

# CENTURION FOOTNOTES

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## DATES ... DATES ... DATES

Five centurion qualifiers were completed during 2023, with 7 new centurions to welcome overall.

English Centurions	August 2023	3	C1218-C1220
Continental Centurions	May 2023	3	C496-C498
American Centurions	June 2023	0	
Australian Centurions	April 2023	1	C85
New Zealand Centurions	September 2023	0	

There are a few final long distance walking races to go this year, in particular the French 8 Hour Walk at d'Etampes sur Marne.

Sun Nov 26, 2023            8 Heures d'Etampes sur Marne 2023            Château-Thierry, FRA

Then the 2024 European year will kick off in grand style with the following (amongst others) already gazetted.

Feb 4, 2024	8 Heures de Charly	Charly-Sur-Marne, FRA
Feb 24-25, 2024	24 Heures de Bourges	Bourges, FRA
Mar 30-31, 2024	24 Heures de Chateau-Thierry	Chateau-Thierry, FRA
Apr, 2024	Marche du Grand Est	Domrémy-la-Pucelle, FRA
May 28 - Jun 1, 2024	Paris Alsace Classic	Across France

On the local front, there will be lots of ultras in Australia, but many of them will be trail based and hence not conducive to fast walking. I see a few 2024 events have already been added to the 2023 calendar at <https://www.aura.asn.au/2023-aura-calendar-of-events/>. Once more events confirm their dates, you can expect to see a separate 2024 fixture page on the AURA website.

However, one event you won't see next year will be the 2024 Coburg 24 Hour Carnival, which has hosted our Australian Centurions qualifying event for many years now. It is with a sad heart that we announce the demise of this much respected track classic. Alas, AURA track certification restrictions have put us in an impossible situation and the tough decision has had to be made. Read our explanation in the following section.

## WE SAY GOODBYE TO THE COBURG 24 HOUR CARNIVAL

A couple of weeks ago, I was doing some work in preparation for the 2024 Coburg 24 Hour Carnival, which doubles as our centurion qualifier. One of the work items was to apply as usual for AURA event certification for the event. For the section on track certification, I enclosed the usual 2 documents that have always been acceptable in the past, namely

- 1998 Coburg Track certification.pdf
- 2014 Coburg Track Line Marking Report.pdf

These documents detail track measurements taken when the track was laid in 1998 and when it was resurfaced and remarked in 2014.

I was then emailed by AURA VP Matthew Eckford to advise that this was no longer acceptable for certification purposes and that the IAU (their governing body) has for some years now mandated World Athletics Certification for tracks before they can be ratified as appropriate for records or rankings. Somehow we had slipped under the radar but now they were catching up with track events like us with limited and/or outdated certifications.

Since then I have had a series of emails and eventually a zoom meeting with AURA President Simone Hayes and AURA Secretary Stephen Redfern. Unfortunately I was unable to obtain any concessions from them or any flexibility in their ruling. Their stance remains unchanged - unless the track has a Class 1 or Class 2 Athletics Facility Certificate issued by World Athletics and unless it has been issued in the last 5 years, no records are possible on our track and no performances in races on our track can be submitted to AURA for ranking purposes or for consideration in the selection of Australian ultra teams.

But here's the crunch: Both Class 1 and Class 2 track certifications require a fee (payable each 5 years) to World Athletics of approximately US\$30,000. This would normally be a fee that the owning body (read local council) would pay to ensure their track is of a higher status than simply "community". Moreland Council chose specifically NOT to do that when the track was resurfaced in 2014 and there is no way that Merri-Bek Council (the new name for Moreland Council) is going to do such a thing now, as our track is designated as for community use only. Even if they did agree to pay the huge fee and then pay additionally for a surveyor's report, the age of the track would probably still preclude it from getting registered as a Type 2 track.

