

May 2026



Royal Flying Doctor Service  
SOUTH EASTERN SECTION

# Rubber2Road



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# Motoring Update – May 2026

Firstly, as mentioned during our recent webinar, we continue to take a measured and considered approach across all of our events, particularly in relation to fuel supply. Pleasingly, feedback from businesses along our routes remains positive, reflecting strong cooperation and support within the communities we engage. This collaborative approach ensures we can deliver our events smoothly while maintaining the high standards participants expect.

We are now entering the final month of preparation for this year's Outback Car Trek, which marks an exciting milestone as we take the event to Tasmania for the very first time. This is a significant evolution of the Trek, and one we're incredibly proud to deliver. Adding to the sense of adventure, this year's route will feature overnight stops in towns we have never stayed in before—creating fresh experiences for participants while expanding our reach into new communities.

I'd also like to acknowledge the recent success of the Bright Smiles Charity Ride. This event once again demonstrated the strength of our motoring community, with funds raised supporting the Royal Flying Doctor Service dental program as well as communities across the Northern Rivers. The impact of these contributions is meaningful and far-reaching, and it's a testament to the generosity and commitment of everyone involved.

Finally, we have now completed the first Drive 4x4 the Doc event survey. The insights gathered will be invaluable as we continue refining the experience. Looking ahead, we're set to explore some truly extraordinary parts of the country—reminding us all why these events are so special, not just for the driving, but for the people and places we connect with along the way.

Thanks again for your passion and support—I look forward to the roads ahead with all of you.



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# Fuel Supply Mitigation Strategy Webinar – Keeping You Informed and Prepared

To ensure participants are informed and prepared ahead of upcoming events, we recently hosted a Fuel Supply Mitigation Strategy Webinar.

The session brought together our motoring community to outline the planning, coordination, and practical steps in place to support a smooth and reliable event experience.

## A Proactive Approach to Fuel Planning

A key focus of the webinar was highlighting the proactive measures in place to manage fuel supply across our event routes. With increased attention on regional fuel availability, our approach centres on early planning, strong communication, and close collaboration with local suppliers.

We continue to work directly with fuel providers and businesses along each route to confirm availability, understand local conditions, and ensure appropriate planning well in advance.

This coordination allows us to identify potential challenges early and put mitigation strategies in place where needed.

Encouragingly, feedback from communities and operators remains positive, reflecting a shared commitment to supporting both participants and the regions we visit. This collaborative approach is critical in ensuring confidence for everyone involved.

## Missed the Webinar?

If you weren't able to join us, you can still catch up on the full session. The recording covers all key updates, practical advice, and insights shared by the team—helping you stay informed and ready for the road ahead.

Watch the webinar here: [FUEL SUPPLY WEBINAR](#)

## What It Means for Participants

The webinar also focused on what participants can expect and how they can contribute to a smooth and successful experience.

Clear communication will continue to be a priority, with participants receiving updates, route guidance, and key refuelling information leading into and during the event.

Practical advice was also shared around responsible refuelling practices and planning ahead while on the road.

Importantly, the session reinforced that a calm and considered approach is key. With the right preparation and awareness, participants can enjoy the journey knowing that strong systems and support are in place behind the scenes.





# From the Road to Real Impact 2026 Bright Smiles Charity Ride

The Bright Smiles Charity Ride has once again proven the power of bringing purpose and adventure together. Riders experienced the spectacular Northern Rivers and New England regions while rallying behind a shared cause—supporting the RFDS Dental Program and helping deliver essential dental care to remote communities.

From seasoned riders to first-time participants, the event showcased the strength and generosity of the motoring community. Set against some of Australia's most scenic roads, the ride not only delivered an unforgettable experience but also made a meaningful impact where it's needed most.

## Thank You to Our Participants

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who took part in this year's Bright Smiles Charity Ride. Your enthusiasm, generosity, and community spirit are what make this event so special.

From the moment entries opened through to the final kilometres ridden, you've shown that this is about far more than just the journey—it's about coming together to make a genuine difference. Whether you were riding, fundraising, supporting behind the scenes, or cheering from afar, your contribution has helped deliver vital support to the RFDS Dental Program and the communities we visited.

It's the shared commitment, camaraderie, and passion of this group that continues to drive the success of the event year after year. Thank you for being part of something that truly matters—we couldn't do it without you.



## More Than a Ride – A Lasting Impact

The Bright Smiles Charity Ride has already delivered an incredible impact—but the fundraising is far from over. To date, more than \$12,500 has been raised for the local communities we visited, alongside over \$20,000 for the RFDS South Eastern Section Dental Program—and still counting.

These funds are already helping make a real difference—supporting mobile dental clinics that travel vast distances to provide essential care, education, and treatment to those who need it most.

Fundraising remains at the heart of this event. Every contribution, big or small, continues to build on this momentum—extending care into remote and regional communities and helping create healthier futures.

There's still time to get involved, share your story, and be part of the ongoing impact. Together, we're not just raising funds—we're delivering brighter smiles across the country.

If you want to donate click on the link below:

[\*\*Support the Bright Smiles Charity Ride TODAY!\*\*](#)

# 2026 Bright Smiles Charity Ride impact by numbers

18,795

views over  
social media page

12

Bikes and Support  
Vehicles

3

New participants  
attended in 2025

13

Participants and  
Officials

\$32,500.00

in donations and community spend



# Meet Dr David Kuehn: T9

**Introducing Dr David Kuehn as a highly respected member of the RFDS medical team, with a strong background in rural and remote healthcare joining us on this year's Trek.**

**What inspired you to join the Outback Car Trek medical team this year?**

The Outback Car trek combines doing our job in an unusual environment with participating in an amazing event. It's something I would consider doing as a participant as much as a medical officer.

