

CENTURION FOOTNOTES

AUGUST 2025 – VOL 32 NUMBER 6

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

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VALE CLAUDE MARTIN (C14) : 1935 - 2025

I am saddened to inform all our Australian Centurions members and supporters of the death of Australian Centurion **Claude Martin (C14)** who qualified at the George Knott Athletics Track in Melbourne in 1977 with a time of 22:42:54.

Claude, who was born in Switzerland on 15th September 1935, emigrated to Australia as a young man and settled in Melbourne.

An enthusiastic sportsman, he eventually found the sport of Athletics, joining the famous Collingwood Harriers club and testing himself out in various events. He soon found his event of choice, namely racewalking. His first major test was in the 1961 Victorian 20km Roadwalk Championship at Albert Park, where he finished 15th in a time of 1:58:14. From then on, he was a regular competitor in all the major Victorian Championships until he stepped back in 1984, just shy of 50 years of age.

His best Victorian Championship results were silver in the 1975 Victorian 50km Championship (5:35:01) and bronze in the 1976 Victorian 50km Championship (5:13:06). It is fair to say that Claude was a stayer rather than a sprinter.



*In the action in the 1978 Victorian 30km Championship at Albert Park
From left: Bruce Dudon, Jim Bannon, Claude (with headband) and Ken Hall*

Apart from racing with Collingwood Harriers at the State level, Claude was also an enthusiastic member of the Victorian Amateur Walkers' Club (VAWC) and regularly raced in their teams in the various Australian Federation of Race Walking Club (AFORWC) championships, especially in the annual Lake Burley Griffin 20 Mile Classic which

was held in Canberra each June. He had 8 LBG appearances between 1974 and 1983, his best being 13th in 1980 with a time of 2:58:06.

His first centurion attempt was in October 1976 in Adelaide. His form was good - he had recently completed the City of Mordialloc 50 miles at Mentone in second place behind Tim Thompson, with a time of 9:27:27. However, like the rest of the field in Adelaide, he suffered with the springy synthetic track and was forced to retire in the early hours of the Sunday morning, a few miles short of 50 miles. On that occasion, Tim Erickson was the only centurion qualifier.

Come 1977 and the VAWC opted to stage a 24 hour racewalk at the Collingwood Harriers track, the venue used successfully for the 1975 Centurions qualifying event. The main contender was Claude, who had just completed a successful winter season of walking and was hopeful of success in his second attempt.

He started out confidently but was shadowed by 16 year old Bill Dyer; they were never separated by more than a handful of laps. The 50 mile splits (10:32:24 for Claude and 10:42:04 for Bill) illustrate this fact. The last few hours of the race proved very interesting, with a strong Bill gradually closing the gap on his older opponent. Claude was, however, able to rally, holding out the fast finishing youngster to become **Australian Centurion 14** with a time of **22:42:53.6**. Bill finished just over 8 minutes behind with 22:50:33.5.



Claude and Bill congratulate each other after their successful centurion walks in 1977

Interestingly, Claude was the first person to complete the double of the 100 mile walk and the 100 mile run. He did his 100 mile run at the Aberfeldie Track at Essendon (Victoria) on Australia Day in 1987 with a time a few minutes slower than for his walk in 1977. Within a period of less than 2 years, Jim Turnbull, George Audley and Stan Miskin would join him in the run/walk double.

On his retirement, Claude moved to Queensland, settling in Gordonvale, just outside Cairns. The tropical climate suited him and he remained fit and active into his older years, the bicycle becoming his preferred mode of fitness training.

Although now separated from his old walking mates in Melbourne by some 2,500km, he remained interested in the Centurions and regularly corresponded with me and followed all the news.

In 2022, aged 86, his many years of long distance walking finally caught up with him and he returned to Melbourne for hip replacement operations.



Centurions at the 1977 event at Clifton Hill

Back: Stuart Cooper (C6), Dudley Pilkington (C7), Bill Dyer (C15), Jim Gleeson (C3), Claude Martin (C14) and Tim Thompson (C6)

Front: John Harris (C12), Claude Martin (C14) and Clarrie Jack (C4)

Claude passed from us on Wednesday 27th August, just shy of his 90th birthday. Although now gone, we will cherish our memories of him as a person, as a family man and as a fellow racewalker and centurion.