Melbourne has one Type 1 Certified stadium

- LAKESIDE STADIUM, ALBERT PARK

and Melbourne has six Type 2 Certified tracks

- KEILOR PARK ATHLETICS TRACK, BRIMBANK
- MEADOWGLEN INTERNATIONAL ATHLETICS STADIUM, EPPING
- NEWPORT PARK ATHLETICS TRACK, WILLIAMSTOWN
- CASEY FIELDS ATHLETICS FACILITY, CASEY FIELDS
- BILL SEWART ATHLETICS TRACK, BURWOOD
- MOONEE VALLEY ATHLETICS TRACK, ABERFELDIE

These tracks all hold AV competitions, etc, and their owning councils have seen fit to pay the hefty ongoing fee to afford them the higher certification level.

AURA advised me that the Coburg 24H Carnival had 3 options for 2024

- a) Move our event from Coburg to one of the certified tracks listed above. As this would involve a hefty hire fee potentially in the thousands of dollars, it might severely impact our bottom line. It would also mean a lot more work for us to run the event away from a venue where we have everything on tap. When you consider that the average age of the organising committee is 75 years, it was not an option that appealed to any of us.
- b) Move the event from the Coburg Track to a road course of our choosing. Road courses are not subject to the same World Athletics requirements and the process to obtain AIMS certification for road courses is relatively easy and can be completed for \$1000 or less. That certification then lasts for 5 years before it has to be renewed. For instance, the VRWC racewalking courses at Middle Park are AIMS certified. Again, the extra work involved in such a venture did not appeal to us.
- c) Run the event on the Coburg track as usual. In that case, no performances could be forwarded to AURA for consideration as records and no performances could be counted as ranking performances towards Australian Team selection purposes. So we would lose the cream at the top and would be left with a relatively second tier and smaller sized event. Again, this option did not appeal to us

We met as a committee a week ago and have decided to pull the plug and cancel the Coburg 24 Hour Carnival. This was not an easy decision to make but it was the only viable option for us, given the alternatives. We only have 13 entries thus far so it will be a simple matter to close the event to further entries and then to refund those 13 entrants. No money has been spent yet so we would not be out of pocket.

The following shows the ludicrousness of the current situation.

- I could go out into the local parklands around the Coburg Track and find a loop, be it concrete or bitumen and set the event up as a road event. There would then be no limitation on track age. The path surface could be years old. The surface could be old and flaky. It could have cracks from tree roots. It could be pebbly in part. No matter, you can still get it measured by your friendly locally based AIMS B Grade measurer for around \$500.
- It might not have adequate night lighting. Not an issue - just tell the competitors to wear reflector jackets and head lights.

- The course might be an odd distance like 1.423km - not an issue for a road event.
- It might be hilly but that 's ok. Ultra runners are tough.
- Some areas might be out of sight and then potentially dangerous for females overnight - no worries, there will be other people on the course.
- The path might be shared, with bike riders, people exercising, mothers with prams, etc. Not an issue. Runners are used to that and can negotiate such things.

With all these limitations, I could still get an AIMS measurer out to measure the course (after all, the AIMS measurement simply documents the distance) and then apply to AURA and bob's your uncle.

The above is not in any way meant to disparage the many wonderful race directors who host road or track based ultras. They do a great job. It is just to illustrate the fact that if you are unlucky enough to offer a track based ultra, you will find yourself in a completely biased landscape with restrictions that may render your event unviable.

Does this seem fair to you? Consider the case for Coburg

- The Coburg track surface is only 9 years old and has had little use, being a community track that is locked outside booking times. It has not bad sections, no patches, no cracks.
- It has a brand new stadium/clubrooms, just completed last year at a cost of a little over 1 million dollars.
- It has since had all the external and internal fences refurbished via another grant.
- It has 4 sets of night lights.
- It has hosted the AURA 24 Hour Championships on 6 occasions in the last 13 years: 2011, 2013-2015, 2019 and 2022.
- The event has a history going back to 1988 - 36 years of continuous service, with only 1 year out for covid.
- We regard ourselves as the Blue Riband 24H event in Australia and I'll challenge anyone to argue otherwise.
- Last year, we had 144 entries, an all time record, of whom over half were in the 24H.
- We were the first track based ultra in Australia to swap direction every 4 to 6 hours. We were the first track based ultra in Australia to start using multiple lanes. We were the first track based ultra in Australia to use computer timing, way back around 2000. We have been a trend setting event that has continued to set the standard for other events.
- Our event is highly regarded and well known throughout Australia and has the firm backing of the ultra community.

