

CENTURION FOOTNOTES

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DATES ... DATES ... DATES

The 2025 European year is now in full swing, with the following races (amongst others) coming up soon.

June 3-8, 2025	Paris - Colmar Credit Mutuel 2025	Across France
Jun 21-22, 2025	Parish Walk (85 Miles)	Isle of Man
Jul 15-18, 2025	Nijmegen 4 Day Walk Festival	Nijmegen, NED
	See https://www.4daagse.nl/	

There are still a number of Centurion qualifiers to come.

May 31 - Jun 1, 2025	USA Centurion Qualifier , FANS 24 Hour Carnival	Minneapolis, USA
	See https://fansultraraces.org/Registration	
Jun 7-8, 2025	Continental Centurions Qualifier	Eindhoven, NED
Aug 16-17, 2025	100th English Centurions Qualifier	Lewes, ENG
	This will be a track based walk at the Lewes Leisure Centre, East Sussex	
	See https://centurions1911.org.uk/next-events/100-miles/	

And of course, there are always opportunities on the Australian front. A good starting point is the events page on the AURTA website: <https://www.aura.asn.au/upcoming-events>. Our 4 designated centurion qualifying opportunities are as shown below. The Sri Chinmoy 48H Track Festival has now been completed but the remaining three are still to come.

Mar 21-23, 2025	Sri Chinmoy 48H Track Festival	Canberra, ACT
	See https://au.srichinmoyraces.org/events/48hour	
June 7-8, 2025	Butter24 Track Ultra	Gold Coast, QLD
	See https://raceroster.com/events/2025/94108/butter-24-2025	
Sep 6-7, 2025	SA Track Ultra	Adelaide, SA
	See https://satrackultra.com.au/	
Sep 26-28, 2025	Southern Sydney Track Ultra	Sydney, NSW
	See https://southernsydney24hourultra.com.au/	

And I must also mention the inaugural New Zealand 6 Day Ultra Marathon Festival which will be held at Hagley Park, Christchurch, from 29 September to 6 October 2025. It will feature 6 Day, 72H, 48H and 24H races. Quite a few of our Australian walkers are going across and I might even make the trip myself (I haven't been to NZ in years).

Sep 19-Oct 6, 2025	New Zealand Z 6 Day Ultra Marathon	Christchurch, NZL
	See https://www.nz6dayultramarathon.com/	

24 HEURES DE CHATEAU-THIERRY, CHATEAU-THIERRY, FRANCE, 29-30 MARCH, 2025

The French ultra distance walking season was in full swing by late March, with walkers descending on the French city of Chateau-Thierry, 100km east of Paris, for the 48th edition of the iconic 24 Heures de Chateau-Thierry. The start time of 1PM on the Saturday saw 43 intrepid walkers (26 men and 17 women) toeing the line.

Five weeks after winning the French 24 Hour Championship in Bourges, **Florian Letourneau** was back in action and walking to a comfortable victory with an excellent 196.954 km. He has now won 5 of the last 6 editions of this event (2019, 2022-2025) and looks unbeatable. **David Vandercoilden** finished second with 188.789km, followed by **Jeanick Landormy** with 179.54km. The women's 24H was won by **Sylvie Maison** (167.108km) ahead of **Chloe Raes-Maure** (152.669km).

The 2x6 Hours was won by **Alain Malfondet** with a distance of 104.491 km, ahead of **Mathieu Olivares** and **Thierry Martin**.