A service will be held at Werribee LePines at 10am on Saturday 13th September to honour his life.

To his children Jo-Anne, Alain and Trevor and to their families, we pass on our deepest condolences.

DATES ... DATES ... DATES

The 2025 European year still has plenty of firepower left, with the following races (amongst others) coming up soon.

Sept 20-21, 2025	28 Heures de Roubaix	Roubaix, FRA
Oct 18-19, 2025	24 Heures de Lipsheim	Lipsheim, FRA
Nov 23, 2025	8 Heures d'Etampes	Etampes, FRA

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 shown below. The first 2 have now been completed but the final 2 are still to come.

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

I must also mention the inaugural New Zealand 6 Day Ultra Marathon Festival which will be held at Hagley Park, Christchurch, from 29 September to 6 October 2025. It will feature 6 Day, 72H, 48H and 24H races. Quite a few of our Australian walkers are going across and I might even make the trip myself (I haven't been to NZ in years).

Sep 29-Oct 6, 2025	New Zealand Z 6 Day Ultra Marathon See https://www.nz6dayultramarathon.com/	Christchurch, NZL
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Looking further ahead, some 2026 dates are already known

Feb 8, 2026	8 Heures de Charly-sur-Marne	Charly-sur-Marne, FRA
Feb 28 – Mar 1, 2026	24 Heures de Bourges	Bourges, FRA
Mar 28-19, 2026	24 Heures de Château-Thierry	Château-Thierry, FRA

Also the 2026 NZ Centurion Qualifier in Auckland will be held earlier than usual to avoid clashing with the Asia/Pacific Championships in late May 2026. The date is now set as 21-22 March 2026.

Mar 21-22, 2026	2026 New Zealand Centurion Qualifier	Auckland, NZL
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OUT AND ABOUT

Well done to **Pramesh Prasad (C81)** on a couple of fronts. Firstly, he recently celebrated his 300th Park Run – what a huge effort. Secondly he competed in Ballarat at the 2025 Australian Cross-Country Championships and was in the Victorian Masters Team that took silver in the Masters 50+ Mixed Team 4x2km Relay. And if that is not enough, he was also co-manager of the Australian Masters Athletics Team. Keep up the good work Pramesh.



An amendment to my last newsletter in which I stated that **Sue Clements (C35)** and **Jill Green (C38)** had completed the Nijmegen 4 Days Walk the week after they completed the Paris to Tubize walk. Not so! Sue replied to set the record straight! Thanks Sue.

Another inspiring newsletter which I shall settle down to read this evening while enjoying a tippie. Your mention of the walks Jill and I recently completed caught my eye and I should point out it is not entirely correct.

The first week Jill and I walked the Hærvejsvandring (also known as the 'Danish 7 Days or Ancient Road Walk; www.fodslaw.dk). Participants have a choice of two distances, either 300 km or 200 km over 7 days and Jill and I both opted to walk 50K each day. The Nijmegen 4Daagse was the following week and, as you reported, Jill walked 40k each of the 4 days and I did the 50K. A great couple of week's walking which will be even better next year because it will be possible to include the 4 day walks at Apeldoorn in between as well.

The 292km Paris – Tubize was held the first weekend in June. Daily distances are 80.4, 75.2, 77.9 and 58.6 kms. The early reveille at 02:00 am and walk start at 04:00 am add to the challenge of the daily distances. A really great way to train; the long days provide 'time on your feet' and the day-on-day aspect means most walkers have to deal with some level of fatigue. I will return for my 13th completion next year.

I was very pleased to get an email update from **Gerald Manderson (C31)** at the start of the month. Gerald is one of our most interesting members, having a long history of challenging walks, quite apart from his Australian and New Zealand

centurion qualifiers. I must do a bit of work on his profile to flesh it out a bit, but in the meanwhile you can check it out at <http://centurions.org.au/centprofiles/31%20gerald%20manderson.pdf>. Great to hear from you Gerald.

My cardiologist has given me a clearance to get back into sport again. He said that my health has improved to the point that most doctors would take me off all my 8 pills completely - but he recommends I stay on them because sometimes people have a relapse and a sudden stroke from a blood clot would mean a poor-quality future. I still have Atrial Fibrillation, but my new mitral valve is meant to last 10 years - and if it does wear out, a surgeon can fit another one.

