

CENTURION FOOTNOTES

DECEMBER 2021 – VOL 28 NUMBER 8

*The Official Magazine of Australian Centurion Walkers Inc
Founded 1971, Incorporated 2000, No. A0040301S
<http://www.centurions.org.au>*

President	Terry O'Neill (C 18)	0400 190 988
Vice-President	Robin Whyte (C 29)	0414 279 639
Secretary	Tim Erickson (C 13)	0412 257 496
Treasurer	Stuart Cooper (C 5)	0421 470 949

DATES ... DATES ... DATES

With Australia now opening up from the last of its covid restrictions, fingers and toes crossed for a bumper 2022, with our own Australian Centurions qualifier at Coburg leading the way, in April. As always, check the AURA calendar for the latest news (<http://aura.asn.au/>).

Note the 2022 English Centurions 100 mile race will be held on 20-21 August 2022 on the cycle circuit at the Middlesbrough Sports Village, TS4 3AE. Check <https://centurions1911.org.uk/next-events/100-miles/#prev> for the latest updates. Sue Clements comments: *We are excited about this new course, it is a little less than 1 km long and has a good surface so it promises to provide a good opportunity for new and existing Centurions to complete 100 miles. Entries are now open at https://www.entrycentral.com/Middlesbrough_100_mile_Challenge.*

Here are a few highlights from the 2022 fixture. It's a work in progress!

Feb 13, 2022	8 Heures de Charly-sur-Marne	Charly-sur-Marne, FRA
Mar 5-6, 2022	24 Heures de Bourges	Bourges, FRA
Mar 26-27, 2022	24 Heures de Château-Thierry	Château-Thierry, FRA
Apr 9-10, 2022	Coburg 24 Hour Carnival (Aust Centurions 100 Miles Qualifier) See http://www.coburg24hr.org/24hr/race-entry/	Coburg, VIC
May 7-13, 2022	6 Jours de France (https://www.6jours-de-france.fr/)	Vallon Pont d'Arc, FRA
June 1-4, 2022	Paris-Alsace Classic	Across France
July 3-9, 2022	6 Jours Du Grand Est (see https://www.6jours-grandest.fr/)	Pont-à-Mousson, FRA
Aug 20-21, 2022	English Centurions 100 Miles Qualifier See https://centurions1911.org.uk/next-events/100-miles/#prev	Middlesbrough, GBR

Charles Arosanyin (C46) advises that the **inaugural Deutschland Centurion Walk** has been finally finalised and will be held the weekend of 1-2 October 2022 in Bochum, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany. More on that as details are published. If it goes ahead, it will mean a new Centurion badge on offer.

BITS AND PIECES

- The **2021 New Zealand Centurions 100 Mile Qualifier**, was cancelled last month. The event was due to be held on the weekend OF 13-14 November in Auckland, as part of the 2021 Sri Chinmoy 24 Hour Track Race. Unfortunately, this coincided with a covid-19 surge in that city and the Sri Chinmoy team had to pull the plug on their event.
- With that calendar entry now passed, we can review the centurion year which saw 9 new centurion badges awarded around the world. It was a case of limited opportunities.
 - **Australian Centurions:** The 2021 qualifier, held in Melbourne in April, saw 1 new Centurion, taking the membership total to 82.
 - **Continental Centurions:** The 2021 qualifier, held in Weert in October, saw 6 new centurions, taking the membership total to 490.
 - **American Centurions:** The 2021 qualifier, held in October in Owego saw 2 new centurions, taking the membership total to 96.
 - **English Centurions:** Qualifier cancelled
 - **New Zealand Centurions:** Qualifier cancelled
 - **African Centurions:** No qualifier scheduled in 2021

It is with great sadness that I must advise of the passing of **Jim Turnbull (C21)** who qualified as an Australian Centurion with a 100 mile walk of 23:38.3 in Wanaroo, Western Australia.

Jim, born 1936, was a regular racewalker in Western Australia but his entry into the Centurion ranks was accidental at best.

Bronwyn Salter was a well known runner / walker in Western Australia who had already completed the 100 mile run within 24 hours. In 1986 she decided to try to complete the run/walk double and organised a 24 hour walk/run endurance race to be held on a grass 400m track at the Kingsley Reserve in Wanaroo on 13-14 December of that year. As well as a small number of runners, she cajoled Jim to accompany her to help her through. Jim had completed a number of 50 km events and was the current WA 50km champion so was reasonably experienced over the longer distances. With judges in place from the Western Australian Walkers Club, all was set.

