

# 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 is 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

I start this newsletter with a reminder that our annual qualifying race returns this 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**. 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.

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 98 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!

**DATES ... DATES ... DATES**

Some key 2026 dates are already known, including 4 of the annual Centurion qualifying races (Continental, New Zealand, US and Australian). Interestingly, there will be no English Centurions qualifier in 2026 but they plan to be back in 2027 – read the announcement at <https://centurions1911.org.uk/postponement-2026-100-mile-race/>.

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
Jun 20-21, 2026	Manx Telecom Parish Walk	Isle of Man
Jun 27-28, 2026	24 Heures de Haute-Saintonge	Montguyon, FRA
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.utra.asn.au/upcoming-2026>.

Jun 20-21, 2026	Adelaide 24 Hour Festival (24H, 12H, 6H, 3H)	Adelaide, SA
Jul 4-5, 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

**28<sup>TH</sup> NZ SRI CHINMOY 24 HOUR TRACK CHAMPIONSHIP, AUCKLAND, NZL, MAR 21-22, 2026**

The Millennium Stadium in Auckland was the venue for the first Centurion qualifier of the year. As usual, the New Zealand Sri Chinmoy 24 Hour Championships played host to the New Zealand Centurions and what a success it turned out to be from a walking perspective. There were 22 competitors in the 24 Hour, 6 in the 12 Hour and 11 in the 6 Hour event, making a grand total of 39 overall, with the majority in the run divisions but with plenty of walkers - 11 in the 24 Hour, one in the 12 Hour and one in the 6 Hour. New Zealand Centurion Secretary Philip Sharp has sent us a comprehensive report.

Of the 11 walkers in the 24 Hour category, 8 of them completed the required 100 miles - 3 from the Netherlands, 4 from Belgium and one from Australia. Of the 8, 6 were first time NZ Centurions while 2 were repeat NZ Centurions.



*The overseas walkers (except for David Billett who was out doing a park run!) – Gunter, Detlef, Johan, Edwin, Barand, Sandra, Remco and Eric*

Huge congratulations to **Edwin Van Wijngaarden** (19:25:35), **Barend Arie De Vries** (20:48:45), **Detlef Santy** (21:33:13), **Kim Janssens** (23:16:48), **David Billett** (23:33:44), **Gunter Luypaerts** (23:40:51), **Johan Stesmans** (23:40:51) and **Remco Lührman** (23:44:29).

Thanks to Philip for his race report which reads as follows

### Weather

The maximum and minimum air temperatures during the race were 24C and 14C respectively. The wind was lighter than normal for Auckland and there was no rain. The sky was mostly clear on Saturday. There was a welcomed reduction in the Sun's infrared and ultraviolet radiation when a cloud passed in front of the Sun. Just two walkers were noticeably sunburnt at the end of the 24 hours.

### The first six hours or so

The new timing system being used by the race organisers, combined with a short introduction, enabled the run director Simahin Pierce to start the 6-, 12- and 24-hour races right on 9AM on the Saturday.

Edwin Van Wijngaarden led out the walkers. He started with 2:38 laps. He slowed in the first six hours but not by much and was doing 2:45 laps after six hours. His goals were to complete the 100 miles in under 19 hours and 200km in the 24 hours. He passed the 50km mark at 5:36. Near the end of the six hours, Edwin did a short burst of raw racewalking speed, much to the delight of the spectators, the officials and crews. Yes, there were spectators.

Edwin was followed by long-striding Barend Arie De Vries. Barend passed the 50km mark at 6:01. Next to the 50km mark were Detlef Santy, David Billet and Kim Janssens. David and Kim were already New Zealand centurions. Not far behind at 50km were Gunter Luypaerts, Johan Stesmans and Remco Lührman.

Remo was followed by **Peter Shaw** from New Zealand. Peter had walked 73km in an organised event and started out confidently. He reached 50km in 7:08. He went on to cover 84.4 km. Peter is young and has a lot of potential as an ultrawalker. I hope to see him in more centurion qualifiers.