I will soon be 82, so it will be interesting to find out how I go in some Fun Walks over the next couple of years. I hope to sort out my heel-and-toe action by looking at videos on the internet.
Regards Gerald

I am heading off to New Zealand at the end of September to watch the inaugural NZ 6 Day race in Christchurch. There will be a number of Australian walkers in action and fingers crossed that we see some new Australian records.

100TH ENGLISH CENTURIONS QUALIFIER, LEWES, ENGLAND, AUG 16-17, 2025

This year's English Centurions Qualifying Race was a track based walk at the Lewes Leisure Centre, East Sussex. As always, the aim was to complete 100 Miles (160.934km) within the 24 Hour limit. For track walking, that means 402+ laps of the 400m track. This was a special occasion, marking the 100th time the English Centurions annual qualifier had been held.

The weekend started with a Friday evening social walk, kicking off at 7PM and taking an hour or so to wind through parts of the historic Lewes township. Led by centurion Peter Selby, the walk passed various sights of interest and finished within reach of the pubs and restaurants for dinner and a few ales. The walk was very well attended. Of interest to many was the main road through Lewes - once the bustling A27 which was part of the Hastings-to-Brighton 38 Miles Walk which sadly ended in 1987, mainly due to traffic levels. Now, with a by-pass, the old route through Lewes is a quaint cobbled pedestrianised heaven.



Group photograph of Friday Evening's Lewes Town Centre Social Walk

In addition to the 100 Mile race, a 100 lap relay Walking Challenge took place on the Saturday using the outside 3 lanes of the track. This started at 1pm and finished at about 7pm. Many Centurions participated. The relay teams included The Centurions, Surrey Walking Club, Steyning AC, RWV (Nederland), Tonbridge AC, an RWA/Lewes team and an Unattached team. This 100 lap relay was a challenge, not a race. Each team could have as many people as it required, so long as in total the team completed 100 laps. A great concept, the relay allowed as many people as possible the

opportunity to be part of this event, and runners were included. There was no age limit and teams could be mixed gender. There was no entry fee nor any need to enter in advance. Let's hope we see more of this in the future.

And now onto the main event! The weather was ideal on the Saturday, followed by a mild night before a hot Sunday morning. The race started at noon on the Saturday, with 35 of the 39 entrants facing the starter. Of the 35 walkers, 9 finished the full 100 miles, of whom three became new English Centurions. In fact, all the new centurions were Dutch - winner **Bart de Vries (1223)**, fifth placed finisher **Marco van Heel (1224)** and eighth placed finisher (and first woman) **Loes van Bremen (C1235)**.

English centurion **Jonathan Hobbs (1212)** led for most of the way, bidding for a hat-trick of victories and putting up a good show before eventually being passed by Bart. His second place finish saw him ahead of **Ignace Matthys (1190)** of the Netherlands and **Andrew Titley (C1038)** from the Isle-of-Man. And a special mention to **Frank van de Gulik (C1022)** who completed his 19th British 100 miles race, a record he now shares with Gerrit de Jong (456).



The Dutch and Belgian walkers line up in bib order, pre-race (photo Mark Easton)



The race gets underway (photo Mark Easton)

Although I have yet to see a full list of trophy winners, I saw a post which documented some of them

- Bart De Vries won the Hew Neilson Trophy and the Bill King Memorial Trophy
- Jonathan Hobbs won the Hammond Trophy
- Loes van Bremen took the Bristol Trophy
- RWV (the Rotterdamse Wandelsport Vereniging club) won the Sunday Dispatch Trophy
- The Dutch Centurions defeated the British Centurions for the Ko van der Kwaak Cup
- Ignace Matthys won the Eddy McNeir Trophy.

