

## AUSTRALIAN CENTURION DETAILS

14. **Claude Martin (15.09.35)**  
08-09 October 1977  
22:42:53.6  
George Knott Athletic Field, Clifton Hill, Victoria

**Claude Martin** is well remembered by those of us who are Victorian based. Claude competed for many years in the famous colours of Collingwood Harriers and competed on numerous times at Federation events in various Victorian teams.

His first centurion attempt was in October 1976 in Adelaide. His form was good - he had recently completed the Mentone 50 mile event in second place behind Tim Thompson, recording a time of 9:27:27. However, he suffered with the springy synthetic track like the rest of the field and was forced to retire in the early hours of Sunday morning, a few miles short of the 50 mile mark. On that occasion, Tim Erickson was the only centurion qualifier.

Come 1977 and the VAWC opted to put on a 24 hour event at the Collingwood Harriers track, the successful venue used in 1975. The main contender was Claude who had just completed a successful winter season of walking and was hopeful of success in his second attempt.

He started out confidently but was shadowed by a young Bill Dyer; they were never separated by more than a handful of laps. The 50 mile splits (10:32:24 for Claude and 10:42:04 for Bill) illustrate this fact. The last few hours of the race proved very interesting with a strong Bill Dyer gradually closing the gap on his older opponent. Claude was, however, able to rally, just holding out the fast finishing youngster to become Australian Centurion 14 with his time of 22:42:53.6. Bill Dyer finished just over 8 minutes behind with 22:50:33.5.



**Claude and Bill congratulate each other after their successful centurion walks in 1977**

Interestingly, Claude was the first person to complete the double of the 100 mile walk and the 100 mile run. He did his 100 mile run at the Aberfeldie Track at Essendon (Victoria) on Australia Day in 1987 and did a time a few minutes slower than he did for his walk. Within a period of less than 2 years, Jim Turnbull, George Audley and Stan Miskin joined him in the run/walk double.

On his retirement, he moved to Queensland and now lives at Gordonvale.