

CENTURION FOOTNOTES

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WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST AUSTRALIAN CENTURIONS

A couple of weeks ago, I was in NSW for the Southern Sydney 24 Hour Championships at the Campbelltown Athletics Track. This was our official Australian Centurions Qualifying event for 2026 and we had good walk fields assembled and our fingers and toes crossed, hoping to see some great performances.

Our expectations were well met, with 3 walkers making it to the 100 mile mark, two of them being first timers. Here is how it played out

Greg Ponych	QLD	22:21:57	C88 **
John Rosenzweig	NSW	22:24:08	C89 **
David Billet	SA	23:46:05	C50

We welcome Greg Ponych and John Rosenzweig as our newest Australian Centurions – C88 and C89 respectively. They both walked confidently and strongly throughout the race and their qualifications never looked in doubt.

We also congratulate **David Billett (C50)** on yet another centurion hundred, his 16th overall and his third for the year. There is just no stopping David!



Greg (C88)



John (C89)



David (C50)

The event also saw a couple of Australian Masters walking records, along with lots of other promising performances. Read on for a full race recap later in the newsletter.

DATES ... DATES ... DATES

The 2026 ultra walking year continues to produce lots of great results world wide. This year saw 4 of the 5 Centurion clubs hosting qualifying races (Continental, New Zealand, US and Australian). Interestingly, there was 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/>.

The next big European walk ultra will be in the French city of Roubaix in September.

Sept 19-20, 2026	28 Heures de Roubaix	Roubaix, FRA
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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>. A couple of interest for walkers include

Sep 27, 2026	Australian 6 Day Ultra Marathon Festival	Adelaide, SA
Oct 10-11, 2026	SA Track Ultra (24H, 100M, 100km, 50M, 50km)	Adelaide, SA

We already have dates for a couple of the 2027 Centurion Qualifiers.

May 8-9, 2027	Sri Chimnoy NZ 24 Hour Track Championships Including the 2027 NZ Centurion Qualifier	Auckland, NZL
Jul 2-4, 2027	Southern Sydney Track Ultra (48H, 24H, 12H, 6H, 3H) Including the 2027 Australian Centurion Qualifier	Sydney, NSW

Following the success of the 2025 and 2026 New Zealand 6 Day Championships in Christchurch, New Zealand, the organisers are extending the concept to a 10 Day Race in 2027. See more at <https://www.nzultramarathonfestival.com/>. Walk options will include 10 Days, 6 Days, 3 Days, 2 Days and 1 Day.

Mar 31 – Apr 10, 2027	New Zealand Ultramarathon Festival	Christchurch, NZL
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7TH SOUTHERN SYDNEY TRACK ULTRA, CAMPBELLTOWN, NSW, 4-5 JULY 2026

As promised on page 1, it's time to report in depth on our recent Australian Centurions qualifying event which was held on the weekend of 4-5 July at the Campbelltown Athletics track in southern Sydney.

I start with a slight digression. I flew up to Sydney on the Friday, intending to spend the weekend at the track supporting the walkers and soaking in the atmosphere. Alas, it was not to be as I experienced increasingly severe abdominal pain on the Saturday morning, so much so that an ambulance had to be called and I had to be carted off to hospital. I did get to see the first few laps of the 24 Hour race which started at midday and I could see that some great performances were on the cards, but that was it for me. I spent the next 8 days in hospital recovering from acute pancreatitis. This was followed by a further 5 days in Sydney and 4 in Canberra before returning home. So a short weekend in Sydney turned into a 17 day adventure into the unknown! Thanks to Anyce, Sabina, Dave, Andrew and Lorraine who all looked after me in one way or another during my extended outage – all most appreciated. And you can't beat the Australian health system – 8 days in hospital, multiple scans, etc and an operation and not a cent to pay.

And now back to our main story.

This was our first time partnering with the Southern Sydney Track Ultra (<https://southernsydneytrackultra.com.au/>) and race director **Stephen Redfern** bent over backwards to make us welcome and to ensure that the walk entrants were fully looked after. The track boasted an all new synthetic surface and was IAU Bronze labelled and sanctioned. What more could you ask!

The 143 runners and 14 walkers were spread across all the lanes of the track, with the walkers having lane 8 to themselves. Full results at <https://thetimingguysresults.com/SouthernSydneyTrackUltra/2026>. The walk results are

24H Walk

1. GREG PONYCH	M60 (60)	QLD	173.117 km	C88
2. DAVID BILLET	M55 (55)	SA	162.502 km	C50
3. JOHN ROSENZWEIG	M50 (51)	NSW	160.934 km	C89
4. PAUL SWEET	M60 (62)	VIC	140.456 km	
5. RICHARD FLETCHER	M50 (50)	ACT	128.887 km	

6.	FRANK VAN DER GULIK	M45 (48)	NED	122.318 km	C82
7.	JOFFRID MACKETT	M55 (55)	ACT	115.319 km	
8.	DAVID HAMATY	M55 (57)	NSW	101.479 km	

12H Walk

1.	LIB SMITH	F65 (65)	TAS	67.455 km
2.	SUSAN FITTON	F55 (56)	VIC	64.283 km

6H Walk

1.	KERRY BRAY	F80 (82)	NSW	39.592 km
2.	ROBERT MASON	M60	NSW	35.049 km
3.	LORRAINE BILLETT	F80 (80)	SA	32.190 km
4.	ANDREW HENNESSEY	M55 (57)	NSW	30.429 km

Although I did not see much of the event, it was obvious early on that something special might unfold. The early pace was set by **Frank van der Gulik, John Rosenzweig, Greg Ponych** and **David Billett**, all striding out comfortably and quickly. Frank led early but started to fade mid race. By the time the 100km point was reached, it was John (13:22:37) followed by Greg (13:44:15), Frank (13:48:29) and David (14:11:42). Towards the end of the race, John started to slow and it was Greg who reached the 100 mile mark first (22:21:57) ahead of John (22:24:08) and David (23:46:05), Frank having now retired. John was now content to stop, his aim achieved, while Greg continued his relentless pace around the track, eventually finishing with 173.117km on the board.

It was a case of bad luck for Dutch walker Frank van der Gulik, already a triple Centurion (UK, Continental and American) and the proud owner of some 45 centurion finishes. After a strong start, it was just not his day and he retired at the 17½ hour mark with 122.318km on the board.

