

# CENTURION FOOTNOTES

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## DATES...DATES...DATES

The number of ultra distance events in Australia is growing each year and 2011 provides many opportunities for both walkers and runners. The best source of information remains the Australian Ultra Runners Assn (AURA) website – check out <http://www.aura.asn.au/events.html>. Here is a selection of local and overseas walk events.

20 August 2011	24 Heures de Graide	Graide, BEL
3-4 Sept	24 Heures de Saint Thibault des Vignes	St. Thibault des V. , FRA
17-18 Sept 2011	28 Heures de Roubaix	Roubaix, FRA
1-2 Oct 2011	<b>New Zealand Centurion qualifier, Sri Chinmoy 24H</b>	Auckland, NZ
1-2 Oct 2011	24 Heures de Vallorbe	Vallorbe, SUI
15-16 Oct	24 Heures de Merignac	Merignac, FRA
30 Oct 2011	French 100km Championship	Etampes s/Marne, FRA
10-11 Dec 2011	<b>Malaysia 12 Hour Walk</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
11 Dec 2011	Kurrawa to Duranbah (50km, 30km)	Gold Coast, QLD
12 Feb 2012	8 Heures de Charly sur Marne	Charly sue Marne, FRA
25-26 Feb 2012	24 Heures de Bourges – French Championship	Bourges, FRA
31 Mar - 1 Apr 2012	24 Heures de Chateau-Thierry	Chateau-Thierry, FRA
14-15 Apr 2012	<b>2012 Australian Centurions 24 Hour (tentative date)</b>	Coburg, VIC
28-29 Apr 2012	24 Heures de Monthey	Monthey, SUI
12-13 May 2012	24 Heures de Dijon	Dijon, FRA

The New Zealand Centurions will hold their annual qualifying event in conjunction with the 14<sup>th</sup> Sri Chinmoy 6-12-24 Hour Track Races at the Sovereign Stadium, Antares Place, Auckland , starting on Saturday 1 October 2011 at 9AM. For further details, see <http://nz.srichinmoyraces.org/races/auck/24hr>.

Malaysia's annual 50K and 12-hour events will be held on Dec 10-11 this year in the historic city of Melaka (Malacca). Information and entry forms available from me ([terick@melbpc.org.au](mailto:terick@melbpc.org.au)). The event starts at 8PM on the Saturday night and finishes at 8AM on the Sunday morning so conditions should be perfect. Could be a great trip - fields are always big and the competition good.

And if you don't want to travel that far on that weekend, Ian Cornelius has advised me that the annual Kurrawa to Duranbah race (certified 50k road course) will now have a section for racewalkers. This is a 50km/30km race which is held each year on the Gold Coast in Queensland. Ian has pointed me to two sites: <http://www.aura.asn.au/Kurrawa.html> and <http://www.facebook.com/KurrawaToDuranbah>. Ian explained the course to me

The only grass section is at the turnaround at Duranbah, about 50 metres x 2, which in 50km is not significant. Ignore many of the grass/pics....they were of a section no longer in use. The rest is footpath and bitumen roadway. There is no gravel. As for the hills.....there are a couple but nothing major. 95% of the course is flat.

## NEWS ON OUR MEMBERS

I am sure that all our readers will be keen to know how **Fred Brooks (C 42)** is faring back in England. Sounds good by the sound of his latest email. We look forward to seeing Fred back for a visit at the end of the year.

Dear All. Just a few lines to let you know what has been happening and future events, Just over one week ago the Birmingham Mail did a feature on the children who were evacuated during WWII from the large industrial cities to places in the country side of the country. One of the articles featured yours truly, simply because I am a member of the War Evacuees club here in Birmingham. This has sparked a task to get together stories and memories of those years and put them in a booklet for future generations to see and read what happened to these young children (I was

5 years old when evacuated) On brighter things, on August 4<sup>th</sup> I am off to Wales to Pembrokeshire and if it is anything like the trip to Cornwall it should be a beauty. Two more trips I am planning for this year are to the City of York and a trip up to Northern Scotland as I believe that is where all the best distillaries are to be found! One other activity that will occupy me - my niece is coming over from Australia at the end of August to see were the family hailed from and it will be a pleasure if we can together explore more of the family history. I am looking forward to seeing you all early in the New Year. Look after yourselves, Fred.

**David Billett (C 50)** was back in action in the Adelaide 24 Hour event on 16-17 July. It was his first outing in quite some time and he showed that he has lost little of his form, coming fourth overall (he was a runner on this occasion) with a distance of 163.949 km. The venue was the Adelaide University Sports Field in North Adelaide and the lap was a 2200m circuit on footpath through parklands. The following photo of David is taken from the South Australian Road Runners website: <http://sarrcphotos.smugmug.com/2011PHOTOS/Adelaide-61224-Hour-Run>



**David Billet in action in the Adelaide 24H event earlier this month**

**John Harris (C 12)** was also in action a couple of weeks ago as the lone walker in the Australian 48 Hour Championships in Caboolture in Queensland. John contested the 12 Hour event and came second in 67.03 km. Alas, no photos available from this race as yet.

