

CENTURION FOOTNOTES

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2025 AUSTRALIAN CENTURION QUALIFYING OPPORTUNITIES

Since there will be no specific Australian Centurion qualifier in 2025, the following 4 races have been identified as supported opportunities for walkers to qualify for Australian Centurion membership. Qualification is dependant on our availability to have someone in attendance to judge the performance, so these 4 events are the ones we are prioritising.

Sri Chinmoy 48 Hour Track Festival (48hr, 24hr, 12hr, 6hr)

AIS Athletics Track, Bruce, ACT

21-23 Mar 2025

<https://au.srichinmoyraces.org/events/48hour>

Race organiser Prachar Stegemann has confirmed that entries for the Sri Shinmoy Festival in Canberra are accepted on a “first come, first served” basis, so as long as any prospective walkers get their entries in before the fields are full, they will be in the race. As of 4th February, there are only 20 spots taken in the 24H event, which is half of the field, so still plenty of places available.

Butter24 Track Ultra (6hr, 12hr and 24hr)

Griffith University, Gold Coast, QLD

7-8 Jun 2025

<https://raceroster.com/events/2025/94108/butter-24-2025>

Butter24 race director Alun Davies has added a Centurion specific option to the BUTTER 24 registration: BUTTER 24 – Centurion, described as ‘100 Miles Walk in 24 Hours’ - and is fully supportive of walkers participating.

SA Track Ultra (30km, 50km, 50miles, 100km, 100miles, 24hr)

SA Athletics Stadium, Adelaide, SA

6-7 Sep 2025

<https://satrackultra.com.au/>

Director Dawn Parks has confirmed that the Adelaide event has a walking category for each distance. This separation is purely for on-site logistics. By that, she means that those who register as 'walker only' get a separate lane to ease any problems that may come about due to speed differences. However, for podium positions, both 'walker only' and 'standard' entries are treated as being part of the same category.

Southern Sydney Track Ultra (48hr, 24hr, 12hr, 6hr, 3hr, Marathon)

Campbelltown Athletics Track - Campbelltown Sports Center, Campbelltown, NSW

26-28 Sep 2025

<https://southernsydney24hourultra.com.au/>

Director Stephen Redfern has confirmed that, like last year, he has allocated a dedicated walking lane in Lane 7. This lane will be available for anyone wishing to enter as a walker for the 48hr, 24hr, 12hr and 6hr events.

I am very grateful to the race directors for their willingness to include walkers. If you wish to qualify as an Australian Centurion in 2025, you should target one of these events and let me know (tim.erickson02@gmail.com) in good time so that I can arrange for someone to attend and monitor your performance.

There may be other ultra events in Australia that offer opportunities to walkers but we cannot support every event on offer so performances done at other events may or may not be recognised, depending on whether we can organise someone to be in attendance. One such event is the Adelaide 24 Hour Festival (<https://adelaide24hourfestival.com.au/>)

in June. Its date clashes with the Butter24 Track Ultra in Queensland and we have decided to prioritise Butter24 instead. We can't be everywhere!

The Adelaide 6D is not being held this year, but there will be a new 6D event being staged in Christchurch, New Zealand, in which a number of our walkers have expressed an interest. We shall try to arrange for verification of walk performances in that event, should any Australians be interested in competing there.

The NZ 6 Day Ultra Marathon (6 Day, 72hr, 48hr, 24hr)

Hagley Park, Christchurch, NZL

29 Sep - 5 Oct 25

<https://www.nz6dayultramarathon.com/>

I have updated our Australian Centurions website to reflect 2025 plans. See <http://centurions.org.au/event2025.shtml>.

DATES ... DATES ... DATES

The 2025 European year has kicked off with the 8 Heures de Charly (report to be in next newsletter), with the following races (amongst others) to come.

