

VRWC 24 HOUR WALK CARNIVAL, MIDDLE PARK, 14-15 SEPTEMBER 2013

The 29th Australian Centurions 24 Hour walk was hosted by the Victorian Race Walking Club at their headquarters at Middle Park on the weekend of 14-15 September 2013. The event was held over a 1.25km road loop and started at 2PM on the Saturday. It had been rainy and cold the previous two days but it cleared on the Saturday morning and the event was held in just about ideal conditions with a calm and pleasant night midrace. The rain came back with a vengeance on Sunday night but we were all home and catching up on sleep at that stage after what turned out to be a very successful event.

It took a big caste of players to ensure that the 24 Hour Carnival was a success - the officials, the support staff (first aid and masseurs) and of course the walkers themselves who once again showed us the finest in human spirit and who dug deep to achieve their varied goals.

VRWC Communications Officer Stuart Cooper summed it up nicely in his facebook post on Sunday evening so I reproduce his report - thanks Stu!

A fantastic feat of organization by Tim Erickson and a priceless support crew saw the successful completion of the first-ever Australian Centurions qualifying event 24hr/100 mile event to be held in Melbourne on a road course. Hitherto the events had been track races, held most recently in partnership with the annual Coburg 24-hour run. It was felt, however, that we were more likely to attract overseas entrants in the future if our events were road events, as theirs are. So it was time to leap into the unknown, and nobody would be dissatisfied with the outcome.

The logistic hurdles in holding an overnight event at Middle Park were substantial. These included, amongst other things, meeting Port Phillip Council and Parks Victoria requirements; setting a satisfactory lap course; ensuring adequate communication; providing suitable lighting, medical, massage, nutritional and rest amenities for competitors and supporters. Above all, ensuring that enough personnel were available around the clock (especially the midnight-to-6am 'graveyard' shift) was of paramount importance. All credit to the hardy souls who dutifully stood their posts as the walkers toiled through the hours, light and dark, to impose mastery over their anguished bodies. No praise, however, is too high for Tim, who pioneered the whole venture, negotiated all the roadblocks and demonstrated again his passion for the sport and his bond with all who practise it. Well done, Tim!

Two noteworthy blessings were the weather (fine and mild-warm without high wind or rain) and the VRWC's new electronic timing system, which cut out a lot of manual legwork to ensure that each walker's laps and times were accurately recorded. When you're engaging in such a project for the first time, every little bit helps.

The Centurions welcome PETER CRUMP (SA), who started confidently and had to overcome very hard going in the second half to complete the 100 miles inside 24 hours and become Aust. Centurion No 66, with a finishing distance of 161.25km. The indestructible PETER BENNETT (QLD) was the overall winner, pushing on to the full 24hr cut-off for a total distance of 185.199km. Best female competitor was SHARON SCHOLZ (VIC), qualifier of 2012, with a terrific performance of 168.934km.

Provisional results follow. Once I have fully worked my way through the lapsheets later this week, I will be able to confirm them.

24 HOUR WALK MEN

1.	BENNETT, Peter	QLD	581	185.199 km	C24
2.	SCHOLZ, Justin	VIC	587	168.934 km	C61
3.	BILLETT, David	SA	582	165.022 km	C50
4.	CRUMP, Peter	SA	583	161.250 km	C66
5.	RICHARDSON, Saul	NSW	586	135.772 km	
6.	JORDAN, Steve	VIC	584	131.742 km	C64
7.	TIMMS, John	VIC	588	128.605 km	
8.	WHYTE, Robin	NSW	591	102.500 km	C 29
9.	TUTTY, Peter	NSW	589	75.000 km	
10.	McGOWAN, Tony	VIC	585	72.500 km	

24 HOUR WALK WOMEN

1.	SCHOLZ, Sharon	VIC	595	168.934 km	C63
2.	O'NEILL, Karyn	VIC	594	163.732 km	C45
3.	BAIRD, Carol	ACT	593	85.000 km	C39

12 HOUR WALK

1.	HOWORTH, Sandra	VIC	597	68.117 km	
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We were excited to see 6 Centurion qualifiers - equal to our 1998 event which also saw the same number of centurion performances (see <http://www.centurions.org.au/1998report.shtml>). For **Peter Bennett**, it was his 18th centurion qualifier, an amazing statistic. **Sharon and Justin Scholz** walked together for the whole event and hence both have the same 100 mile time of 22:40:57 - a fitting husband and wife result. Next weekend they will be back in action running in a 100km trail race in Canberra. **David Billett** and **Karyn O'Neill** were nearly always on the same lap and only 5 minutes separated them at the 100 mile mark. And of course, **Peter Crump** was our sixth centurion

performer and hence qualified for Australian Centurion membership.

CENTURION PERFORMANCES

C24	BENNETT, Peter	QLD	20:33:00
C63	SCHOLZ, Sharon	VIC	22:40:37
C61	SCHOLZ, Justin	VIC	22:40:37
C50	BILLET, David	SA	23:20:41
C45	O'NEILL, Karyn	VIC	23:26:23
C66 **	CRUMP, Peter	SA	23:39:40

We also hosted RWA 100km championships, with provisional times as follows for the medallists.

RWA 100KM CHAMPIONSHIPS

1.	SCHOLZ, Sharon	VIC	595	13:25:36
2.	O'NEILL, Karyn	VIC	594	14:31:27
1.	BENNETT, Peter	QLD	581	12:07:30
2.	CRUMP, Peter	SA	583	12:55:06
3.	WHYTE, Robin	NSW	591	13:21:40

The major trophy for the day, the Gordon Smith Award, went to Peter Crump for what was an inspirational first centurion finish.

GORDON SMITH AWARD : MOST MERITORIOUS PERFORMANCE - Peter Crump

Terry Swan was busy with his camera during the race and I have added a few additional photos as well. You can check them all out in our VRWC photo gallery website at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/coppermine>. And check out Terry's time elapsed take on the event setup at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26CZ9sfFc8E>. Thanks Terry!



Left: They're off! Right: Peter Bennett



Sharon and Justin Scholz, David Billett, Karyn O'Neill and Peter Crump

In closing, I must acknowledge the many people and groups who made the event such a success

- The committee and members of the Victorian Race Walking Club who hosted this event for us. Their equipment, manpower and enthusiasm ensured that that the event ran smoothly and efficiently.
- The Middle Park Bowling Club who allowed us to use their facilities for the full 24 Hours of the event.
- The Parks Victoria Albert Park rangers who opened up the parklands for us to use as an overnight event area and allowed us to conduct our race on the service roads and to use one of the trackside toilet blocks.
- Michael Gillan, masseur extraordinaire, who brought along a whole team of masseurs to support us.
- First aiders John (from National Sports Trainers) and Liz Ravalli who treated everything from blisters to exhaustion.
- Coburg Harriers who lent us equipment and their computer entry system.
- British Centurion Sean Pender who donated 6 beautiful cups for us to use as major trophies in our presentations.
- Australian Centurion Fred Brooks who made a significant financial donation towards the running of the event.
- The many people who brought along food to sustain us all over the 24 Hours of the event.

As Stuart mentioned above, it was a new and much more complex endeavour for us to run our annual event on a road circuit rather than on an athletics track. Once again, congratulations to all our competitors and my utmost thanks to all our volunteers and partners. See you all next year!