Sadly, all this counts for nothing as we haven't paid our US\$30,000 to World Athletics.

I will be separately emailing our 13 2024 entrants to let them now and to arrange full refunds.

I leave readers with links to some past Coburg 24H highlights.

- The race report for our very first Coburg 24 Hour Race, way back in 1988  
<http://www.coburg24hr.org/24hr/download/1984-2013/1988-Coburg-24H.pdf>
- Yiannis Kouros setting a new World 24H record in our 1996 event  
<http://www.coburg24hr.org/24hr/download/1984-2013/1996-Coburg-24H.pdf>
- Kevin Cassidy's wonderful report on our 2006 event  
<http://www.coburg24hr.org/24hr/download/1984-2013/2006-Coburg-24-Hour-Report-by-Kevin-Cassidy.pdf>
- The 2014 Coburg 24 Hour Carnival which was the highest quality 24 Hour Track race ever staged in Australia  
<http://www.coburg24hr.org/24hr/download/2014/2014-general/2014-24H-Race-Report.pdf>
- A superb article on our 2016 event and its characters by freelance journalist Paul Connolly  
<http://www.coburg24hr.org/24hr/download/2016/2016-06-Trackside-at-a-24-hour-ultramarathon-by-Paul-Connolly.pdf>

We wish our ultra run and walk communities all the best for the future. We are sad that we will no longer be part of that future.

Tim Erickson, On behalf of the Coburg 24 Hour Committee

## WHAT THIS MEANS FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CENTURIONS

Now the crunch for us - the Coburg 24 Hour Carnival has hosted our annual Australian Centurion qualifier since 2002, so as of today we have NO official qualifying race for 2024. There are of course plenty of other 24 Hour races (track and road) around Australia and I am sure that any of them would welcome some additional entrants in the form of walkers. This now becomes an opportunity for us to forge a relationship with a new partner.

I am in two minds as what to do now with regard to the Australian Centurions. I was elected as Secretary of the club in early 1994 and have been running the show for the last 30 years. It is perhaps now time for others to take on the reins of leadership. I turn 73 next month and feel it is time to consider the future of the club and how best to move forward.

I will guide the club through to the AGM in January 2024, but it is then my hope that a new Executive will step forward to take over.

I am happy to continue producing the newsletter and maintaining the website but the club may need to consider someone else for the day to day administration. This is now an opportunity for others to step to the fore with new ideas and new enthusiasm and to guide the club into what can still be an exciting new future.

## OUT AND ABOUT

As England based **Sandra Brown (C36)** approaches the milestone age of 75 years, she shows no signs of slowing. This year she has added 4 more walks of 100 miles or further to take her tally from 211 to 215. She emailed recently to give an update

*We have done two 6 day events this year; in April the French 6 days at Vallon Pont D'Arc where Richard McChesney did so well, and in September the Hungarian Balaton 6 days. The weather at Balaton this year was very hot, presenting interesting challenges. I managed just short of 590 kms, not much short of last year's 610 kms when I broke the 30 year-old W70 record of 600kms. As I'm now only a few months from being 75, I was quite pleased with that. Richard developed the lean, as last year, and had to keep taking breaks. In both years, others were similarly affected, and it's very annoying for those affected when this happens. But he still completed a good distance and can be well-pleased. An Englishman Luke Ivory, an ultra-runner with an ability to run fast, was second overall in his first 6 day, clearly a real talent. Walkers Kathy Crilley and Dave Hoben are regulars there and both did well. Good time had by all at this very well-organised event which will be the GOMU 6 day championship in 2024.*

*Just for info, I totted up for Davy and Nick the 100 miles or more completions including the Balaton 6 days [where I did 161.798 kms in 29h 04m 43s, so 100 miles in a few minutes under 29h.]*

*The total is 215 completed events of 100 miles or more, having added 4 this year.*