The remaining walkers in the 24-hour race were **Eric Boler** (USA) and **Geoff Hain** (AUS), the latter already a New Zealand Centurion. Eric started at a steady pace but found he was not digesting his food well and took short breaks to recover. He reached 50km at 7:24 and went on to complete 68.4 km. He remained for the rest of the 24-hour race and gave encouragement to the other walkers. Geoff whose New Zealand qualifying walk I watched in 2005 was aiming to set a world record for his age-group. He was on schedule to do so at 50km. However, he lost some momentum and was forced to take short breaks. Eventually he decided he would not break the record and stopped at 103.20 km.

**George Sanders** (USA) was in the 12-hour race. He had done less training for the race than he had wanted. He also had a long-term medical condition to contend with. After about 20 kilometres George started taking short break after walking a few laps. He withdrew from the race at 30.0 km. In the six-hour race, **Sandra de Graaff** (NED) strode confidently for the whole race and had reached 37.945km when the hooter blasted.

### The rest of the 24-hour race

Late in the race, Edwin's back became sore and he took several short breaks. Despite the breaks and pain, he completed the 100 miles in 19:25:35, the second to fastest time ever in the New Zealand qualifier. The fastest time is Sandra Brown's 19:00:47. Barend was in discomfort during the latter part of the race and this led to irregular striding. Nevertheless, his time of 20:48:45 was the third to fastest ever in the qualifier. Next was Detlef in the time of 21:33:13. Then there was a gap of one hour 43 minutes to Kim. He was followed by David, Gunter, Johan and Remco. Kim, Gunter and Johan walked together a lot during the second half of the race.

The table below lists intermediate times and the final distance for the 11 walkers in the 24-hour race. A New Zealand centurion designation in bold indicates a new centurion. One interesting observation is that the times at 100km but not those at 50km could be used to predict the finishing order of the walkers. In addition, the times at 100km suggest that if a walker gets to 100km in 14:30 or less, they have a good chance of reaching 100 miles in 24 hours.

24 Hour Walk				50km	100km	100 miles	Final dist
Edwin Van Wijngaarden	NED	M45	<b>NZC33</b>	5:36:16	11:27:23	19:25:35	162.000 km
Barend Arie De Vries	NED	M35	<b>NZC34</b>	6:01:03	12:30:46	20:48:45	161.200 km
Detlef Santy	BEL	M35	<b>NZC35</b>	6:16:42	13:06:14	21:33:13	161.200 km
Kim Janssens	BEL	M50	<b>NZC27</b>	6:44:09	13:59:09	23:16:58	162.000 km
David Billett	AUS	M55	<b>NZC31</b>	6:31:23	14:03:52	23:33:44	163.902 km
Gunter Luypaerts	BEL	M50	<b>NZC36</b>	6:46:06	14:09:55	23:40:59	161.200 km
Johan Stesmans	BEL	M45	<b>NZC37</b>	6:53:13	14:17:25	23:40:59	161.200 km

Remco Lührman	NED	M60	<b>NZC38</b>	6:51:46	14:21:53	23:44:40	161.200 km
Geoff Hain	AUS	M75	NZC14	7:56:15			103.200 km
Peter Shaw	NZL	M20		7:08:30			84.400 km
Eric Boler	USA	M55		7:24:37			68.400 km

### 12 Hour Walk

George Sanders	USA	M75					30.000 km
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### 6 Hour Walk

Sandra de Graff	NED	F55					37.945 km
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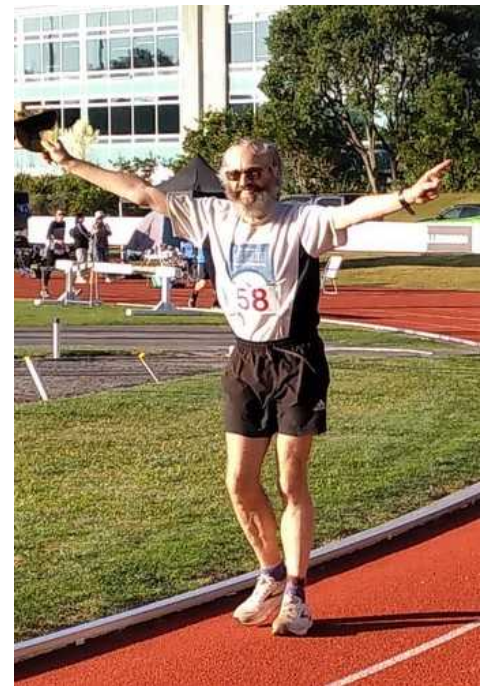
### Thank You's

I would like to thank Sri Chinmoy for running another very successful 6-12-24 hour event. A new chip system was used this year and it was deemed sufficiently reliable that, unlike the previous chip system, there was no need to walk an insurance lap to allow for possible lap miscounts.

