

CENTURION FOOTNOTES

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ENTRIES ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE 2026 CENTURION QUALIFIER

Southern Sydney Track Ultra
Campbelltown Athletics Track, Sydney
Saturday 4 - Sunday 5 July 2026

This is the official 2026 Australian Centurions Qualifier
Come and join us in Sydney in July 2026 - great weather, great racing,
great post-race holidaying!

Walk events include
24 Hour Walk (including Centurion 100 Mile)
12 Hour Walk
6 Hour Walk
3 Hour Walk

Racewalking Australia 100 km Walk Championships

I start this newsletter with a reminder that our annual qualifying race returns this year and will be held in conjunction with the **Southern Sydney Track Ultra** at the Campbelltown Athletics Track in Sydney on the weekend of **4-5 July**. I have been going to this event for some years now and can attest to its quality which is top notch. And I'll be there again this year to help support and cheer on all the walkers.

This is our preferred and fully supported option for anyone wishing to try for Australian Centurion membership in 2026. The carnival offers a whole range of walking options – 24 Hours, 12 Hours, 6 Hours and 3 Hours – and all categories will include trophies for placegetters. Further, all entrants in the 24 Hour and 12 Hour races are automatically eligible to contest the Racewalking Australia 100 km Walk Championships. We will be there to fully support all walkers and to recognise their efforts (and hopefully hand out plenty of new Australian Centurion Badges).

Entries are still open so get your entry in asap. Just point your browser to <https://southernsydneytrackultra.com.au/> and sign up. You can check out the current entry list at <https://www.onlineentry.com.au/AppEntrant.aspx?Eventid=5703>. With just under 4 weeks to go, there are 120 competitors so far, including 13 walkers. The walks list is as follows:

24 HOUR WALK

David Billett (C56)
Richard Fletcher
David Hamaty
Sabina Hamaty (C86)
John Kilmartin (C67)

Joffrid Mackett (C82)
Greg Ponych
John Rosenzweig
Paul Sweet
Frank van der Gulik (NED)

12 HOUR WALK

Suean Fitton

6 HOUR WALK

Lorraine Billett
Kerry Bray
Tammy Conwell

Just as at Coburg, walkers will have their own dedicated walking lane (Lane 7). What better place to be in 2026 than Australia's premier tourist destination!

DATES ... DATES ... DATES

Some key 2026 dates are already known, including 4 of the annual Centurion qualifying races (Continental, New Zealand, US and Australian). Interestingly, there will be no English Centurions qualifier in 2026 but they plan to be back in 2027 – read the announcement at <https://centurions1911.org.uk/postponement-2026-100-mile-race/>.

Jun 1-7, 2026	Paris-Colmar Classic (100 th anniversary edition)	Across France
Jun 6-7, 2026	FANS 24 Hour Race	Bloomington, USA
	Including 2026 US Centurions Qualifier	
Jun 20-21, 2026	Manx Telecom Parish Walk	Isle of Man
Jun 27-28, 2026	24 Heures de Haute-Saintonge	Montguyon, FRA
Jul 4-5, 2026	Southern Sydney Track Ultra	Sydney, NSW
	Including 2026 Australian Centurions Qualifier	

And of course, there are always opportunities on the Australian front. A good starting point is the 2026 events page on the AUTRA website: <https://www.autra.asn.au/upcoming-2026>.

Jun 20-21, 2026	Adelaide 24 Hour Festival (24H, 12H, 6H, 3H)	Adelaide, SA
Jul 4-5, 2026	Southern Sydney Track Ultra (24H, 12hH 6H, 3H, Marathon)	Sydney, NSW
	Including 2026 Australian Centurions Qualifier	
Aug 29, 2026	SA Track Ultra (24H, 100M, 100km, 50M, 50km)	Adelaide, SA
Sep 27, 2026	Australian 6 Day Ultra Marathon Festival	Adelaide, SA

OUT AND ABOUT

I rang **Mike Porter (C9)** to mark his 101st birthday a few days ago. Mike is still going well, still living in his own home in Moama in county Victoria, and still vitally interested in the Centurions. Mike sends his warmest regards to all those who remember him.