April 2023	Vallon Pont d'Arc, Ardeche, France, 6 Days: 556.177 kms	161.709 kms in 31:03:01
May 2023	LDWA EBB Elephant, Bear & Bull 100	100.6 miles 36h 33m
August 2023	Gloucester 48h track: 174 kms in 32h 32m.30s	100 miles in 29:40:08
Sept 2023	EMU Balaton 6 Days: 589.160 kms	161.798 kms [180 laps] in 29:04:43

You can check out the full list of all her 215 races at <http://centurions.org.au/documents/Sandra%20Brown%20Ultra%20record%202023.pdf>. Alternatively, if you want to see all 215 races categorised in a year-by-year format, check out <http://centurions.org.au/documents/Sandra%20Brown%20Ultra%20record%20-%20year%20by%20year.pdf>.

I don't think we will ever see her equal in terms of ongoing quality and longevity.

## 48 HEURES DE ROYAN, ROYAN, FRANCE 29 SEPTEMBER - 1 OCTOBER 2023

The 48 Heures de Royan (see <https://www.48hderoyan.fr/>) has been going since 2008 and is held each October at the Stade d'Honneur in Royan, a city in the SE of France. It is a big meet with large numbers of walkers and runners. On the walk side, the competition features 48 Hour, 24 Hour and 12 Hour walks.

The 48 Hour Walks were won by **Alain Malfondet** (255.810km) and **Cathy Muller** (215.019 km), the 24 Hour Walks were won by **Max Gillett** (138.149km) and **Danielle Leymarie** (109.177km) and the 12 Hour Walks were won by **Stephane Paille** (85.809km) and **Sandra Elmon** (81.688km).

#### 48 Hour Walk

1.	MALFONDET Alain	M/65		255.810 km
2.	DELANGE Dominique	M/57	Aja Marathon Auxerre	237.429 km
3.	PINEAU Laurent	M/68	Haute Saintonge Athletisme	231.924 km
4.	MULLER Cathy	F/81		216.019 km
5.	ODOUARD Dominique	M/57		208.955 km
6.	GANNE Laurent	M/64	Hsa	186.887 km
7.	BIRAUD Sylvie	F/67	Hsa Haute Saintongeathletisme	186.804 km
8.	GIORIA Stephane	M/66	Lucon Jogging Nature	176.058 km
9.	DEGEORGE Laurent	M/65	Arengosse Trail	151.913 km
10.	MUNOS Albert	M/70		112.436 km
11.	EMONIERE Philippe	M/61	Cosm Arcueil	103.154 km
12.	BURGER Alain	M/55		59.123 km

#### 24 Hour Walk

	GILLET Max	M/54		138.149 km
	BOURICHON Christophe	M/70	Us Champagne Sur Seine	121.476 km
	LEYMARIE Danielle	F/53		109.177 km
	BEIGNON Julien	M/79		104.939 km
	HERVIER Francine	F/63	Asso Infosport Loiret	100.774 km
	FABRE Thierry	M/64		91.177 km
	CHEVILLON Bernard	M/51		50.189 km

#### 12 Hour Walk

	PAILLE Stephane	M/64	Hsa	85.809 km
	MORILLON Thomas	M/83	Insace Legends	82.131 km
	ELMON Sandra	F/73		81.668 km
	HELLER Denis	M/56	Haute Saintonge Athletisme	80.786 km
	BIZARD Claudie	F/59	Thiais Ac	80.478 km
	RAMBAULT Jean-Michel	M/56	Gass Saujon	75.359 km
	COURRAUD Joel	M/56		70.253 km
	COURRAUD Brigitte	F/56		70.253 km
	MORILLON Dominique	F/61	Insace Legends	66.548 km
	MOREAUX Jean-Francois	M/54	Ca Villenave D'ornon	62.448 km
	PELLE Marie-Claire	F/57	Ca Villenave D'ornon	59.073 km
	KOENIG Sandrine	F/75		56.859 km
	TRUBLET Sabrina	F/74		56.621 km
	PIERRE Patrick	M/48	Ca Castelsarrasin	47.332 km
	COSSON Maryse	F/50		38.332 km
	GARNIER Delphine	F/69		32.561 km
	CHOGNE Evelyne	F/60		31.436 km

### LES 24H DE LIPSHEIM, LIPSHEIM, FRANCE, 14-15 OCTOBER 2023

Emmanuel Tardi reports on a new French 24 Hour event that was held in the town of Lipsheim, in far NE France, in mid October (see <https://www.lipsheim.fr/24-h-de-marche-de-lipsheim/>). The event was organised by Sylvie Maison, one of the best French long distance racewalkers and a local to the town. The walk was contested on a 2km loop in the centre of the town and included a walk through the local gymnasium.