Full Results: <http://www.marche-mythique.fr/en-direct/live-Chateau2025.htm#>

24 Hour Walk

1.	LETOURNEAU Florian	Ac chateau thierry	196.954 km	8.206 km/h
2.	VANDERCOILDEN David	Villeneuve d ascq fretin athletisme*	188.789 km	7.866 km/h
3.	LANDORMY Jeanick	Athletic vosges entente clubs*	179.549 km	7.481 km/h
4.	MARECHAL Pascal	Ac chateau thierry	174.567 km	7.274 km/h
5.	MAISON Sylvie (F)	Strasbourg agglomeration athletisme*	167.108 km	6.963 km/h
6.	RAES-MAURE Chloe (F)	Neubourg ac	152.669 km	6.361 km/h
7.	TILLIER Ludovic	Le chesnay-rocquencourt 78 athletisme	152.645 km	6.360 km/h
8.	FAUBERT Stephane	Nl Longueville	150.012 km	6.251 km/h
9.	CAOUDAL-KERLAU Claire (F)	Cm roubaix	149.636 km	6.235 km/h
10.	PUCELLE Jacky	Nl Angers	148.560 km	6.190 km/h
11.	MAURE Rene-jean	Neubourg ac	147.669 km	6.153 km/h
12.	TOP Virginie (F)	Ac chateau thierry	146.765 km	6.115 km/h
13.	CHEKHAB Said	Cyclotourisme	146.334 km	6.097 km/h
14.	DELANGE Dominique	Aj auxerre section marathon	146.308 km	6.096 km/h
15.	BIZARD Claudie (F)	Thiais ac	143.033 km	5.960 km/h
16.	VINCENT Dominique	Nl Noyales	142.360 km	5.932 km/h
17.	DUCRUET Nadia (F)	Ac chateau thierry	137.315 km	5.721 km/h
18.	HAGHEBAERT Eric	Ac chateau thierry	134.919 km	5.622 km/h
19.	ARNAULT Jacques	Neuilly sur marne athletisme	131.786 km	5.491 km/h
20.	ARNAULT Francoise (F)	Neuilly sur marne athletisme	123.618 km	5.151 km/h
21.	SONNOIS Martine (F)	Racing club haut-jura morez	105.718 km	4.405 km/h
22.	VANDENBERGHE Francois	Front runners de paris	104.725 km	4.364 km/h
23.	DE BONTIN Laura (F)	Ea cergy pontoise athletisme *	90.945 km	3.789 km/h
24.	LEPRETRE Lydivine (F)	Cap 21	82.225 km	3.426 km/h
25.	DELARUE Jean-michel	Ac cauffry-liancourt-rant-laig	55.065 km	2.294 km/h
26.	RUIN Herve	Efs reims a. *	50.000 km	2.083 km/h

2x6 Hour Walk

1.	MALFONDET Alain	Nl Paris	104.491 km	8.708 km/h
2.	OLIVARES Mathieu	Neuilly sur marne athletisme	98.156 km	8.180 km/h
3.	MARTIN Thierry	Ac chateau thierry	92.863 km	7.739 km/h
4.	RESONET Guy	Nl Landavran	91.605 km	7.634 km/h
5.	GROS Gildas	Es thaon*	90.749 km	7.562 km/h
6.	MARRADI Muriel (F)	Afa feyzin-venissieux	88.501 km	7.375 km/h
7.	SILVI Nathalie (F)	Nl Barzy-sur-Marne	85.177 km	7.098 km/h
8.	PIERMAY Stephane	Ac chateau thierry	84.387 km	7.032 km/h
9.	GUILLOT Mickael	Ac chateau thierry	83.919 km	6.993 km/h
10.	VINCENT Robert	Ac chateau thierry	82.091 km	6.841 km/h
11.	PANNIER Josiane (F)	Le Havre AC	81.148 km	6.762 km/h
12.	LONGATTE Francois	Es montgeron	75.239 km	6.270 km/h
13.	GALLO Emmanuelle (F)	Nl Trilport	75.069 km	6.256 km/h
14.	PENA Guylaine (F)	Nl Trilport	75.068 km	6.256 km/h
15.	MAURICE Fabienne (F)	Ac chateau thierry	75.065 km	6.255 km/h
16.	HENRY Fabrice	Frijep cor. margny verdon	70.000 km	5.833 km/h
17.	GODIN Gerard	Gien athle marathon	62.150 km	5.179 km/h