Sue Clements let me know that **Jill Green (C38)** has had some bad luck. Sue writes

Jill is recovering from a hip fracture sustained a few weeks ago. Her partner Jim is looking after their home on the Isle of Wight. A full recovery will take some time but Jill retains her positive outlook and looks forward to eventually being able to walk without the use of crutches.

All the best Jill for a speedy recover.

David Billett (C50) continued his rich vein of recent good form with a fine third place in the *No Time to Die Frontyard Ultra* which was held in Victoria Park, Adelaide, in mid May. For those who don't know, this sort of ultra requires competitors to cover a laps of 6.706 kilometres each and every hour. The lap distance ensures that if a competitor runs for 24 hours, he reaches a distance of 100 miles. Competitors must repeat the lap every hour until only one person completes a full lap - hence the more well known name of *Last One Standing*. David finished third overall with a total of 44 laps (hence a distance of **295.24km**) in 44 hours. That shows that David has recovered well from his recent 6 Day Walk in Christchurch and it augurs well for next month's Australian Centurion qualifier in Sydney.

LES 6 JOURS DE FRANCE GERARD CAIN, VALLON PONT D'ARC, FRANCE, 5-11 MAY 2026

Les 6 Jours de France (see <https://www.6jours-de-france-gerard-cain.fr/>), is an ultra distance competition held annually in Vallon-Pont-d'Arc in southern France. It was first held in 2006 in Antibes under the direction of Gérard Cain. That first edition saw 25 participants representing 3 countries (France, the Netherlands and the United States). In 2009, a walking category was added to the race.

It is the longest official loop race in France, and now one of the largest 6-day races in the world, with large high quality fields (up to 150 or more runners and walkers). The 1131.28m loop, entirely located within Parc l'Ardéchois, is completely flat and paved and has seen some great performances over the years.

The winners of the previous 6 Day walk races read as follows, as per https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/6_jours_de_France.

2025	Clement Philip	631.261 km	Maria Jose Verdagner	590.538 km
2024	Richard McChesney	671.029 km	Yolanda Holder	641.060 km
2023	Richard McChesney	711.299 km	Claudie Bizard	605.900 km
2022	Richard McChesney	667.357 km	Sylvie Tortey	636.921 km
2020	Christophe Biet	600.960 km	Claudie Bizard	586.147 km
2019				
2018	Patrick Cailleaux	607.316 km	Claudie Bizard	563.949 km
2017	Philippe Clement	650.123 km	Claudie Bizard	624.339 km
2016	Christophe Biet	649.079 km	Claudie Bizard	608.350 km
2015	Dominique Bunel	752.271 km	Josiane Pannier	523.848 km
2014	Christian Mauduit	710.060 km	Claudine Anxionatte	620.276 km
2013	Bernardo Jose - Mora	607.059 km	Sylviane Varin	544.692 km
2012	Bernardo Jose - Mora	581.182 km	Martina Hausmann	552.498 km
2011	Dominique Naumowicz	665.225 km	Nicoletta Mizera	616.025 km
2010	Alain Grassi	701.892 km	Josiane Pannier	473.972 km
2009	Bernardo Jose - Mora	637.230 km	Simone Niclass	228.009 km

This year French walkers **Pavone Fabrizio** (704.387km) and **Karine Zeimer** (649.611km) won the 6 Day Walk categories with outstanding performances. Results as per <https://www.6jours-de-france-gerard-cain.fr/classements-live>:

1.	FABRIZIO, Pavone	FRA	M	704.387 km	623 laps
2.	ZEIMER, Karine	FRA	F	649.611 km	575 laps
3.	CLEMENT, Philippe	FRA	M	609.907 km	540 laps
4.	MAILLOT, Marc	FRA	M	586.150 km	519 laps
5.	BIZARD, Claudie	FRA	F	575.037 km	509 laps
6.	PINEAU, Laurent	FRA	M	566.783 km	502 laps
7.	RASMUSSEN, Marcia	USA	F	518.118 km	459 laps
8.	TILLIER, Ludovic	FRA	M	509.948 km	451 laps
9.	DELvANGE, Dominique	FRA	M	452.679 km	401 laps
10.	BIRAUD, Sylvie	FRA	F	417.232 km	369 laps
11.	COVES, Christine	FRA	F	410.161 km	363 laps
12.	ROBERT, Jean-Pierre	FRA	M	401.596 km	356 laps
13.	GIORIA, Stéphane	FRA	M	391.414 km	347 laps
14.	SAUTAI, Stéphanie	FRA	F	379.227 km	336 laps
15.	PERCHOC, Françoise	FRA	F	33.885 km	30 laps



Karine Zeimer, Marcia Rasmussen and Claudie Bizard



Pavone Abrizio, Marc Maillot and Philippe Clement

More photos at <https://www.facebook.com/ultrarunningorganisation/>.

To put their wins into a world perspective, Fabrizio's distance of 704.387km is the sixth best male time ever and Zeimer's distance of 649.611km is the third best female time ever. Richard McChesney has already updated the World 6 Day ranking list on his 6 Day Walk website: <https://6dayracewalking.com/overall-rankings/>. Here is where the two winning performances slot into the rankings.

6 Day World Ranking Women

			Age	Distance	Venue		Finish Date
1.	Alicia Heron	AUS	42	691.801 km	Christchurch	NZL	05/10/2025
2.	Yolanda Holder	USA	61	665.175 km	Milwaukee	USA	31/08/2019
3.	Karine Zeimer	FRA	55	649.611 km	Vallon Pont d'Arc	FRA	11/05/2026
4.	Sabina Hamaty	AUS/GER	56	638.369 km	Christchurch	NZL	05/10/2025
5.	Sylvie Tortey	FRA	57	636.921 km	Vallon Pont d'Arc	FRA	13/05/2022
6.	Claudie Bizard	FRA	62	627.592 km	Vallon Pont d'Arc	FRA	13/05/2022
7.	Claudine Anxionnat	FRA	63	620.276 km	Privas	FRA	24/10/2014
8.	Claudie Bizard	FRA	60	620.265 km	Privas	FRA	24/08/2019
9.	Nicoletta Mizera	ITA	46	616.025 km	Antibes	FRA	11/06/2011
10.	Sandra Brown	GBR	73	610.964 km	Balatonfured	HUN	14/09/2022

6 Day World Ranking Men

			Age	Distance	Venue		Finish Date
1.	Ivo Majetic	CZE/USA	49	786.744 km	Balatonfured	HUN	09/05/2018
2.	Dominique Bunel	FRA	46	752.271 km	Privas	FRA	08/08/2015
3.	John Dowling	IRE	54	744.176 km	Stoke-On-Trent	GBR	26/05/1984
4.	Richard McChesney	NZL	54	711.299 km	Vallon Pont d'Arc	FRA	21/04/2023
5.	Christian Mauduit	FRA	39	710.060 km	Privas	FRA	24/10/2014
6.	Fabrizio Pavone	ITA	52	704.387 km	Vallon Pont d'Arc	FRA	11/05/2026
7.	Daniel Duboscq	FRA	60	703.133 km	Privas	FRA	08/08/2015
8.	Alain Grassi	FRA	50	701.892 km	Antibes	FRA	12/06/2010
9.	Robert Davidson	USA	36	687.189 km	Arizona	USA	02/01/1985
10.	Trishul Cherns	CAN	66	677.533 km	Augusta	USA	14/05/2023

A BIG WEEKEND IN EUROPE AND ENGLAND: MAY 23-24 2026

The weekend of 23-24 May saw some of the most famous walking events in Europe. On the Friday, walkers started the first of four stages (80, 75, 78 and 59km) from Paris to the Belgian town of Tubize. On the Saturday, the Continental Centurions 24H event started in Schiedam in the Netherlands and the Long Distance Walking Association (LDWA) started its annual 100 Mile walk in England. I report on these events in the following pages.