Victorian walker **Paul Sweet** has done a number of ultra walks since his first in 2022 but this was his best 24H effort so far, his final distance of 140.456km easily bettering his previous best of 132.591km. Paul also set a new M60 48H Walk record of 195.562km in this same event last year, so he is gradually building some good walking credentials.

ACT ultra runner **Richard Fletcher** donned the walking shoes for the first time in this event and walked to a creditable 128.887km while fellow ACT resident **Joffrid Mackett (C82)** achieved a goodly distance of 115.319 km, considering he was carrying a 20lb pack. Finally **David Hamaty** upped the ante on his previous walks in 2023 and 2024, reaching his goal of 100km in just over 19 hours and retiring soon afterwards.

As this was our official 2026 centurion qualifier, we included Australian 100km Walk Championships, with the medals going to John, Greg and Frank. John still had a handy lead at that stage and Frank was still in third place. We've been holding this championship in conjunction with our official qualifier since 2005 – you can see the full results list of all previous 100km championships at <http://centurions.org.au/100km.shtml>.

100km Australian Championship Walk

1.	John Rosenzweig	NSW	13:22:37
2.	Greg Ponych	QLD	13:44:15
3.	Frank van der Gulik	NED	13:48:29
4.	David Billett	SA	14:11:42
5.	Paul Sweet	VIC	16:18:36
6.	Richard Fletcher	ACT	17:44:33
7.	David Hamaty	NSW	19:13:51
8.	Joffrid Mackett	ACT	20:09:14

Centurion Qualifiers

Greg Ponych	QLD	22:21:57	C88 **
John Rosenzweig	NSW	22:24:08	C89 **
David Billett	SA	23:46:05	C50

Australian Walk Records

I am very pleased to be able to report that two new Australian Masters records were achieved during the event.

Greg Ponych	M60 24 Hour Walk	All Comers and Residential	173.117 km	Sydney, 5 July 2026
Kerry Bray	W80 6 Hour Walk	All Comers and Residential	39.592 km	Sydney, 5 July 2026

Greg bettered Stan Miskin's 1988 record of 167.117km, while Kerry bettered Val Chesterton's 2025 record of 29.823km. This W80 record was also bettered by Lorraine Billett with her distance of 32.190km.



Sabina Hamaty (C86) presents badges to centurion finishers David Billett (C50), Greg Poyntz (C88) and John Rosenzweig (C89)



Greg Ponych, John Rosenzweig and David Billett



Joffrid Mackett, Paul Sweet and Frank van der Gulik

The women's 6 Hour division needs some further discussion so here goes. In March 2025, We had 2 older female walkers in action in the 6 Hour Walk at the Sri Chinmoy 24H Carnival in Canberra. Canberra based **Sue Archer**, with a final distance of 38.986km, just failed to better Lorraine Billett's W75 record of 39.192 km while ACT based **Val Chesterton** walked 29.823km to set an inaugural W80 Australian record. Come 2026, **Lorraine Billett** had now entered the W80 division and was keen to test herself against Val's record of 29.823km. She toed the line in Sydney this month with a solid preparation behind her and confident she could better the record. This she did with a distance of 32.190 km. Amazingly this was overshadowed by the W80 performance of Sydney based **Kerry Bray** who recorded an even further distance of 39.592km. It's not often that you have one older walker but we currently have 4 – Kerry, Lorraine, Val and Sue. Now seeing them all in action at the one event would be something to see!



Kerry Bray and Lorraine Billett

As mentioned previously, this was David Billett's 16th centurion walk, 13 of which have come in the last 4 years. His full list reads as follows

1.	23:52:27	16-17 Apr 2005	Coburg, Victoria	(C 50)
2.	23:06:56	14-15 Sept 2013	Middle Park, Victoria	
3.	22:47:45	15-16 Mar 2019	Canberra, ACT	

4.	23:25:03	25-26 Mar 2022	AIS, Canberra, ACT	
5.	22:33:38	9-10 Apr 2022	Coburg, Victoria	
6.	23:30:18	1-2 Oct 2022	Adelaide, SA	
7.	23:51:18	24-26 Mar 2023	Canberra, ACT	
8.	23:05:12	15-16 Apr 2023	Coburg, Victoria	
9.	23:55:46	10-11 Jun 2023	Adelaide, SA	
10.	23:29:10	11-12 May 2024	Auckland, NZ	(NZC 31)
11.	23:35:21	8-9 Jun 2024	Adelaide, SA	
12.	23:39:56	25-26 Oct 2024	Adelaide, SA	
13.	23:40:17	07-08 Jun 2025	Adelaide, SA	
14.	23:33:44	21-22 Mar 2026	Auckland, NZ	
15.	23:43:27	30 Mar – 5 Apr 2026	Christchurch, NZ	
16.	23:46:05	405 July 2026	Sydney, NSW	

And a special mention also to **Anyce Melham C65**) who contested the 24 Hour Run, finishing 16th with 163.853 km. Anyce did his first hundred way back in April 1980 and he is still churning them out. Check out his profile at <http://centurions.org.au/centprofiles/65%20anyce%20melham.pdf>. In fact, he leads the World Longevity list for 100 Miles within 24 Hours. It's now set at 46 years and 42 days and he's still ticking them off. For your edification, here is a list (slightly out of date now) of the top Longevity runners, with Anyce at the top.



1	Anyce	Melham	46y 3d
2	Philippe	Herbert	43y 311d
3	Ray	Krolewicz	42y 304d
4	Wolfgang	Schwerk	40y 272d
5	Christian	Fouillet	39y 211d
6	Samuel	Kilpatrick	37y 36d
7	Manuel	Alves	37y 0d
8	Jeff	Hagen	36y 319d
9	Jim	Gawle	36y 39d
10	Janos	Bogar	35y 363d
11	Dan	Barger	35y 362d
12	Roy	Pirrung	35y 235d
13	Dink	Taylor	35y 47d
14	Paul	Tanne	35y 46d
15	Joseph	Verot	34y 350d
16	Sandra	Brown	34y 301d
17	Hubert	Karl	34y 98d
18	Jay	Aldous	34y 62d
19	Jean-Yves	Fily	33y 302d
20	Angiolino	Zanardi	33y 261d

We will be partnering with the Southern Sydney Ultra again in 2027 as our official Australian Centurions qualifier. The event will be held on the first weekend in July and will offer 10 different races over the 3 days of the event. Along with the addition of a new 48 Hour race, the line-up will include 24hr, 12hr and 6hr in both running and walking, along with 3h and 1h runs. I'm excited already.