6 Hour Walk Saturday

1.	BIZARD PLANCHOT Emilie (F)	Neuilly sur marne athletisme	46.277 km	7.713 km/h
2.	JACOB Marcel	Nl Nogentel	41.563 km	6.927 km/h
3.	MOUGENOT Patrick	Ac chateau thierry	37.248 km	6.208 km/h

6 Hour Walk Sunday

1.	PELLERIN Alain	Ac chateau thierry	47.600 km	7.978 km/h
2.	THEVENIN Pascal	Nl Meaux	43.100 km	7.229 km/h
3.	WEBANCK Francoise (F)	COS Villers	41.400 km	6.912 km/h
4.	MOUGENOT Patrick	Ac chateau thierry	38.900 km	6.528 km/h
5.	FILLIEUX Christian	CA Famenne (BEL)	34.000 km	5.674 km/h



Florian Letourneau and David Vandercoilden



Sylvie Masion and Chloe Raes-Maure

Lots more photos at

https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipPILA_xDb-C6fk_mr_-kLTaCj-aEY67KrmuQb4MaGug1Q1xX6AQzCA0Z-IxfUBaHw?key=UjBLcGhhNFBjdE9QdVZuWGFRcHZYbE82cU5yS2pR

To finish, a bit of history, with the winners of the last 16 races.

Date	Finishers	Male Winner	Time	Female Winner	Time
30.03.2025	(16M, 10F)	Florian Letourneau	196.954 km	Sylvie Maison	167.108 km
31.03.2024	(19M, 6F)	Florian Letourneau	188.669 km	Veronique Bessot	181.074 km
25.03.2023	(8M, 4F)	Florian Letourneau	201.384 km	Morgane Ausello	184.243 km
16.04.2022	(12M, 4F)	Florian Letourneau	201.220 km	Nadia Ducruet	147.904 km
16.10.2021	(10M, 6F)	Alexandre Forestieri	192.145 km	Morgane Ausello	173.442 km
16.03.2019	(14M, 5F)	Florian Letourneau	191.223 km	Sandra Brown	168.527 km
17.03.2018	(18M, 3F)	Philippe Morel	188.529 km	Sandra Brown	169.450 km
25.03.2017	(12M, 5F)	Mathieu Olivares	196.386 km	Tatiana Maslova	169.000 km
26.03.2016	(21M, 12F)	Jean-Marie Rouault	194.472 km	Corinne Fauqueur-Duda	171.138 km
28.03.2015	(21M, 10F)	Eddy Roze	197.757 km	Suzanne Beardmore	173.791 km
29.03.2014	(38M, 5F)	Philippe Morel	198.690 km	Maggy Labylle	169.313 km
23.03.2013	(25M, 6F)	Fabrice Henry	205.632 km	Dominique Alvernhe	172.813 km
31.03.2012	(26M, 8F)	Urbain Girod	203.055 km	Iryna Perevalo	160.730 km
26.03.2011	(33M, 10F)	David Regy	208.485 km	Dominique Alvernhe	182.360 km
27.03.2010	(23M, 5F)	Zoltan Czukur	204.378 km	Sylviane Varin	178.230 km
21.03.2009	(23M, 6F)	David Regy	208.025 km	Dominique Alvernhe	181.950 km

CRAWLEY 24 HOUR TRACK RACE, CRAWLEY, ENGLAND, 12-13 APRIL 2025
SANDRA BROWN IN RECORD BREAKING MODE

There is no stopping English walking legend **Sandra Brown (C36)** who was in action in the Crawley 24 Hour Track Race in early April, setting new W75 World records for 12 Hours (80km) and 100km (15:32:29). And as always, although they are running records, Sandra was in walk mode! Over to Sandra.....

