

CENTURION FOOTNOTES

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<http://www.centurions.org.au>*

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DATES...DATES...DATES

There are always ultra opportunities on offer for those walkers wanting a challenge. Some are shown below. In addition, the AURA calendar shows additional Australian ultra events that may suit serious ultra walkers – see <http://aura.asn.au/>.

Mar 20-22, 2020	Sri Chinmoy Canberra 48 Hour Carnival See https://www.aura.asn.au/event/canberra-48-hr-race/	Canberra, ACT
Apr 4-5, 2020	Canberra Walking Festival (IVV an IML badged event) See http://aussiewalk.com.au/cwf/cwf/	Canberra, ACT
Apr 18-19, 2020	2020 Aust Centurions Qualifier - 2020 Coburg 24H Carnival See http://www.coburg24hr.org/24hr/race-entry/ .	Coburg, VIC
May 30-31, 2020	2020 Continental Centurions Qualifier https://www.rotterdamsewandelsportvereniging.nl/index.php?page=rwv-wandelweekend-english	Schiedam, NED
Aug 8-9, 2020	2020 English Centurions Qualifier – Colchester 100 Miles Enter at https://www.entrycentral.com/Colchester2020Centurion	Colchester, England
Sep 19-20, 2020	Nijmegen-Rotterdam 160 km https://www.rotterdamsewandelsportvereniging.nl/index.php?page=nijmegen-rotterdam-160-km	Nijmegen, NED
Sept 26-27, 2020	2020 USA Centurion Qualifier - Just A Walk In The Park See https://raceroster.com/events/2020/15288/not-just-a-walk-in-the-park-v30	Owego, NY, USA
Nov 14-15, 2020	2020 NZ Centurions Qualifier - Sri Chinmoy NZ 24H	Auckland, NZ

Dates have now been published for 5 of the 6 2020 Centurion Qualifiers – only the African event remains ungazetted.

COBURG CARNIVAL 2020 ENTRIES ARE BUILDING!!!

Entries continue for our 2020 Coburg 24 Hour Carnival, with 65 thus far. Time for an update on the 24 Hour walkers.

24H Walk Women - 3			
Haron, Norhhana Binti Osman	MAL	1974	Norhhana Binti Osman Haron is one of a large contingent of overseas walkers descending on Coburg this year. From Malaysia, she tells me she has competed in one 24H walk (2007) and three 12H walks. This will be her first track based walk and I am sure she will get plenty of help and support from the other walkers.
Parris, Dawn	VIC	1953	After a long and illustrious ultra running career (she is one of the legends of Australian ultra running with a 24H best of 202.65km), Dawn swapped to ultra distance walking some years ago with immediate success. She came 2nd in our 2007 6H walk (43.8km), won our 2008 12H Walk (78.5km), came 2nd in our 2009 24H walk with 137.27km and won our 2010 24H walk with 134.12km. Is now a regular at Coburg and will be with us again in 2020 for the 24H walk.
Williams, Fonibear	VIC	1970	Fonibear has competed in a number of ultras herself - Go The Extra Mile, Moonwalk 45km, Skyhigh to Skyhigh, as well as participating in three Relay for Life 24H events. And she has done lots of crewing for her hubby's ultra adventures!
24H Walk Men - 12			
Atherton, Paul	IOM	1984	One of 3 entrants from the very strong Isle of Man walking community, Paul is a newbie to the world of ultra distance, having dipped his toes in with a eighth place finish in the 2019 IOM Parish Walk (85 miles in 17:59:24). Now for a 24H walk on the track!
Callister, Robbie	IOM	1955	Robbie is one of the legends of the UK ultra walking scene, with 3 centurion