TIME TO AWARD OUR PERPETUAL TROPHIES

We award two Perpetual Trophies at our official Centurion qualifier each year. Since we were back in business this year after a couple of years off, I am pleased to announce our 2026 winner for the Jim Gleeson Trophy.

The Jim Gleeson Trophy Winner(s) of the Australian 100km Championship
See <http://centurions.org.au/documents/Jim%20Gleeson%20Trophy.pdf>

John Rosenzweig

I am still waiting on a few more votes before announcing the winner of our Jack Webber Trophy but it would seem to be between Greg Ponych and John Rosenzweig.

The Jack Webber Trophy Best walk performance in our official qualifier event **TBA**
See <http://centurions.org.au/documents/Jack%20Webber%20Trophy.pdf>

Ok, it's time to now briefly profile out two newest centurion members. First cab off the rank is **Greg Ponych (C88)**.

Greg, born 16th April 1966, lives in Brisbane and has just entered the M60 age division.

He first burst onto the ultra running scene in 2012, with locally based participations in the Caboolture 6 Hour Run, the Glasshouse 50km and the Bridie Beach Run. His first serious interstate run was in the 2013 Centennial Park Ultra 100 km in Canberra where he finished 10th with a promising time of 10:31:26.

From then on, he has been a regular on the Australian Ultra Run circuit and has improved his PBs to 7:28:57 (50 Miles), 9:50:29 (100km), 119.477km (12 Hours), 181.712 km (24 Hours), 271.520 km (48 Hours) and 748.788 km (6 Days)

Greg first came to my attention with his participations in the Coburg 24 Hour Carnival in 2021, 2022 and 2023. He was third in the 2021 Coburg 12H Run with 119.477km, participated in the 2022 Coburg 24H Run and then decided to try his hand in the 2023 24H Walk at Coburg. He started impressively, covering nearly 45km in the first 6 hours and was looking good. Unfortunately he was forced to retire after **61km**, one of many victims to the horrendous weather conditions at that event. But it was a promising first effort and I knew he was capable of more.

That being the case, I was pleased to hear he would also be on the start line as a walker in the BUTTER 24 Hour Track Championship on the Gold Coast in June 2024. As at Coburg the year before, he started confidently, strolling through 44km in the first 6 hours and looking set for a big tally. Alas, stomach issues around the 10 hour mark saw multiple stops and a fair bit of time lost. He was still over 81km at the 12H mark but struggling with multiple issues. To his credit, he kept at it, eventually finishing with **143.44km** at the final gun. It was a gutsy performance and a valuable learning experience for Greg and I was sure he would be back to complete unfinished business.

That meet saw Sabina Hamaty join our ranks as C86. Her comments included Greg:

Despite the adverse weather conditions and the mental self imposed stress, it was a great experience and the only thing that could have made it better is if Greg Ponych had also managed to achieve his Centurion. Alas a combination of blisters due to wet shoes and an upset gut that refused to play along meant he lost precious time.



Greg at the 23 Hour mark in the BUTTER 24 in June 2024

An October 2024, he next appeared as a walker in the 24H division at the South Australian 6 Day Championships in Adelaide. As we had come to expect, he headed off briskly and was well on track at the 6H mark. Alas, the wheels fell off and he retired after **71.300km**.

We did not see him in action much in 2025. He was busy winding down his business and transitioning into retirement and was happy to potter along for the time being.

With that behind him, he bounced back in April 2026 with second overall (first male) in the New Zealand 6 Day Run Championship, with an Australian M60 running record distance of 748.788km.

Now his attention returned to unfinished business on the walking front as he prepared for the Southern Sydney 24 Hour Carnival in June 2026. He emailed me in the final leadup:

My main focus will of course be finally snaring the Centurion milestone. With training now mostly done, and the body feeling good I'm also setting a stretch target. From the website, I think 168km would be a M60 AG record so that seems to me the logical stretch target to shoot for, having moved up into that AG in April, just after the Christchurch race.

Although I did not see much of the event, it was obvious early on that something special might unfold. The early pace was set by Frank Van Der Gulik, John Rosenzweig, Greg and David Billett, all striding out comfortably and quickly. Frank led early but started to fade mid race. By the time the 100km point was reached, it was John (13:22:37) followed by Greg (13:44:15), Frank (13:48:29) and David (14:11:42) showing the way. Towards the end of the race, John started to slow and it was Greg who reached the 100 mile mark first (22:21:57) ahead of John (22:24:08) and David (23:46:05), Frank having now retired. John was now content to stop, his aim achieved, while Greg continued his relentless pace around the track, eventually finishing with 173.117km.

Of course Greg ticked both his wish-list boxes - Australian Centurion C88 (**22:51:57**) and a new M60 24H walk record (**173.117km**).



Greg celebrates his centurion walk in Sydney in June 2026

What is next on Greg's agenda:

Having found my feet (so to speak) walking, I've decided to do Adelaide 6 Day this year as a walker. Hopefully David will be doing it too and I'll just try to keep up with him for as long as I can.

I'm excited at the prospect!

John Rosenzweig (89) was the second of the two new centurions who qualified in Sydney earlier this month.

John, born 28th August 1974, is currently 51 and lives in Woonona, South of Sydney. I'll now pass you over to John to tell us a bit more about himself.

I am married to Jane and we have a daughter Clara. I have worked for the Presbyterian Church NSW for the past 10.5 years. Before that, I was a sole trader working in Disability Care, and prior to that, I worked in Engineering & Maintenance at BlueScope Steel for 23 years. I grew up in Canberra, and vividly remember running alongside local legends like Rob de Castella and Lisa Ondieki/Martin as a kid (for the first 100m, at least!), when they were in their prime, in the Canberra Times 10k.