The weekend of 12-13 April saw the Crawley Sussex 24h track race. This excellent event always has an IAU label indicating good organisational standards and thus eligibility for world record attempts. As this year, it has frequently hosted the British 24H championship. The race has long been organised by RRC member Pam Storey. Pam indicated that this would be her final race as organiser. Fortunately, she is optimistic that she will find a successor.

Our daughter Vicky and I signed up for Crawley long ago - before Richard and I spotted and entered the Burgassot 48H race, just 3 weeks before the Crawley event. As always, Crawley was an excellent event and a super weekend, with lots of lovely ultra-runners, officials and helpers. The race always raises funds for a local charity and this year's race was no exception.

I knew in advance of Crawley that it would soon be clear if and how I was affected by doing a hard 48H race just 3 weeks before. Provided I didn't feel too rusty after the 48H, my private agenda for Crawley was to take this opportunity to have a go at the shorter [for me] record of 12H and then keep it going, if possible, to improve my 100km mark. I shared my agenda with Vicky, and she was very game to help me, when necessary, as well as to race herself. I try to be easy and undemanding to support, with quite simple needs; Vicky knows this and has the knack, from long experience, of providing support [crucially ensuring my tea mug is refilled occasionally!] which is spot-on yet unobtrusive and light touch.

I set off purposefully from the start and was pleased to find that I felt fine, despite the 48H; indeed, I felt that the 48H effort had if anything sharpened me. I checked my distance after 4H, and this confirmed that a 12H record could be on if I could keep up a good pace. I was delighted to be able to deliver two WAGR by clear margins, improving Janice O' Grady's 74.8 kms in **12 hours to 80 km**, and improving my own **100 km** [250 laps] time by 50 minutes to **15:32:29**. The 12h distance of 80kms [200 laps] was at 11.59.11.

These record claims will be submitted by the organiser for ratification by the IAU, whose Records Committee also has for consideration other records for 24h, 100 miles and 6 days which I have set over the past year, since turning 75 in April 2024.

Vicky was a star, keeping an eye on my needs as well as completing over 108 kms herself. Doing a race together is our idea of a fun girls' weekend, and as always, we had a great time!

Crawley results are here: <https://www.timingmonkey.co.uk/results/Crawley25/>



Sandra (right) and Vicky (left) at Crawley

For the record, Sandra finished 21st overall (8th woman) with a 24 Hour distance of **138.684km**, not far outside her W75 world record of 145km, set in Brugg last October. That's not too shabby considering her Burgassot race only 3 weeks before and considering that she headed out fast in this race, intend on attacking the 12H and 100m records.

47TH NACHT VAN LOON OP ZAND, LOON OP ZAND, NED, 12-13 APRIL 2025

Loon op Zand, a small municipality and village in the southern Netherlands, has hosted its annual Nacht van Loon op Zand ultra walk for many years now, and 2025 saw the 47th edition of this well known event, organised by WSV Hart van Brabant. The race comes in two flavours. For those more adventurous souls, the 15 hour option beckons. For those not aiming quite so high, there is an 80km option. The race starts at 9PM on the Saturday at the scout hall and walkers then proceed on a series of laps around the town, with the final bell sounding at midday on the Sunday.

This year's event was by Belgian walker **Gino van Belleghem** with 128.3km, ahead of **Detlef Santy**, with 122.6km and **Bart de Vries** with 120.1km. **Wilma Driessen** was the best of the women with 109.1km.

There were lots Centurions from Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands and the list of those doing well included 3 of our European based Australian Centurions **Martin Vos (C79)**, **Marco Bloemerts (C77)** and **Sandra de Graaff (C69)**.