I would also like to thank my wife Elizabeth Mead. Over the years, she has judged the walkers while I have a short sleep and has run errands for walkers. In addition, my wife and I cover all the expenses the New Zealand Centurions Endurance Walking Club (often shortened to New Zealand Centurions) incurs.

I finish with some comments on our two Australian competitors

- **David Billett (C50)** completed his 14<sup>th</sup> Centurion walk in finishing 5<sup>th</sup> with a time of 23:33:44. What Philip's report does not say is that David warmed up for his Auckland walk with a hitout in the Auckland Park Run earlier that same morning. What a legend!!! I will hold off listing all David's centurion walks at this stage as he was back in action a week later in the New Zealand 6 Day Championship and was after his 15<sup>th</sup> centurion finish en route. More on that later in the newsletter.
- **Geoff Hain (C49)** did not get his hundred but he did excel as usual. I chatted with him post-race and he explained as follows:  
*You've probably already seen the results from last weekend but I managed a respectable, for my almost 80 year age, 103.2 km stopping at 18.38. Pulled up in good condition but just not desiring enough to push any further. There's always next time! Great event, warm but pleasant weather, superb organisation and very friendly people.*



*Detlef Santy, Kim Janssens and David Billett (as David reached his 100 mile mark)*



*Eric Boler, Remco Lührman and Geoff Hain*



*Johan Stesmans, Gunter Luypaerts and Edwin Van Wijngaarden*

See the full results set at <https://my.raceresult.com/365566/>

See lots of photos at <https://nz.srichinmoyraces.org/node/3223/previous-results/2026#result-138113>

Rob Robertson has updated his Multiple Centurion List to incorporate the newest stats. Congratulations to Edwin Van Wijngaarden with 5 Badges, Gunter Luypaerts, Johan Stesmans, Remco Lührman and Detlef Santy with 4 Badges and Bart de Vries with 3 Badges. See <https://www.walk100miles24hours.com/centurions-with-multiple-world-badges/>.

And here is the updated NZ Centurions list: <http://centurions.org.au/documents/List%20of%20NZ%20Centurions.pdf>, compliments of Rudy Schoors.

**SRI CHINMOY 48 HOUR TRACK CHAMPIONSHIP, CANBERRA, ACT, 20-22 MARCH 2026**

I made my annual trip to Canberra last month for the annual Sri Chinmoy 48 Hour Track Championship, hoping to see lots of walkers in action. Alas, there were quite a few on the entry list but, for one reason or another, only a few made it to the start line.

The walk division was not the only one down on numbers, with run numbers also much smaller than usual, surprising considering that it was doubling as the AUTRA National 48 Hour Championships. In part this was due to the fact that the AIS Athletics Track has fallen out of its certification timeframe (though it is still the same track on which numerous certified National and World Records have previously been set, in this very race). In my opinion, this is a case of a stupid rule working against what is a wonderful race. This is the same rule that caused us to cancel the 2024 Coburg 24 Hour Carnival. Not exactly a crowning moment for AUTRA and IAU!

Anyway, onto the event. The four walkers who did make to the start line were **Cheryl Symons**, **Joffrid Mackett (C82)**, along with his nephew **Denholm Fulop** and Denholm's mum **Bernadette Maunsell**. Talk about keeping it in the family!



*Cheryl Symons, Joffrid Mackett, Denholm Folup and Bernadette Maunsell*

Cheryl is an accomplished ultra runner and this was her first attempt at the walk. After only a few months of training, she did very well, covering around 45km in the first 6 hours and reaching 83km in the first 12 hours. Alas, the lack of specific training then kicked in and she was forced to slow, eventually retiring at 140.800km. All in all, an excellent first up effort. Her style was excellent and she definitely has the makings of a centurion walker. Joffrid was carrying a 10km backpack and was keen to see how far he could walk in 24 Hours. Alas, he suffered bad foot problems and was forced to retire soon after the half way mark, having completed 80.183km. I tested out the pack and it was indeed heavy! Denholm and Bernadette chose the 6 Hour walk option, just like last year, and walked together most of the way.