			badges for walks of 100 miles within 24H - British 2013 C1108, Continental 2016 C430 and African 2017 C20. He has finished the gruelling IOM 85 mile Parish Walk an amazing 17 times, winning outright on quite a few occasions. He has a 100 mile walk best time of 19:19:45, set in 2013. He has not slowed much since! We are excited to welcome him to Coburg.
Faulkner, Kevin	NSW	1966	This will be Kevin's first ever ultra. Take it easy mate, just stroll around and enjoy the experience. It will definitely be a PB!
Gray, Peter	VIC	1964	This will be Peter's 33rd consecutive Coburg 24H appearance and he has finished every one. Overall, he has done over over 300 ultras including 2 Sydney-to-Melbournes and 17 Colacs. With a best of 230 km in 24 hours, set in our 1991 event and a record as the youngest ever Westfield Sydney-Melbourne finisher, Peter is a legend in the field of Australian ultra running. We are pleased to welcome him back again this year.
Isaacs, David	VIC	1962	Another first timer, David can probably be seen a fair bit around the Melbourne NE putting in the long walks needed before such an endeavour. I've even been for a few shorter distance walks with him myself - but nothing too long for me!
Kandelaars, Ari	NED	1964	Arie is one of 4 Dutch walkers who appeared at Coburg in 2018, hoping for a centurion walk finish (100 miles). Alas, he was carrying an injury and was forced to stop. He returned in 2019 to complete unfinished business but once again the 100 mile mark eluded him. They say Third Time Lucky, so let's hope that proves to be the case for Arie who already has 4 Centurion badges to his credit: African (2016, 23:52:00), English (2017, 23:49:27), NZ (2017, 23:36:29) and USA (2018, 23:52:14). Four badges in quick succession and the aim is to add a fifth one in Coburg.
Kilmartin, John	VIC	1951	John, from country Victoria, walked his first ultra in Melbourne in September 2012, completing 47.973km in 6H. He quickly improved, becoming an Australian centurion in 2015 with 21:11:56. Only months later, he became an English Centurion with a further 100 mile walk on the Isle of Man (21:26:48) and in 2016 he added the Continental Centurion badge (23:05:24). Now an accomplished walker, he is a regular in our Coburg 24H. Welcome back John.
Scholz, Justin	VIC	1974	Justin burst onto the ultra scene in 2009 and quickly rose through the ranks. With current running PBs of 77km (6H), 122km (12H) and 214km (24H), he is now one of our top ultra track runners. He also has a number of Coast to Kosci finishes to his credit, with a best time of 31:21:12. Finally he is also a multiple Centurion walker with 13 100 mile walks to his credit. With some 10 Coburg appearances under his belt already, he has chosen the 24H Walk option this time around, and will be looking for his 13th 100 mile walk stat. And just as an aside, he walked 572.127km in the EMU 6 Day event in Hungary in May 2019, setting new Australian Walk records for 500km and 6 Days into the bargain. Talk about versatile!
Svensson, Christer	SWE	1969	Swedish ultra distance walker Christer Svensson has 3 centurion badges to his credit for walks of 100 miles within 24 Hours: UK C1110 2013 (20:19:28), Continental C375 2009 (22:09:06) and USA C82 2016 (20:14:50). He is just as good over the longer and shorter ultra distances, with a 6 Day walk best of 531.975km and a 100km walk best of 10:16:46. He is also an accomplished 50km racewalker and has very respectable times for the shorter distances. Definitely one of the favourites for the Coburg 2020 24H Walk.
Talcott, Dave	USA	1960	USA walker Dave Talcott is definitely the go-to-man in this year's 24H walk field. His two centurion badge walks have both been under 19 hours - US C88 2017 (18:53:10) and UK C1188 2018 (18:55:41). He is still an active racewalker and race administrator on the local USA front and can still knock out a pretty decent 50km racewalk. I am really looking forward to seeing him in action at Coburg.
Titely, Andrew	IOM	1965	Another one of the strong Isle of Man contingent, Andrew has 18 IOM Parish Walks (85km) to his credit, along with 13 100m/24H walks. He has centurion badges from Europe (2005 C333 22:56:48), Britain (2006 C1038 22:19:59), South Africa (2017 C21 21:51:24) and America (2018 C89 22:27:32).

Van Den Brand, Remy	NED	1975	One of two Dutch walkers competing this year, Remy already has centurion badges from Europe (2016 C433 21:15:01) and Africa (2016 C12 22:39:59) and is an experienced ultra competitor. He is sure to be helping make the pace at what is looking like a very strong walks field.
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Entries and race info at <http://www.coburg24hr.org/24hr/race-entry/>.

Profiles on all entrants: <http://www.coburg24hr.org/24hr/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2020-profiles.pdf>

Centurion specific info at <http://centurions.org.au/event2020.shtml>.

23RD 8 HEURES DE CHARLY, CHARLY-SUR-MARNE, FRANCE, SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY

Emmanuel Tardi was in Charly-sur-Marne, 100km in the east of Paris, for their annual 8 Hour Walk on Sunday 9th February. This was the first European ultra walk for 2020. He reports:

The initial lap of 1.075km was followed by laps of 2.575km, allowing walkers to get an exact 50km split. The 8AM gun saw 74 starters, including 4 teams. The weather was grey, with a storm forecast for later in the day. **Maxime Faiteau** started fast and, after 1km, he was 100m in front of the pack. He gradually increased his lead until, around the 4 hour mark, injury issues flared. He struggled on but surrendered the lead to **Serge Georgelin** and **Nicolas Potier**, with Georgelin the stronger of the two and forging a small lead. In the women's race, **Muriel Marradi** and **Catherine Galmiche** headed out together, but eventually Muriel escaped and looked set for a good win. After 5 hours, the wind increased in strength, with branches falling in front of competitors, forcing the race director to stop the race after 6 hours.

The ancillary 10km walks were won by **David Durand-Pichard** and **Adeline Brastel**.

