

## Guinness Book of World Records 2003

**The NEC Earth Simulator can carry out 35.6 trillion calculations per second.**

On 16 Feb 2002, Gerard van Velde skated 1000m in 1:07.16 at Salt Lake City, Utah, SAA.

Oldest fossilised vomit – 160 million year olds of the ichthyosaur (an ancient marine reptile).

The fastest women's only marathon was run by Paula Radcliffe of the UK in 2 h 48 min and 56 sec.

Most viewers for a televised rock concert: Live Aid, on 13 July 1985 reached 1.5 billion viewers.

Highest parachute escape: Flt Lt J de Salis and Flt Off P Lowe escaped at 17 100 m on 9/4/58.

Highest fall survived w/o a parachute: Vesna Vulovic fell from 10 160 metres over the Czech Republic and survived.

**In 1976, Jesse Castenda walked 228.93 km in 24 hours. Nik Nikzaban wheeled himself 124.86 km in 24 hours.**

The fastest circumnavigation by a yachtswoman was 38 600 km in 94 days 4 hr and 25 min.

Fastest solo row across the Atlantic from E to W – 6 115 km in 73 days and 8 hrs.

**On 24 May 1999, John Evans balanced a gutted Mini car weighing 159.6 kg on his head for 33 seconds. Evans also balanced 101 bricks weighing a total of 188.7 kg on his head for 10 seconds.**

On 30 June 2001, Kevin Fast pulled a truck weighing 24 640 kg over a distance of 30.48 m.

Walter Arfeuille lifted weights totalling 281.5 kg a distance of 17 cm, using only his teeth.

Rubik's Cube has 43 252 003 274 489 856 856 000 combinations.

Steve Woodmore spoke at a rate of 637.4 words per minute over a period of 56.01 seconds.

**The world's tallest man was Robert Wadlow who was 2.72 metres tall.**

Charles Osborne started hiccupping in 1922 and didn't stop until one morning in February 1990.

The world's largest diamond, the 'Cullinan' weighed 3106 carats before being cut into 106 polished diamonds. The largest was the 'Star of Africa' which weighs 530.2 carats.

**The length of the day on Venus is 243.16 'Earth days'. The length of the 'Venus year' is only 224.7 days, so on Venus a day is longer than a year.**

The world's largest uninhabited island is Devon Island in northern Canada. Its area is approximately 66 800 km<sup>2</sup>.

The highest ocean temperature ever recorded was 404<sup>o</sup> C, recorded near a hydrothermal vent.

The world's most massive tree was the 'Lindsay Creek Tree', a redwood in California, USA. It had a trunk volume of 2549 m<sup>3</sup>.

**The world's tallest tree is the 'Mendocino Tree' in California. In 1998 it was measured to be 112.014 metres high (and still growing).**

The oldest living tree is the bristlecone pine 'Methuselah'. It is 4767 years old.

China's population in 2000 was estimated to be 1 265 207 000.

The world's longest road is the Pan-American highway, with a length of 24 140 km.

Anessi Vanjoki copped the world's greatest speeding fine of 116 000 Euros for driving his Harley Davidson motorcycle at 75 km/h in a 50 km/h zone.

The earliest recorded use of paper money was during the Song dynasty (960 – 1279 A.D.) in China. The earliest coins were made during the reign of King Gyges of Lydia, Turkey around 630 B.C. The earliest dated coins have the date 1234.

The world's largest pumpkin weighed 513 kg.

A penknife made in 1822 by Joseph Rodgers in the UK has 1822 blades.

The world's oldest known pair of jeans was sold for \$46 532 on eBay on 25 May 2001.

The highest price paid for a diamond, per carat, is \$926 315.79 for a 0.95 carat red-purple stone.

The world's tallest free-standing tower is the CN Tower in Toronto, Canada. It stands 553.34 m high.

The Great Wall of China measures 3460 km.

**The highest recorded airspeed is 3529.56 km/h, achieved in a Lockheed SR-71A Blackbird in 1976.**

**The highest speed ever recorded by a rocket car is 1016.086 km/h, driven by Gary Gabelich on 23 October 1970.**

**The fastest a wheel-driven car has travelled is 696.331 km/h, driven by Al Teague on 21 August 1991.**

**The official land speed record is 1227.985 km/h, driven by Andy Green on 15 October 1997.**

**The world's most fuel efficient car used just 0.02762 liters per 100 km, at a Shell Eco Marathon event on 23 June 2001.**

**The fastest speed ever achieved on a bicycle is 268.831 km/h by Fred Rompelberg on 3 October 1995.**

**The highest speed on water is 511.11 km/h by Ken Warby of Australia on 20 November 1977.**

The French high-speed train GTV reached a speed of 515.3 km/h on 18 May 1990.

The world's largest land vehicle is the RB293 14 196 tonne bucket-wheel excavator, manufactured in Germany.

The fastest possible speed is the speed of light in a vacuum – 299 792 458 m/sec.

**The smelliest substance on Earth is 'US Government Standard Bathroom Maloder'. It is said to be highly repellent to people at just 2 parts per million.**

**The world's fastest roller coaster is the 'Dodonpa' in Japan, which reaches a top speed of 171.98 km/h.**