

# CENTURION FOOTNOTES

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**ENTRIES ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE 2026 CENTURION QUALIFIER**

**Southern Sydney Track Ultra**  
Campbelltown Athletics Track, Sydney  
Saturday 4 - Sunday 5 July 2026

**This the official 2026 Australian Centurions Qualifier**  
Come and join us in Sydney in July 2026 - great weather, great racing,  
great post-race holidaying!

Walk events include  
24 Hour Walk (including Centurion 100 Mile)  
12 Hour Walk  
6 Hour Walk  
3 Hour Walk

Racewalking Australia 100 km Walk Championships

As mentioned in the last newsletter, our annual qualifying race returns next year and will be held in conjunction with the **Southern Sydney Track Ultra** at the Campbelltown Athletics Track in Sydney on the weekend of **4-5 July 2026**. I have been going to this event for some years now and can attest to its quality which is top notch.

This will be our preferred and fully supported option for anyone wishing to try for Australian Centurion membership in 2026. The carnival will offer a whole range of walking options – 24 Hours, 12 Hours, 6 Hours and 3 Hours – and all categories will include trophies for placegetters. Further, all entrants in the 24 Hour and 12 Hour races are automatically eligible to contest the Racewalking Australia 100 km Walk Championships.

The big news is that entries are now open. Just point your browser to <https://southernsydneytrackultra.com.au/> and sign up. You can check out the current entry list at <https://www.onlineentry.com.au/AppEntrant.aspx?Eventid=5703>. There are 44 competitors so far, including a number of walkers in various categories.

Just as at Coburg, walkers will have their own dedicated walking lane (Lane 7).

We will be there to fully support all walkers and to recognise their efforts (and hopefully hand out plenty of new Australian Centurion Badges).

What better place to be in 2026 than Australia's premier tourist destination!

And talking of what is required to walk 100 miles (161km) in 24 hours, let's break it down a bit. For starters, 161km in 24 hours would equate to an average speed of 6.7km/hr if you walked continuously without any stops. Of course, you

have to factor in stops and feeding breaks so realistically, you need to average around 7.5km/hr or faster. An average speed of 7.5km/hr equates to just under 22 hours of walking. That means around 2 hours of buffer.

To summarise, walking can be split into three types, delineated by speed.

a) **Street walking** - basically that means a brisk walk without any of the additional components that lead to additional speed (rotating hips, using arms, etc). The average comfortable walking speed for a fit person is around 5km/hr. Army Forced March pace is around 6.5km/hr (4mph in the old parlance). The maximum speed a fit person can sustain in brisk street walking mode is around 7.2km/hr, although this figure differs for everyone. So in most cases, that is not quite fast enough to complete 100 miles in 24 hours.

b) **Power walking** - this means taking street walking to the next level and working up to a faster speed by utilising arms, hips, legs etc more fully. With a bit of training, a walker may be able to increase their max speed to round 8km/hr in this way, although how long this can be maintained will be different for everyone. Quite a nice youtube link at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=erK4\\_3OuUIY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=erK4_3OuUIY). Training to walk like this ensures you have plenty of time up your sleeve, if you can maintain it.

c) **Race walking** - this is the Olympic sport which takes walking to the absolute limit. An Olympic standard racewalker will walk at a pace of up to 15km/hr. Obviously this is not sustainable over a longer period and is not recommended for ultra walking.

I try to elaborate on what we expect from our walk entrants on webpage <http://centurions.org.au/info2.shtml>

"The Centurions present will judge the race from a technical viewpoint. Our judging criteria are simple. We expect each walker to walk honestly in such a way that he/she is not gaining an unfair advantage over other competitors through his/her mode of walking. We do not expect walkers to strictly comply with current racewalking rules. This is not a racewalk. Each year we see styles ranging from proper racewalking to brisk street walking. All are acceptable."