Full results at <https://au.srichinmoyraces.org/events/48hour/previous-results/2026>

**48 Hour Championship**

13. Cheryl Symons VIC 140.800 km

**24 Hour Championship**

7. Joffrid Mackett (C82) ACT 80.183 km

**6 Hour Championship**

9. Denholm Fulop ACT 28.660 km

10. Bernadette Maunsell NZL 28.362 km

There were no walkers in the 48 Hour event but there was one Australian Centurion in action, namely **Anyce Melham (C65)** who finished second overall in the run with a distance of 257.051 km.

The awards for the race were presented by Anyce, in recognition of two extraordinary achievements: Anyce has now completed 32 Sri Chinmoy 24 Hour Races, and 5 Sri Chinmoy 48 hour races in Australia since 1984. He is now also the World Record holder for the longest span of time – 44 years and 11 months – between his first 100 Mile performance within 24 hours (in 1980), and his most recent. Now that is a couple of achievements that will be hard for anyone to match!

### 24 HEURES DE CHÂTEAU-THIERRY, CHÂTEAU-THIERRY, FRANCE, MAR 28-29, 2026

Our European correspondent Emmanuel Tardi was double booked on the weekend of the 24 Heures de Chateau-Thierry in France so was not able to report on proceedings. But he did send though the results, along with some photos from Guy Destré

He tells me that **Michaël Boch**, **Fabrice Henry** and **Alexandre Forestieri** headed out together in the men's race, with the lead swapping between Boch and Forestieri. Forestieri passed the 100km mark in 11:26:26, one lap ahead of Boch, and maintained his lead until around the 120km mark. But from then on, it was Boch who finished the stronger, his final distance of 197.997km seeing him nearly 10km clear of Henry, with Forestieri fading to third.

In the women's race, **Chloé Raes-Maure** led for the first 70km before being caught by **Sylvie Maison** who eventually broke clear with a winning distance of 169.174 km.

There were lots of shorter walks on offer, with very strong numbers overall. Spanish walker **Bernardo Jose-Mora** won the 2x6 Hour Walk with a distance of 94.614km.

#### 24 Hour Walk Men

1.	BOCH, Michaël	197.997 km	
2.	HENRY, Fabrice	188.356 km	
3.	FORESTIERI, Alexandre	186.546 km	
4.	MALFONDET, Alain	182.259 km	
5.	KERLAU, Yves-Michel	177.710 km	
6.	LANEAU, Maxime	172.193 km	
7.	OLIVARES, Mathieu	171.515 km	
8.	GRASSI, Alain	154.860 km	
9.	PUCELLE, Jacky	150.607 km	
10.	DUCHEMIN, Alain	147.376 km	
11.	VINCENT, Dominique	140.567 km	
12.	DELANGÉ, Dominique	135.540 km	
13.	TILLIER, Ludovic	125.087 km	
14.	VANDENBERGHE, François	109.772 km	
15.	PIERMAY, Stéphane	95.741 km	
16.	MAURE, René-Jean	64.805 km	
	LANDORMY, Jeanick	127.740 km	17:24:48
	ROLLOT, Patrick	111.570 km	21:47:07
	FAUBERT, Stéphane	102.330 km	17:47:49
	LEIJTENS, Frans (NED)	39.960 km	5:21:45

#### 24 Hour Walk Women

1.	MAISON, Sylvie	169.174 km	
2.	RAES-MAURE, Chloé	164.134 km	
3.	GILLARD, Lydia	143.371 km	
4.	DUCRUET, Nadia	141.316 km	
5.	TOP, Virginie	132.181 km	
6.	LEPRETRE, Lydivine	72.943 km	
	BIZARD, Claudie	7.620 km	1:07:42