Top finishers - men (those in excess of 80km)

1.	Gino van Belleghem	128,383 km	15:05:00
2.	Detlef Santy	122,622 km	15:01:30
3.	Bart de Vries	120,104 km	15:10:38
4.	Kurt Tempels	109,116 km	15:02:28
5.	Martin Vos	103,355 km	14:58:17
6.	Remco Luhman	103,355 km	14:58:23
7.	Gunter Luypaerts	101,371 km	15:03:50
8.	Johan Stesmans	101,371 km	15:03:50
9.	Kevin Verhoef	100,837 km	15:04:58
10.	Adrie Zoon	100,112 km	15:05:53
11.	Ton van Andel	98,853 km	15:01:40
12.	Arjan Bogerd	94,351 km	14:59:53
13.	An Ramkisoen	94,351 km	15:08:26
14.	Dominique De Wulf	89,849 km	15:05:46
15.	Pier de Haan	80,311 km	10:55:58
16.	Luc Nicque	80,311 km	11:09:54
17.	Zeegeer van den Berg	80,311 km	11:13:24

18. Marco Bloemerts	80,311 km	11:35:10
19. Martijn Jongsma	80,311 km	11:39:53
20. Remy Levink	80,311 km	11:51:47
21. Gino Mastro	80,311 km	12:00:17
22. Wil Boudewijns	80,311 km	12:32:07
23. Rob van Stuivenberg	80,311 km	13:02:39
24. John van Oosterhout	80,311 km	13:13:21
25. Hugo Ranft	80,311 km	13:16:50
26. Bas Kraneveld	80,311 km	13:17:00
27. Marc Henkens	80,311 km	13:23:23
28. Albert Dietvorst	80,311 km	13:28:01
29. Marco van Heel	80,311 km	13:28:01
30. Arjo van der Valk	80,311 km	13:33:05
31. Kai Cheng	80,311 km	13:38:15
32. Jan Dinnissen	80,311 km	13:41:20
33. René Beukema	80,311 km	14:03:30
34. Stephan Hagenus	80,311 km	14:48:05

Top finishers - women (those in excess of 80km)

1. Wilma Driessen	109,116 km	15:04:53
2. Karen Marie Brøgger	103,355 km	15:07:30
3. Jikke Bakker	100,112 km	15:07:21
4. Corina Riezebos-Rijploeg	97,594 km	15:03:40
5. Anja Vonk	91,833 km	14:32:52
6. Sandra de Graaff	91,833 km	15:02:16
7. Jacqueline van Drongelen	87,865 km	15:03:50
8. Rageni Schoop-Sewnarian	84,813 km	14:46:03
9. Jannie Bos	80,311 km	12:04:29
10. Adrie Romijn	80,311 km	12:32:07
11. Meta Sipkens	80,311 km	12:54:47
12. Greet Wagtendonk-Burger	80,311 km	13:01:43
13. Kelly Kuiper	80,311 km	13:04:28
14. Aaf Peters - de Rijk	80,311 km	13:40:27
15. Ine Jehoel	80,311 km	13:46:35

60TH KENNEDY-MARS SITTARD, SITTARD, NETHERLANDS, EASTER SATURDAY 19 APRIL 2025



John F. Kennedy came into office with a goal of improving the health of the American nation as part of his New Frontier policy program. As President-elect, he wrote an article for Sports Illustrated, December 26, 1960, called "The Soft American" which warned that Americans were becoming unfit in a changing world where automation and increased leisure time replaced the benefits of exercise and hard work.

The American public at large took it as a personal challenge from their President and the Kennedy March (walking 80km within 20 hours) was born. The concept soon spread to the UK and, after Dutch television showed images of the Kennedy march craze, the first Dutch walkers were inspired to give it a go.

In the city of Sittard, situated in the most southern province of the Netherlands, four young people decided to complete the march during their Easter holidays. On April 20, 1963, they began their route with 7 friends, beginning and ending in Sittard and covering sections in Germany and Belgium. One girl took a bus in the German town of Heinsberg, but the other 3 girls and 7 boys persisted and finished in 19 hours. They decided immediately to try to do the march again the following year and thus a tradition was born. Today, the Kennedy-Mars Sittard takes place every year on the Easter weekend. The rules are simple

- The distance to be covered is 80km. It must be completed within 20 hours.
- The start is between 5 and 7am on the Saturday. Both start and finish are at the Market Square in Sittard.
- Only walking, marching or speed-walking are permitted. Running is not allowed.