RWV WANDELWEEKEND, SCHIEDAM. NETHERLANDS, MAY 23-24, 2026

The first of the three big events for discussion that weekend is the RWV Wandelweekend which included the 2026 Continental Centurions Qualifier.

Past readers will know that the Continental Centurions qualifier swaps between the Dutch cities of Weert (in odd years) and Schiedam (in even years). As 2026 is an even year, it was the turn of the RWV club to host the race around Beatrix Park in Schiedam. It is always held on the weekend marking the Feast of the Pentecost.

The carnival included the 24 hours walk, a 100km walk, a 50 miles walk and a 50km walk. These events are the only opportunity to obtain the Continental Centurion title, the Honderdman title or the Kennedyvriend title.

Let's start with the centurion qualifiers, all done in the 24 Hour walk. There were 10 in all, with 7 of them first time Continental Centurions (CC510-CC516). The first to read the milestone was **Jan 't Mannetje** with a time of 20:59:22, ahead of **Kris Hellem** and **Detlef Santy**. Of the 10 centurions, 4 were Dutch and 6 were Belgian. You can check out the full list of Continental Centurions at <http://centurions.org.au/documents/List%20of%20Continental%20Centurions.pdf>.

100 Miles Walk

1.	Jan 't Mannetje	NED	20:59:22	CC 494
2.	Kris Hellem	BEL	21:44:49	CC 510
3.	Detlef Santy	BEL	21:49:39	CC 511
4.	Leon Pullens	NED	22:21:14	CC 512
5.	Bruno De Troch	BEL	23:15:20	CC 513
6.	Peter Asselman	BEL	23:32:27	CC 422
7.	Guido Vermeir	BEL	23:32:28	CC 380
8.	Ron Zaal	NED	23:41:52	CC 514
9.	Marco van Oort	NED	23:47:03	CC 515
10.	Gunter Ooms	BEL	23:47:03	CC 516

And now onto a discussion of the 24 Hour walk which was contested in very tough hot conditions. The midday start meant that competitors had a long first day of heat, with quite a few dropping by the wayside. Fortunately there was shade in the park and a bit of a breeze so it was not as bad as it could have been, although still tough. **Jan 't Mannetje**, who was well ahead at the 100 mile mark, enjoyed a short rest stop at that stage, before rejoining the race and going on to win overall with a distance of 179.100km, ahead of **Detlef Santy** with 175.296km and **Bruno De Troch** with 164.739km. **Rageni Schoop-Sewnarain** was the only female finisher, with a distance of 128.654km.

Event website: <https://www.rotterdamsewandelsportvereniging.nl/events/wandelweekend/>

Full results: <https://www.rotterdamsewandelsportvereniging.nl/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/uitslag-WW2026.pdf>

Splits: <https://www.rotterdamsewandelsportvereniging.nl/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/rondetijden-2026.pdf>

Youtube footage: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sa3eCIEGeMc>

24 Hours Walk	100km Split	Final Distance	Final Time	CC Number
1. Jan 't Mannetje	12:27:55	179.100 km	24:00:33	494
2. Detlef Santy	13:17:31	175.296 km	24:00:33	511
3. Bruno De Troch	13:53:03	164.739 km	23:59:37	513
4. Kris Hellem	13:34:25	160.934 km	21:44:49	510
5. Leon Pullens	13:05:56	160.934 km	22:21:14	512
6. Peter Asselman	13:50:54	160.934 km	23:32:27	422
7. Guido Vermeir	13:50:56	160.934 km	23:32:28	380
8. Ron Zaal	14:20:01	160.934 km	23:41:52	514
9. Marco van Oort	14:18:37	160.934 km	23:47:03	515
10. Gunter Ooms	14:33:10	160.934 km	23:47:03	516
11. Rob van Stuivenberg	16:26:26	142.891 km	24:05:13	
12. Jesenko Ajanovic	16:55:46	133.441 km	24:06:50	