#### 2 x 6 Hour Walk

1.	JOSE-MORA, Bernardo	94.614 km
2.	VANDENBERGHE, Renaud	94.199 km
3.	HIMMESOETE, Paul	91.391 km

4.	GROS, Gildas	85.693 km
5.	RODRIGUEZ, Marc	84.819 km
6.	VINCENT, Robert	83.341 km
7.	HAGHEBAERT, Eric	78.932 km
8.	MERCADIER, Lucile	77.089 km
9.	LONGATTE, François	73.548 km
	LETOURNEAU, Florian	65.370 km
	DALUZ, Robert	39.960 km
	MARTIN, Thierry	30.720 km

#### 6 Hour Walk Men - Saturday

1.	VAN HILLE, Dominique	53.130 km	6:15:07
2.	JACOB, Marcel	43.890 km	6:05:42
3.	RAIMOND, Emmanuel	43.890 km	6:15:22
4.	MONTALANT, Denis	41.580 km	6:03:43
5.	HIERNARD, Alain	39.270 km	6:08:53
	JOURDE, Pascal	25.410 km	3:34:40
	GODIN, Gérard	20.790 km	5:13:12

#### 6 Hour Walk Women - Saturday

1.	BESSOT, Véronique	50.820 km	6:04:36
2.	BARRAUD, Céline	46.200 km	6:12:26
3.	RAIMOND, Isabelle	43.890 km	6:08:08
4.	SILVI, Nathalie	43.890 km	6:12:25
5.	MARMET, Marie-Anne	41.580 km	6:15:59

#### 6 Hour Walk Men - Sunday

1.	RIGAL, Jean-Marc	48.569 km
2.	PELLERIN, Alain	46.447 km
3.	MOUGENOT, Patrick	40.356 km

#### 6 Hour Walk Women - Sunday

1.	BRASTEL, Adeline	50.182 km
2.	BESSOT, Véronique	49.781 km
3.	PANNIER, Josiane	41.385 km
4.	MAURICE, Fabienne	37.380 km
5.	RODIER, Nicole	36.666 km

#### 20km Walk

1.	BETTO, Linda	2:15:37
2.	LEROUX, Jean-Paul	2:26:32
3.	LEFEVRE, Marc	2:29:29
4.	LE BERRIGAUD, Elodie	2:30:41
5.	MERABET, Lamia	2:31:51
6.	MOUGENOT, Patrick	2:33:01
7.	ARMAND, Serge	2:35:38
8.	PANNIER, Josiane	2:36:09
9.	BOHREN, Christophe	2:37:04
10.	GRESSIER-TOMBREY, Lucas	2:42:06
11.	DELARUE, Jean-Michel	2:45:41
12.	RELVAS, Joanna	3:08:12

#### 10km Dimanche

1.	BORDIER, Daniel	1:24:09
2.	SCHWING, Martin	1:30:55
3.	DARTINET, Alain	1:31:55
4.	CLAUDE, Christelle	1:32:15
5.	GRUN, Véronique	1:32:15
6.	TINTIN, Ronald	3:56:04



*Michael Boch, Fabrice Henry and Alexandre Forestrieri*



*Sylvie Maison, Bernardo Jose Mora and Chloe Raes-Maure*

**NEW ZEALAND 6 DAY ULTRA MARATHON, CHRISTCHURCH, NZ, MAR 30 – APR 5, 2026**

The New Zealand 6 Day Championship was held for the first time in October 2025 at Hagley Park in Christchurch in atrocious weather. The second edition, held at the same venue earlier this month, saw much improved weather and another superb event. We had thought that the women's 6 Day Walk would be something particularly special, with the top 3 women in the world all entered (Alicia Heron and Sabina Hamaty of Australia and Yolanda Holder of America). Alas, Alicia and Sabina both withdrew with injury in the months leading up to the event and Yolanda then decided that she would also withdraw. That left Australia's **David Billett (C50)** as the only walk entrant in the 6 Day Championship.

The race kicked off at 2PM on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March, with 72 Hour, 48 Hour, 24 Hour, 12 Hour, 6 Hour and 3 Hour races joining in over the 6 days. It had been felt that last year's lap distance of 2.812km had been too far, especially at night time, so this year a shorter lap of 1.946km was used. This proved very popular with the competitors.

Full results at <https://www.webscorer.com/race?pid=1&raceid=426260>. It took a while for the final results to be ratified as there had been ongoing issues with the timing system over the 6 days. I am sure that the organisers will have it all sorted for 2027.