Now just how do you prepare for a gruelling 24 Hour walk? **Sandra Brown (C 36)** seems to have a pretty good recipe considering how she walked in the British Centurions event shortly after. Just before the race started, she emailed

Richard and I are just back from the Alps where we have enjoyed two terrific weeks of high level walking on and around the Tour du Mont Blanc. We have about 24 hours to turn ourselves round and get along to Lingfield Park for the 100! Vicky is looking forward to walking there too.

#### **BRITISH CENTURIONS 24H WALK QUALIFIER, LINGFIELD RACE COURSE, SURREY, 2-3 JULY 2011**

And now onto the big report for this issue. The annual British Centurions qualifier was held on 2-3 July 2011 in this the Centenary year of the Brotherhood of Centurions. The race was organised by Surrey Walking Club and the venue was Lingfield Park Racecourse in leafy Surrey. My report is taken from the British Centurions website.

First and foremost to the weather. Despite mixed forecasts - it actually did NOT rain! Rain has indeed been a feature (part of the fixture and fittings, almost) of every 100 mile long distance championship race held in the UK for at least the last decade! One could even complain that it was too hot!

Over 80 walkers started the race - which must be a record turn out over the last few years. Although it must be said that for many it was indeed the starting of the race rather than "the seeing it through to the finish" which was the name of the game. That said - there were an awful lot of surprises along the way and an absolutely fantastic result overall with 36 of the 77 starters reaching the 100 mile mark and 15 new centurions (C 183-1097) in all. RWV Rotterdam had plenty of good strong walkers this year with 15 completing the 100 miles and with 6 finishing in the top 10.

A nice touch (thought up by Alan O'Rawe at the 2010 AGM) was the dedicated race number attributed to each of the

participating Centurions own number.

As per usual the Dutch were in Lingfield in style! Big kitchen and support staff, their own timing clock and everyone with personalised T- shirts! And, as per usual, there was such great camaraderie between the Dutch walkers and the English!



**The start line of the Lingfield 100**

Bart Snoeren of club Dak Drunen led from the start and powered through to a winning time of 19:04:07. It was a truly impressive performance. Bart qualified as a Continental Centurion (C268) in 1998 so his qualification as a British Centurion was well overdue. **Sandra Brown C735** (Surrey WC) led the women home in 20:18:23, coming in second overall! As ever, Sandra never ceases to amaze. It did appear to be an effortless performance throughout the entire race. Surrey Walking Club man Ian Statter (C968), a previous winner of the 100 miles, was first British man home (7<sup>th</sup> overall) in 21:12:25. Very close behind him in 8<sup>th</sup> place was Kevin Marshall (C1001) in 21:25:20.



**Left: Sandra Brown powers on at sunrise Sunday      Right: Sandra collects more spoils of victory**  
(photos <http://www.surreywalkingclub.org.uk/>)

Two ladies who won everyone's hearts were Tara and Wendy of the Long Distance Walkers Association (LDWA). They talked and laughed (and ate!) their way round 100 miles, finishing in 21:33:55. Some said that they should have been disqualified for enjoying themselves too much! Their performance was a great credit to themselves and to the LDWA coming joint 14<sup>th</sup> overall. Sarah Lightman of Leicester WC was another newcomer to the 100, finishing in 22:55:58 and coming 23<sup>rd</sup> overall and 7<sup>th</sup> female finisher.

Paul King C972 walked well and maintained his style throughout the race slowing down only in the last few hours. His fastest last was the last lap - done in 13:51, enabling him to finish in 23:57:20. Phew, that was close! Another walker loyal to the 100 miles was Redcar's Martin Fisher C788. He timed his race perfectly to finish in 23:53:31!!

The course was a road on the inside of the all weather horse racing track and the circuit measured 1907.5 metres. A welcome feature was the use of chip timing although manual back-up was provided "just in case". The lack of lighting made judging very difficult and supporters couldn't see to attend to their walkers very well. The lucky few were the ones who brought torches! The facilities at Lingfield were good even though it was a bit of a hike from the race circuit. but portaloos were provided close to the track.

The results follow. It is great to see Australian Centurion members Caroline Mestdagh (21:30:57) and Rudy Schoors (21:32:02) both complete yet another hundred while fellow club members Sue Clements (97.63 miles) and Herbert Neubacher (89.34 miles) just fell short. Mark Wall and Serena Queeney, who both walked in our Australian event this year, had bad days, Mark being forced to stop at 77 km and Serena at 59 km.