As it turned out, Bronwyn had leg problems and was forced to retire so it was left to Jim to come through for an unexpected finish. He had done little preparation for the event but his 50km background saw him through in a fine solo performance. His time of 23:38:53 left little to spare but it was within the required 24 Hours so all was well.

Some 18 months later, on 28-29 May 1988, this story was to have a sequel.

Fellow Western Australian **George Audley (C22)** had taken up fun running in 1981 at the age of 45. By 1988 he had already amassed an enviable record of ultra-distance runs. He was now an experienced and well known ultra-distance exponent who had succeeded in most of the big ultra challenges, including the ultimate for an ultra runner, finishes in the 1987 Sydney to Melbourne run of 1060km (6th over the line and 2nd Australian – 08:01:34) and 13th in the 1998 event (07:21:16).

In 1987, George had run the 100 mile distance in a brilliant 16 hrs 45 mins and now he had his sights set on something that would set a new standard. He wanted to walk 100 miles within 24 hours to match his 100 mile running achievement. Once Jim heard about the attempt, he decided to line up also, but this time as a runner. Since he had already done the walk and George had already done the run, it remained to be seen who would finish first and claim the title as the first Australian to do a run/walk double.

The venue for their May 1988 “match race” was a grass loop of 1km at McGilvrey Oval at Perry Lakes in suburban Perth. History tells us that Jim finished his run in 21:54:36 while George finished his walk in 23:28:48. It was a personal success for both athletes. Jim had done little running in preparation for this event while George had limited walking in the legs.

Jim and George both forwarded details of their performances to the Australian Centurions President but unfortunately, no action was taken until 1994 when we retrospectively verified and confirmed their performances and awarded them badges number 21 and 22.

It was only years later that George and Jim learnt that they had been beaten to the run/walk double by **Claude Martin (C14)** who had completed his walk in 1975 and his run in 1987. So Jim became the second Australian and George the third Australian to achieve this unique double.

Following their 1988 encounter, Jim and George remained firm friends as they continued on with their respective careers. Jim, a member of the Western Australian Race Walking Club, kept to his racewalking, maintaining his association with the club for the rest of his life. George continued on with his successful ultra-distance running career, regularly placing in the Colac 6 day race, the Albany to Perth (560 km) and the Geraldton to Perth (434 km). While he was recognised as one of the legendary hard men of ultra-distance running, he confided to me some years back that he regarded his 100 mile walk (done on the grass track) as one of the hardest events he had contested.

A reunion of sorts took place in March 2002 when Jim and George walked together the Bibbulman Track (a bushwalking trail with magnificent views) which stretches the 963km from Perth to Albany. The walk took them 6 weeks - it did not have the urgency of their centurion efforts - and I am sure it was a wonderful experience.

George finally hung up his running shoes in 2006 and Jim's retirement from racewalking occurred around the same time.

George, who was born in 1935, passed away on 28th June 2020, aged 84. Jim, who was born in 1936, died on 5th November 2021, aged 85.

Jim and I last saw each other at the Lake Burley Griffin walking carnival in Canberra in 2011 but we kept up correspondence until he went into aged care 5 years ago.



Tim and Jim in Canberra in June 2011

We pass on our condolences to Jim's children Janine, Craig, Jamie and Glenn and their families.

Gone but not to be forgotten by his fellow centurions.

COBURG 24 HOUR UPDATE

The 2022 Australian Centurions qualifier will kick start the centurion year on the weekend of 9-10 April in Melbourne, as part of the 2022 Coburg 24 Hour Carnival. Entries are building nicely, with 46 entries so far (34 runners and 12 walkers). We already have 10 entries in the 24 Hour Walk, a promising sign, with 18 weeks still to go. Check out the full entry list at <https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/ParticipantList.aspx?E=44452>.

And we have a new Coburg 24 Hour Medal design, all set to go. You'll need to enter one of our walk categories (24 Hour, 12 Hour or 6 Hour) to get one of those. See more at <http://www.coburg24hr.org/24hr/>.