6 Hour Walk Men

1.	GEORGELIN Serge	Ea Cessonnaise	57.725 km	6h06.21
2.	GILLES Philippe	Usm Montargis	57.725 km	6h08.55
3.	DEPARDAY Fabien	Stadium Montigny Athletic Club	57.725 km	6h12.03
4.	POTIER Nicolas	Athle Pays De Fougères	55.150 km	6h05.00
5.	LETOURNEAU Florian	Ac Chateau Thierry	55.150 km	6h10.12
6.	VANDERCOILDEN David	Villeneuve D Ascq Fretin Athle	55.150 km	6h16.05
7.	MALFONDET Alain	Nl Paris	52.575 km	6h02.33
8.	WEILER Philippe	Athletisme Metz Metropole	52.575 km	6h04.35
9.	BIEBUYCK Pascal (BEL)	Ath	52.575 km	6h12.55
10.	VICTOR Etienne	Cag Arnouville Gonesse Villiers	52.575 km	6h17.09
11.	LEIJTENS Frans (NED)	Rotterdam Wv	52.575 km	6h18.51
12.	LOUGRADA Saadi	Cm Roubaix	50.000 km	6h00.16
13.	MALDEME Damien	Athletic Vosges Entente Clubs	50.000 km	6h00.17
14.	FAITEAU Maxime	Entente Poitiers Athle 86	50.000 km	6h00.21
15.	MAUREL Eric	Ac Chateau Thierry	50.000 km	6h01.32
16.	GROS Gildas	Es Thaon	50.000 km	6h01.51
17.	MARECHAL Pascal	Ac Chateau Thierry	50.000 km	6h03.17
18.	BEGIN Edouard	Val-de-reuil Ac	50.000 km	6h09.26
19.	BOURICHON Christophe	Us Champagne-sur-seine	50.000 km	6h09.26
20.	VARAIN Cedric	Ac Chateau Thierry	50.000 km	6h09.48
21.	JACQUEMIN Mickael	Athletic Vosges Entente Clubs	50.000 km	6h10.13
22.	SEFFARI Abdelaziz	Afa Feyzin-venissieux	50.000 km	6h14.00
23.	BOUFFLERT Eric	G.a.Basse Seine	50.000 km	6h18.41
24.	THEVENIN Pascal	Neuilly Sur Marne Athletisme	47.425 km	6h00.17
25.	VANDENDAUL Daniel (BEL)	Cabw	47.425 km	6h01.42
26.	TINTIN Ronald	Ao Charenton	47.425 km	6h07.49
27.	DELANGE Dominique	Aj Auxerre Section Marathon	47.425 km	6h11.36
28.	CECCALDI Georges	Entente Chalon/saone Athlé	47.425 km	6h11.44
29.	VIELFAURE Gilles	Afa Feyzin-venissieux	47.425 km	6h11.47
30.	BALLAND Johann	Athletic Vosges Entente Clubs	47.425 km	6h12.28
31.	LETESSIER Gilles	Grand Paris Seine	47.425 km	6h12.55
32.	HELLER Denis	Athletic Club De Colombes	47.425 km	6h17.21
33.	SEYNAEVE Serge (BEL)	Cm Roubaix	47.425 km	6h18.30

34.	HIERNARD Alain	Nl Afd 02	47.425 km	6h19.02
35.	GUILLOT Mickael	Ac Chateau Thierry	44.850 km	6h00.32
36.	ROCHA Fernando	Athletic Vosges Entente Clubs	44.850 km	6h12.28
37.	TABOURET Guy	Us Toul Athletisme	44.850 km	6h15.14
38.	FILLIEUX Christian (BEL)	Caf	44.850 km	6h15.16
39.	CHAPOTOT Adrien	Nl Charly	44.850 km	6h16.13
40.	ARNAULT Jacques	Neuilly Sur Marne Athletisme	44.850 km	6h19.11
41.	HAGHEBAERT Eric	Nl Chezy Sur Marne	42.275 km	6h00.11
42.	OULBANI Jean-claude	Nl St-amarin	42.275 km	6h07.51
43.	BORDIER Daniel	Ac Chateau Thierry	42.275 km	6h08.05
44.	NICOLAS Alain	Nl Domptin	42.275 km	6h12.30
45.	BOUDIGNON Thierry	Ultra Marathon France	42.275 km	6h16.11
46.	MACHAL Francis	Cm Roubaix	42.275 km	6h20.26
47.	LEMOINE Daniel	Nl Domont	39.700 km	6h06.27
48.	MERCIER Jean-pierre	Pays De Colmar Athletisme	39.700 km	6h23.59
49.	OTT Christophe	Nl Holtzheim	37.125 km	6h00.14
50.	CATRY Thierry	Cm Roubaix	34.550 km	6h00.46
51.	GLASER Jean-bernard	Neuilly Sur Marne Athletisme	34.550 km	6h24.16
	LABARRE Bertrand	Cs Provins Athletisme	39.700 km	5h06.53
	GIRAUDEAU Denis	ULA De Cornouaille	37.125 km	5h07.04
	KESSELMARK Patrick	Fs Esbly Coupvray Athletisme	31.975 km	4h46.38
	OLIVARES Mathieu	Neuilly Sur Marne Athletisme	26.825 km	2h58.11
	BEGIN Maxence	Val-de-reuil Ac	19.100 km	2h13.55
	BEGIN Jean-pierre	Val-de-reuil Ac	6.225 km	1h18.24