#### DATES ... DATES ... DATES

The 2025 ultra distance walking year is done and dusted so it's time to look towards 2026, where some key dates are already known, including 4 of the annual Centurion qualifying races (Continental, New Zealand, US and Australian). Note 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. Secondly, the next edition of the NZ 6 Day Ultra Marathon in Christchurch has been brought forward to March/April 2026.

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 21-22, 2026	NZ Sri Chinmoy 24 Hour Track Championship <b>Including 2026 New Zealand Centurions Qualifier</b>	Auckland, NZL
Mar 28-19, 2026	24 Heures de Château-Thierry	Château-Thierry, FRA
Mar 30 – Apr 5, 2026	NZ 6 Day Ultra Marathon	Christchurch, NZ
May 23-24, 2026	RWV Wandelweekend <b>Including 2026 Continental Centurions Qualifier</b>	Schiedam, NED
Jun 1-7, 2026	Paris-Colmar Classic (100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary edition)	Across France
Jun 6-7, 2026	FANS 24 Hour Race <b>Including 2026 US Centurions Qualifier</b>	Bloomington, USA
Jul 4-5, 2026	Southern Sydney Track Ultra <b>Including 2026 Australian Centurions Qualifier</b>	Sydney, NSW

And of course, there are always opportunities on the Australian front. A good starting point is the 2026 events page on the AUTRA website: <https://www.autra.asn.au/upcoming-2026>.

Feb 21, 2026	Sri Chinmoy 100km Road Relays and Solo 100km, 50km	Canberra, ACT
Mar 20, 2026	Sri Chinmoy 48 Hour Track Race (48H, 24H, etc)	Canberra, ACT
Jun 20, 2026	Adelaide 24 Hour Festival (24H, 12H, 6H, 3H)	Adelaide, SA
Jul 4, 2026	Southern Sydney Track Ultra (24H, 12hH 6H, 3H, Marathon) <b>Including 2026 Australian Centurions Qualifier</b>	Sydney, NSW
Aug 29, 2026	SA Track Ultra (24H, 100M, 100km, 50M, 50km)	Adelaide, SA
Sep 27, 2026	Australian 6 Day Ultra Marathon Festival	Adelaide, SA

## COAST TO KOSCI, NSW, 14-16 NOVEMBER 2025

The 'Coast to Kosci' race (<https://coasttokosci.com/home/>) is one of Australia's toughest ultramarathons. The event starts on Boydtown Beach near Eden in Southern NSW and finishes 241km later at Charlotte Pass after summiting Mt Kosciuszko, Australia's highest point. First held in 2004, it attracts strong fields each year. Runners have up to 46 hours to complete the course – Andrew Tuckey holds the fastest male time of 24hrs 33mins, set in 2014, and Allie Corripio holds the fastest female time of 27hrs 44mins, set in 2024.

This year, the race got underway on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November, with 68 runners toeing the start line at Boydtown Beach. Some years, conditions have been dreadful in the high country and this year was no exception, with hail, lightning, thunder, headwinds and snow making for a very tough second half. Things were so torrid that the final section of the course was closed after the first 47 runners had gone through via an inclement weather rule. So overall, only 47 of the 68 starters finished the full course while a further 8 got as far as the first pass of Charlotte Pass and were then stopped and awarded inclement weather finishes over the lesser distance of 222km. The remaining runners stopped by the wayside earlier in the race. It is indeed a super tough event. Considering this, Ben Wilson's winning time of 26 hours 25 mins was pretty impressive.

The field included Australian Centurions **Alicia Heron (C87)** and **David Billett (C50)**. David had 7 previous finishes to his credit (2008, 2011, 2013, 2015-2017 and 2022) and this year he secured his 8<sup>th</sup> successful finish, with 20<sup>th</sup> place in a time of 37 hours 25 mins.