1.		<b>1083</b>	Bart Snoeren (NL)	D.A.K. Drunen	19.04.07	
2.	735		Sandra Brown	Surrey Walking Club	20.18.23	1st lady
3.		<b>1084</b>	Rein Pistorius (NL)	R.W.V. Rotterdam	20.26.26	
4.		<b>1085</b>	Fabiaan de Roeck (B)	R.W.V. Rotterdam	20.33.02	
5.		<b>1086</b>	Eddy Goeman (B)	R.W.V. Rotterdam	20.33.02	
6.		<b>1087</b>	Ilona Klinkendon (NL)	R.W.V. Rotterdam	21.04.02	2nd lady
7.	968		Ian Statter	Surrey Walking Club	21.12.25	
8.	1001		Kevin Marshall	Ilford A.C.	21.25.20	
9.	1061		Caroline Mestdagh (B)	R.W.V. Rotterdam	21.30.57	3rd lady
10.		<b>1088</b>	Ed Voogt (NL)	R.W.V. Rotterdam	21.32.01	
11.	1019		Frans Derijcke (B)	R.W.V. Rotterdam	21.32.01	
12.	1070		Marie-Paule Vandenabeele (B)	R.W.V. Rotterdam	21.32.01	4th lady
13.	1062		Rudy Schoors (B)	R.W.V. Rotterdam	21.32.02	
14.		<b>1089</b>	Wendy Thurrell	LDWA	21.33.35	5th lady
15.		<b>1090</b>	Tara Williams	LDWA	21.33.35	6th lady
16.	724		Roger Michell	Surrey Walking Club	21.36.17	
17.	987		David Jones	Redcar Race W.C.	21.38.13	
18.	1022		Frank van der Gulik (NL)	S.V. de LAT Amsterdam	22.40.19	
19.	1018		Willy Vermeulen (B)	R.W.V. Rotterdam	22.44.15	
20.		<b>1091</b>	Wim van Cappelle (NL)	A.V. Ciko Arnhem	22.46.31	
21.	944		Jaap Visser (NL)	R.W.V. Rotterdam	22.46.31	
22.		<b>1092</b>	Kenneth Falconer	LDWA	22.54.23	
23.		<b>1093</b>	Sarah Lightman	Leicester Walking Club	22.55.58	7th lady
24.	1038		Andrew Titley	I.O.M. Veterans	22.57.05	
25.	980		Robert de Wolf (B)	R.W.V. Rotterdam	22.58.02	
26.	957		Marcel Dekker (NL)	S.V. de LAT Amsterdam	23.09.07	
27.	1072		Johan Koning (NL)	S.V. de LAT Amsterdam	23.23.26	
28.		<b>1094</b>	Suzanne Beardsmore	unattached	23.23.43	8th lady
29.	919		Rob Wiche (NL)	R.W.V. Rotterdam	23.30.27	
30.	977		Piet van der Kroft (NL)	R.W.V. Rotterdam	23.30.27	
31.	563		Hans van Wakeren (NL)	Unitas Sittard	23.34.32	
32.		<b>1095</b>	Angela Alstrachen	Enfield & Haringey	23.42.48	9th lady
33.		<b>1096</b>	Marth Pemen (B)	R.W.V. Rotterdam	23.48.37	10th lady
34.	788		Martin Fisher	Redcar Race W.C.	23.53.31	
35.		<b>1097</b>	Remy Cnudde (B)	O.L.A.T. St Oedenrode	23.54.30	
36.	972		Paul King	Belgrave Harriers	23.57.20	

Finished over 80 miles, but not 100 miles:

37.	849		Chris Flint	Surrey Walking Club	23.56.57	97,63 m
38.	950		Sue Clements	LDWA	23.44.58	96,45 m
39.	789		Oliver Browne	Ilford A.C.	23.10.28	95,26 m
40.	963		Chris Cattano	Southend A.C.	21.09.14	92,89 m
41.		1st att.	Steve Allen	Ilford A.C.	21.13.53	90,52 m
42.		2nd att.	John Borgars	Loughton A.C.	21.20.25	90,52 m
43.		1st att.	Karen Davies	Birchfield Harriers	21.24.39	89,34 m
44.	959		Herbert Neubacher (Germany)	A.A.Aachen	20.52.21	89,34 m
45.		1st att.	Greg Smith	Lancashire W.C.	20.59.19	88,15 m
46.		1st att.	Jane Edwards	LDWA	23.49.30	84,60 m
47.		9th att.	David Thoms	100 Marathon Club	23.38.11	84,60 m

### Team Results

Sunday Dispatch Trophy	1	R.W.V. Rotterdam	Rein Pistorius, Fabiaan de Roeck, Eddy Goeman
	2	SV de LAT Amsterdam	Frank van der Gulik, Marcel Dekker, Johan Koning
Ko van der Kwaak Cup	1	British Centurions	Sandra Brown (1), Ian Statter (2), Kevin Marshall (3) Roger Michell (8), David Jones (9), Andrew Titley (10)

### Centurions Awards

Hammond Cup	1st Male Centurion	C968 Ian Statter
Bristol (Unicorn) Trophy	1st Female Centurion	C735 Sandra Brown
C145 Hew Neilson Trophy	1st New Centurion	C1083 Bart Snoeren
Eddy McNeir Shield	1st Male finisher at 65 years age	C944 Jaap Visser
Bill King Memorial Trophy	Youngest Finisher	C1022 Frank van der Gulik

### PETER BENNETT AMAZES IN ROUEN, 25-25 JUNE 2011

I mentioned in the last newsletter that Peter Bennett had won the **43<sup>rd</sup> Rouen International 24 Hour Walk** on the weekend of **25-26 June**. This was Peter's third win in this prestigious event and his 12<sup>th</sup> 24 Hour walk of 100 miles or greater. He emailed me recently with his race report which I reproduce below.