6 Hour Walk Women

1.	MARRADI Muriel	Afa Feyzin-venissieux	47.425 km	6h11.45
2.	GALMICHE Catherine	Cag Arnouville Gonesse Villiers	44.850 km	6h00.34
3.	BIZARD Claudie	Thiais Ac	44.850 km	6h00.45
4.	PANNIER Josiane	Havre Ac	44.850 km	6h01.46
5.	SONNOIS Martine	Racing Club Haut-jura Morez	44.850 km	6h04.43
6.	MAISON Sylvie	Strasbourg Agglomeration Athle	44.850 km	6h06.50
7.	DUCRUET Nadia	Ac Chateau Thierry	44.850 km	6h10.46
8.	ARNAULT Françoise	Neuilly Sur Marne Athletisme	44.850 km	6h19.11
9.	RODIER Nicole	Efs Reims A.	44.850 km	6h22.21
10.	DUPONT Valerie	Cherry J Y Cours	42.275 km	6h12.00
11.	MAURICE Fabienne	Ac Chateau Thierry	39.700 km	6h02.42
12.	SAUNEUF Lola	Marne Et Gondoire Athletisme	37.125 km	6h16.05
13.	CORMIER Mireille	Entente Nimes Athletisme	34.550 km	6h07.42

6 Hour Relay

1.	Domont Athletisme	RIGAL Jean-Luc, BESSOT Véronique	57.725km	6h08.29
2.	Neuilly-sur-Marne	SALOMEZ Bénédicte, DIEN Daniel, CARCAILLON Alain	47.425km	6h14.31
3.	La Quarantaine	DECABOOTER Betty - CHATILLON Dominique	47.425km	6h20.06
4.	The Walkers	LAURIN Martine, CHAUVITEAU Danie, LAMOTTE Ginette	47.425 km	6h23.01

10km Walk Men

1.	David DURAND-PICHARD	53.12
2.	Arthur BONNOMET	55.17
3.	Julien REY	55.57
4.	David STEFANELLY	56.03
5.	Denis HONOREZ	58.10
6.	Eric TOUAIN	1h00.19
7.	Alain PELLERIN	1h04.22
8.	Joel JACQUEMIN	1h09.42
9.	Alain RICARD	1h11.03
10.	Emmanuel TARDI	1h19.17
11.	Christian MALLET	1h23.48
	Quentin RENOLLET	DQ

10km walk Women

1.	Adeline BRASTEL	58.11
2.	Zoé NICOLAS	1h01.36
3.	Sylvie CERVELLERA	1h11.04
4.	Claudine ANXIONNAT	1h12.59
5.	Manuella POUVREAU	1h13.10
6.	Sylvie NEMERY	1h18.21
7.	Jacqueline JOBERT	1h18.49
8.	Martine MALLET	1h20.36
9.	Lydie VAN NIMMEN	1h23.48
10.	Bernadette QUINQUETON	1h26.05
11.	Isabelle HIERNARD	1h28.08
12.	Danielle DREYFUS	1h34.28



David Durand-Pichard, Adeline Brastel, Muriel Marradi and Sergey Georgelin (photos Emmanuel Tardi)

AIDAN DE BRUNE: 100TH BIRTHDAY OF HIS WALK AROUND AUSTRALIA

One of my regular go-to sites is <https://www.wr-nw.com/> (World Rankings - Racewalking and Nordic Walking). As well as maintaining ultra walking and ranking lists for various distances, the site publishes various occasional articles of a historical nature. Last month a new article was published, concerning the 100th anniversary of Aidan de Brune's walk around Australia (see <https://www.wr-nw.com/historic-news.html>). I must admit with embarrassment that I was previously unaware of this feat but I am now!



*Left: Aidan de Brune – The Tramp Journalist who walked Around Australia (photograph taken in 1921)
Right: de Brune's route around Australia – Sydney to Sydney anticlockwise*

This summary is taken from his wikipedia entry (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aidan_de_Brune) and expanded out to add additional facts of interest.

Aidan de Brune (17 July 1874 – 15 February 1946), journalist, author and pedestrian, was the first person to walk around the perimeter of Australia, unaccompanied and unassisted.

De Brune was born Herbert Charles Cull in London, England and started his professional life as a printer. He married Ethel Elizabeth Crofts in 1907 and a son, Lionel, was born in 1909. In 1910 Cull came to Australia, arriving in Fremantle, Western Australia on 23 May 1910. His wife and child followed him and arrived in Albany, Western Australia on 26 November 1910.

In 1912 Cull's wife and son returned to England but Cull remained in Australia for the rest of his life. In early 1920 he was working for the Bunbury Herald newspaper and wrote two serial stories: *The Pursuits of Mr Peter Pell* and *The Mystery of the Nine Stars*. The latter story was unfinished when, in November 1920, Cull left the newspaper and began to walk from Fremantle to Sydney, following the Trans-Australian Railway. When he reached Sydney, in early 1921, Cull was calling himself Aidan de Brune.

In September 1921 he began his circumnavigation walk, from Sydney to Sydney, anticlockwise. De Brune described his goal to be "to leave Sydney on foot, to walk ten thousand miles (more or less) around Australia, calling at all the ports en route on the four coasts, and to return to Sydney." He proposed taking twelve months to complete the walk.