I've been a runner, swimmer and cyclist for most of my life, focusing more seriously on different disciplines over the years. Most of my racing has been in running (club - Kembla Joggers and state - ANSW Winter Series), with a little cycle club racing and some long distance open-water swimming in adventure races and in 50m pools for fundraisers. I ran my first marathon in 2006 (Canberra - 2:57 - still a pb!). I never did anything longer until some friends of mine returned home to the Illawarra from Tanzania, following a time working over there partnering with local missions. They set up what is now a thriving charity, Forever Projects (FP), and a bunch of us started challenging ourselves to ease the challenges of others! Starting in 2019, FP began running an annual fundraising challenge, which started out as climbing in vertical gain on foot, the equivalent height ASL of Mt Kilimanjaro (5895m). The first year, we used the (in)famous Sublime Pt stairs/ladders, which rise up the side of the Illawarra Escarpment in Austinmer, climbing almost 300m in elevation over 900m distance. This was my first non-stop ultra effort. Over subsequent years, FP made it a little more flexible, challenging us to find our own "Kilimanjaro", so I did one on a steep road in my suburb (Rixons Pass Rd), and then another year, 4 marathons non-stop along the coast. I've also done an Everesting on foot on Rixons Pass Rd (I think I was the 19th person in Australia to do this). So I'm no stranger to endurance, pain and mental stamina, but was quite a stranger to distance walking!

A few people commented to me after the race that they tried to find information about me online during the 24hrs. I've never done a formal ultra before, so that's why I have no digital footprint there. However, as they say, apparently if it's not on Strava, it didn't happen! So:

<https://strava.app.link/m1TFOXaHM4b>

FP Fundraiser - solo & unassisted Quadruple Marathon (running & walking) along the cycleway in the northern suburbs of Wollongong, NSW

<https://strava.app.link/LEHJYsgFM4b>

Everesting Hall of Fame Link: <https://hof.everesting.com/activities/252e2010-ff53-4f10-9e6d-16138aae0849>

Solo & unassisted Everesting (ratified) on Rixons Pass Rd, Woonona NSW (9081m elev)

<https://strava.app.link/HKmR7KBGM4b>

FP Fundraiser - solo & unassisted Kilimanjaro / Double Marathon on Rixons Pass Rd, Woonona NSW (6484m elev)

<https://strava.app.link/49v4f8LGM4b>

FP Fundraiser - solo & unassisted Austimanjaro on Sublime Pt climb, Austinmer NSW (5425m elev - a bit short!)

Note: You have to have a Strava membership (it's free) to see these.

I hadn't heard of the Centurions until a few years ago, when I wondered if one could participate in a Backyard Ultra and be competitive, without running at all! Some Googling threw up a link on Centurion walking, and that planted the seed! When I saw you were holding a qualifier in conjunction with Stephen's event, just 45mins from my home, I jumped on it! I stopped running after my last 10k race at the end of March, so that I had a 3 month training block of pretty much just walking. My heels were not happy! I'm a mid to forefoot runner, so lots of heel-toe striking left me with chronic blistering for a good 6 weeks until my feet toughened up!

I appreciate your warm welcome and congratulations... I am honoured! It's quite the challenge, as I expected, so I was thrilled to achieve the Centurion qualifier (my A goal), with a bonus of crossing the 100k first (my B goal). Because I have no history in racewalking, I knew it would be a difficult challenge. Additionally, having never trained solely walking for more than 12hrs non-stop, I had no real idea of what it would be like in the back half. And then of course, there's the added mental challenge of doing it on a 400m track! I've done a lot of track racing while running, but never while walking, and never more than 10,000m. I must admit I had a bit of a fear of the unknown leading up to the event!

As you referred to regarding your own experience in 1976, it's quite the sense of achievement, and a huge relief to finish under 24 hours!

I have many fond memories of the camaraderie, encouragement and support on the track that weekend amongst us guys in Lane 8. Everyone was so welcoming, kind to and supportive of me, on and off the track, from fellow competitors, their crews, the officials, Race Directors etc. I am very grateful for this great new community I've become a part of!



Wow, John has certainly packed a lot into his 51 years, from a professional and personal point of view, and his latest walk achievement is simply the latest of many on the sporting front. I stand in awe of his many achievements and on his ability to continually challenge himself on all fronts.

Welcome to the Australian Centurions, John!

PARIS-COLMAR CLASSIC (100TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION), ACROSS FRANCE, JUN 1-7, 2026

Thanks as always to Emmanuel Tardi who was on the road with last month's Paris to Colmar Classic. He reports:

2026 was the 100th anniversary of this race which was created by Emile Anthoine in 1926 (see the January 2020 Australian Centurions newsletter for a profile of Anthoine). Consequently, the organisers invited some of the previous winners, and we could meet **Samy Zaugg** (winner in 1970), the great **Gregor-Adam Urbanowski** (10 times winner), **Noel Dufay** (winner in 1993), **Jean-Marie Rouault**, **Sylviane Varin** and others For this special edition, organisers returned to the 1926 distance of 506km. To ensure that most of the walkers could complete such a long distance, the race was started on the Monday instead of the usual Wednesday.

There were 2 different flavours:

La Mythique:	506.8km in 3 stages	(232 + 210 + 58.5km)
La Cabu:	255.8km in 7 stages	(58.2 + 15.3 + 38.3 + 6 + 33.6 + 39.9 + 58.5km)

Both events started with a 6km Prologue on the Monday in the Paris suburb of Neuilly-sur-Marne. The first 2 stages of La Mythique were huge - a first stage of 232 km (with a cutoff of 36 hours) and second stage of 210km (also with a cutoff of 36 hours).

To start a stage, you had to complete 60% of the previous stage, the one exception being the final stage which had to be completed if you wanted to be in the final rankings, which were based on a formula involving the most kms in the least time.

There were 19 starters (13 men and 6 women) in La Mythique and 12 starters (10 men and 2 women) in La Cabu - a total of 31 walkers. The weather was good overall- very hot for Monday's Prologue, rainy for the start of the first stage on the Tuesday and generally cloudy for the remainder of the week.



Previous winners Jean-Marie Rouault (left) and Gregor-Adam Urbanowki (Right) walk with Philippe Bonneau

LA MYTHIQUE

For the first stage of 232km (Chateau-Thierry to Ligny en Barrois), **Alexandre Forestieri** led the race till km110, at which point **Michael Boch** caught and passed him. Boch reached the 200km mark around 23h30, a very impressive stat, and went on from there to win the stage by 6 hours! Overall, 6 men finished the full 232km and a further 4 walked in excess of 60% of the distance and hence were eligible to start the second stage.