This year more than 8,000 walkers participated in the 60th Sittard event: 2959 in the 80km Kennedy-Mars, 2638 in the 40km Swentibold-Mars and 2578 in the Mini-Mars of 10km. Full results <https://www.kennedymars.org/uitslagen/2025>.

An amazing 850 walkers completed the 80km walk within the required 20 hours. First to finish was **Edwin van Wijngaarden** with a time of 8:18:57 while **Anne van Andel** won the women's race in a new personal best time of 8:53:40 (she was third overall). Pretty good by any measure!

Centurion 592, **Fred Röhner**, was applauded at the finish line, not only for completing his 49th Kennedymars Sittard, but also for the efforts of himself and his wife Tilly in organising the race walking part (time keeping, race walking judges and extra feeding stations) of this famous walking event.

Note that there are about 26 Kennedy Marches in the Netherlands each year. After the *Kennedy March Sittard*, the *Kennedymars Someren* and the *80 van de Langstraat* are the next biggest events in terms of the number of participants. Talk about spoilt for choice!



Edwin van Wijngaarden in action



Out on the route

LES 6 JOURS DE FRANCE GÉRARD CAIN, ANTIBE, FRANCE, 28 APRIL - 4 MAY 2025

Les 6 Hours de France Gerard Cain (see <https://www.6jours-de-france-gerard-cain.fr/>) was held in France in late April. This event, created by Gérard Cain 19 years ago in Antibes, a seaside city in the French Riviera area of SE France, continues to be held annually in that city. It normally brings together 120+ runners and walkers from about twenty countries and this year was no exception. Since 2022, the event has been held at the l'Ardéchois campsite in the commune of Vallon Pont d'Arc. The 1.131km course is entirely flat and paved and conducive to good performance.

The carnival has a range of events – 6 Days, 48 Hours, 24 Hours and 12 Hours. The walk fields are of course smaller than the run fields but were still healthy. I have only been able to find the 6 Day results. Talk about a crappy website! There were 26 entrants in the 6 Day walk, with wins going to **Philippe Clément** (631.261 km) and **Maria Jose Verdaguer** (590.538 km).

6 Day Walk

1.	Clément, Philippe	FRA	1M	631.261 km
2.	Arnault, Jacques	FRA	2M	608.218 km
3.	Resonet, Guy	FRA	3M	592.679 km
4.	Verdaguer, Maria Jose	ARG	1F	590.538 km
5.	Bizard, Claudie	FRA	2F	579.855 km
6.	Maillot, Marc	FRA	4M	565.904 km
7.	Pineau, Laurent	FRA	5M	562.803 km
8.	Freyburger, Sabrina	FRA	3F	552.279 km
9.	Duboscq, Daniel	FRA	6M	522.777 km
10.	Cantet, Nadège	FRA	4F	514.169 km
11.	Biraud, Sylvie	FRA	5F	482.865 km
12.	Linard, Benoit	FRA	7M	476.692 km
13.	Tillier, Ludovic	FRA	8M	440.635 km
14.	Delange, Dominique	FRA	9M	424.613 km
15.	Pothet, Didier	FRA	10M	392.548 km
16.	Velly, Christian	FRA	11M	382.628 km
17.	Arnault, Françoise	FRA	6F	377.437 km
18.	Robert, Jean-pierre	FRA	12M	366.559 km
19.	Odouard, Dominique	FRA	13M	352.944 km
20.	Mcchesney, Richard	NZL	14M	330.806 km
21.	Crilley, Kathy	GBR	7F	312.291 km
22.	Laneau, Maxime	FRA	15M	304.261 km
23.	Rateaux, Floriane	FRA	8F	282.981 km
24.	Torres de mingo, Michel	FRA	16M	261.037 km
25.	Galvez, Florence	FRA	9F	213.973 km
26.	Blanc, Eric	FRA	17M	161.719 km

NZ CENTURIONS QUALIFIER, NZ SRI SHINMOY 24 HOUR CARNIVAL, NZ, MAY 10-11, 2025

Our next report is for the annual NZ Centurions qualifying event which was held in conjunction with the NZ Sri Chinmoy 24H Championships in Auckland on 10-11 May (see <https://nz.srichinmoyraces.org/races/auck/24hr> and <https://www.nzcenturions.nz/nzcenturions/>).