I arrived in France on the Wednesday night before the race and was picked up by the race organiser and driven the 1.5 hours to Rouen. On the Thursday I attended a sports conference and gave brief speech on the company for which I work.

On the Friday I was given the job of acting as tour guide to a team of 15 people from Hong Kong, led by veteran race walker Bill Purvis, who had come over for the race. I showed them around the historical old city area of the Cathedral and where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake etc. After walking the around for two hours they mutinied and caught a bus back to the University where they were staying. It was only a short walk I thought.

The race started a 5pm on the Saturday on a road circuit at a sports complex on an island in the Seine near the centre of the city. It was used by a canoe club during the afternoon so there was plenty of activity going on. The men's and women's volleyball teams from the Seychelles came down to watch for a few hours and put on some exhibition games and had a bbq. It was a hot when the race started and we were in full sun until after 9pm. The nights are very short in France in summer. It was not completely dark until 11pm and it was first light about 4.30am on the Sunday. The Sunday was a long hot and tiring slog. There was not a cloud in the sky and it was abnormally hot (in the high 30's). There were plenty of people helping with drinks and food every lap and handing me sponges. I had a lot of trouble with my right shoulder and arm during the race. This is the results of a recently diagnosed dislocated sternum (I have no idea when or how this happened). It caused so much pain that I was unable to swing or move my arm at all over the last eight hours of the race (this is quite a dilemma for a race walker but as I had learnt how to walk at speed while eating spaghetti bolognese last year at the Caboolture 48 hour race I thought I could manage it). My left arm and shoulder were sore after the race from having to do so much work. Strangely my legs and feet were fine, no different than they are the day after a club 10km race so that was a bonus. I have received some treatment for my shoulder and it is much better now. I have had no trouble lifting a beer glass which is a good sign.

During the race I had tough competition from Frenchman Alain Grassi who is the world record holder for the 6 Day walk. Alain won a 48 hour indoor race last year so his endurance and resilience could not be questioned. One of the Chinese walkers from Hong Kong who lead out early put up an impressive display despite suffering from the heat. I had built up lead during the night and was determined not to give back any ground no matter how sore my shoulder was. In the end I won the race with **213km** with Alain on **195km**. We walked the last lap together. It was a huge relief to finish and I was far too tired to feel any elation or match the enthusiasm of all the people wanting to take photos. After a hot shower and clean clothes I felt human again but realised how sunburnt I was. The presentations followed and then they put on a big buffet dinner. The organisation could not be faulted and it was a very friendly atmosphere created by all the helpers and spectators.

I think I lost over 3kg during the race so I do not feel guilty about all the croissants, cheeses and frites I have been eating since. It is all part of the recovery process I tell myself.

I have been busy in the last week with sightseeing and with some meetings. On Saturday I did a full day tour of the Somme and what a day that was - very sad and emotional but very inspiring and rewarding at the same time. I took the tour to follow in the footsteps of my grandfather who served in the AIF 4<sup>th</sup> Division in the Somme in



WW1. There are nearly 500 Commonwealth War Cemeteries in the north of France! As well as the graves there is also a memorial wall to the 23,000 soldiers missing who were never recovered.

I leave Rouen for Lille tomorrow to visit my work headquarters for a few days. They have a schedule of supplier visits and meetings lined up for me so I will be kept busy. That is the official story anyway as I am really going there to watch our walkers compete in the World Youth Championships on Friday and Saturday. Mr Khoo Chong Beng, the organiser of the Malaysian 12 & 24 hour races will be one of the judges and I am looking forward to catching up with him.

#### LATEST SPANISH ULTRA WALKING NEWSLETTERS

A quick item to link to the latest Spanish Ultra Walking newsletter from Bernardo José Mora - great reading once you fire up the online translator!

July 2011 -> <http://www.ultrawalking.es/2011/UWE8.pdf>

#### CENTURION PROFILES NOW ONLINE

I have been busy the last few weeks adding a new page to our Australian Centurions website to link to a short profile for each of our 4 founders and each of our 59 Australian Centurions. Although I have not yet finished, now is a good time to put it live and to let everyone have a browse. See <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~austcent/centprof.shtml>. So far, I have 40 of the 63 profiles finished and am working on the rest.

#### FOCUS ON STAN MISKIN

And speaking of profiles, here is my article on **Stan Miskin (C 23)** who is definitely one of our local legends.

23. **Stan Miskin (31/07/1925)**  
29-30 October 1988  
22:59:48  
Adelaide Harriers Track, Adelaide, SA

Stan Miskin, born 1925, ran his first marathon in 1978, aged 53 years, and caught the bug. By 1988, he had run 81 marathons (with a best time of 3:16), many 50 milers (best time of 7:39), had a best 24 hour running distance of 187 km and a best 48 hour distance of 241 km.

