modern era has to be **Jesús Ángel García Bragado**, but there is another walking connection that goes back to its very early days.

Lora had joined Valencia CF at the age of 17, presumably with aspirations of a football career, but when the athletic club was formed, he was amongst the first to join, along with fellow CF members **Luis Archelós** and **Vicente Cucarella**.

¹ See more at <http://manuelloralopez.blogspot.com/>

² See <https://plazadeportiva.valenciaplaza.com/valencia-club-datletisme>

These three young athletes were a special group indeed, given their 1926 "Vuelta a España" feat. Between 3rd June and 10th October 1926 (a period of 84 days), they walked a full lap of Spain, averaging 40km per day for a total of 3,353 km. This set records for the fastest times around both Spain and around the Iberian Peninsula.



Two pics from the 1926 "Vuelta a España" feat

In 1930, Lora and Archelós, the latter on a bicycle, covered the more than 1,600 km from Paris to Valencia in 16 stages over 21 days. This set a new Across France-Spain Record.

Following the proclamation of the Second Spanish Republic, Lora, this time with **José Morant**, walked, in June 1931, from Valencia to the French city of Menton to lay a republican flag on the grave of exiled Spanish politician Vicente Blasco Ibañez.³

These are but three of Lora's best known walking feats but by no means the only ones. Others included *la Jean Bouin de Barcelona* and *la Vuelta a Levante*.

His many feats have ensured that Lora's name is indelibly written into Spanish history. He was feted by His Majesty Alfonso XIII, who personally praised the courageous athlete. He was received by Primo de Rivera, the Count of Varellano, the Duke of Miranda, and many other authorities of the time who did not want to pass up the opportunity to congratulate him and bask in the reflected glory.

In spite of their feats, Lora and his confederates were forced to operate outside the jurisdiction of the Spanish Federation of Athletics, as they were considered professionals. Their acceptance of financial aid to help them complete these long distance feats meant they had to forfeit their amateur status.

Like many other idealistic young Spaniards, Lora's sporting career was cut short when, after the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War in 1936, he defended the colours of the republican flag as a member of the Spanish Republican Army. At the end of the bloody four years war, the Republicans lost to General Francisco Franco's Nationalists and Lora became a prisoner of Franco's dictatorship, spending many years behind bars.

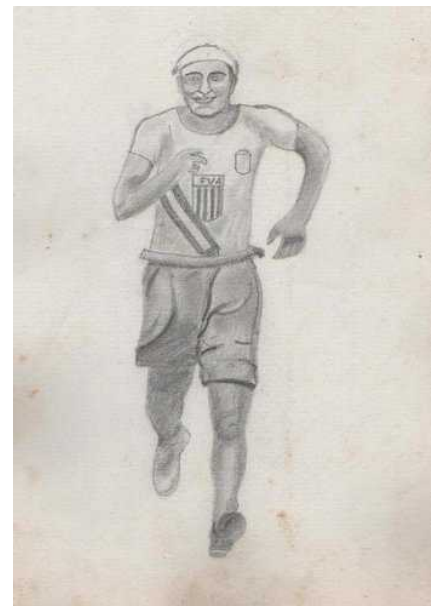
³ Vicente Blasco Ibañez (1867-1928) was a Spanish writer and politician, as well as a staunch Spanish Republican, and perhaps the greatest of all Valencians. Because of his opposition to the military dictatorship of Miguel Primo de Rivera, he voluntarily exiled himself in 1923 and settled in the French Riviera city of Menton. When he died in 1928, he was buried in Menton, with a final wish that his body should not be returned to Spain until it was a Republic. In 1933, his ashes were finally transferred back to Spain, at the time of the proclamation of the Republic in his native country.



*Left: Lora walking and Archelós on the bike during Lora's 1930 walk from Paris to Valencia
Right: Lora and Morant, bearing the republican flag of the Valencia City Council, on their arrival at the tomb of Vicente Basco Ibanez in Menton*

Once freed, he returned to Valencia, living out his remaining years in his beloved neighborhood of Olivereta, where he died in 1988, aged 83.

Lora used a small diary to document his walk from Paris to Valencia and it is now an invaluable piece of history, capturing the signatures, caricatures and comments of the civil and military authorities of the time, as he and Archelós passed through the different towns along their route. ⁴



Two entries from the walk diary that documents Lora's 1930 walk from Paris to Valencia

⁴ See <http://manuelloralopez.blogspot.com/2008/09/libro-de-ruta-atleta-manuel-lora.html>

One of the entries in the diary reads "*Body of bronze and legs of steel*", a fitting obituary to a wonderful walker whose feats should be remembered.⁵

UNTIL OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Well, it's a challenge to produce an ultra distance walking newsletter with so little going on, so I breathe a sigh of relief to get another issue out there. Covid-19 has a long way to run and I suspect it will continue to trouble us until vaccination rates are high enough to guarantee herd immunity.

In the interim, enjoy your walking and take care.

Tim Erickson (C13)
Secretary, Australian Centurion Walkers
Victoria, Australia, 3044

⁵See <https://www.wr-nw.com/manuel-lora.html>