David had competed in the event last year, coming 8<sup>th</sup> overall (and fourth in the walk division) with 560.669km. This year, he was back and hoping for an even bigger distance. He had warmed up the week before with a centurion effort in the New Zealand Sri Chinmoy 24 Hour Championship in Auckland (100 miles in 23:33:44) and the big question was: How would he pull up after such an effort?

There was no need for concern. The only walker in the 6 Day entry list, David powered through his first 100 miles in 23:43:27 (his 15<sup>th</sup> Centurion walk), had just under 4 hours of rest and sleep and then set out once again for the remaining 5 Days. He maintained his pace much better than last year, passing 500km in 5D 4H 2M 38S (4 hours faster than last year) and eventually reaching a final distance of 598.579km (38km further than last year). Both his 500km and 6 Day totals are new Australian Residential M55 records.

David Billett	500km Walk	W55 Residential Record	5D 4H 2M 38S	Christchurch	30 Mar - 5 Apr 2026
David Billett	6 Days Walk	W55 Residential Record	598.579 km	Christchurch	30 Mar - 5 Apr 2026

Now there is actually a lot more to be said about David's 500km record, as he thought he had reached the 500km mark in 5D 1H 34M 46S so he then stopped for a few hours of rest. It turned out that the lapscoreing had him incorrectly marked with an extra lap so he had stopped one lap early. Hence his 500km (attained after the rest) was adjusted to read 5D 4H 2M 38S. I am sure is still happy but must be thinking ... what if!



*David reaches 100 miles*



*David passes 500km*



*David on his last lap*

Congratulations to David on a superb 2 weeks in New Zealand. For completeness, here are his 15 centurion walks, 12 of which have come in the last 4 years.

David Billett (C 50) - 15	23:52:27	16-17 Apr 2005	Coburg, Victoria	(C 50)
	23:06:56	14-15 Sept 2013	Middle Park, Victoria	
	22:47:45	15-16 Mar 2019	Canberra, ACT	
	23:25:03	25-26 Mar 2022	AIS, Canberra, ACT	
	22:33:38	9-10 Apr 2022	Coburg, Victoria	
	23:30:18	1-2 Oct 2022	Adelaide, SA	
	23:51:18	24-26 Mar 2023	Canberra, ACT	
	23:05:12	15-16 Apr 2023	Coburg, Victoria	
	23:55:46	10-11 Jun 2023	Adelaide, SA	

23:29:10	11-12 May 2024	Auckland, NZ	(NZC 31)
23:35:21	8-9 Jun 2024	Adelaide, SA	
23:39:56	25-26 Oct 2024	Adelaide, SA	
23:40:17	07-08 Jun 2025	Adelaide, SA	
23:33:44	21-22 Mar 2026	Auckland, NZ	
23:43:27	30 Mar – 1 Apr 2026	Christchurch, NZ	

And a special mention to David's mother Lorraine who always supports him in his races. Well done Lorraine on your dedication over and above the call of duty.

### IS A DOUBLE CENTURION POSSIBLE?

I can say with confidence that no one has ever done two successive centurions back to back (ie 100 miles on day 1 followed by another 100 miles on day 2). The recognised world bests for the 48H walk are

294.114 km	Sayer Ann	Nottingham, England	11-13 April 1982
319.609 km	John Dowling	Nottingham, England	31 Jul – 2 Aug 1983

Both these were done in successive Charles Rowell Six Day races which were held in Nottingham from 1981 to 1985.

Great article which explains it at <https://runyoung50.co.uk/eleanor-adams-womens-six-day-races-a-history/>

The article discusses the 1983 edition and there is a cut and paste of the daily splits.