13.	Rageni Schoop-Sewnarain (F)	17:58:13	128.654 km	24:03:20	
14.	John Haars	16:58:40	126.689 km	22:10:28	
15.	Tonny Wijsbeek	19:05:41	117.239 km	24:03:20	
16.	Cristian Fernandez	18:56:08	115.274 km	22:22:33	471
	René Beukema	19:13:45	107.664 km	20:43:33	
	Dennis van Gerven		96.250 km	18:40:53	
	Remco Lührman		88.640 km	12:59:01	502
	Mario Potappel		84.835 km	14:19:03	
	Frank van der Gulik		65.810 km	8:33:54	343
	Jeroen Liefhebber		62.005 km	10:09:50	
	Larissa Droogendijk (F)		62.005 km	11:09:23	461
	Antoine Hunting		58.200 km	8:56:32	397
	Peter Van Hove		58.200 km	9:35:56	
	Arjo van der Valk		42.980 km	7:30:23	
	Sailash Shah		42.980 km	8:20:39	
	Jantinus Meints		35.370 km	4:47:05	388
	Pier de Haan		35.370 km	5:06:03	
	Cor Brasser		35.370 km	6:22:32	
	David Zaal		27.760 km	3:50:26	

The **Honderdman** title is awarded to any walker who completes 100km within 11.5 hours. The title was first awarded in 1959, with a limit time of 12 hours, but in 1963, the required time was reduced to 11 hours and 30 mins. This year, with the hot weather, there were no new Hondredmen from the 24 Hour entrants but there was a chance that someone in the 100km, which started at 6PM on the Saturday evening, might manage the feat. Alas, Eric Lansu was closest with 11:31:19 – nearly there! See the full Honderdman list at <https://www.centurionverenigingnederland.nl/lijsthon.htm>.

100km Walk

1.	Eric Lansu	100.000 km	11:31:19
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Like the Hondredman badge, the **Kennedyvriend** badge can also be won in this meet. It is awarded to any walker who completes 50 miles within 12 hours. There is a special 50 Mile race associated with this badge and this year it started at 8PM on the Saturday evening. With the cooler overnight weather, the results were good, with 13 new KV badges awarded and with 24 finishers overall. Danny Schildt was the first to finish, with a time of 10:22:25.

50 Miles Walk

1.	Danny Schildt	80.467 km	10:22:25	KV 534
2.	Jan Pijpers	80.467 km	10:36:11	KV 535
3.	Jasper Geurts	80.467 km	10:44:50	KV 536
4.	Jacqueline van Drongelen (F)	80.467 km	10:58:01	KV 488
5.	Jos Boot	80.467 km	10:59:20	KV 500
6.	Kurt Tempels	80.467 km	11:04:02	KV 537
7.	Richard Kraan	80.467 km	11:04:43	KV 538
8.	Ton van Andel	80.467 km	11:07:46	KV 342
9.	Christiaan Kies	80.467 km	11:09:58	KV 539
10.	Boetje Huliselan	80.467 km	11:28:03	KV 281
11.	Frans Leijtens	80.467 km	11:29:05	KV 314
12.	Wilfried van Bremen	80.467 km	11:38:04	KV 540
13.	Marco Timmermans	80.467 km	11:38:44	KV 541
14.	Niek Noorlandt	80.467 km	11:39:18	KV 542
15.	Gustav Rober	80.467 km	11:45:35	KV 543
16.	Pascal Dimmendaal	80.467 km	11:46:07	KV 544
17.	Arjen de Boer	80.467 km	11:52:44	KV 545
18.	Mickey Campaniello	80.467 km	11:53:01	KV 546
19.	Gerard van Amelsvoord	80.467 km	12:36:47	
20.	Jan Dinnissen	80.467 km	13:13:40	KV 305
21.	Kai Cheng	80.467 km	13:40:13	
22.	Bunyamin Karasu	80.467 km	14:27:14	KV 444
23.	Maarten van der Meer	80.467 km	14:58:58	
24.	Aaf Peters de Rijk (F)	80.467 km	16:04:44	KV 355
	Roswitha Riezebos (F)	69.052 km	10:09:00	
	Pauline de Jong (F)	65.247 km	11:12:40	
	Jason Brevé	53.832 km	9:44:26	

Rob Tersteeg	34.807 km	4:54:55	KV 379
Appie Bos	19.587 km	3:09:22	KV 353

Finally, a 50km walk was held to round out the full program of events. It saw **Robin Jans** win with 6:37:14.