JUSTIN SCHOLZ FINISHES THE 'COAST TO KOSCI'

The 'Coast to Kosci' race (<https://coasttokosci.com/>) is one of Australia's toughest ultramarathons. First held in 2004, it continues to attract strong fields each year. The race starts on Boydtown Beach near Eden in Southern NSW in Australia and finishes 240km later after summitting Mt Kosciuszko, Australia's highest point. The field is capped at 50 runners who have up to 46 hours to complete the race – Andrew Tuckey holds the fastest male time of 24hrs 33mins, set in 2014, and Joasia Zakrzewski holds the fastest female time of 28hrs 19mins, set in 2020.

The 2021 race, held in late November, was one of attrition, with runners continually lashed by dreadful weather which swept across the east coast of Australia. In fact, conditions were so bad that the race had to be cut short, finishing at Charlotte Pass (222km), just shy of Mt Kosciuszko.

Justin Scholz (C61) was up for the challenge, having completed his cycling circumnavigation around Australia. And of course he finished (his 4th finish in this event), coming 10th of the 25 finishers, with a time of 30:53:05 (see full results at <https://coasttokosci.com/live/>). Justin summed up his race:

I'm so relieved that I managed to get to the end, despite a lack of specific training. My quads were smashed by about 60km and though I continued to run in pain with walk breaks, I didn't run a step after 140km. Thankfully my walking legs were going well!

Hard to say if conditions were awful or perfect this year. Depends on your viewpoint. I DNF'd at 121km in 2020 as a result of serious dehydration. Sure, it was very hot, but I also made a lot of mistakes in that hot environment. This year it rained in some capacity for at least 27 of the 31 hours I was out there. Never did the sun poke through the clouds. The air temperature was never more than about 16 degrees, and, at the other end, freezing with the rain and wind chill.

That's four finishes for me now, and my first "short course" result. Sharon has five finishes, all on the full summit course.

With 9 finishes between us, there's absolutely a lure of a 10th. But if it's me that attempts it, I'll be training properly, rather than riding a tandem bike 16000km around the country in the lead-up. Maybe then my quads will have half a chance of making it through.



The picture says it all – dreadful weather in the Australian Alps did not stop Justin Scholz

LES 8 HEURES D'ETAMPES-SUR-MARNE, FRANCE, SUNDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2021

Last Sunday morning saw **Emmanuel Tardi** in the small city of Etampes-sur-Marne (1500m people), some 100km east of Paris for the 20th 8 Heures d'Etampes-sur-Marne. Walkers competed over a 2.5km loop for the first 7 hours and then over a 600m loop in the final hour. It was a tough loop, with a 420m hill that rose 34 metres (that equates to a 9% gradient). The weather was awful, with the temperature around 2°C, almost continuous rain and a very cold wind. But it did not deter the 34 walkers who set off at 8AM to fight the elements

In the men's event, **Florian Letourneau** and **Fabrice Henry** walked together for the first two hours, before Henry created a short lead which he held for a further hour. By that stage, Letourneau had bridged the gap and Henry called it quits soon afterwards. That left Letourneau to record a comfortable win with 75.145km. In the women's event,

Veronique Bessot led from beginning to end, winning with 66.177km. **Emilie Bizard-Planchot** and **Christine David** walked together for 6 hours before Bizard-Planchot broke clear, taking second with 62.161km.