In the 2nd stage of 210km (Ligny en Barrois to Plainfaing), Boch won again, adding a further 2 hours to his lead. He was one of 4 walkers to complete the full stage distance.

For the 3rd and final stage of 58km (Plainfaing to Colmar), Boch was in home territory (he lives near Colmar) and tried to do a "super stage", storming up to the top of the Bonhomme (949m) and Calvaire (1144m) Passes at a speed of nearly 10km/hr. Alas, this effort was too much for him and he slowed, still the first to finish but only 7 mins ahead of a fast finishing Forestieri.

Overall, 4 men completed the full distance of 506km **Michaël Boch, Jeanick Landormy, Mathieu Olivares** and **Yves-Michel Kerlau**. 2024 winner Forestieri was the fifth to finish, but with a lesser distance of 433km.

Stage 1 for the women saw a battle between **Sylvie Maison, Chloé Raes-Maure** and **Veronique Bessot**. Maison and Raes-Maure were the only 2 to finish the full stage, with Maison finishing 7 mins ahead of Maure. Bessot could not finish the stage but she was one of an additional 4 women who completed the required 60% so were able to start the second stage.

Bessot won the second stage but she could not be awarded the overall lead due to her failure to finish on Stage 1. In a bit of an upset, Raes-Maure beat 6 times winner Maison for second in the stage and it was she who now assumed the overall lead with a 37min advantage.

The final third stage of 58km saw no more changes, with Raes-Maure first, Maison second and Bessot third. Raes-Maure and Maison both finished the full distance of 506km while Bessot recorded a final distance of 460km.

La Mythique Prologue, Neuilly-sur-Marne, 6km, Monday 3PM

1	BOCH Michaël	28.46
2	FORESTIERI Alexandre	29.58
3	LANEAU Maxime	30.05
4	PAVONE Fabrizio	33.22
5	FAITEAU Maxime	33.34
6	HENRY Fabrice	33.49
7	LANDORMY Jeanick	33.50
8	KERLAU Yves-Michel	35.34
9	PETER Vincent	38.53
10	ECHE Dominique	41.06

11	FAUBERT Daniel	42.41
12	FAUBERT Stéphane	42.41
13	OLIVARES Mathieu	42.41

1	BESSOT Véronique	33.45
2	RAES-MAURE Chloé	34.13
3	MAISON Sylvie	36.07
4	TOP Virginie	39.11
5	DUCRUET Nadia	39.33
6	GILLARD Lydia	42.41

**1st Stage, Château Thierry - Ligny en Barrois,
232,2km, Tuesday 1:30PM**

1	BOCH Michaël	232,2	27h13.36
2	LANDORMY Jeanick	232,2	33h09.03
3	LANEAU Maxime	232,2	33h09.50
4	KERLAU Yves-Michel	232,2	34h33.03
5	FORESTIERI Alexandre	232,2	35h13.32
6	OLIVARES Mathieu	232,2	35h53.03
7	HENRY Fabrice	174,7	24h47.03
8	PETER Vincent	140,7	23h04.03
9	FAITEAU Maxime	137,1	21h02.03
10	FAUBERT Stéphane	137,1	22h36.03
11	ECHE Dominique	110,2	18h16.03
12	FAUBERT Daniel	104,2	16h19.03
13	PAVONE Fabrizio	76,2	11h34.48

1	MAISON Sylvie	232,2	35h21.03
2	RAES-MAURE Chloé	232,2	35h30.03
3	BESSOT Véronique	185,8	28h01.03
4	TOP Virginie	162,6	26h56.03
5	GILLARD Lydia	153,2	25h52.03
6	DUCRUET Nadia	137,1	22h15.03

**2nd Stage – Ligny en Barrois – Plainfaing
210,1km, Thursday 10AM**

1	BOCH Michaël	210,1	29h39.50
2	LANDORMY Jeanick	210,1	31h43
3	OLIVARES Mathieu	210,1	35h23.36
4	KERLAU Yves-Michel	210,1	35h39.46
5	FORESTIERI Alexandre	136,3	23h00
6	HENRY Fabrice	128,2	18h43
7	PETER Vincent	128,2	19h35
8	LANEAU Maxime	128,2	21h15
9	FAUBERT Stéphane	128,2	21h32
10	FAITEAU Maxime	128,2	21h38

1	BESSOT Véronique	210,1	33h22.53
2	RAES-MAURE Chloé	210,1	34h00.55
3	MAISON Sylvie	210,1	34h45.37
4	GILLARD Lydia	128,2	21h33.22
5	TOP Virginie	112,5	18h26
6	DUCRUET Nadia	79,7	14h16

3rd Stage, Plainfaing – Colmar 58,5k, Saturday 9:30AM

1	BOCH Michaël	58,5	7h11.16
2	FORESTIERI Alexandre	58,5	7h18.16
3	HENRY Fabrice	58,5	7h35.16
4	OLIVARES Mathieu	58,5	7h41.16
5	PETER Vincent	58,5	7h56.16

**Classement Général La Mythique after 1st stage,
238,2km**

1	BOCH Michaël	238,2	27h42.22
2	LANEAU Maxime	238,2	33h39.55
3	LANDORMY Jeanick	238,2	33h42.53
4	KERLAU Yves-Michel	238,2	35h08.37
5	FORESTIERI Alexandre	238,2	35h43.30
6	OLIVARES Mathieu	238,2	36h35.44
7	HENRY Fabrice	180,7	25h20.52
8	PETER Vincent	146,7	23h42.56
9	FAITEAU Maxime	143,1	21h35.37
10	FAUBERT Stéphane	143,1	23h18.44
Ab	ECHE Dominique	116,2	18h57.09
Ab	FAUBERT Daniel	110,2	17h01.07
Ab	PAVONE Fabrizio	82,2	12h08.10

1	MAISON Sylvie	238,2	35h57.10
2	RAES-MAURE Chloé	238,2	36h04.16
3	BESSOT Véronique	191,8	28h34.48
4	TOP Virginie	168,6	27h35.14
5	GILLARD Lydia	159,2	26h34.44
6	DUCRUET Nadia	143,1	22h54.36