Alicia had one C2K finish to her credit, achieved in 2022 (7<sup>th</sup> overall in 32 hours 33 mins) and she was back in 2025 for a second attempt. Alas, it turned out to be a tough couple of days at the coalface for her. It was always going to be a tough ask, coming only 5 weeks after setting a new 6 Day Walk World Best in Christchurch. Although she had tried to recover from that effort, the body was not yet ready for another huge effort and she made the wise decision to stop after around 160km. That's sensible!



*Alicia on the beach at Boydtown at the C2K start*



*David celebrates his 8<sup>th</sup> C2K finish*

I have been chatting with David Billett and he has very kindly written a race report for me. This month's newsletter covers the first half of the race, when the weather was fine and everyone's plans were on track. Our next newsletter will complete the story, when the weather changed for the worse and everyone was forced into survival mode. Thanks so much David!

## David Billett finishes his 8<sup>th</sup> Coast to Kosci .. Part 1

Coast to Kosciuszko (C2K) 2025 was to be my eighth start in this famous race, but only the second under the new directorship that commenced in 2020. The other was in 2022, with a finish time of 38 hours and 36 minutes. I gave myself very little chance to beat my 2017 personal best of 33:42, but was determined to finish in around 36 hours this year.

The field of 68 starters consisted of only about half a dozen runners that I knew well. Many of the peers from my early days of C2K (my debut was in 2008) have moved on to other things in their lives. Only one starter, Pam Muston with nine, exceeded my total of seven previous finishes.

Once again, I was to be crewed by my mother, Lorraine, and this time I had Sabina Hamaty as my pacer. In addition to her new found fame in six day walking, Sabina is also a four time finisher and two time winner of this race, and was my pacer and tactician in 2015, when I improved my personal best for C2K from 43:39 hours to 34:48. She was excited to be involved in the race again, without having to run the whole distance, still recovering from her third world walk ranking 638km in Christchurch.

The trip over was different this time. Mum and I decided to break the tradition of flying from Adelaide to Canberra, and drive to the event. This involved approximately 1300km over three days, staying at Tooleybuc and Tumut on the way. I even unofficially walked a couple of NSW Parkrun courses – Maclean Beach (at Deniliquin) and Bega – on the way. These are known in the parkrun-speak as “(not) parkruns”.

The weather on the first day was as close to ideal as could be imagined. Arriving at the famous Boydtown Beach at about 4:50am on Friday 14th November, we had plenty of time to absorb the pre-race atmosphere, which included a beautiful sunrise.



*Sabina, David and Lorraine at the start at Boydtown Beach*

After the race commenced at the traditional time of 5:30am, I continued my own custom of being almost the last “runner” to leave the beach, and indeed the last to cross the Princes Highway (at about 800metres) and head uphill into the Nullica State forest. Yes, I was the only one who was walking at this point in time – it seems that overexcitement gets to a lot of competitors, and I thought to myself ‘I will overtake most of them at some point!’

I should mention here that I run C2K - a ratio of about one run to two walk. There have been a couple of entrants that have walked most of the course, but to my knowledge, Peter Bennett (C24) is the only finisher to have truly race-walked the whole distance.

The first 106km of this race involves travelling on mostly unsealed roads, sometimes through farming land. For the first 24km, the runners are unsupported – they do not meet their crew until they reach Towamba. This moment is met with excitement from many crews and race officials. In the past I have reached this point in around 2:45 hours, but have found that I have expended a lot of energy. This year, I took it much easier and just aimed for three hours - only fifteen minutes longer, but expected it to leave me with far more in reserve. I did indeed arrive in that time and in 59<sup>th</sup> place.

At 56km, the climb up Big Jack Mountain commences. This has approximately 560 metres of elevation over about seven kilometres. Race rules state that pacers are not allowed to join their runners until 8:30pm (15 hours into the race), but they are allowed (indeed mandatory) on Big Jack. Sabina and I completed this section in about one hour and ten minutes, passing three or four runners during this time. Some runners also use this section to catch up on food and drink, as they know they will not be running. I also took the opportunity to attach a Powerbank to my recently purchased Garmin Forerunner 955 GPS watch, which only seems to promise a battery life of 30 hours.