In the men's 24 Hour Walk, **Florian Letourneau** led from start to finish, passing the 50km mark in 5h34.31 and the 100km mark in 11h43.44 and attaining a final distance of 183.031km. In the women's 24 Hour Walk, **Morgane Ausello** stormed to the front, passing the 50km mark in 5h49.07, but she was forced to stop at the 80km mark, due to pains in the chest. This opened the door for **Chloé Raes-Maure** who took over and went on to win with 162.222km.

The meet also featured two 6 Hour events, one on the Saturday and one on the Sunday. The longest distance overall went to **Laura De Bontin** who passed the 50km in 5h11 and went on to a total distance of 57.618km in 6 hours. Her husband **Vincent De Bontin** was the fastest of the 10km walkers with a very quick 48:55.

#### 24 Hour Men

1	LETOURNEAU Florian	9	Ac Chateau Thierry	183.031 km	24:00:00	7.626 km/h
2	GRASSI Alain	4	Vaincre la mucoviscidose	171.948 km	24:00:00	7.165 km/h
3	MALFONDET Alain	16	Nl	167.410 km	24:00:00	6.975 km/h

4	VARAIN Cedric	12	Ac Chateau Thierry	164.768 km	24:00:00	6.865 km/h
5	MAURE Rene-jean	8	Neubourg Ac	162.222 km	24:00:00	6.759 km/h
6	RIGAL Jean-marc	6	Domont Athletisme	158.494 km	24:00:00	6.604 km/h
7	TILLIER Ludovic	3	Le Chesnay-roquencourt	143.004 km	24:00:00	5.959 km/h
8	VANDENBERGHE Renaud	1	Us Champagne-sur-seine	134.289 km	24:00:00	5.595 km/h
9	FILLIEUX Christian	18	Bel CAF	132.029 km	24:00:00	5.501 km/h
10	HAGHEBAERT Eric	15	NI	116.182 km	24:00:00	4.841 km/h
11	PETER Vincent	14	Sport Athletic Verdunois	109.608 km	24:00:00	4.567 km/h
12	PRUCKNER Jaroslav	10	Cze	101.854 km	24:00:00	4.244 km/h
Ab	BOUELE Cedric	19	Delemont Athlétisme	22.000 km	24:00:00	0.917 km/h

#### 24 Hour Women

1	RAES-MAURE Chloe	7	Neubourg Ac	162.222 km	24:00:00	6.759 km/h
2	DUCRUET Nadia	11	Ac Chateau Thierry	151.035 km	24:00:00	6.293 km/h
3	SONNOIS Martine	5	Rchj Morez	149.031 km	24:00:00	6.210 km/h
4	BIZARD Claudie	17	Thiais Ac	144.435 km	24:00:00	6.018 km/h
5	LANDRU Noelle	2	NI	72.178 km	24:00:00	3.007 km/h
Ab	AUSELLO Morgane	13	Nice Cote D'azur Athl	82.000 km	10:55:57	7.501 km/h

#### 6 Hour Men Sunday

1	LEROY Benjamin	28	Bel RACLO La Louviere	53.488 km	6:00:00	8.915 km/h
2	MINGOZZI Adrien	30	Ultra Marathon France	51.737 km	6:00:00	8.623 km/h
3	GROS Gildas	29	S/I Cis Anould	50.150 km	6:00:00	8.358 km/h
4	DELANGE Dominique	34	AJ Auxerre Section Mara	46.256 km	6:00:00	7.709 km/h
5	ZIMMER Jean-marie	32	NI	42.189 km	6:00:00	7.032 km/h
6	MOUGENOT Patrick	20	Marne Et Gondoire Athl	40.189 km	6:00:00	6.698 km/h
7	CHAUMET Daniel	31	NI	40.065 km	6:00:00	6.678 km/h
8	MERCIER Jean-pierre	24	NI	39.113 km	6:00:00	6.519 km/h
9	GUILLOT Mickael	26	Ac Chateau Thierry	26.000 km	6:00:00	4.333 km/h