In 1988 he decided to walk rather than run in the annual Sri Chimnoy 24 Hour event being held at the old cinders Adelaide Harriers track in Adelaide. He successfully completed the distance in a time of **22:59:48** to become our oldest Centurion, being 63 years of age at the time. He also became only the fourth Australian to both walk and run the 100 mile distance within 24 hours. Within a period of less than 2 years, we had seen Claude Martin, Jim Turnbull, George Audley and Stan achieve the run/walk double. No further athletes achieved this feat until Yiannos Kouros in 1998.

Stan did not even know that the Australian Centurion club existed at the time he did this feat. It was only after he saw a race report of our 1994 event that he contacted us in early 1995 and sent the relevant documentation to verify his performance. This created a difficult situation for us – should we recognise the performance or not?

After extensive investigation, it was decided to grant Stan Centurion membership (after all, it had been our own fault in that we had been out of circulation all these years) but to set a firm rule that no such dispensations would be made in the future. From now on, the onus would be on the competitor to contact us beforehand and forewarn us of the attempt. Only if one or more of our members were present and only if we could absolutely verify the correctness of the performance would we consider such applications.

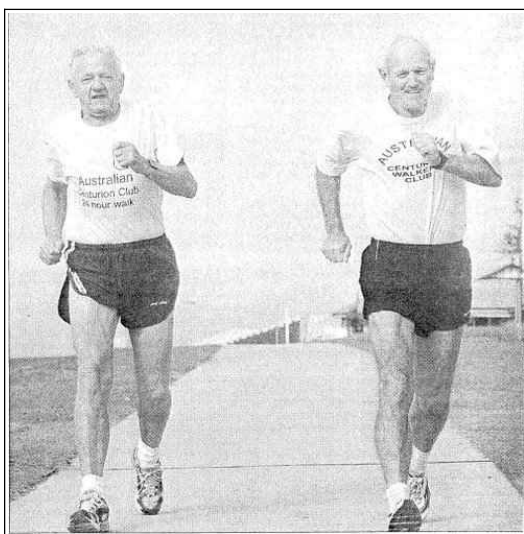
With ultra-distance runners of the ilk of George Audley and Stan Miskin joining the ranks of the Australian Centurions, it should have augured in an era of new blood but unfortunately the opportunity was lost. It was not until Yiannos Kouros completed the 100 mile walk in 1998 that the ultra-distance runners once again discovered ultra-distance walking.

In the early 1990s, Stan and Ellwyn won a lottery that give them a new home on the Gold Coast in Queensland (yes, people do actually win such things) so they sold up and journeyed north. It was not until 2000 that they sold up again and came back south, settling in the outer eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

Once there, Stan found he lived around the corner from Fred Brooks who was in training to attempt to qualify as a centurion. That was all the invitation that Stan needed and he was soon pounding the beat with Fred, helping him prepare for his date with destiny. He had already been toying with the idea of a final big walk and the timing was perfect. In October 2000, he travelled to Adelaide and completed 120 km in the Sri Chimnoy 24 hour event. He was on track.

Both Fred and Stan toed the line to start the 2001 Australian Centurions event, held over 7-8 April in Coburg. Fred was duly successful, walking strongly to become Australian Centurion number 42 with a time of 22:31:15. At 67 years of age, he became our oldest centurion qualifier. Michael Harvey also became a centurion on that day with his walk of 22:48:26. The third walker of interest to us was Stan whose aim was to break the Australian Ultra Distance records for the 75+ age groups. Of course, these were running records and Stan would be walking - but they seemed achievable targets.

And Stan was successful in his aim. His final distance was **142.791 km**, blitzing the previous record of 132.8 km, held by Aussie running legend Drew Kettle. Along the way, he also broke Drew's records for 12 hour, 50 miles and 100 km. A fitting achievement at the age of 75!



**Stan and Fred photographed in 2001 after their successful 24 Hour walks at Coburg**

He was now hooked once again. After further training with Fred, he was ready for a big year in 2002 but just how big was a surprise to everyone. Here's how it read.

- *5-6 January 2002, Coastal Classic 12 Hour Event, Gosford, NSW*  
Stan, at 76 years of age, beat Cliff Young's 75+ 50 Mile AURA record – and Cliff did it running while Stan was walking. Cliff's record was 12:21:47 but Stan went through the 50 mile mark in under 12 hours and went on to record a 12 hour distance of 81.967 km – another AURA 75+ record for him.
- *2 Feb 2002, Caboolture Historical Village 12 Hour Dusk to Dawn*  
Stan completed 74.837 km.
- *2-3 March 2002, Sri Chimnoy 100 km, Canberra*  
Stan's 100km time of 15:11:00 was a few minutes faster than his 100km split at Coburg the previous year, a fine walk considering the tough course and adverse conditions.
- *13-14 April 2002, Australian Centurions 24 Hour Walk, Coburg*  
Stan had a great day, breaking his AURA 75+ records for 50 Miles, 12 hours and 100 km and just falling 1 km short of his 24 hour record with his final distance of 141.537 km. Of course, these were running records and Stan walked!
- *19 - 21 July 2002, Australian 48 Hour Championship, Bribie Island, Queensland*  
Stan came 4<sup>th</sup> overall with a final distance of 205.113 km.
- *19 - 20 October 2002, Sri Chimnoy 24 Hour Carnival, Adelaide Harriers Track, Adelaide*  
Stan finished 11<sup>th</sup> with a distance of 121.695 km.