A symbolic landmark on the route is the town of Cathcart at 70km. With only a small population of around 2000 people, the visit by the members of this race provides a once-a-year novelty. In particular the local general store stocks up well in advance in preparation, particularly with icy-poles. I have certainly taken advantage of this in the past, as has become customary with other competitors. But a little to my disappointment this year, they had sold out by the time I arrived in 45th place at around 2:30pm. I had to be content with a Zooper-Dooper. Still refreshing, but not quite the same!

After crossing the Monaro Highway at 80km, and for the next 20km or so, the course consists of undulating farming country. It is not unusual to sometimes encounter cattle in this area, and indeed from about 90km to 100km, there are about 20 cattle grids in place. Formed with about a dozen horizontal rails, about half a shoe-length apart, it does require the runner to slow down and concentrate whilst crossing a grid.

Around 13:15 race time, I reached the “100km Dead Tree”. Nested in C2K folklore, this is the moment that runners celebrate reaching 100 kilometres, though it has been more accurately measured as 102. Some runners even seal the occasion with some amorous contact with nature. This was a bit much for me, I was just happy with a quick photograph!



*The early unsealed roads, at about 30km*



*Reaching the 100km Dead Tree*

It was here that I then sat down, to change clothes ready for the colder evening. I felt somewhat regretful, when I arose a few minutes later, and was greeted by cramp in the legs. It was going to be slow getting going again!

Shortly after, I reached “Checkpoint 4: Gunningrath Road” at 107km. I have always felt that this name is not quite appropriate, as this was indeed the end of the unsealed Gunningrath Road, and the point where runners can now enjoy the smooth sealed surface of the Snowy River Way. I made it here at 7:41pm (14:11 race time) and was now in 40th place.

Around seven kilometres down the road, at about 114km, was the Alan Caldwell bridge, crossing the MacLaughlin River. Being in a valley, the original race-plan was to be handed my dinner, and enjoy it whilst walking up the next hill. This arises from one of Sabina’s race tactics which is to always walk uphill, run downhill, and for the particularly steep hills, use that as an opportunity to have the larger meals.

Now, I was also hoping that I would reach that point by 7:30pm. Obviously, my arrival at Snowy River Way occurred after that, so instead I picked my dinner up there, and ate whilst walking downhill towards the bridge. A pleasant walk, watching the sunset, and chatting to another runner on the way, but tactically I would have far preferred to have had a trot down the hill, letting gravity do the work whilst gaining some race-time, then eat on the subsequent uphill section.

Roughly a marathon separates Checkpoint 4 from Checkpoint 5: Dalgety. During that section, most runners are in the dark, negotiating a smooth, but undulating road. Tonight, the weather continued to border on perfection, and it was a pleasant evening.

I reached Dalgety at 1:48am, now in 32<sup>nd</sup> place. Upon entering the town, runners are confronted with a sign that says something like “Dalgety ... Elevation 760m”. So, 148km in to the 240km race, only approximately one third of the total elevation of 2228 metres has been achieved. Much uphill ahead!

To be continued in the next newsletter....

## 8 HEURES D'ETAMPES, ETAMPES, FRANCE, SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2025

Emmanuel Tardi certainly gets around in Europe! His latest outing was in late November in Etampes-sur-Marne, 100km in the east of Paris, where the last of the big annual ultra walk races was contested.

He tells me that snow fell the night before and at the 8AM start time the temperature was still around 0°C. The field size was good, with 36 starters in the 8 Hour event (22 men, 11 women and 3 teams). The win was glacial and the photos at the end of the article show everyone rugged up against the arctic conditions.

As usual, the loop for the first 7 hours was 2.5km long, before being reduced to a 500m loop for the last hour. In each of the long laps, there was a very tough hill (430m long with 34m of elevation).