Classement Général after 2nd Stage, 448,3km

1	BOCH Michaël	448,3	57h02.12
2	LANDORMY Jeanick	448,3	65h25.53
3	KERLAU Yves-Michel	448,3	70h48.23
4	OLIVARES Mathieu	448,3	71h58.20
5	FORESTIERI Alexandre	374,5	58h43.30
6	LANEAU Maxime	366,4	54h54.55
7	HENRY Fabrice	308,9	44h03.52
8	PETER Vincent	274,9	43h17.56
9	FAITEAU Maxime	271,3	43h13.37
10	FAUBERT Stéphane	271,3	44h50.44
Ab	ECHE Dominique	116,2	18h57.09
Ab	FAUBERT Daniel	110,2	17h01.07
Ab	PAVONE Fabrizio	82,2	12h08.10

1	RAES-MAURE Chloé	448,3	70h05.11
2	MAISON Sylvie	448,3	70h42.47
3	BESSOT Véronique	401,9	61h57.41
Ab	GILLARD Lydia	287,4	48h08.06
Ab	TOP Virginie	281,1	46h01.14
Ab	DUCRUET Nadia	222,8	37h10.36

La Mythique – Classement final 506,8km

1	BOCH Michaël	506,8	64h13.28
2	LANDORMY Jeanick	506,8	73h39.09
3	OLIVARES Mathieu	506,8	79h39.36
4	KERLAU Yves-Michel	506,8	79h45.39
5	FORESTIERI Alexandre	433,0	66h01.46

6	LANDORMY Jeanick	58,5	8h13.15
7	KERLAU Yves-Michel	58,5	8h57.16
8	FAITEAU Maxime	58,5	9h09.16
9	LANEAU Maxime	58,5	9h16.36
10	FAUBERT Stéphane	58,5	9h23.16
1	BESSOT Véronique	58,5	8h06.12
2	RAES-MAURE Chloé	58,5	9h09.16
3	MAISON Sylvie	58,5	9h18.16

6	LANEAU Maxime	424,9	64h11.31
7	HENRY Fabrice	367,4	51h39.08
8	PETER Vincent	333,4	51h14.12
9	FAITEAU Maxime	329,8	52h22.53
10	FAUBERT Stéphane	329,8	54h14.00
Ab	ECHE Dominique	116,2	18h57.09
Ab	FAUBERT Daniel	110,2	17h01.07
Ab	PAVONE Fabrizio	82,2	12h08.10
1	RAES-MAURE Chloé	506,8	79h14.27
2	MAISON Sylvie	506,8	80h01.03
3	BESSOT Véronique	460,4	70h03.57
Ab	GILLARD Lydia	287,4	48h08.06
Ab	TOP Virginie	281,1	46h01.14
Ab	DUCRUET Nadia	222,8	37h10.36



La Mythique walkers Veronique Bessot, Chloe Raes Maure and Sylvie Maison



La Mythique walkers Jeanick Landormy, Yves-Michel Kerlau, Mathieu Olivares and Michael Boch

LA CABU

La Cabu might have been a shorter distance overall (255km), but with a Prologue and 7 stages spread across 7 days, it was a very different sort of race – short stage distances and faster speeds overall. **Philippe Bonneau** dominated the men's race, winning all but Stage 2, while **Muriel Marradi** did even better, winning every stage. Bonneau was one of 8 men who finished every stage but Marradi was the only woman to do the same. The men's race saw a tight battle for second place between **Jean-Charles Thouvenel** and **Pascal Biebuyck**, Thouvenel getting the nod by 7 mins overall.

Prologue, Neuilly-sur-Marne, 6km, Monday 3PM

1	BONNEAU Philippe	28.22
2	GROS Gildas	33.39
3	BIEBUYCK Pascal	33.56
4	SEFFARI Azzouz	35.09
5	GUERINIER Christian	36.04
6	HIMMESOETE Paul	36.07
7	THOUVENEL Jean-Charles	37.59
8	PIERMAY Stéphane	38.20
9	DALLOZ Robert	42.38
10	HAGHEBAERT Eric	42.38
1	MARRADI Muriel	34.13
2	SONNOIS Martine	46.05

1st Stage, Château Thierry – Dormans, 58,2km, Tues 2:30PM

1	BONNEAU Philippe	58.2	7h09.03
2	BIEBUYCK Pascal	58.2	7h32.50
3	SEFFARI Azzouz	58.2	7h36.03
4	GROS Gildas	58.2	7h37.03
5	PIERMAY Stéphane	58.2	7h38.03
6	THOUVENEL Jean-Charles	58.2	7h43.03
7	HIMMESOETE Paul	58.2	7h49.03
8	GUERINIER Christian	58.2	8h09.03
9	HAGHEBAERT Eric	34.1	5h21.03
10	DALLOZ Robert	34.1	5h25.03
1	MARRADI Muriel	58.2	8h03.03
2	SONNOIS Martine	34.1	5h21.36

La Cabu – Classement général after 1st Stage, 64,2km

1	BONNEAU Philippe	64,2	7h37.25
2	BIEBUYCK Pascal	64,2	8h07.59
3	SEFFARI Azzouz	64,2	8h10.42
4	GROS Gildas	64,2	8h11.12
5	PIERMAY Stéphane	64,2	8h16.23
6	THOUVENEL Jean-Charles	64,2	8h21.02
7	HIMMESOETE Paul	64,2	8h25.10
8	GUERINIER Christian	64,2	8h45.07
9	HAGHEBAERT Eric	40,1	6h03.41
10	DALLOZ Robert	40,1	6h07.41
1	MARRADI Muriel	64.2	8h37.16
2	SONNOIS Martine	40.1	6h04.08

2nd Stage, Chalons – Pognny, 15.3km, Wed 9:30AM

1	THOUVENEL Jean-Charles	15,3	1h43
2	BONNEAU Philippe	15,3	1h45
3	BIEBUYCK Pascal	15,3	1h47
4	GROS Gildas	15,3	1h50.30
5	SEFFARI Azzouz	15,3	1h51.30
6	PIERMAY Stéphane	15,3	1h56
7	HIMMESOETE Paul	15,3	1h58
8	GUERINIER Christian	15,3	2h05
9	HAGHEBAERT Eric	15,3	2h09
10	DALLOZ Robert	15,3	2h18
1	MARRADI Muriel	15,3	2h02
2	SONNOIS Martine	15,3	2h16