50km Walk

1. Robin Jans	50.000 km	6:37:14
2. Raphael Lemmens	50.000 km	7:11:18
3. Meta Sipkens (F)	50.000 km	7:44:47
4. David Hoben	50.000 km	8:09:01
5. Jan van Kampen	50.000 km	8:18:02
Arjan Bogerd	30.975 km	5:03:04
Colin Moore	27.170 km	4:03:50
Andrea Kivits (F)	15.755 km	2:04:12
Erwin van den Bosch	11.950 km	1:43:34

Alas, no photos to share.

LDWA HUNNYPOT HUNDRED, NORTH DOWNS, ENGLAND, 23-25 MAY 2026

The second of the big 3 events on that weekend was the Hunnypot Hundred.

The Long Distance Walkers Association (LDWA - <https://ldwa.org.uk/>) is a British not for profit, volunteer-led association whose aim is to further the common interests of those who enjoy Long Distance Walking in the rural, urban, mountainous, coastal and moorland areas of Britain. The LDWA has over 40 local groups, which organise challenge events and social walks. It publishes a journal, *Strider*, three times a year, and maintains a data base of long-distance paths, and registers of achievements in hillwalking and trail walking. It's a big show!

Walks fall into two categories:

- Social walks are normally led walks of anything up to 30 miles in length and recorded on the social walk database available to members.
- Challenge events are normally between 20 and 100 miles, self-led (participants navigate the route based on written instructions, within a time limit). Challenge events are marshalled: participants must call in at clipper points or checkpoints to get a tally card punched to show they are following the route.

The annual "Hundred" is the LDWA's flagship event and has been recognised as the longest-running 100-mile ultramarathon in the world, although it is not a race. It is held every year in a different part of the country, on the late May bank holiday, when up to 500 people gather to walk or run 100 miles in a maximum 48 hours. All participants must have completed a qualifying event of at least 50 miles. The first 100-mile event held was the *Downsman 100* in 1973.

This year's event, labelled the **Hunnypot Hundred** (see <https://ldwa.org.uk/2026Hundred>), started on Saturday 23rd May and entrants had until Monday to finish their trail walk through the North Downs. As usual, this year's event had around 500 starters but what made it even tougher than usual was the extreme weather conditions faced throughout the challenge. So kudos to all those who finished. In particular, well done to the amazing **Sandra Brown (C36)** who completed her 25th LDWA hundred this year, a feat which will take a lot of beating. Thanks to Sandra for this report.

The annual LDWA 100 miles off-road challenge event was held as usual over the late May weekend. Called the "Hunnypot 100", and organised by the LDWA Kent Group, the event celebrated the centenary of the publication of the lovely book "Winnie the Pooh". The route was designed to visit sites which feature in the story including Pooh Sticks Bridge, Eeyore's Gloomy Place, and "Where the Woozels weren't." The certificate for completing the event had Winnie the Pooh, with his hunnypot, surveying the Ashdown Forest landscape complete with heffalumps!

Over that weekend, the UK experienced an exceptional heatwave, each day setting new record temperatures, and the UK was warmer than Southern Europe and the Mediterranean. The south-east corner of the UK, Kent and Sussex, bore the brunt of the heatwave – and that's where the 100 took place! I survived what was quickly dubbed the "Heatwave 100" and the "Hotpot 100". But the word of the weekend was "brutal" and the retirement rate of 56% well exceeded that of the famous or infamous Welsh Valleys 100 when it poured with rain almost the whole time. The ascent totalling over 11,000 feet was tough, especially in the final 20 miles, and the going was often hard and rough following dry weather. The record-breaking temperatures "did" for many participants,

partly because many walkers felt unable to eat or drink. There was a lot of spare food, which I'm glad to say benefitted local food banks. With a few hours to go, I succumbed to the dreaded lean, only the third time ever over many years. I knew I had plenty of time, so I took it steadily, enjoyed a break at each checkpoint, kept going and kept smiling, and of course I was delighted to finish. My time was slow, but that's irrelevant. I was one of the finishers, in a 100 that no-one will forget.