In the event, de Brune took two and a half years to complete the walk, eventually arriving back in Sydney on 4 March 1924. He was laid up in Burketown Hospital in the Gulf Country of north western Queensland for about two months, in February and March 1922, and at other times did not walk, because of illness or because he chose to remain in a town and give a lecture on his travels. He was away from Sydney for 897 days, of which he walked on 572 days.

De Brune kept a diary during his walk, in which he made daily entries detailing the distance walked each day and the total distance to-date. He also invited people he met along the way to certify his presence at the location he was at and to make comments. After he finished his walk he donated the diary and a typescript of the contents of the diary to the State Library of New South Wales. You can read his description of his walk at <http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks17/1700801h.html>. The Gutenberg archive also contains his walk diary in full, with daily distances, etc, along with lots of photos (see <http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks18/1800081h.html>).

J T Beckett, a journalist, had met de Brune in Darwin, during his walk. A newspaper article written by Beckett appeared when de Brune was in Penong, South Australia, about 1700 miles from finishing his walk. Beckett concluded the article: "*Aiden de Brune has not finished his walk but should he never move another yard further, he will have put up a record that few, if any, will ever attempt to equal.*"

After his walk around Australia, de Brune settled in Sydney and began writing serialised mystery stories for newspapers. Most are available to read on Gutenberg – see <http://gutenberg.net.au/plusfifty-a-m.html#debrune>

Aidan de Brune/Herbert Charles Cull died in Sydney on 15 February 1946. He was buried in Botany Cemetery.

2019 GORDON SMITH MEMORIAL AWARD GOES TO GERALD MANDERSON

I am pleased to announce that the winner of the 2019 Gordon Smith Memorial Award, for the **Best Australian Ultra Distance Walking Performance of the Year**, is **Gerald Manderson (C 31)**. Gerald now joins a very select group of winners, in recognition of his 75th birthday celebratory solo walk from Perth to Melbourne via the coastal roads, a total distance of 4,249km. He completed his walk in 80 days (January-April), battling horrendously hot and dry conditions along the way and carrying his own water as he traversed the desert areas.

The full list of winners now reads like this:

2005 Deryck Skinner (C 51)	2006 Stan Miskin (C 23)	2007 Terry O'Neill (C 18)
2008 Deryck Skinner (C 51)	2009 Peter Bennett (C 24)	2010 Peter Bennett (C 24)
2011 Michelle Thompson (C 58)	2012 Barry Loveday (C 62)	2013 Tim Erickson (C 13)
2014 Michelle Thompson (C 58)	2015 John Kilmartin (C 67)	2016 Linda Christison
2017 Robin Whyte (C29)	2018 Claire Tallent	2019 Gerald Manderson (C 31)



Gerard Manderson on his way from Perth to Melbourne

AUSTRALIAN CENTURIONS AGM

Our 2019 Annual General Meeting was held in Melbourne on Sunday 5th January 2020, with the following Club Executive and General Committee elected to lead the club over the next 2 year period (2020 and 2021).

Club Executive	President	Terry O’Neill (C 18)
	Vice President	Robin Whyte (C 29)
	Treasurer	Lois Erickson
	Secretary	Tim Erickson (C 13)
General Committee	Records and Rankings Officer	Tim Erickson (C 13)
	Assistant Secretary	-
	General members of Committee	Karyn O’Neill (C 45), Michelle Thompson (C 58)

The meeting was followed by our annual luncheon, with a good turnout of members. We were especially pleased to welcome back **Fred Brooks (C42)**, holidaying in Australia with his family.



Back Row: Michelle Thompson (58), Ian Jack (C17), Karyn O’Neill (C45), Bill Dyer (C15), Fred Brooks (C42) and Stuart Cooper (C5)

Front Row: Clarrie Jack (C4), Terry O’Neill (C18) and Tim Erickson (C13)

JACK DEBERT: C 1A, 1937

In our October 2019 Issue (see <http://www.centurions.org.au/newsletters/2019-n10-oct.pdf>), I reported on a newly unearthed Australian Centurion performance, dating from 1937. The Executive has discussed this in some depth and has now accepted the performance and awarded Australian Centurion membership to NSW walker Jack Debert. Overall, that takes our Australian Centurion count to 81.

Badge 1 remains with Gordon Smith for his winning performance in the same race. Badge number 2 has already been allocated to Jack Webber for his 1971 walk in Adelaide. Accordingly, a special badge number of 1A has been created to honour Jack's performance. As Jack is recorded in the newspapers of the time as having reached a distance of 100 miles and 266 yards within the required 24 hours in that event at Centennial Park in Sydney, his annotation will read 23:59:00 (approx). Further, as the new information shows, we now know Gordon Smith's 100 mile time in that 1937 race, so his annotation has been changed to accommodate that fact. Page <http://www.centurions.org.au/centlist.shtml> now reads:

Australian Centurion List			
Many try but few achieve this toughest of feats. The first was Gordon Smith (C 1) in 1938 and the most recent was Gertude Achterberg in 2019 (C 80). Who will be next?			
1	Gordon A.S. Smith (18/01/02 - 08/03/45 - deceased) 10/11 October 1937 Completed 110 miles 831 yards in 24 hours Centennial Park, Sydney, NSW	NSW No 1	21:38:04
1A	Jack Debert (26/01/1900 - 13/04/1974 - deceased) 10/11 October 1937 Completed 100 miles 266 yards in 24 hours Centennial Park, Sydney, NSW		23:59:00 (approx)
2	Jack Webber (20/10/14 - 26/01/98 - deceased) 20/21 August 1971 Completed 104 miles 1238 yards in 24 hours Adelaide Harriers Track, Adelaide, SA	SA No 1	22:44:53

And now let's talk in detail about the years 1937-1938, when this history was written:

1937 – AUSTRALIA'S FIRST CENTURIONS

Gordon Smith of NSW had dominated the NSW long distance walking scene during the 1920's, until his walking career had been curtailed by the Great Depression of the 1930's. However, he still harboured thoughts of further ultra distance walks and eventually opportunities appeared in 1937, with two long walks to be held in Sydney that year.

Sept 5, 1937 NSW 50 Mile Trial, Centennial Park, Sydney

The first of these two events was a relatively informal one, held in conjunction with the NSW 50km walking championship. Although hampered by a blistered heel, Smith struggled on gamely to win his seventh NSW 50km title in 5hr 28min 3sec with W. Hall second and F. Gentle third. Not content with this feat, he went on to cover 33miles 1360yds in 6 hours – 483yd further than his previous best.

He had set out with the intention of beating his 50 mile best, but was forced to withdraw owing to his heel injury.

The Sydney Daily Telegraph of Monday 6th September reported the race as follows:

SMITH BREAKS WALK RECORD

G. A. Smith broke the State six hours road walking record on Saturday at Centennial Park, covering 33 miles 1360 yards, or 473 yards farther than his 1929 record.

The track figures, held by H. W. Barrett at 34 miles 387 yards, have stood since 1930. Smith intended attacking

the 50 miles figures, but had to retire owing to badly blistered feet. The 50 kilometres walking champion ship, held in conjunction, was again won by Smith. It was his seventh successive win. The distance, approximately 31 miles, took Smith 5hr. 28min. 3sec. The record is 4hr. 59min. 40sec., made by J. Coffey, of Victoria, in 1930.

Oct 10-11, 1937

NSW 24 Hour Trial, Centennial Park, Sydney

The second of the 1937 Sydney walks was a 24 hour Trial, put on by the NSW Amateur Walkers Club and held over a 2 mile course in Centennial Park. Smith was an immediate starter, along with other walkers from the NSWAWC, with further entries from the Sydney Bush Walkers.

There are multiple newspaper reports of this 1937 NSW Amateur Walkers Club 24 Hour race. They all confirm the race date as 10-11 October 1937 and confirm Gordon's winning distance of 110 miles and 831 yards. The articles also identify one additional fascinating fact - Gordon was one of two walkers to complete in excess of 100 miles on that day in Centennial Park in Sydney. Fellow Sydney Bush Walkers member Jack Debert is recorded in the press reports as having covered 100 miles 266 yards to finish second.

See for instance the article below which was published in the Sydney Morning Herald of Monday 11th October 1937: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/17418034>.

THREE COMPLETE TASK. WINNER COVERS 110 MILES.

Eleven hardy members of the New South Wales Walking Club set out at 1.30 pm on Saturday on the first 24 hours' endurance walking contest held in Sydney. Three of them having braved the cool night air and the rain that fell yesterday morning completed the one-day test yesterday afternoon. Some of those who started on Saturday on the first of the two-mile laps set in Centennial Park took advantage of the fact that a 30-mile event had also been arranged, and retired when they had covered that distance. Among these was a woman competitor, Miss D. English.

The winner of the one-day contest was the favourite, Gordon Smith, who is 38 years old, and has been a successful walker for 14 years. He is the holder of all the State's distance records and also the 50 kilometres championship. Smith established an early lead from Jack Debert and Dave Stead and finished strongly having covered 110 miles and 831 yards He had set himself a schedule for 110 miles.

Two officials remained at the park all night to check the walkers at the end of each two miles and to attend to their wants. Three other officials assisted them at intervals. The competitors were supplied with coffee, energising fruits and other specially prepared food. Smith consumed a considerable amount of glucose.

Massage treatment was available to the walkers and they had the option of adjourning to snatch a brief sleep if they so desired. Those who completed the full day had little rest. An official stated last night that Smith had received some massage treatment, but had not been off the course for a total period of more than 15 minutes.