La Cabu – Classement général after 2nd Stage, 79,5km

1	BONNEAU Philippe	79,5	9h22.25
2	BIEBUYCK Pascal	79,5	9h54.59
3	GROS Gildas	79,5	10h01.42
4	SEFFARI Azzouz	79,5	10h02.12
5	THOUVENEL Jean-Charles	79,5	10h04.02
6	PIERMAY Stéphane	79,5	10h12.23
7	HIMMESOETE Paul	79,5	10h23.10
8	GUERINIER Christian	79,5	10h50.07
9	HAGHEBAERT Eric	55,4	8h12.41
10	DALLOZ Robert	55,4	8h25.41
1	MARRADI Muriel	79,5	10h39.16
2	SONNOIS Martine	55,4	8h20.08

3rd Stage, Vitry le François – Mogneville, 38.3km Wednesday 2:30PM

1	BONNEAU Philippe	38,3	4h59
2	BIEBUYCK Pascal	38,3	5h07
3	THOUVENEL Jean-Charles	38,3	5h08
4	PIERMAY Stéphane	38,3	5h15
5	SEFFARI Azzouz	38,3	5h17
6	GROS Gildas	38,3	5h26.51

La Cabu – Classement général after 3 Stages, 117,8km

1	BONNEAU Philippe	117,8	14h21.25
2	BIEBUYCK Pascal	117,8	15h01.59
5	THOUVENEL Jean-Charles	117,8	15h12.02
4	SEFFARI Azzouz	117,8	15h19.12
6	PIERMAY Stéphane	117,8	15h27.23
3	GROS Gildas	117,8	15h28.33

7	HIMMESOETE Paul	38,3	5h39
8	GUERINIER Christian	38,3	5h55
9	HAGHEBAERT Eric	23,2	3h45
10	DALLOZ Robert	23,2	3h52
1	MARRADI Muriel	38,3	5h25
2	SONNOIS Martine	23,2	3h43

7	HIMMESOETE Paul	117,8	16h02.10
8	GUERINIER Christian	117,8	16h45.07
9	HAGHEBAERT Eric	78,6	11h57.41
10	DALLOZ Robert	78,6	12h17.41
1	MARRADI Muriel	117,8	16h04.16
2	SONNOIS Martine	78,6	12h03.08

4th Stage, Ligny en Barrois, 6km, Thursday 9AM

1	BONNEAU Philippe	6	36.11
2	BIEBUYCK Pascal	6	39.44
3	THOUVENEL Jean-Charles	6	42.37
4	GROS Gildas	6	39.04
5	SEFFARI Azzouz	6	40.52
6	PIERMAY Stéphane	6	44.07
7	HIMMESOETE Paul	6	45.03
8	GUERINIER Christian	6	49.40
9	HAGHEBAERT Eric	6	51.30
10	DALLOZ Robert	6	51.38
1	MARRADI Muriel	6	41.57
2	SONNOIS Martine	6	51.53

La Cabu – Classement général after 4 Stages, 123,8km

1	BONNEAU Philippe	123,8	14h57.36
2	BIEBUYCK Pascal	123,8	15h41.43
3	THOUVENEL Jean-Charles	123,8	15h54.39
4	SEFFARI Azzouz	123,8	16h00.04
5	GROS Gildas	123,8	16h07.37
6	PIERMAY Stéphane	123,8	16h11.30
7	HIMMESOETE Paul	123,8	16h47.13
8	GUERINIER Christian	123,8	17h34.47
9	HAGHEBAERT Eric	84,6	12h49.11
10	DALLOZ Robert	84,6	13h09.19
1	MARRADI Muriel	123,8	16h46.13
2	SONNOIS Martine	84,6	12h55.01

5th Stage, Neufchateau – Gironcourt, 33.6km, Thu 4PM

1	BONNEAU Philippe	33,6	4h00
2	THOUVENEL Jean-Charles	33,6	4h07
3	PIERMAY Stéphane	33,6	4h13
4	BIEBUYCK Pascal	33,6	4h19
5	SEFFARI Azzouz	33,6	4h21
6	GROS Gildas	33,6	4h26
7	HIMMESOETE Paul	33,6	4h28
8	GUERINIER Christian	33,6	5h02
9	HAGHEBAERT Eric	33,6	5h22
10	DALLOZ Robert	33,6	5h28
1	MARRADI Muriel	33,6	4h35
2	SONNOIS Martine	24,1	3h40

La Cabu – Classement général after 5 Stages, 157,4km

1	BONNEAU Philippe	157,4	18h57.36
2	BIEBUYCK Pascal	157,4	20h00.43
3	THOUVENEL Jean-Charles	157,4	20h01.39
4	SEFFARI Azzouz	157,4	20h21.04
5	PIERMAY Stéphane	157,4	20h24.30
6	GROS Gildas	157,4	20h33.37
7	HIMMESOETE Paul	157,4	21h15.13
8	GUERINIER Christian	157,4	22h36.47
9	HAGHEBAERT Eric	118,2	18h11.11
10	DALLOZ Robert	118,2	18h37.19
1	MARRADI Muriel	157,4	21h21.13
2	SONNOIS Martine	108,7	16h35.01

6th Stage, Bruyeres – Plainfaing, 39.9km, Friday 2PM

1	BONNEAU Philippe	39,9	4h45.50
2	THOUVENEL Jean-Charles	39,9	4h58.18
3	BIEBUYCK Pascal	39,9	5h01.45
4	GROS Gildas	39,9	5h02.24
5	PIERMAY Stéphane	39,9	5h07.45
6	HIMMESOETE Paul	39,9	5h20.58
7	GUERINIER Christian	39,9	5h40.03
8	SEFFARI Azzouz	39,9	5h43.00
9	DALLOZ Robert	22,2	3h27.13
10	HAGHEBAERT Eric	22,2	3h28
1	MARRADI Muriel	39,9	5h33.29
2	SONNOIS Martine	22,2	3h22

La Cabu – Classement général after 6 Stages, 197,3km

1	BONNEAU Philippe	197,3	23h43.26
2	THOUVENEL Jean-Charles	197,3	24h59.37
3	BIEBUYCK Pascal	197,3	25h02.28
4	PIERMAY Stéphane	197,3	25h32.15
5	GROS Gildas	197,3	25h36.01
4	SEFFARI Azzouz	197,3	26h04.04
7	HIMMESOETE Paul	197,3	26h36.11
8	GUERINIER Christian	197,3	28h16.50
9	HAGHEBAERT Eric	140,4	21h39.11
10	DALLOZ Robert	140,4	22h04.32
1	MARRADI Muriel	197,3	26h55.42
2	SONNOIS Martine	130,9	19h57.01