8 Hours Walk Men

1.	LETOURNEAU Florian	Ac Chateau Thierry	75.145 km	9.393 km/h
2.	ARNAULT Jacques	Neuilly Sur Marne Athletisme	70.286 km	8.786 km/h
3.	VARAIN Cedric	Ac Chateau Thierry	67.736 km	8.467 km/h
4.	DELANGE Dominique	Aj Auxerre Section Marathon	66.177 km	8.272 km/h
5.	HARDEL Claude	Essonne Athletic	64.124 km	8.016 km/h
6.	TINTIN Ronald	Ao Charenton	64.024 km	8.003 km/h
7.	RIGAL Jean-marc	Domont Athletisme	63.626 km	7.953 km/h
8.	LINARD Benoit		61.457 km	7.682 km/h
9.	RAUCH Jean-francois	Efs Reims	60.735 km	7.592 km/h
10.	CECCALDI Georges	Entente Chalon/saone Athl.	59.946 km	7.493 km/h
11.	TOUTAIN Eric	Us Ivry	59.357 km	7.420 km/h
12.	ROCHA Fernando	Athletic Vosges Entente Clubs	58.120 km	7.265 km/h
13.	FILLIEUX Christian	Caf Belgique	57.197 km	7.150 km/h
14.	HAGHEBAERT Eric	Ac Chateau Thierry	55.267 km	6.908 km/h
15.	DELARUE Jean-michel	Ac Cauffry-liancourt	54.485 km	6.811 km/h
16.	ROBERT Jean-pierre	Villeneuve D Ascq Fretin Athle	53.557 km	6.695 km/h
17.	TILLIER Ludovic	Le Chesnay Rocquencourt	52.926 km	6.616 km/h
18.	DEPARDAY Fabien	Saint-brieuc Athletisme	51.550 km	6.444 km/h
19.	KESSELMARK Patrick	Fs Esbly Coupvray Athletisme	35.200 km	
	HENRY Fabrice		DNF	40.0km
	LANEAU Maxime	Us Camon	DNF	40.0km
	HENIN Jean-marc		DNF	37.5km
	RUIN Herve	Efs Reims A	DNF	30.0km

8 Hours Walk Women

1.	BESSOT Veronique	Domont Athletisme	66.177 km	8.272 km/h
2.	BIZARD PLANCHOT Emilie	Neuilly Sur Marne Athlé	62.161 km	7.770 km/h
3.	DAVID Christine	Essonne Athletic	60.872 km	7.609 km/h
4.	PANNIER Josiane	Havre Ac	59.668 km	7.459 km/h
5.	SILVI Nathalie		58.222 km	7.278 km/h
6.	BIZARD Claudie	Thiais Ac	58.113 km	7.264 km/h
7.	ARNAULT Françoise	Neuilly Sur Marne Athlé	56.293 km	7.037 km/h
8.	POUVREAU Manuella	Domont Athletisme	55.939 km	6.992 km/h
9.	RODIER Nicole	Efs Reims	54.245 km	6.781 km/h



Jacques Arnault, Florian Letourneau and Cedric Varain



Christine David, Emilie Bizard-Planchot and Veronique Bessot (all photos from Emmanuel Tardi)

The ancillary 10km walk was won by **David Stefanelly** in a time of 58:11. Emmanuel also walked in the 10km finishing with 1:26:26. Well done mate!

10km Walk

1.	STEFANELLY David	Grand Paris Seine	58:11
2.	OLIVARES Mathieu	Neuilly Sur Marne Athlé	1:07:28
3.	GALTIER Marie-christine	Ac Du Pays De Meaux	1:09:13
4.	VANDENBERGHE Renaud	Ac Du Pays De Meaux	1:09:15
5.	MARECHAL Pascal	Ac Chateau Thierry	1:12:55
6.	BORDIER Daniel	Ac Chateau Thierry	1:16:39
7.	PANNIER PILLE Magali	Havre Ac	1:18:49
8.	TARDI Emmanuel	Essonne Athletic	1:26:26
9.	PLAYE Alexandre		1:34:04

VALE FREDDIE BAKER: 1932 - 2021

I was saddened to hear of the recent death of English Centurions legend **Freddie Baker (C266)**. Fred, who was born on 30th July 1932, passed away in November 2021, aged 89.

Fred was well known to us here in Australia as, in his retirement, he used to spend the English winter here in Brisbane each year, and he participated in a number of our Australian Centurion walks. But more of that later.

A member of Highgate Harriers and of Surrey Walking Club, Fred completed 19 English Centurion 100 mile walks between 1956 (aged 23) and 1989 (aged 57), starting with a walk of 22:30.13 in the testing 1956 Sheffield-to-Harrogate-and-back race. On that occasion, 21 of the 38 starters finished, 8 becoming new Centurions. His full list of English Centurion finishes reads as follows:

100m	22:30:13	06/07/1956	Sheffield to Harrogate	C266
100m	21:00:30	05/07/1963	Brighton to London and back	
100m	22:14:24	09/10/1965	Chigwell	
100m	23:13:36	26/09/1969	Bristol	
100m	22:31:12	25/06/1971	Ewhurst	
100m	22:32:06	28/07/1972	Leicester to Skegness	
100m	20:38:40 (PB)	21/09/1973	Bristol	
100m	22:04:06	27/06/1975	Ewhurst	
100m	22:04:14	28/05/1976	Woodford	
100m	22:50:22	22/06/1979	Ewhurst	

100m	23:17:23	25/07/1980	Leicester
100m	23:38:10	23/05/1981	Brighton
100m	22:41:12	20/08/1982	Leicester
100m	21:45:18	24/06/1983	Ewhurst
100m	23:36:30	14/09/1985	Colchester
100m	23:08:26	30/05/1986	Woodford
100m	23:08:17	25/07/1986	Leicester-Congerstone
100m	23:27:19	26/06/1987	Ewhurst
100m	23:03:17	29/07/1989	London Hendon

Fred held the record of the most English centurion finishes, with 19, until eventually Sandra Brown surpassed that tally in 2005 (Sandra has now raised that mark to 32 successful finishes). Fred donated a new English Centurions trophy, *the Scorers Salver*, to record those who completed the English Centurions qualifier on 20 occasions. Sandra became the first name to be engraved on that prestigious piece of silverware.

Fred made a comeback in 1992, aged 60, to complete the Continental Centurions 100 mile qualifier in Holland, becoming Continental Centurion number 233 with a time of 22:14:22.

Fred served for a time as the English Centurions' Vice-President and was the Honorary Secretary from 1986 to 1995. He was also a regular in England's historic Roubaix squads.

When Fred retired from the workforce, he spent the English summers at home in England and the English winters in Brisbane. It was in 1997 that Fred, then aged 65, decided to try for one final 100 miler to become a Centurion on Australian soil. The occasion was our annual qualifier, held at the ANZ Stadium in Brisbane on the weekend of 27-28 September. His preparation was limited as he was a few years out of formal training but he felt he had a good chance.

Alas, Brisbane turned on a hot and sunny day and the start time of noon on the Saturday meant that the field had to endure nearly 6 hours of sunshine and heat before the evening brought cooler weather. The cumulative effect of this was seen during the early hours of the race and what had promised to be a very toughly contested race deteriorated quickly into one of survival. Plans fell by the wayside as walkers struggled to maintain pre-race plans and the pace slowed. Although the night brought ideal conditions, the damage was done and the bulk of the field retired in the early evening hours. Fred soldiered on for the full 24 Hours, reaching a distance of 124km, one of only 2 finishers (the other was Caleb Maybir who had qualified the previous year – this time around he could only manage 150km).



Fred in action in one of his Australian centurion walks – this time at Coburg in 2003

Fred was back a year later, in September 1998, for our qualifier at the George Knott Athletic Field in Clifton Hill. He had been training locally in Brisbane with **John Harris (C12)**, already a triple Australian Centurion (1975, 1998 and 2002), and they travelled together to Melbourne, both hoping for a 100 mile walk effort. Unfortunately, things did not

go to plan for either walker. John walked consistently but was just not fast enough and had to be content with membership of what he dubbed 'the nineties club'. Fred suffered badly with leg problems and had to adjust his expectations and settle for a final distance of 110.4km, eventually retiring at the 20 hour mark.

Fred made the trip from Brisbane to Melbourne three further years (2003, 2005 and 2006), the race being held at Coburg on each occasion, but he fell short each time (100.8km, 103.2km and 71.2km). Now going on 74 years of age, he had rolled the dice for the last time.

He continued to come out each summer and continued to go for the occasional walk locally with John Harris but his days as an ultra distance competitor were behind him now.

Fred had lived in Carlisle, northern England, in his later years, and was in a care home for his last days.

Fred leaves a wonderful legacy for those of us who have followed him into the world of long distance walking. He was one of the greats, a great walker and a wonderful person. Many words spring to mind as I remember him - gentle, kind, caring and inclusive. We remember him with affection.

UNTIL OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Our final issue for the year. I was not sure if there would be sufficient news to warrant 8 issues but we got there, even if it was by the skin of our teeth!

Let's hope that 2022 sees our sport back into full swing, with a full complement of events, world wide.

In the meanwhile, I wish all our members and readers a Christmas blessed with joy and family.

Yours in centurion walking

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