**Alain Malfondet** and **Veronique Bessot** led their races the whole way and won easily with 72.297km and 67.205km respectively. Both are older walkers, each in the 60-64 age group. Alain passed the 50km mark in 5:23:51 and Véronique in 5:49:48.

### 8 Hours Walk Men

1.	MALFONDET Alain	Non licencié Paris	72.297 km
2.	HENRY Fabrice	FRIJEP Corrobert Margny Verdon	69.077 km
3.	ERARD Christophe	ASM Bar le Duc	66.964 km
4.	OLIVARES Mathieu	Neuilly sur Marne Athlétisme	65.864 km
5.	JOSE-MORA Bernardo (Esp)	CA Siurell (Esp)	64.283 km
6.	SVENSSON Christer (Sve)	Växjö AS (Sve)	63.642 km
7.	VANDENBERGHE Renaud	US Champagne sur Seine	62.891 km
8.	MARTIN Thierry	AC Château-Thierry	61.978 km
9.	FAUBERT Stéphane	Non licencié Longueville	61.709 km
10.	PELLERIN Alain	Marche Mythique Organisation	59.850 km
11.	MAILLOT Marc	GRAC Athlétisme Renwez	58.817 km
12.	HIMMESOETE Paul	AC Château-Thierry	58.796 km
13.	VICTOR Etienne	Argovi Athlétisme	58.155 km
14.	VINCENT Robert	AC Château-Thierry	56.591 km
15.	PIERMAY Stéphane	AC Château-Thierry	55.496 km
16.	HAGHEBAERT Eric	AC Château-Thierry	53.270 km
17.	BOHREN Christophe	Non licencié Recy	51.486 km
18.	LONGATTE François	ES Montgeron	48.709 km
19.	ROBERT Jean-Pierre	AC Villeneuve d'Ascq Frétin	46.644 km
20.	GODIN Gérard	Gien Athlé Marathon	44.470 km
	DELARUE Jean-Michel	AC Cauffry Liancourt	DNF (30.000 km)
	NICOLAS Alain	Taxis Alain	DNF (25.000 km)

### 8 Hour Walk Women

1.	BESSOT Véronique	Domont Athlétisme	67.205 km
2.	MARRADI Muriel	AFA Feyzin-Vénissieux	62.077 km
3.	SEVELLEC Sylvie	AC Cesson	61.545 km
4.	BIZARD Claudie	Thiais AC	57.216 km
5.	TOP Virginie	AC Château-Thierry	57.174 km

6. RODIER Nicole	EFS Reims	50.527 km
7. YASAR Emilie	Non licenciée Trilport	50.303 km
8. GALLO Emmanuelle	Non licenciée Trilport	50.303 km
9. PENA Guylaine	Non licenciée Trilport	50.303 km
10. LEPRETRE Lydivine	CAP 21	43.182 km
11. CHAZAL Jennifer	Non licenciée Meaux	39.822 km

**8 Hours Walk Relay**

1. DUCRUET Nadia - HAS Edith	58.815 km
2. PANNIER Josiane - MOUGENOT Patrick	57.629 km
3. TILLIER Marie - TILLIER Ludovic	44.790 km



*Christophe Erard, Alain Malfondet and Fabrice Henry*



*Muriel Marradi and Véronique Bessot (all photos Emmanuel Tardi)*

There was a shorter 10km walk for those who wanted their own hitout. Emmanuel took the opportunity and completed the distance in 1:26:35. Well done mate!