7th Stage, Plainfaing – Colmar, 58,5km, Sat 10AM

1	BONNEAU Philippe	58,5	7h16.16
3	THOUVENEL Jean-Charles	58,5	7h23.16
2	BIEBUYCK Pascal	58,5	7h27.18
4	GROS Gildas	58,5	7h53.16
5	SEFFARI Azzouz	58,5	8h15.16
7	HIMMESOETE Paul	58,5	8h12.16
8	GUERINIER Christian	58,5	8h32.16
6	PIERMAY Stéphane	58,5	8h37.16

La Cabu – Classement final – 255.8km

1	BONNEAU Philippe	255,5	30h59.42
2	THOUVENEL Jean-Charles	255,5	32h22.53
3	BIEBUYCK Pascal	255,5	32h29.44
4	PIERMAY Stéphane	255,5	33h09.31
5	GROS Gildas	255,5	33h29.17
6	SEFFARI Azzouz	255,5	34h19.20
7	HIMMESOETE Paul	255,5	34h48.27
8	GUERINIER Christian	255,5	36h59.06

9	HAGHEBAERT Eric	58,5	8h58.05	9	HAGHEBAERT Eric	198,9	30h37.16
10	DALOZ Robert	58,5	9h37.16	10	DALOZ Robert	198,9	31h41.48
1	MARRADI Muriel	58,5	8h03.16	1	MARRADI Muriel	255,5	34h58.58
2	SONNOIS Martine	58,5	9h06.16	2	SONNOIS Martine	189,4	29h03.17



La Cabu walkers Pascal Biebuyck, Jean-Charles Thouvenel and Muriel Marradi.

Emmanuel adds a few comments about the superb older walkers who contested the event

Daniel Faubert (age 78, born in 1947) stopped early in La Mythique after walking a little more than 100km

Paul Himmesoete (age 80, born in 1946) completed the full Cabu

Robert Daloz (age 85, born in 1941) used the rule of 60% and also finished the Cabu.



Super vet Robert Daloz in action

At the award ceremony on the Sunday, everybody expressed their satisfaction with the format of and the result of the race. The organisers were also well pleased so we hope that the race will continue in future. Lots more photos at https://photos.google.com/u/1/share/AF1QipOfuI7O9XiMyjnYIDSiVNZz_RCP38AyCEpFTuAqUOVXecM3joaO9QlNO8sWTWtNLA?pli=1&key=bVEtdG9SUXVocDB2YVVPZGhUcEZRdEYwaWZCOE9B.

FANS 24 HOUR RACE, BLOOMINGTON, USA, JUN 6-7, 2026

The 2026 US Centurions Qualifier was held, as usual, in conjunction with the FANS 24 Hour Race at Normandale Lake Park, Bloomington, MN (<https://fansultraraces.org/>). The event is always a big one and this year was no exception, with very large fields in the run divisions and quite good fields in the walk divisions.

Interestingly, the event uses two loop courses. For all but the last hour of the race, you use the almost 2-mile loop around Normandale Lake. In the last hour of the race you have the option of going around the lake again, or converting to short laps that are 1/8th of a mile long. Partial laps (either lake laps or short laps) are not counted in your mileage total. You decide when/if to switch to short laps.

There have been plenty of Centurion qualifiers in years past and this year was no exception, with **Landis Blair** of USA and **Kurt Tempels** of Belgium qualifying as C108 and C109. Full walk results are shown below.



A big contingent of walkers from around the world - Landis Blair (USA) Kurt Tempels (BEL) Maria Peck (USA) Arjan Bogerd (NED) John Greene (USA) and Kim Janssen (NED)



Maria Peck, Landis Blair and Kurt Tempels

24 Hour Walk Men

1.	Landis Blair (C108)	100.000 Miles	23.07.05
2.	Kurt Tempels (C109)	100.000 Miles	23.34.55
3.	John Greene	75.510 Miles	
4.	Arjan Bogerd	62.750 Miles	
5.	Kim Janssens	61.250 Miles	
6.	Chris Morrison	50.180 Miles	
7.	Paul Sackett	24.340 Miles	

24 Hour Walk Women

1.	Maria Peck	90.400 Miles	
2.	Metra Kootsikis	64.940 Miles	
3.	Joan Radde	63.090 Miles	
4.	Annette LeDuc	42.800 Miles	
5.	Nicole Lansing	31.720 Miles	
6.	Pat Sackett	26.190 Miles	

12 Hour Walk Men

1.	Michael Carrigan	39.360 Miles	
2.	Michael Kintner	26.410 Miles	
3.	Louis Scott	16.960 Miles	

12 Hour Walk Women

1.	Lori Halbur	38.110 Miles	
2.	Cassandra Scott	28.030 Miles	
3.	Woinshet Tesfalidet	22.630 Miles	
4.	Madeline Harms	22.500 Miles	
5.	Sheri Schlemmer	20.870 Miles	
6.	Catherine Scott	13.270 Miles	

Lots of photos available on the FANS facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/fansultraraces>.

And talking of the American Centurions, secretary Rob Robertson is stepping down from the role. He explains.

*I have an ANNOUNCEMENT. Time for fresh legs to head up the United States Centurion Walkers. Many of you know **Eric Boler**. U.S Centurion C97. Continental Centurion C499. Eric is the perfect fit for the job. Any questions about the United States Centurion walkers are to be directed to Eric. I will still keep track of Centurions and centurion races all around the world. I will be doing it from my fishing boat.*

Thanks for your hard work over the past years, Rob. Enjoy your fishing!

HELD OVER TILL THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

I would normally have included reports on the following 3 events in this newsletter but it is long enough already so they will be held over till my August newsletter.

- Manx Telecom Parish Walk, Isle of Man, June 20-21, 2026
- MaratonMarchen, Mariefred, Sweden, 26 June 2026 onwards
- 24 Heures de Haute-Saintonge, Montguyon, France, June 27-28, 2026

UNTIL OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Wow, another bumper newsletter. Congratulations to Greg and John, our latest Australian Centurion members. May your adventures be many and may your successes be bountiful.

With kind regards to all

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