As always, this was a great gathering of the LDWA and it was a joy to meet with so many old friends at HQ, CPs and en route. I've loved and enjoyed every 100 I've done, and I appreciate all the hard work put in by the LDWA organising groups and all the volunteers who make possible our flagship 100 miles event year after year. Having been a member of an organising committee, for the 2016 Dorset LDWA 100, I know the commitment and hard work involved, over years before the event, culminating in the event weekend. One thing I love about our 100s is that they are all different. Each 100 showcases its local area, landscape and communities, places of interest. Every year, I just can't wait to go there, and every year I come away looking forward to the next! I'm making plans for the East Devon 100 in 2027.

Other LDWA events I've enjoyed this Spring have included the February "Winter Poppy Line" 50 miles [the Poppy Line is a heritage railway in rural, historic north Norfolk], a biennial event I love, and a tough 52 miles in Somerset's Mendip Hills, an area of fine landscapes, lovely villages, the spectacular Cheddar Gorge [we walked along the rim before descending into Cheddar village, home of cheddar cheese] and England's smallest city, the intimate, ancient city of Wells, dominated by its great medieval cathedral. In April, I enjoyed a tough, hilly 35 miles plus in Wiltshire, a route around one of England's most important prehistoric landscapes taking in sites like Avebury's impressive neolithic stone circles and avenue of standing stones, the Giant's Grave, the great earthwork of Silbury Hill, and the Pewsey Vale White Horses carved into the hillsides. And I stayed in a simple room above a microbrewery behind an old village pub – what's not to like!

With very best wishes as always to all fellow Australian Centurions. Sandra AUSC 36.

See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vF8da4gyt4> for a fantastic youtube video put together by one of the competitors.

51ST PARIS TO TUBIZE, FRANCE TO BELGIUM, 22-25 MAY 2026

The third of the big events on that same weekend was the annual Paris to Tubize Stage walk. This is an international multi-day walking and hiking event that spans 292 km across France into Belgium. The 51st edition of the event was held over the Pentecost weekend, spanning four days from May 22 through May 25.

Like the other events on this same weekend, conditions were hot, hot, hot, and the walkers suffered through a tough 4 days. I knew that **Sue Clements (C35)** was participating so I asked her for a race report...thanks Sue and well done!



In May I took part in the 51st edition of the annual Paris to Tubize (Belgium) walk organised by "Les Roses Noires" in Tubize.

Over the course of 4 days we walked a total distance of 292 kms on a route that showcases villages and splendid open countryside views. Each day our main luggage was transported to the next overnight stop in a sports hall where we showered, ate, then got our heads down for a short night's sleep. Each morning the lights were turned on at 02:00 am to ensure everybody was ready to go again at 04:00am.

The daily “Parcours” was:

Day 1:	Paris to Couliosy	81.1 kms
Day 2:	Couliosy to Ribemont	74.6 kms
Day 3:	Ribemont to Feignies	78.9 kms
Day 4:	Feignies to Tubize	61.0 kms

Details of each stage can be found at www.paristubize.clubeo.com under “Parcours”.

This popular walk attracted walkers of 7 nationalities of which a number were Centurions. It is great way to experience walking consecutive days through undulating countryside. Unfortunately the temperature took its toll on some of the walkers and around 10 retired but the organisation ensured they could meet us at the major checkpoints and still enjoy the camaraderie the event is well known for. This was my 13th completion, and although I vowed it would be last, the words ‘never say never’ are very much in my mind.

What a great way to train; the long days providing ‘time on your feet’ and the day-on-day aspect ensuring walkers have to deal with an increasing level of fatigue.