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|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. G. A. S. Smith | 110 miles 831 yards |
| 2. J. Debert | 100 miles 266 yards |
| 3. D. D. Stead | 80 miles 371 yards |
| 4. C. N. Smith | retired at 20 miles (4hrs 11m 3s) |
| 5. M. D. English | retired at 30 miles (7h 11m 45s) |

The winner's sectional checkings showed:

*10 miles in 1h 54m 10s; 20 miles, 3h 51m 1s; 30 miles, 5h 49m 55s; 40 miles, 7h 56m 48s; 50 miles, 10h 7m 50s; 80 miles, 17h 2m 14s; **100 miles, 21h 38m 4s**; 110 miles, 23h 55m 20s.*

A 30-mile scratch race held in addition to the long race

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|--------------|------------|
| 1. W. Hall | 5h 49m 55s |
| 2. M. Gentle | 6h 12m 45s |

The Sydney Bush Walkers competitors were indeed a strong additional presence in the races. The November 1937 edition of the Sydney Bushwalker proclaimed:

Gordon Smith and Jack Debert walked for 24 hours, Gordon covering 110 miles and Jack 100. They are probably the only men in Australia to have accomplished such a feat. Dave Stead put up a fine showing also when he covered 80 miles in the 24 hours. In fact he says he holds a world record because he spent more time off the track than on it. Dot English saw to it that the women were not left out of things altogether; she came third in the 30 mile scratch race, Ben Hall and Max Gentle being the two first.

Now onto 1938 when, in the space of one month, Smith completed 12 hour and 24 hour walks and shattered all his current records. His 12 hour walk resulted in new State records for 50 miles and 100 km and 12 hours. His 24 hour walk broke his own NSW State record set the previous year.

Sept 17 1938 NSW Amateur Walking Club 12 Hour Walking Trial, Centennial Park

The first of the 1938 Sydney walks was a 12 Hour Trial put on by the NSW Amateur Walking Club and staged in Centennial Park in Sydney on Saturday 17th September. The top NSW distance walkers were all present, but it was Smith who proved in a class of his own, winning by over 5 miles with an Australian record distance of 65 miles 781 yards. Along the way, he bettered his own 50 mile best time of 9:16, set in 1927, one of a swag of new records.

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|------------------|---------------------|---|
| 1. Smith, Gordon | 65 miles 781 yards | (50 miles in 8:50:25, 100 km in 11:21:30) |
| 2. Barrett, H | 59 miles 1367 yards | |
| 3. Debert, Jack | 57 miles 781 yards | |
| 4. Gentle, Max | 54 miles 414 yards | |
| 5. Stannett, M | 53 miles 1514 yards | |

Sealed Handicap results: M Gentle 1, H Barrett 2, J Debert 3, G. A. Smith 4, M Stannert 5.

The following newspaper article recorded his feat as follows

Sunday 18.09.1938
SMITH SETS NEW RECORDS
Walked 65 Miles in Twelve Hours

At 7:30 a.m. yesterday, G.A.Smith, State 50 km champion, started to walk in Centennial Park. He stopped 12 hours later. He had covered 65 miles 781 yards, broken two records and probably set a third.

Smith, who was engaged in a 12 hours time trial, displayed the best form of his career. He left the mark with five others and, walking continually throughout the day over a two-mile lap course, finished at 7.30 last night.

He soon left the others behind and made the pace so hot at the beginning that D. G. Stead was forced to retire after covering 18 miles, suffering with cramp in the leg. Smith increased his lead with every circuit, and set new figures on two occasions and probably made a third one.

The first record came when he slipped past the 50 mile mark in 8:50:25, reducing his own 1927 figures by 16:35. He covered 100 km (62 miles 245 yards) in 11:21:30, setting a new State record for the distance.

With this added encouragement, he increased his pace to see the time out. This is the first occasion on which the event has been held in New South Wales and Smith's distance will be considered for record recognition.

He was remarkably fresh at the finish and said that he could have gone further. He will have an opportunity to do this on October 15, when he will attempt a 24 hour trial.

Smith finished with a lead of 5 miles 1174 yards from H. Barrett who was also walking strongly while J. Bebert, M. Gentle and M. Stannett finished in that order. Smith's times for intermediate distances were: 10 miles 1:40:45; 20 miles 3:24:40; 30 miles 5:10:35; 40 miles 7:00:25; 50 miles 8:50:25; 60 miles 10:53:01; 100 km 11:31:30

**WALKED FOR
12 HOURS**



HIS AVERAGE SPEED was nearly 6 m.p.h. for 12 hours, so Gordon Smith, New South Wales 50 mile and 24 hour walking champion, could be excused for wiping the perspiration from his brow during the New South Wales walking marathon on Saturday, in Centennial Park

The second of the two Sydney based ultra distance walks of 1938 was just as astonishing. This time the NSW Amateur Walkers Club used the hard asphalt track around the Bankstown oval and Smith improved by over 3 miles on his 1937 24 Hour walk.

Five men and a girl started walking the event at 10:37 a.m. on Saturday 15 October. All were members of the NSW Amateur Walkers Club, with most also members of the Sydney Bush Walkers. The girl, Miss Mary Stoddart, a stockily built 22-year-old, had a reputation as a bush walker and hoped to establish a record for a 12 hours walk. Amongst the men, S. Sheedy was expected to drop out after 20 miles, it being his intention to establish a new NSWAWC record for that distance. The other contestants, all of whom hoped to stay on the track for the full time, were – G. A. Smith, D. D. Stead who was third last year, H. W. Barrett, an English walker who had previously competed in the London-Brighton walk and other events, and E. Mitchell.

