

AUSTRALIAN CENTURION DETAILS

33. **Sue Clements (18/05/1954)**
23:58:40
19-20 September 1998
George Knott Athletic Field, Clifton Hill, Vic

The 1998 Australian Centurions qualifying event, held at the George Knott Athletic Field in Clifton Hill race, saw a large field of 20 entrants, 6 of whom were from overseas. Amongst the overseas contingent was Sue Clements who was already a British Centurion, having qualified as C-950 in 1996 with a time of 23.42.37. So she was always going to be a strong contender in our race but we did not realise how dramatic the contest would be.

As Gerald Manderson, Norm Morris, Yiannis Kouros and Roger Le Moine all qualified easily in front of her, Sue's success was in doubt as she staged her own personal struggle further back. At one stage she looked destined to just miss out on the magical 100 mile distance - she was slowing and projections indicated that she would fall a lap or so short.

With a large crowd urging her on and with the microphone calling the lap times and counting down, she dug deep in the final 2 hours to finish in **23:58:40** – about half a lap to spare! It was certainly an exciting finish and Sue was obviously rapt with the result.

Behind Sue were a whole bevy of walkers with 9 others walking at least 100 km, indicating the depth of the event.

She was so exhausted that she could not come to the presentations in the clubrooms so we had to journey out to Sue and present her with her centurion badge as she recovered on the grass with a beer.



Left: Sue has a beer to celebrate her Centurion qualification
Right: The finishers in 1998 - Roger Le Moine, John Harris, Yiannis Kouros, Gerald Manderson, Sue and Norm Morris

She earned her third centurion badge in 1999 as Continental Centurion number 288, with a time of 23:13:25 so now has 3 centurion badges to her credit.

Although Sue has not returned to Australia since her 1998 trip, she continues with her long distance walking in England and on the Continent and is a key member of the British Centurions.

Earlier this year, she made the trip to Holland for the annual Nacht van Loon op Zand walk, choosing the 15 hour event and completing a distance of 99.650 km.

Sue also walked very well in this year's British Centurion qualifying event, recording a final distance of 97.63 miles. She has lost little over the last 13 years since we saw her in Australia.



Sue in action in Holland in April 2011