LES 6H DU CHÂTEAU D’HARDELLOT, CONDETTE, FRANCE, THURSDAY 14 MAY 2026

Finally to the results of a new French event that Emmanuel Tardi has forwarded to me. He reported:

Last Thursday was a public holiday in France and saw a new race in Condette, in the north of the country. There were 3 Hour and 6 Hour walking and running events, held on 2 different loops (2.3km for walkers and 2.7km for runners). The walk loop was around a lake, very flat and with more than 50% of the loop on boardwalks. You also had to cross the courtyard of a medieval castle on each lap. The weather was cloudy and Rainy. **Arnaud Maurice** won the 6H walk with 43.700km while **Sébastien Hasselvelde** won the 3H with 26.600km.

6 Hour Walk, 11AM start

1.	MAURICE Arnaud	1979	43.700 km	6:01:37
2.	HEDOUX Francois	1961	43.700 km	6:04:20
3.	SAUVAGE Christèle	1966	43.700 km	6:04:21
4.	DUCROCQ Philippe	1961	43.700 km	6:08:24
5.	SIGIEZ Fabien	1971	39.100 km	6:01:23
6.	MAURICE Julie	1984	36.800 km	6:01:38
7.	ELOIR Michael	1968	36.800 km	6:11:22
8.	LHOTELLIER Anne	1973	36.800 km	6:13:02
9.	LOUDART Estelle	1973	32.200 km	5:37:41
10.	ELOIR Cecile	1966	32.200 km	6:11:21
11.	MARGUET Laurence	1974	29.900 km	5:53:08
12.	IZUEL Dany	1973	29.900 km	5:53:09
13.	LHOTELLIER Frédéric	1970	27.600 km	5:52:51
14.	MANIER Hélène	1989	25.300 km	5:48:45
15.	DUBEAUX Juliette	1989	16.100 km	5:25:36

3 Hour Walk, 2PM start

1.	HASSEVELDE Sébastien	1977	26.600 km	3:03:30
2.	FILLIETTE Damiens	1978	25.300 km	2:59:49
3.	PLEE Cyril	1976	25.300 km	3:09:21
4.	PREMEAU Christine	1960	23.000 km	3:16:06
5.	SUEUR Laurence	1977	23.000 km	3:16:07
6.	KOTKOWIAK Eddy	1970	20.700 km	2:55:17
7.	KOTKOWIAK Delphine	1973	20.700 km	2:55:19
8.	POLET Michael	1972	20.700 km	2:59:56
9.	ANDRIEU Jacques	1961	20.700 km	3:04:04
10.	TARDI Emmanuel	1967	20.700 km	3:08:33
11.	MAINSARD Jeanne	1994	20.700 km	3:09:50
12.	BUTEL Eva	1993	20.700 km	3:09:50
13.	LANOY Sylvie	1962	20.700 km	3:10:53
14.	FAUSTIN Laurence	1967	20.700 km	3:16:23
15.	LELEU Pascale	1971	20.700 km	3:16:23

16. FIQUET Véronique	1970	2.0700 km	3:25:29
17. FIQUET Jean Michel	1969	20.700 km	3:25:31
18. SENO David	1977	18.400 km	3:07:02
19. WACQUET Isabelle	1972	18.400 km	3:07:04
20. CLABEAU Antonia	1966	16.100 km	2:50:48
21. DELLISTE Cathy	1972	16.100 km	2:52:53
22. GUERY Philippe	1970	16.100 km	2:52:54
23. DUFOUR Sylvie	1960	16.100 km	3:00:00
24. LOORIUS Sandrine	1969	16.100 km	3:00:00
25. LOORIUS Frederic	1966	16.100 km	3:00:00
26. VIX Cathy	1971	9.200 km	2:09:12
27. DESMIS Philippe	1962	9.200 km	2:24:37



Sébastien Hasselvelde



The boardwalks (photos Emmanuel Tardi)

Now that sounded like it might have been hard work for the feet so well done to those who contested it. I am always excited to see new ultra walks on the world calendar.

UNTIL OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Another big newsletter and I haven't even talked about the Paris-Colmar Classic and the American Centurions qualifier which have just completed. They will have to be held over until my next newsletter.

It's cold and wintry here in Melbourne, a counterpoint to the extreme hot weather in Europe. But regardless of the weather, there is no excuse for idleness. So get those walking shoes on and bravely face the elements!

With kind regards

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