	DAILY MILEAGES							Total	
1. G. Stenger	119.3	73.5	79.8	63.7	63.4	84.2	483m	1626y	778.799 km
2. J. Dowling	115.6	83.0	67.0	62.7	73.1	59.1	460m	999y	741.211 km
3. A. Fairbrother	90.5	65.3	70.1	64.1	72.1	89.4	451m	1029y	726.755 km
4. D. Coffey	101.9	81.8	68.3	67.0	64.0	64.0	447m	53y	719.425 km
5. M. Campbell	84.8	65.6	65.5	54.7	59.0	82.4	412m	164y	663.199 km
6. M. Skagerberg (U.S.)	99.9	57.1	44.8	68.8	53.5	87.2	411m	612y	661.999 km
7. E. Patterman (Austria)	99.7	40.2	73.3	57.4	57.5	82.7	410m	1497y	661.199 km
8. Eleanor Adams	96.4	67.1	71.8	58.4	54.5	61.1	409m	1178y	659.298 km
9. P. Collins (Canada)	100.6	60.4	61.4	44.2	61.7	75.5	403m	1462y	649.902 km
10. R. Lawton	83.3	68.8	58.9	56.4	60.7	60.1	388m	409y	624.799 km
11. T. Baker	73.6	57.6	56.9	56.9	59.7	60.1	364m	1530y	587.200 km
12. A. Prawda (U.S.)	87.2	64.7	50.1	52.5	51.4	54.4	360m	696y	580.000 km
13. G. Slack	70.6	60.6	51.2	54.7	48.2	61.1	346m	839y	557.600 km
14. J. Czaja (France)	91.2	46.2	68.1	39.5	56.2	44.4	345m	1175y	556.298 km
15. K. Leyshon	81.8	61.1	49.2	50.7	38.1	52.4	333m	541y	536.406 km
16. Carmel Baker	73.1	47.4	45.2	48.1	52.1	60.4	326m	606y	525.200 km
17. J. de Rocquefeuil (France)	75.1	47.2	39.7	50.2	49.5	59.9	321m	1094y	517.599 km

Of the ten other competitors, all except three were on the track on each of the six days, covering distances less than 300 miles.

This shows that John Dowling's splits for the first 2 days (he was doing the 6 day walk) were 115.6 miles followed by 83 miles. One can speculate that if John had not gone so far on the first day and if he was not competing in a 6 Day event, he could have done successive centurions in those first 2 days but that is just speculation.

I also checked Ivo Majetic's daily splits in his world best 6D distance of 786km. They were 133km, 158km (291km), 137km (428km), 124km (554km), 122km (676km) and 114km (786km). He set up his huge total with his second day total of 158km, but he was under 100 miles each day. See the race report in <http://centurions.org.au/newsletters/2018-n04-may.pdf>.

We would certainly acknowledge both as centurion walks if successive hundreds could be achieved. I now invite readers to see if they can prove me wrong with their own research!

In finishing, I have attached this article on John Dowling doing a centurion walk at age 71. he was indeed a legend of our sport. You can read all about John's exploits at : <https://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wo-john-dowling.pdf> .

LOCAL NEWS

The Star, Thursday, October 12, 2000

# Magnificent seventies!

## Pensioner breaks 100-mile walk record

**SEVENTY**-one-year-old John Dowling won a battle with fatigue in the lonely hours before dawn to break a world record – and help the bank balance of his favourite sports team.

He walked 100 miles in 21 hours 37 minutes – 401 laps of the Don Valley Stadium track – to raise cash for the Sheffield Eagles rugby league side.

For part of the walk he was joined by Eagles fans and the club hopes the com-

**By James Collins**

lined sponsorship will raise a five-figure sum.

"John was fantastic. I don't know how he does it," said Eagles player-coach Mark Aston.

"It was really tough at times but he came through it."

"At the start he was doing two-and-a-half minute laps but in the early hours he was down to more than four minutes. But he just kept going."

"I'm planning to get him in to talk to my players about the way he motivates himself and bottled through the pain barrier."

The Eagles are having the walk recognised as a record to add to the more than 30 distance marks John holds.

And a new honour is on the way for the Gleadless pensioner. The Eagles plan to make John their first honorary member.

"He deserves it," said Aston.

"We can't thank John enough. He's amazing."

"And we shouldn't forget his support team and the other fans who joined in the walk."



**Lapping it up:** John Dowling, aged 71, walked 100 miles in record-breaking time at Don Valley Stadium

UNTIL OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

I have enjoyed putting this newsletter together as it has lots of interesting "stuff" therein. I hope you enjoy the read as much as I enjoyed the making. Brrr...it was a cool late autumn morning in Melbourne and I know it's not going to be long until winter sets in. But that is never an excuse to hang up the walking shoes. So get out there and work up a sweat!

With kind regards

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