100 Miles / 24 Hour Walk		Num	Age	Club	Nat	Laps	Dist	Time	Status
1.	Bart De Vries	6	MSEN	RWV	NED	402	160.935	21:13:36	©1223
2.	Jonathan Hobbs	28	M SEN	Ashford	GBR	402	160.935	21:44:25	©1212
3.	Ignace Matthys	16	M65	Dwars Door Brakel	BEL	402	160.935	22:53:58	©1190
4.	Andrew Titley	18	M 60	IOMVAC	IOM	402	161.335	23:05:46	©1038
5.	Marco van Heel	2	M55	RWV	NED	402	160.935	23:13:10	©1224
6.	Remco Luhrman	14	M60	RWV	NED	402	160.935	23:23:52	©1219
7.	Kurt Tempels	15	M50	Hanske de Krijger	BEL	402	160.935	23:33:59	©1222
8.	Loes van Bremen (F)	1	WSEN	RWV	NED	402	160.935	23:39:15	©1225
9.	Frank van der Gulik	9	M45	RWV	NED	402	160.935	23:51:48	©1022
	Cristian Fernandez	3	M45	RWV	NED	347	138.935	22:32:54	
	Sophie Watterson-Jones (F)	24	WSEN	IOM	IOM	344	137.735	20:56:12	©1204
	Corina Riezebos-Rijploeg (F)	11	W55	RWV	NED	338	135.335	23:28:47	©1203
	Frans Leijtens	10	M45	RWV	NED	337	134.935	23:57:36	© 949
	Gabriel Farmer	39	M65		GBR	332	132.935	20:57:57	©1179
	Eric Boler	17	M55	Minnesota	USA	314	125.735	18:44:05	
	Martin Fisher	22	M60	Lancashire WC	GBR	314	125.735	23:57:49	© 788
	Miraiker Wallace (F)	26	W60	Cambridge & C	GBR	300	120.135	17:26:07	
	Helen Middleton (F)	34	W60	Enfield & H	GBR	290	116.135	17:32:57	
	Man Biu Lam	32	M65	VAC	GBR	276	110.535	18:10:02	
	Chik Ha Kwok (F)	31	W50	VAC	GBR	275	110.135	18:10:02	
	David Annetts	35	M60	Cambridge & C	GBR	250	100.135	14:44:26	
	Jonathan Dumelow	33	M40	Burton	GBR	250	100.135	17:09:19	
	Arjan Bogerd	4	M50	RWV	NED	250	100.135	22:21:27	©1220
	John Arthur	40	M60	VAC	GBR	245	98.135	15:49:03	
	Wilfried van Bremen	7	MSEN	RWV	NED	227	90.935	22:35:47	©1218
	Rob Tersteeg	5	M45	RWV	NED	215	86.135	23:35:53	©1118
	Sue Clements (F)	25	V70	Cambridge & C	GBR	202	80.935	12:13:27	© 950
	John Constandinou	38	M50	Birchfield H	GBR	201	80.535	13:34:06	
	Roy Gunnett	29	M75	Lancashire WC	GBR	201	80.535	16:19:40	
	Sandra De Graaff (F)	8	W55	RWV	NED	201	80.535	21:19:19	©1180
	Richard Cole	23	M70	Knavesmire H	GBR	173	69.335	13:03:50	© 928
	Chris Cattano	37	M60	Southend	GBR	109	43.735	5:59:52	© 963
	Haydn Kenna	20	M 65	IOMVAC	IOM	105	42.135	9:52:16	
	Colin Moore	19	M 65	IOMVAC	IOM	101	40.535	6:53:15	
	John Borgars	36	M75	Loughton	GBR	57	22.935	3:01:09	©1170



Winner Bart de Vries (1223), second placed Jonathan Hobbs (1212) and third placed Ignace Matthys (1190) photos Mark Easton



Fourth placed Andrew Titley (C1038) and eighth placed Loes van Bremen (C1235) - photos Mark Easton

Thanks to Mark Easton for permission to use some of his photos - see his full gallery at <https://markeaston.zenfolio.com/f674052580>.

Bart de Vries and Marco van Heel now join the Multiple Badge Centurion List. Here is the link to the latest update from American Centurion secretary Rob Robertson: <https://www.walk100miles24hours.com/centurions-with-multiple-world-bagdes/>

UNTIL OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Well done to all the walkers who competed in or helped out at this month's English Centurions qualifier at Lewes. It was the 100th staging of this annual event, a wonderful milestone to reach. And well done to all the rest of us who get out there and pound the pavement or the woods, intent on enjoying life and keeping fit.

With kind regards

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