

# AUSTRALIAN CENTURION RACE WALKERS

Founded 1971

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<http://www.geocities.com/Colosseum/5654>

## 1998 ANNUAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

As our official Centurion year finished on 30 June, it is my pleasant duty to report on the activities that have taken place during the last 12 months and to reflect on the current state of the club and its continuing growth.

The 1997/8 year has been one of considerable activity. Some of the more important events have been

- The continuance of regular newsletters.
- The continuing enthusiastic contributions from many members.
- The continuing financial support being given to the club by members.
- The successful running of the Centurions 24 Hour event in September 1997 in Brisbane. Although the hot weather thwarted any chances of new Centurions, the race went ahead with 8 starters and both Fred Baker and Caleb Maybir walked for the full 24 hours in the oppressive conditions. Our thanks to the Queensland Walkers Club for their efforts in running the event.
- The visit of our most celebrated Centurion, Chris Clegg, coinciding with our Centurion event in September .
- The participation of a team of Victorian based Centurions in the Ballarat Ekiden relay in November. The team came second in the walking section and showed that old Centurions can still compete when it gets tough.
- The participation of many of our members in various competitions during the year, both running and walking.
- The use of our Internet homepage information to let those far afield know of our existence and enthusiasm.
- A widening of our newsletter to include contacts in New Zealand and the secretaries of the British and Dutch Centurions.
- The further strengthening our international ties with the ultra-distance walking scene.
- The issuance of distinctive club polo shirts and cloth badges.

As can be seen from this list of highlights, the year has seen a lot of work from all of us. All these performances and actions work to our advantage as a club. They bring the club into the spotlight within Australia and further afield. People start to know about us and eventually decide to have a go and try to join us by trying for that ultimate feat - walking 100 miles within 24 hours. The future indeed looks good with the largest ever field set to contest our annual 1998 24 hour walk.

This year, however, was marred by the sad death of Centurion Number 2, Jack Webber. It is only fitting that a memorial trophy has been instituted in memory of Jack. This year's annual Centurion event will see the first awarding of this trophy and we are honoured to have Jack's wife Ruth onsite to make the presentation.

We must all ensure by our continued commitment that the club remains a strong presence in the Australian walking scene. Our club should be seen as a very exclusive club that most walkers hope at some time to join.

To fellow members, thanks for your support and friendship during the last 12 months. Let's hope that the next 12 months will be just as productive and exciting for the club.

Lastly, as per our Constitution, our current Office Bearers' length of office have now expired and Tim Thompson steps down as our President. With Dud Pilkington unable to step up to take on the Presidency, the honour moves on to Mike Porter and Stan Jones joins him in the role of incoming Vice President. To Tim and Dud, our thanks for the last 2 years residing in the chair and a welcome to Mike and Stan who take on these important roles.

Yours in walking

Tim Erickson (No 13)