Feb 22-23, 2025	24 Heures de Bourges	Bourges, FRA
Mar 29-30, 2025	24 Heures de Chateau-Thierry	Chateau-Thierry, FRA
Apr 12-13, 2025	Nacht van Loon op Zand (15 Hrs or 50 Miles)	Loon op Zand, NED
Apr 19, 2025	50 Miles Kennedymarch	Sittard, NED
June 3-8, 2025	Paris - Colmar Credit Mutuel 2025	Across France
Jun 21-22, 2025	Parish Walk (85 Miles)	Isle of Man
Jul 15-18, 2025	Nijmegen 4 Day Walk Festival See https://www.4daagse.nl/	Nijmegen, NED

Four of the Centurion Clubs have announced dates for their 2025 qualifying events.

May 10-11, 2025	NZ Centurions Qualifier , NZ Sri Shinmoy 24 Hour Carnival See https://nz.srichinmoyraces.org/races/auck/24hr	Auckland, NZ
May 31 - Jun 1, 2025	USA Centurion Qualifier , FANS 24 Hour Carnival See https://fansultraraces.org/Registration	Minneapolis, USA
Jun 7-8, 2025	Continental Centurions Qualifier	Eindhoven, NED
Aug 16-17, 2025	100th English Centurions Qualifier This will be a track based walk at the Lewes Leisure Centre, East Sussex See https://centurions1911.org.uk/next-events/100-miles/	Lewes, ENG

And of course, there are always opportunities on the Australian front. A good starting point is the events page on the AURTA website: <https://www.autra.asn.au/upcoming-events>. Our 4 designated centurion qualifying opportunities are as follows

Mar 21-23, 2025	Sri Chinmoy 48H Track Festival See https://au.srichinmoyraces.org/events/48hour	Canberra, ACT
June 7-8, 2025	Butter24 Track Ultra See https://raceroster.com/events/2025/94108/butter-24-2025	Gold Coast, QLD
Sep 6-7, 2025	SA Track Ultra See https://satrackultra.com.au/	Adelaide, SA
Sep 26-28, 2025	Southern Sydney Track Ultra See https://southernsydney24hourultra.com.au/	Sydney, NSW

US CENTURIONS QUALIFIER, PHOENIX, ARIZONA, USA, DEC 28, 2024

The US Centurions' main 2024 qualifying event was in June at the FANS race but a second qualifying opportunity was scheduled at the 'Across the Years' 6 Day race in Peoria, Arizona, starting on Saturday 28th December 2024. Walkers had to try to walk their requisite 100 miles in the first 24 hours of the 6 day event. See more about this event at <https://www.aravaiparunning.com/across-the-years/>. I think it went like this.

United States Centurion C97 **Eric Boler** was the only racer at this year's race to complete the Centurion walk. This was Eric's third United States Centurion walk. His time 23:35:10. **Marcia Rasmussen** was second with 96 Miles. She went on to walk 356.388 miles (574 km) in the 6-day event. **Ed Ettinghausen** completed around 90 Miles before switching to running. Ed has more 100 Mile running finishes than anyone, well over 200 at last count. **Maria Peck** was next in with 88.7 Miles. **Yolanda Holder** C94 had stomach issues early, but then went on to complete 401.465 Miles (647 km) in the 6-day event.

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|----|----------------------|------------|----------|
| 1. | Eric Boler (C97) | 100 Miles | 23:35:10 |
| 2. | Marcia Rasmussen | 96 Miles | |
| 3. | Ed Ettinghausen | 90 Miles | |
| 4. | Maria Peck | 88.7 Miles | |
| 5. | Yolanda Holder (C94) | ? | |

8 HEURES DE CHARLY, CHARLY-SUR-MARNE, FRANCE, SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2025

The French long distance walking season got underway last Sunday with the annual staging of the 8 Heures de Charly. Alas, Emmanuel Tardi tells me that the race computer was out of order during the race and laps had to be counted manually. The good news was that chip recording was still taking place so now comes the task of producing the results set from the manual lap recordings and the chip readings. He expects the results to be published soon so I'll report on the event in the next newsletter.

2024 AUSTRALIAN CENTURIONS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We have selected Sunday 23rd February for our Australian Centurions AGM which will be in Melbourne, as per our usual practice.