Only a handful of officials and relatives and friends of the competitors were present to see the start. The men were initially bareheaded but there was a call for panama hats at around 11.30 a.m. from Mitchell and Stead. Sheedy and Barrett distained the head protection. They were refreshed at intervals with cups of tea, cocoa and glucose. Timekeepers and recorders worked in relays.. Sheedy completed the first 5 miles in 45 min, 43sec with Smith and Barrett 4 laps back. Walking strongly, Sheedy reached his 20 mile mark in 3 hours 6 mins. 32 secs. to break the record by over 2 minutes and then retired. Smith began to draw away from the 48 year old Barrett while Stoddart walked her own race at the back of the field. Stead dropped out in the 143rd lap and Mitchell in the next, after covering about 38 miles. At a steady pace, Stoddart went round and round the track until she reached the 50 mile mark in 12 hours 16 minutes 45 seconds. Not surprisingly, she suffered from blistered feet and fatigue.

Barrett began to suffer from an ankle that was becoming worse with every step. He rested about 11.45 p.m. and had his ankle massaged with methylated spirits. He had then covered 58 miles and Smith was approximately 5 miles ahead of him. He made a gallant effort to continue, although in considerable pain, until he was persuaded to give in when he had done 78 miles. This left Smith on his own for the remainder of the race.

There was a large crowd at the ground at midnight, after the closing of the Bankstown picture theatres, and when the public realised it was illegal to charge for admission on Sundays. There was also a large number present at the finish. After the race, Smith paid tribute to his masseur who he said was a key factor in his success.

1. Smith, Gordon 113 miles 1309 yards (New Australasian Record)

Again, the newspaper report says it all

Mon 17.10.1938
WALK RECORD IN 24 HOURS TRIAL
G. A. Smith's Effort NEARLY 114 MILES

Gordon A. Smith, of Summer Hill, set what officials of the New South Walkers Amateur Walking Club claimed to be the first official Australian record for a 24 hours road walking trial during the weekend by covering 113 miles, 1309 ½ yards at Bankstown Oval.

Apart from tiredness and several blisters on his feet, Smith showed little sign of his gruelling experience and finished his walk strongly. Smith averaged more than four miles an hour. Last year he covered 110 miles, 871 yards on the Centennial Park Circuit.

There was a large crowd at the ground at midnight, after the closing of the Bankstown picture theatres and there were a large number of people present at the finish yesterday morning.

Smith continued on his lone walk through the night and was given an ovation when he passed his previous best distance of 110 miles at about 9:45 am. He had then walked round the track 450 times in 23 hours, 12 mins 45 secs. He was suffering from the heat and frequently placed a panama hat filled with water on his head. He was given a great reception at the finish.

Smith attributed his fitness to careful massage treatment. He had three-quarters of an hour's massage by his trainer, Mr Victor Revelle, before he started, and said that his muscles were in fine condition. After the event he was again massaged on the limbs.

Gordon Smith was retrospectively awarded the honour of Australian Centurion Number 1 when the Australian Chapter of the Centurions was formed in 1971. Unfortunately the results of the 1937 24 Hour race were not known at that time, resulting in two errors.

1. Firstly, Jack Debert's 1937 100 mile walk performance was not honoured. Badge number 2 was awarded to SA walker Jack Webber, in recognition of his 1971 100 mile walk in Adelaide.
2. Secondly, Gordon Smith was awarded Badge number 1 in recognition of his 1938 100 mile walk time of 20:58:09. This is displayed on our Centurion honour board. The official records have now been updated so that Badge number 1 reflects his 1937 100 mile walk performance of 21:38:04.

It was only in 2019 that Jack Debert's walk was unearthed and he was retrospectively awarded a special Badge 1A. As his 100 mile split was not known, his final 24 Hour distance of 100 Miles 266 Yards has been used to estimate a 100 mile time of approximately 23:59:00.

The first two centurion walks in Australia are now recorded as follows

C1	Gordon Smith	Centennial Park, Sydney	15-16 Oct 1937	21:38:04
C2	Jack Debert	Centennial Park, Sydney	15-16 Oct 1937	23:59:00 (approx)

You can read all about Gordon and Jack in the following two biographies:

Gordon Smith: <http://vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wa-gordon-smith.pdf>
 Jack Debert: <http://www.centurions.org.au/centprofiles/01A%20Jack%20Debert.pdf>

FINANCIAL NEWS

Our bank balance remains good, as we build towards our annual qualifying event in April.

Income	Donation – Terry and Karyn O'Neill	50.00
	Donation – Cathy Cox	60.00
	Bank Interest	0.21
Expenses	Photocopying and Postage	<u>20.00</u>
Bank Balance		2502.43

UNTIL OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

That's it for another month. Lots of news and lots of reading for that quiet night in front of the fire.

Yours in Centurion walking

Tim Erickson (C13), 1 Avoca Crescent, Pascoe Vale, Victoria, Australia, 3044