#### 10 km Walk

1.	STEFANNELLY David	AS Mantaise	59:05
2.	BODROS Gaëtan	AC Château-Thierry	59:48
3.	NOGRE Yannick	SC Brie Comte Robert	1:01:04
4.	MARIE Franck	EA Cergy	1:06:45
5.	LABARRE Bertrand	Non licencié Saint Brice	1:10:28
6.	TOURIGNY Jean-Luc	Non licencié Dijon	1:18:52
7.	RIGAUT Jennifer	Non licenciée Tourcoing	1:19:36
8.	HIERNARD Alain	Non licencié	1:19:36
9.	BORDIER Daniel	AC Chateau-Thierry	1:21:00
10.	DOUBLET Francis	Non licencié Beton Bazoches	1:23:26
11.	TARDI Emmanuel	LP Longjumeau	1:26:35
12.	HIERNARD Isabelle	Non licenciée	1:32:07

#### 45<sup>TH</sup> GRAND PRIX DE LA VOIE SACRÉE, VERDUN TO BAR LE DUC, FRANCE, TUES 11 NOV 2025

Emmanuel Tardi reports on a very special commemorative fixture on the French walking calendar:

November 11<sup>th</sup> is a public holiday in France because it marks the end of the First World War. Various walking races have been organised on this date but the best known and most long lasting is the Grand Prix de la Voie Sacrée which is a race between Bar le Duc and Verdun. Held each year since 1980, the race goes from Bar le Duc to Verdun in even years and from Verdun to Bar le Duc in odd years. The road used is a special memorial road named La Voie Sacrée (The Sacred Way). It was along this road that some one million soldiers travelled to the famous Battle of Verdun in 1916. Most of them never came back. Memorial milestones, each with a soldier's helmet on it, are placed every kilometre.

In the early days of the event, fields were normally well in excess of 50 walkers but in recent years, the field size has been disappointingly small, considering the significance of the event. Emmanuel has all the results from 1980 to 2022 documented at <http://centurions.org.au/documents/00-voie%20sacree%202012.11.2022.pdf>.

This year's race saw 11 starters, with well known French ultra walker **Christophe Erard** the victor in a time of 6:17:52. The meet also featured a shorter walk of 22km from Erize la brulée to Bar le Duc, won by **Thierry Florentin**.

<b>Verdun to Bar le Duc</b>	<b>10km</b>	<b>20km</b>	<b>56km</b>
1. Christophe Erard	1:06:57	2:12:57	6:17:52
2. Mathieu Olivares	1:07:14	2:16:14	6:31:32
3. Vincent Peter	1:10:44	2:23:38	7:07:36
4. Sylvie Maison	1:13:18	2:27:51	7:11:54
5. Virginie Top	1:16:42	2:34:58	7:32:39
6. Alain Pellerin	1:09:03	2:23:47	7:18:01
7. Gerard Guetat	1:13:32	2:35:30	52km in 7:27:37
8. Stephane Piermay	1:13:34	2:31:46	52km in 7:30:21
9. Nadia Ducruet	1:20:18	2:50:00	46km in 6:49:00
10. Jean-Pierre Robert	1:20:18	2:50:00	44km in 6:50:15
11. Eric Haghebaert	1:20:18	2:50:00	44km in 6:50:30

<b>Erize la brulée to Bar le Duc</b>	<b>22km</b>
1. Thierry Florentin	2:16:17
2. Valérie Boban	2:18:03
3. Pascal Tournois	2:37:06
4. Claudine Anxionnat	2:56:38
5. Daniel Chaumet	2:56:39
6. Pierre Merveille	3:21:52

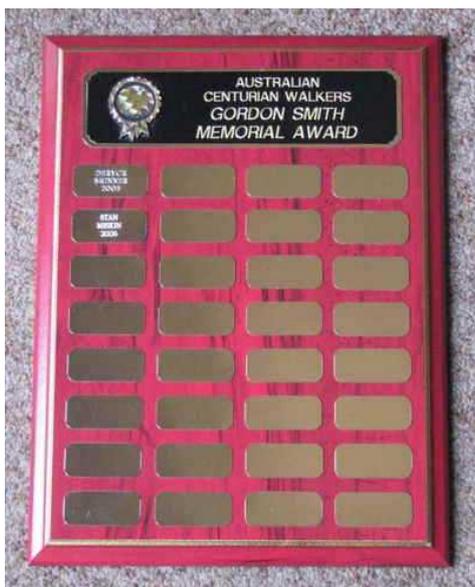


*Competitors in the 2025 edition of the Grand Prix de la Voie Sacrée*



*Winner Christophe Erard in action*

## 2025 GORDON SMITH MEMORIAL AWARD



This annual award, named after Australian Centurion Number 1, is awarded for the **Best Australian Ultra Distance Walking Performance of the Year**. Award criteria are as follows

- It is restricted to performances done by Australian based ultra distance walkers
- It is awarded for the best SINGLE performance.
- All Australian Centurions will vote on a short list of performances, as proposed by the Executive.