2024 AUSTRALIAN CENTURION WALKERS AGM The Glasshouse Caulfield, 31 Station St, Caulfield East, VIC 3145 12:30PM, Sunday 23rd February 2025

As the election of a new Executive and Committee is only required every second year, the meeting will confirm the current personnel who will continue to serve in their roles for a second year

Club Executive	President	Terry O'Neill (C18)
	Vice President	David Billett (C 50)
	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) Pramesh Prasad (C 81)

Note there will be a Motion re Proposed Changes to Record Criteria

Motion: That both track and road based performances will be considered for all Australian Centurion distance and time related records (ie 50M, 100km, 100M, 200km, 500km, 6H, 12H, 24H, 2 Days, 6 Days).

Moved Tim Erickson, Seconded Terry O'Neill.

By way of explanation, before February 2019, only Track performances were eligible for submission as Australian Walk records. Road and/or solo performances were ineligible. In February 2019, the Centurions AGM agreed to change our ruleset to allow both track and road based performances to be considered for multi-day distance and time related records (ie 200km, 500km, 2 Days, 6 Days). After recent discussions, the Australian Centurions Committee proposes this rule now be extended to include all record applications. This brings us in line with other similar organisations.

If you have not already confirmed your attendance with me, please do so asap, for booking purposes.

ALLICIA HERON (C87) RECEIVES HER CENTURION BADGE

A number of us met in Canberra at the Yarralumla Yacht Club restaurant on Sunday 19th January for some pretty important business – officially welcoming Allicia Heron (C87) to our exclusive little club and presenting her with her Centurion badge and certificate. Most of our social functions are Melbourne based so it was great to catch up with interstate members and their families and friends. The attendees included **Allicia Heron (C87)** and her family, **Sabina Hamaty (C86)** and husband Dave, **Carol Baird (C39)**, **Joffrid Mackett (C82)** and daughter Lilly and nephew Denholm, **Pat Fisher (C53)**, Val Chesterton and me.

We also took the opportunity to present Allicia and Sabina with multiple Australian Record certificates, in celebration of their wonderful walking year.

And here's the photographic evidence!



Joffrid (C82), Tim (C13), Pat (C53), Carol (C39), Allicia (C87) and Sabina (C86)



Tim presents Sabina with her record certificates

2024 GORDON SMITH AWARD

In our last newsletter (November 2024), nominations for the 2024 Gordon Smith Award were announced:

- **Alicia Heron (C87)** – new Australian 200km and 48 hour records, along with her centurion qualifier.
- **David Billett (C50)** - new Australian 500km and 6 Days Records
- **Sabina Hamaty (C86)** - new Australian 500km and 6 Days Records

Votes have now been counted in what was a tight and high quality contest and I am pleased to announce that Sabina Hamaty has won this prestigious award for the **Best Australian Ultra Distance Walking Performance of the Year**.

Sabina wins the award for her outstanding performance in the Australian 6 Day Championship in Adelaide. She started off conservatively, covering only 131km in the first 24 hours. At that stage, she was over 30km behind fellow walker David Billett (C50) but, with lots left in the tank after her slower start, she gradually caught up to David and, by day 5, they were on the same lap. It actually looked possible for a while that Sabina might actually get further in the 6 Days than David, which would have meant that our women's Open Record would be superior to our Men's Open Record. This was the spur that inspired David to his final distance of 625.018km, but Sabina was only 2km in arrears, her final distance of 623.182km bettering her own Australian 6 Day Open Record by a whopping 86 km! Along the way, she set a new Australian 500km Open Record of 4:21:46:36, a 19 hour improvement on her existing record. To put Sabina's walk in perspective, it is the fourth longest 6 Day total (female) of all time, world wide.



Sabina in action in Adelaide

UNTIL OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

A short newsletter to welcome in the new year and spread the word on recent activities. It's hot here in Australia but you can't keep an old walker down! I wish everyone a warm welcome to 2025 and look forward to reporting on another big year in our sport of long distance walking.

With kind regards

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