- *17-23 November 2002, Australian 6 day Race, Colac*  
Stan unfortunately blistered in day 1 and had to retire early on day 2 after only 138.2km. The next year, he would be back!

2003 saw more of the same

- *4-5 January 2003, Coastal Classic 12 Hour Event, Gosford, NSW*  
Stan, after a conservative start, passed a number of the slowing runners and stormed home with a distance of 76.944 km (almost equalling his age of 77!)
- *12-13 April 2003, Australian Centurions 24 Hour Walk, Coburg*  
Stan walked the first 6 hours with his wife Ellwyn (who was doing the 6 hour event) and then headed off himself into the familiar 24 hour territory. At 77 years of age, there was no slowing Stan down and his 117.484 km left many younger competitors in his wake.
- *23-34 August 2003, Gold Coast 24/48 Hour Carnival*  
Stan completed 182 km in the 48 Hour Championship.
- *4-5 October 2003, Sri Chimnoy 24 Hour Championship, Adelaide*  
Stan walked a distance of 114.620 km to finish 13<sup>th</sup>.
- *16-22 November 2003, Australian 6 day Race, Colac*  
This event saw 78 year old Stan as the oldest in the field and the only walker. He acquitted himself superbly, meeting the 65 km per day criteria to finish with a wonderful **482.539 km**. This was definitely his year's best performance and one of the best performances I have personally seen.

2004 saw him continuing unabated.

- *10-11 January 2004, Coastal Classic 12 Hour Event, Gosford, NSW*  
Stan's final distance of 70.700 km was another fine performance as he continued to defy Father Time.
- *17-18 April 2004, Australian Centurions 24 Hour Walk, Coburg*  
The number of older runners and walkers in this event – Ken Matchett (82), Stan Miskin (78), Shirley Young (74), Ellwyn Miskin (74), David Padgett (72), Fred Brooks (70), George Audley (68), Ron McGregor (62), David Jones (62) and John Timms (61) – must have been some sort of record!  
Stan walked 136.106 km to be the third walker overall, an amazing performance for someone 78 years old. He had few if any breaks and remained the consummate professional.
- *21-27 November 2004, Australian 6 day Race, Colac*  
Stan, at 79 years of age, was the oldest entrant. He started well, covering just over 100 km on the first day but suffered a fall on day 2, aggravating a shoulder injury suffered only months earlier. He was consequently forced to retire early on day 3, having covered 181.6 km.

Now 2005 was going to be an interesting year as Stan would turn 80 in July and he had his eyes on the M80 records, World and Australian. Here is how it panned out.

- *10-11 January 2005, Coastal Classic 12 Hour Event, Gosford, NSW*  
Stan finished 22<sup>nd</sup> with 59.603 km
- *16-17 April 2005, Australian Centurions 24 Hour Walk, Coburg*  
Stan finished 6<sup>th</sup> with 81.950 km
- *15-16 October 2005, Sri Chimnoy 24 Hour Walk, Adelaide*  
Stan, now aged 80, completed yet another 24 Hour walk with 101.703 km.
- *20-26 November 2005, Australian 6 day Race, Colac*  
Stan, competing as a walker, finished 23<sup>rd</sup> with **429.60 km** to set a new World M80 6 Day record and bettering the current Australian M80 100 miles, 200 km and 48 hour records.





**Stan Miskin walks to a new M80 6 Day record distance of 429.60 km at Colac**

In his first few months in the M80 division, he had set an enviable set of Australian walking records

50 Miles	?	26/11/2005	Colac, Victoria
100 Km	29 hrs	16/10/2005	Adelaide, SA
12 Hours	63.2 km	26/11/2005	Colac, Victoria
24 Hours	101.703 km	16/10/2005	Adelaide, SA
100 Miles	2 days 6 hrs	26/11/2005	Colac, Victoria
48 Hours	174.4 km	26/11/2005	Colac, Victoria
200 km	2 days 22 hrs	26/11/2005	Colac, Victoria
6 Days	429.60 km	26/11/2005	Colac, Victoria

Not surprisingly, he finished a close 2<sup>nd</sup> behind Deryck Skinner in the inaugural Gordon Smith Award.

Little did we know that 2006 would be Stan's final competition year. It read as follows.

- *7-8 January 2006, Coastal Classic 12 Hour Event, Gosford, NSW*  
Stan's 7<sup>th</sup> place distance of 74.077 km broke the Australian and World M80 running record held by Ken Matchett – with Stan walking as usual! Ken held the record with 73.600 km so Stan added some 477m to the standard.
- *22-23 April 2006, Australian Centurions 24 Hour Walk, Coburg*  
This event saw a race within a race between octogenarians Stan (80 years old) and Ken Matchett (84 years) as, between them, they broke six IAU World M80 running records. Ken, entered as a runner, broke the World M80 records for 30 Miles, 40 Miles, 50 Miles and 12 Hours. Stan, entered as a walker, broke the World M80 100 km and 24 hour records. Stan's final 24 Hour walk distance was an extraordinary **140.018km**.
- *12-13 August 2006, Australian 48 Hour Championship, Gold Coast, Queensland*  
Stan suffered through this event, collapsing a number of times, to achieve a final 48 Hour distance of 149.7 km. Deryck Skinner commented