Well done to Dutch walker **Jantinus Meints** on qualifying for NZC badge 32 (23:44:53) and well done to **Richard Young** (NZC 28) who missed out on a second centurion finish but who did set a number of NZ age group walk records along the way. Jantinus is already an Australian Centurion (C73 2018) and, with his NZ finish, he now has all 6 available centurion badges - Australia, Britain, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa and the US.

Thanks to NZ Centurions Secretary Philip Sharp for his usual insightful and thorough report.

The 2025 New Zealand Centurion Qualifier was held at the AUT Millennium Stadium, Auckland from 9am Saturday 10th May to 9am Sunday 11th May. The qualifier was part of the Sri Chinmoy 6-12-24 hours races that are held annually in Auckland. The 24-hour run doubled at the New Zealand 24-hour championship. The track used in the races had been re-laid November of last year and performed well.

As I have come to expect, the event was very well run by the Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team (SCMT). This year two independent timing mats were used, an improvement over the one timing mat used last year. The use of a second timing mat meant fewer people were required for the manual lap counting.

The weather was good for the entire race. There was no rain, no strong wind and the temperature dropped to no lower than 9C during the night. The story would have been different had the race started the previous day (Friday) - heavy rain and wind gusts up to 100 kph. This bad weather made it difficult for the SCMT to set up the tents. The strong wind broke a tent guy line. This led to a tent pole breaking. The race director Simahin Pierce spent two and half hours getting a replacement tent.

There were two walkers in the qualifier. **Jantinus Meints** from the Netherlands and **Richard Young** from Christchurch, New Zealand. Jantinus was aiming to be the sixth walker to have the centurion designation from Australia, Britain, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa and the US. Richard (NZC28, 2020) had seen that there were no New Zealand track records for his age group M65-69 for 50 miles, 100 kilometres, 100 miles, six hours, 12 hours and 24 hours, and his goal was to establish records for most, if not all, of these distances or times.

Jantinus and Richard started with laps of 2:50 and 3:15 respectively. Forty-eight runners began with Jantinus and Richard. A little surprisingly for me, some runners ran in the third or fourth lane instead of hugging the pole line where reasonable. In addition, some runners when walking moved out to the outside edge of lane one instead of sticking to the pole line. This meant runners had to sometimes weave between slower athletes and even run on the inside of the track on the home straight. Fortunately, there were no collisions, and from what I saw Jantinus and Richard were unhindered by the congestion.

Jantinus and Richard reached 50 km at 6:21 and 7:07 respectively. Jantinus then reached 100 km at 13:52 and I was very confident at that point he would get his New Zealand Centurion designation. As I describe below, there was a complication near the end of the race. Richard reached 100 km at 15:11. During the next 50 kilometres, both walkers slowed noticeably with Jantinus slowing more than Richard. At one point, Richard was doing laps of 3:40 and Jantinus laps of 3:45. Jantinus took an eight-minute break to give his knees a rest. Jantinus reached 150 kilometres at 21:55. This meant he had 125 minutes to walk 11 kilometres. At 22:35, David Sim who was the Athletics New Zealand referee for the 24-hour championship and I noticed Jantinus and Richard were walking slowly. David timed the next two laps and found the walkers were doing 4:00 laps.