Previous winners are	2005 Deryck Skinner (C 51) 2007 Terry O'Neill (C 18) 2009 Peter Bennett (C 24) 2011 Michelle Thompson (C 58) 2013 Tim Erickson (C 13) 2015 John Kilmartin (C 67) 2017 Robin Whyte (C29) 2019 Gerald Manderson (C31) 2021 Pramesh Prasad (C81) 2023 Joffrid Mackett (C82)	2006 Stan Miskin (C 23) 2008 Deryck Skinner (C 51) 2010 Peter Bennett (C 24) 2012 Barry Loveday (C 62) 2014 Michelle Thompson (C 58) 2016 Linda Christison 2018 Claire Tallent 2020 Not Awarded 2022 David Billett (C50) 2024 Sabina Hamaty (C86)
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Normally our Executive proposes a short list of nominations which are then voted on by our members. But this is not always the case.

For the 2014 Gordon Smith Award, the Centurions Executive decided that, since Michelle Thompson's year had been so stellar, we should simply announce her as winner, based in particular on her walk in the Coburg 24 Hour Carnival in April of that year. On that occasion, she was the leading walker, setting new Australian Open Residential and W45 records for 50 Miles (9:23:58), 100 km (11:43:11), 12 Hours (102.164km) and 100 Miles (19:53.19) and a new Australian Open All-Comers record for 24 Hours (190.984km). In fact, her 24 Hour distance was second only to that of the great Jim Gleeson (C 2) which still stands as our Open Men's record.

The Centurions Executive has decided that the same should be done this year and that the award should be directly awarded to Allicia Heron (C87)

### **Allicia Heron (C 87) – new World Best of 691.802 km for the 6 Day Walk**

With no 6 Day Races on offer in Australia in 2025, a number of our top walkers decided to cross the Tasman and contest the inaugural New Zealand 6 Day Race in Hagley Park, Christchurch, starting on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September and finishing on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October. The prospects looked tantalising, with Australian Open 6 Day record holders Sabina Hamaty (C86) and David Billett (C50) in action, along with Australian Open 200km record holder Allicia Heron (C87) and Joffrid Mackett (C82) each set to contest their first 6D events. It was our top two female walkers who led the charge, reaching final distances of 691.802 km and 638.370 km respectively. To put those times into perspective, it was a World

Best for Allicia by some 26km and the Third Best Ever All-Time for Sabina. And it is Allicia who gets our nod as this year's winner of the Gordon Smith Award.



*Alicia in action in the New Zealand 6 Day Championship in Christchurch*

#### **2025 AUSTRALIAN CENTURIONS ANNUAL REPORT**

It's that time of the year when we review the last 12 months and produce our Annual Report. You can read it at link <http://centurions.org.au/annual-reports/2025-Annual-Report.pdf>.

I have added a new page to the website to capture all our annual reports from 1998 onwards. Here it is: <http://centurions.org.au/annual-reports.shtml>. There is a bit of history there!

#### **UNTIL OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER**

This finishes our ninth and final Australian Centurion newsletter for 2025. I am now looking forward to 2026 and the reinstatement of our annual Australian Centurion qualifying event in Sydney in July. Let's hope we get a cracker field and can welcome more new members of our elite little club.

It's too late to wish you all a Merry Christmas so I wish you all a fond farewell to 2025 and hope that 2026 brings only good news on your radar.

With kind regards

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