*No report would be complete without mentioning Stan Miskin - Stan, at age 81, is an inspiration. His willpower and mental strength is something to behold. He was certainly not feeling well in this event yet he toughed it out right to the end. His encouraging remarks to me during the event were much appreciated.*

In 2006, Stan had set new M80 records as follows:

M80	12 Hours	74.007 km	Gosford Coastal Classic, NSW	7-8 January 2006
M80	50 Miles	12:31:26	Coburg 24 Hour Carnival	22-23 April 2006

M80	100 Km	16:45:07	Coburg 24 Hour Carnival	22-23 April 2006
M80	24 Hours	140.018 km	Coburg 24 Hour Carnival	22-23 April 2006
M80	48 Hours	147.700 km	Australian 48 Hour, Qld	11-13 August 2006

Stan regarded his M80 24 Hour record as perhaps the pick of his achievements and who can argue – 140 km at 80 years of age is astounding by any standards. To quote Stan

*For myself, I was delighted to break the World M80 24 Hour Track Record which I had thought was just over 130 km, but was in fact over 139 km and held by that great English ultra runner Ernie Warwick. My policy of always doing my best and not stopping nor slowing when I passed a record certainly paid off. I had only a very small margin to spare at the finish and could never have forgiven myself if I had missed the record.*

It was not surprising that this performance won Stan the 2006 Gordon Smith Award for the Best Australian Ultra Distance Walking Performance of the Year ahead of Deryck Skinner. It was a fitting final award for Stan who in December of that year announced his retirement from ultra competition. Aged 81 and suffering the debilitating effects of prostate cancer, he was forced to close the book on what had been a truly illustrious career.



**April 2007 - Stan Miskin is awarded the Gordon Smith Trophy for the best performance of 2006**

We are unlikely to see age related performances like Stan's ever again. He has set such high benchmarks that I expect his records to last for the foreseeable future.

I am pleased to write, by way of postscript, that Stan continues to confound the doctors and is still with us some 5 years later. May you have many more years, Stan!

Tim Erickson  
3 August 2011

**WILLIAM EDWARDS - CHAMPION PEDESTRIAN AND SHIFTY CONMAN**

Thanks to Phil Essam, that indomitable Australian ultra enthusiast and historian, for the following article on nineteenth century Australian pedestrian William Edwards. It can be seen in original format at the following link: <http://www.ultralegends.com/william-edwards-champion-pedestrian-and-a-shifty-conman/>

**William Edwards – Champion Pedestrian and a Shifty Conman  
by Phil Essam , July 2011**

If you cast your mind back to the study of Australian history at school, you will remember the late 1800s in particular. It was a time of the Gold Rush, Bushrangers, mass immigration and a time when the inland was being settled at a great rate all over Australia. It was also a time when Pedestrianism was one of the most popular sports and provided entertainment for the masses.

For the uninitiated, pedestrianism basically was athletics and included running and walking events from sprints to distances over a marathon. Pedestrianism started in England and America but soon spread its popularity to Australia and New Zealand. Pedestrian events were basically a social occasion where hundreds would gather to watch, socialise, have a drink and have a gamble on the outcome. Not much has changed in sport over the years since!

One of the best pedestrian walkers of the late 1800s who competed in Australia and definitely someone who would hold his own amongst the champion ultra athletes of today was William Edwards. Over a ten year period, he competed in over a dozen races per year and in distances between 50 miles and six days. He wasn't just a journeyman though, as his results constantly showed. In 24 hour races, he was consistently completing one hundred miles plus and over six days he used to average about 420 miles, which translates to about 670 km. He also competed on four occasions against the best pedestrians that the USA had to offer and was victorious each time!

There was a darker side to Edward's career though, which today surely would have brought much needed publicity to the sport. There was at least twice that he was publicly accused of taking the profits from events he had organised. He ended up in court for deserting his wife. He clipped a boy under the ear in New Zealand after he was sledged during a race. And there was at least one failed business interest during his pedestrian career. Perhaps this is why his career in the Colonies finished sooner rather than later and he headed back to his birthplace in England?

In this article, I shall endeavour to outline his career in more detail, provide more information about his indiscretions and attempt to fill in the gaps about his life and career. Whilst researching his life it was disappointing to note that I could not find one picture or photo of him in any historical records!

Edwards was born in England in 1851 and had his first race as a professional pedestrian when he was 16 years old – winning a ten pound purse over a two mile distance. He moved to New Zealand in 1869 and gradually worked his way up to completing the ultra distances. As an aside, I noted that in 1873 there was a champion pedestrian by the name of Edwards who organised a pedestrian carnival at Beechworth in Victoria for the local hospital. He apparently absconded early the next day with the takings and was never to be seen of again in Beechworth.