A little later I asked Jantinus's wife how he was going. She said that he had just four or five laps left. I realised there had been a miscommunication. I confirmed with Simahin that Jantinus had around four kilometres left to walk. I told Jantinus this and everything worked out. Jantinus completed the 100 miles in **23:44:53** to become New Zealand Centurion #32. After a very short celebration, Jantinus continued on and reached 161.734 km after 24 hours.

Richard reached 150km at 23:31 and 152.946km after 24 hours. I can say at this stage that unofficially, Richard has established New Zealand track records for the M65-69 age group for 50 miles, 100 kilometres, six hours, 12 hours and 24 hours. Well done Jantinus and Richard!



Jantinus reaches the 100 mile mark

MIKE PORTER IS FAST APPROACHING ANOTHER CENTURION MILESTONE

As discussed in the last newsletter, our oldest Australian Centurion, **Mike Porter (C9)**, is rapidly closing on a second centurion milestone – 100 years of age. Mike was born on 6th June 1925 and has about 3 weeks to go to the big day, so I am sure he must be in pretty serious countdown mode at the moment.

Mike qualified as an Australian Centurion in October 1975 at the George Knott Athletic Track in Clifton Hill with a time of **21:45:47**. I was there on the day but have known Mike for even longer, as we were both members of the Victorian Race Walking Club and competed against each other on the track and road.

Mike was one of 4 walkers to qualify on that day

C9	Mike Porter	50	Frankston A. A. Club.	21:45:47
C10	Stan Jones	50	St. Stephens Harriers.	22:04:59
C11	Chris Clegg	58	USA	22:34:14
C12	John Harris	25	Queensland	23:18:15

The photo of Mike finishing the race says it all. His arms are held outstretched above his head in victory. Rarely does a photo show a more pleased competitor celebrating the ultimate achievement.



Michael Aloysius Porter

invites you
to join him in celebrating his 100 birthday
on Friday 6th of June
from 12 noon

at the Lockington Community Hotel
1 Archibald St. Lockington VIC 3563

RSVP by Friday 30th May to (nephew) Darren Carnie
by calling or texting 0428 862 292

*Please no presents, your presence will be the best gift
All guests are responsible for their food and drinks*

A number of us Victorian based centurions will be travelling to Lockington in country Victoria on Friday 6th June to join Mike and his family in celebration.

As an aside, I am aware of a couple of other walkers who have reached that wonderful milestone

- English Centurion, Olympian and Centenarian **Bill Brown** who reached the age of 100 in 1978
<https://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wo-bill-brown.pdf>
- Victorian walker, coach and author **Frank McGuire** who reached the age of 100 in 2012
<https://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wv-frank-mcguire.pdf>

I would love to know of any others.

CLARRIE AND IAN JACK CELEBRATE THEIR 80TH BIRTHDAYS

And talking of birthdays, centurions were to the fore to help the Jack twins celebrate their 80th birthdays. **Ian Jack (C17)** and **Clarrie Jack (C4)** are amongst our most decorated centurions, sharing our 50 Miles and 100 Miles Open Records between them.

- Clarrie qualified in 1971 with a time of 20:39:45 and had a long career as a top racewalker from 1971 to 1986. Perhaps his greatest walk was in 1979 when he set a new Australian 50 Mile Walk record of **7:57:57**.
Read more at <http://centurions.org.au/centprofiles/04%20clarrie%20jack.pdf>
- Ian qualified in 1978 with an Australian record 100 Miles time of **17:59:30**.
Read more at <http://centurions.org.au/centprofiles/17%20ian%20jack.pdf>.

After all these years, both records still stand.

And here we all are in May at the big birthday bash.



Centurions all – Stu Cooper, Bill Dyer, Mark Wall (back home from England on a holiday), Karyn O'Neill, Ian Jack, Tim Erickson, Clarrie Jack, Terry O'Neill

UNTIL OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Lots of news once again in our latest newsletter. I hope everyone enjoys the read. And dust off those shoes for a walk!

With kind regards

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