

# Trek\* Tripe\*

The latest news from the ...

## 2009 FLYING DOCTOR OUTBACK TREK

### PROGRESS REPORT No 02/09 – JANUARY 2009

#### FLIGHTS TO AND FROM LONGREACH...

It was no accident that Longreach was chosen as the half way point for the 2009 Trek. We recognise that time is important to many of us and 10 days might be a stretch for some. Five days on the other hand would be achievable.

Longreach is serviced daily by Qantas Link but there is only one flight per day. They use a Dash 8 Q400 which seats 72 but it's a popular flight and seats are unlikely to be available close to the time. The airline will put on a larger aircraft if necessary as long as they have plenty of notice.

The Trek will arrive in Longreach on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June. Those who fly in on that day will be able to attend the dinner at the Stockman's Hall of Fame that night. Of course if you fly out that day, you'll miss the dinner, but then you could stay until Monday. So many decisions....

#### ...THEN THERE'S THE LAWN BOWLS

David 'Crusty' Crust (Car 7065) is a Longreach boy with a love of the Flying Doctor, the Trek and lawn bowls. He has come up with a novel idea for keeping off the streets during the Trek's lay day in his town, have some fun and make some money for the Doctor.

He proposes a social day at the Longreach Lawn Bowls Club with teams comprising locals and Trekkers, say about 1:3. The club president, Tony Barbeler, will offer an all-you-can-eat barbeque for \$5(!) a head and there will be raffles or a goose club(?) in the afternoon. These proceeds plus the green fees will go to the RFDS.

There is no need to book in yet but give it some thought. It sounds like a good day and certainly a different way to spend your time in Longreach. We will ask for a show of hands later, probably early in the Trek.

\*trek/,v., **trekked, trekking**, n.-v.i. 1.to travel or migrate, esp. with difficulty. -n. 2. a journey, esp. a difficult one. -**trekker**, n.  
\*tripe/,n 1. the first and second divisions of the stomach of a ruminant, esp. of the ox kind, prepared for use as food. 2. Colloq. anything poor or worthless, esp. written work; nonsense; rubbish. 3. Colloq. **beat the tripe out of, a.** to beat up, **b.** to defeat utterly

## **LAST CHANCES FOR A BERTH ON “RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS”**

In one of the most innovative fund raising ideas for some time, the RFDS has been given the use of the cruise liner, *“Rhapsody of the Seas”*, for a one-night cruise out of Sydney Harbour on 1<sup>st</sup> April. Response to the announcement was so immediate that all standard cabins had gone before the Trek had a chance to join in.

However, auctions of the final luxury staterooms have just restarted!

Doctors, flight nurses and pilots from the Royal Flying Doctor Service will be on hand to welcome you and the money raised will all be donated to the RFDS. What a romantic gift for Valentine’s Day!

**A luxury suite will be auctioned every week for the next 4 weeks!**

To bid visit <http://www.flyingdoctors.org.au/Luxury-suite-auction.html>

Once they’ve gone, they’re gone!

## **FISHING IN DARWIN**

Of the many great experiences to have when travelling in Australia, fishing in the waters off Darwin would be hard to beat. Darwin Fishing Office has offered us two one-day fishing trips which can be taken when the Trek arrives there in June. They will be auctioned on the second night of the Trek at Taroom and we will notify the operators the next morning to lock in your chosen day.

If that sounds like a great idea, give it some thought now so you can plan your time in Darwin. If you miss out at the auction – the value of the vouchers is about \$250 each - you will be able to book a day directly with the Darwin Fishing Office. Their website is at [www.darwinreefnwrecks.com.au](http://www.darwinreefnwrecks.com.au)

## **RACING AT ADELAIDE RIVER**

If you are more into horses than fish, the annual Adelaide River Races are on the day after we arrive in Darwin (which will be 12<sup>th</sup> June and the final dinner is that night). Bob Smith (X96 this year) owns the pub at Adelaide River which is only an hour and a half south of the capital so you could be there well before lunch without having rise at dawn.

Bob reckons it’s as good as Birdsville with entertainment laid on. Rooms at the inn are scarce but if you are interested in going along, call Bob on his mobile 0409 447110. Do it very soon.

## **ANOTHER NEW FUNDRAISING SCHEME**

Veteran Barry Parks, with Virgins Gary Fennen and Kim Fillingham (Car 65) have hatched a terrific fundraising scheme that other Trekkers can benefit from. Gary's wife, Margaret, directs a theatre revue company that regularly raises money for charity. This year they will put on a show called "Dolls, Dames & Divas" from 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> March at North Sydney Leagues Club. I have been to some of Margaret's previous shows and they are a lot of fun.

Here is where you come in. Barry, Gary and Kim have made a wonderful offer to other Trekkers. Book a table and ALL the proceeds of the ticket sales (less a small booking fee which is charged by the leagues club) will be credited to your car. There has never been a more generous share of fundraising by a Trek team. Booking tickets will help *your own car* and the Flying Doctor and you and your guests will be a great time.

The shows are at 7.30 pm Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March plus 2 pm on the Friday and 4 pm on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>. Tickets for evening shows are \$40 and \$30 for the two matinees. Book now on 02 9245 3000 or online at [www.norths.com.au](http://www.norths.com.au).

A leaflet with all the relevant information is attached.

## **A NEW FACE AT THE RFDS**

There is a new but familiar face at the RFDS in Sussex Street, Sydney. B2 (aka John Verhelst) has taken on the management of marketing and fundraising for the South Eastern Section. If you are in the area I'm sure he would welcome a visit – you will recognise him as he will be the only one in blue and white striped pyjamas and a yellow hat.

We wish John well in his new position and are sure he's the right man for the job.

## **2009 TREK WEBSITE UP AND RUNNING**

Once again, thanks to Sharon Peaty of FutureIT (phone 02 9531 8818 or email [sharon@futureit.net.au](mailto:sharon@futureit.net.au)) the Trek's website has been updated. All the details are there including a reproduction of the brochure, details of the route, car requirements, issues of Trek Tripe and more. The address, as always, is [www.outbackcartrek.com.au](http://www.outbackcartrek.com.au)

We are very grateful to the work Sharon does for us on the smell of an oily rag and she is happy to work on your website too. Please support her as she supports the Trek.

Don't forget there will be a drinks night at Phillips Foote, 101 George Street, The Rocks, Sydney on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February. People start arriving around 6 pm so come and enjoy a drink and the best steaks in town.

*Stephen*