Edwards's ultra career began to really take off in 1874 when he walked 100 plus miles in a 24 hour period three times in the same year. This was in New Zealand and took place at Dunedin, Christchurch, and Wellington. These performances were to improve over the coming years, though. In 1878, he extended his personal best to 110 miles for the 24 hour at the Melbourne Cricket Ground and a year later at Bathurst he walked 111 miles. He was to extend his 24 hour record again in Sydney when he walked 113 miles and then kept going to complete 181 miles for the 48 hour period. Over 1879/1880, I counted at least a dozen ultra performances by Edwards in various corners of south-eastern Australia. They were over distances from 50 miles to 48 hours and he always finished first, second, or third.

Early in 1881, Edwards stepped up to six day racing and was to be champion at that distance as well. His first six-day race was at Adelaide in April 1881, at which he won a belt and 150 pounds with a distance of 451 miles (~ 720 km). He also took part in a six-day race in Sydney in the same year. He was to finish second with a distance of 423 miles. His next six-day race was in Geelong, where he avenged his Sydney loss to Swan and completed 431 miles. He was to beat Swan by ten miles in that race. He was then to take on a Trotting horse over six days at Geelong. The horse, aptly named "Conquering Hero" was to win with 431 miles with Edwards completing 423 miles.

In 1883, Edwards was to race for the first time against famous American pedestrian, Daniel O'Leary. Edwards was to win this encounter with a lower total of 373 miles and beat Daniel O'Leary by 20 miles. It should be noted, though, that O'Leary wasn't in the best of health for this race. However, two months later they were to have a rematch and Edwards was again victorious, completing 446 miles. This was 13 miles ahead of O'Leary. O'Leary challenged Edwards to a third six-day race, at which Edwards once again ruled supreme over his American opponent.

In 1883, Edwards was to embark on a tour of New Zealand, but was to be in trouble with the law on his way out of the country. He was charged with wife desertion and ordered to pay 40 shillings a week over a 12 month period. He was to pay the full amount in one go and then left the next day on the boat to New Zealand. One of Edwards's first matches in New Zealand was a two-day race against the famous New Zealand pedestrian, Joe Scott. It was in that race that Edwards was to be in trouble with the law again. He took exception to a young boy barracking for Scott and giving himself a hard time and hit him with a clenched fist. Edwards was fined 5 pounds and told by the judge not to be so thin-skinned in the future. Newspaper research of Edwards around that time also revealed scant information about a failed business dealing involving ownership of a New Zealand Public House. I was unable to find the conclusion or resolution of this matter.

It was a short time after that when Edwards moved to the United States and probably the scene of his greatest triumph. In 1884, he was to take on the famous American black pedestrian, Frank Hart in a six-day race in Boston. Edwards was to beat his more fancied opponent by a distance of 10 miles, completing 426 miles. After that, he was hoping for more matches around the United States, but it wasn't to be and he was soon back in Australia competing wherever the dollars could be found for performances. Perhaps his last major effort was the six-day race against Joe Scott in 1886 where Scott completed 424 miles and Edwards completed 406 miles.

It appears that by 1888, Edwards had finished as a competitor and turned his hand to promoting pedestrian races full time. He promoted a six-day race in Melbourne in 1888 and then in 1889 he was managing Joe Scott. He took Scott to an Exhibition match in Sale, which Scott lost to a doubles combination. There were accusations in the press afterwards that Edwards had not delivered his promise on the winnings and the pair had left Sale in a great hurry. The pair next came to the attention of the press when both of them were in a hotel in Fitzroy and Scott was accused of drawing a pistol to the barmaid. It is not known whether this matter went to court.

By then it appeared as though Edwards was living on borrowed time in the Colonies and in 1890 he moved back to England. He ran a public house in Essex. Nothing was heard from him after that until 1896 when it was reported that he had succumbed to heart disease and was dead at the age of 35.

No one could doubt that William Edwards was the Australian champion pedestrian of his time. He would have held his own with the "Flying Pieman" (William King) of the 1850s and he would have held his own with the better ultra runners of today's era. He also held his own and defeated two of the better pedestrians from America during his career.

There are a lot of unanswered questions, though, about his personal life and business dealings. It appears as though he was a larger than life character in his time and did have a great level of support due to his athletic ability. Was he competing around the countryside and the Colonies to avail himself of the best competition or was he moving around the countryside to escape the bookmakers and the law? There are many intriguing questions that I hope to answer one day. I have established a website for Edwards at <http://www.ultralegends.com/w-edwards/>. More information will be added when it becomes available, so please visit and read more about his incredible story.

Note: Information in this article and at the website sited above is sourced from newspaper articles from the Australian National Library and the New Zealand website, Papers Past.

#### FINANCIAL NEWS

A quiet time recently but the bank balance remains healthy.

Incoming	Nil	
Outgoing	Postage and Photocopying	\$ 21.25
Balance		\$861.64

#### UNTIL OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Well, another issue ticked off and another wonderful British Centurions event completed. They remain the standard in terms of excellence and ongoing relevance. And a couple of great stories to inspire us along our way. Happy rambling!

Yours in Centurion walking

Tim Erickson (C 13), Secretary, Australian Centurion Walkers Inc., 1 Avoca Cres, Pascoe Vale, Victoria, 3044