#### 6 Hour Women Sunday

1	DE BONTIN Laura	23	EA Cergy Pontoise	57.618 km	6:00:00	9.603 km/h
2	BRASTEL Adeline	27	Efs Reims A. *	52.164 km	6:00:00	8.694 km/h
3	MALOCHET Dominique	21	NI	43.293 km	6:00:00	7.216 km/h

#### 6 Hour Team Sunday

7	Les legendes	33	PANNIER,ANXIONNAT	44.674 km	6:00:00	7.446 km/h
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#### 6 Hour Men Saturday

1	CHABIN Frederic	47	Colmar Marathon Club	48.000 km	5:59:38	8.008 km/h
2	CECILLON Jean	41	Marche Mythique Org	44.000 km	6:05:13	7.229 km/h
3	BRIERE Regis	54	Ac Pontarlier	44.000 km	6:11:31	7.106 km/h
4	BEERNAERT Fabrice	42		42.000 km	6:12:35	6.764 km/h
5	FRECH Paul	50		40.000 km	6:16:08	6.381 km/h
6	BASSOMPIERRE Aurelien	52		26.000 km	3:33:26	7.309 km/h

#### 6 Hour Women Saturday

1	RAMIREZ GOMEZ Alejandra	55	Sg La Wantzenau	52.000 km	6:07:11	8.497 km/h
2	BRIERE Dora	53	Suisse	50.000 km	6:11:34	8.074 km/h
3	MEMHELD Murielle	49		42.000 km	6:05:07	6.902 km/h
4	ATLAS Fatiha	48	Ill Bruche A Lingolsheim	40.000 km	6:05:35	6.565 km/h
5	GODON Audrey	45		40.000 km	6:14:12	6.414 km/h
6	REUTENAUER Nathalie	51		36.000 km	6:03:15	5.946 km/h
7	FERLET Benedicte	46		34.000 km	6:03:32	5.612 km/h
8	ROMILLY Cathy	44		34.000 km	6:05:46	5.577 km/h
9	MULLER Sylvia	43		34.000 km	6:05:58	5.574 km/h

#### 10km Men

1	DE BONTIN Vincent	63	Ea Cergy Pontoise Athl	48:55
2	VIENOT Gabriel	67	Esr Colmar Ac	59:04
3	SEIPEL Hans Georg	64	NI	1:06:40
4	DATIN Robert	61	S/I Fcja Bischwiller	1:07:19
5	HEILIG Serge	125	NI	1:08:05

6	GLAPIN Philippe	60	Lauterbourg Athletic Club	1:13:00
7	BERA Roland	62	NI	1:16:14
8	BROT Daniel	69	AVEC section Bruyeres	1:19:28

**10km Women**

1	DIMROCI Elsa	70	SGW	1:01:41
2	BRASTEL-JUNG Emilie	66	Ill Bruche A Lingolsheim	1:02:41
3	HAUSMANN CLERY Delphine	65	Athletisme Metz Metro	1:08:55
4	MISCHLER Claudine	68	Sg La Wantzenau	1:13:07



*Florian Letournou*



*Chloe Raes Maure leads Florian through the hall*



*Women's and Men's podiums (photos from Emmanuel Tardi)*

**UNTIL OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER**

I had intended to keep this newsletter till next month but the demise of the Coburg 24 Hour Carnival has forced an earlier than planned distribution.

To those walkers (whether local or from overseas) planning for an Australian Centurions attempt in the near future, we can't as yet provide any certainty on what will be on offer in 2024. We apologise for this situation and hope to have more news in the new year.

With kind regards

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