**What do you already know about the Trek – and what part of it excites you the most?**

As a first timer, I'm excited for the entire trip. From start to finish.

**Are you a car person? If so, what's your favourite car of all time – and why?**

I drive a 2022 Jimny in Germany. An uncomfy, slow two-seater with the aerodynamics of a brick wall. I love it. No matter how hard I tried to get it stuck in 40cm of snow or deep mud, it just keeps on going. The only trade-off is that someone decided a 40L fuel tank would give you sufficient range to get out and play.

**What are the big “don'ts” you want Trekkers to avoid during a long week on the road?**

The commonsense approach is still the best way to deal with it. You wouldn't work in the heat without a break or sit in front of a desk without getting up from time to time to take your legs for a walk. One rule applies above all: If your wife thinks whatever you're about to do is a really stupid idea, it probably is.

**What's one piece of health or safety advice you think always gets overlooked?**

If you have any chronic disease, chances are it will start acting up when you least need it. Take precautions to make sure it doesn't ruin your trip. If you need help preparing, don't hesitate to reach out to us.

**How important is the support raised through the Trek for the communities we serve?**

I'm only slowly able to grasp how much RFDS really means to people out in the remote communities. I knew beforehand that we are a medical lifeline for anyone living beyond the immediate reach of the cities. Access to healthcare otherwise unavailable for hundreds of kilometers makes the difference between a dangerous frontier and a safe home where a family can thrive. That alone makes our work worth getting up for every day.

**Do you have anything you'd like to say to the Trekkers who've supported the RFDS, in some cases for decades?**

Thank you for keeping us in the air. Your commitment and donations give us the means to provide care where it's needed. Healthcare should never be a luxury no matter where you choose to live. Thanks for stepping up.



# Meet Flight Nurse Kathryn Hines: T10

**Introducing FN Kathryn Hines bringing professionalism, care, and extensive experience to the event. Her supportive approach and expertise will play a key role in ensuring the health and wellbeing of participants throughout the trek.**

**What inspired you to join the Outback Car Trek medical team this year?**

Ever since I started with RFDS 5 years ago I have always wanted to have the opportunity to join the adventure and be a part of this amazing community. I was supposed to go last year had to postpone due to injury, absolutely thrilled to be able to attend this year.

**What do you already know about the Trek – and what part of it excites you the most?**

The exciting part of the trek is the journey and super excited to explore Tasmania. I'm aware of the amazing community activities that occur on the trek and looking forward to being a part of. Not sure what colour my hair will turn out to be.

**Have you ever been involved in something like the Trek before (medically or personally)?**

No this will be my first experience in something like this seen a lot of charity events come through Broken Hill such a great opportunity to be a part of it.

**Are you a car person? If so, what's your favourite car of all time – and why?**

When it comes to cars, I am very practical there is something about a Landcruiser the ability to off road and get off the beaten track is always appealing.

**If you could choose any car to do the Trek in, what would it be?**

It would have to be the Troopie

**We're heading from Albury down to Tassie – have you been before?**

Been to Albury multiple times as I studied Midwifery down there however only been to Hobart last year so super excited to venture particularly the west coast.

**Do you have a favourite Tassie spot, road, pub or lookout?**

Hoping the weather will be clear enough to have a nice view on Mt Wellington did not have the opportunity last time I was there. The Cascade Brewery is always a nice spot for an ale and a feed.

**Do you have anything you'd like to say to the Trekkers who've supported the RFDS, in some cases for decades?**

A huge thank you for your dedication and support we would not be able to do this incredible job if it wasn't for your support. I am looking forward to meeting you all on this wonderful adventure.





# 2026 Outback Car Trek

## Less Than a Month to Go – Tasmania Awaits

With less than a month to go, the countdown is well and truly on for the 2026 Outback Car Trek – and excitement is building as we prepare to take this iconic event to Tasmania for the very first time.

This year's Trek promises an unforgettable journey, travelling from the rugged beauty of the Loddon Mallee and Wimmera regions through to the spectacular and varied landscapes of Tasmania. From wide open plains to winding coastal roads and cool-climate countryside, every stretch of the route has been designed to deliver a truly unique driving experience.

Adding to the sense of adventure, this year's itinerary will see us overnight in all-new towns the Trek has never visited before – creating fresh connections with local communities and offering participants something genuinely different.

### **Can't Join Us on the Road? Enter Virtually and Still Be Part of the Trek**

While the 2026 Outback Car Trek is fast approaching, we know not everyone can make it to the start line this year. That's why virtual entries are a great way to still be part of the journey - wherever you are.

By joining virtually, you'll still play an important role in supporting the Royal Flying Doctor Service. You'll also be part of the Trek community and impact as the event unfolds from the mainland to Tasmania.

A virtual entry allows you to:

- Support an iconic charity motoring event from anywhere
- Contribute directly to life-saving services in regional and remote Australia

Join us virtually and be part of a Trek that's about far more than the kilometres travelled.

[\*\*CLICK HERE FOR A VIRTUAL ENTRY TODAY!\*\*](#)

### **Submit Your Safety Check Forms – Time Is Running Out!**

The countdown is on, and final safety preparations are now critical for the Outback Car Trek. If you haven't submitted your vehicle safety check forms, now is the time!

Your Trek experience starts with a safe and compliant vehicle, and submitting your forms ensures:

- Your vehicle meets required safety standards
- Our team can confirm readiness across the field
- Any issues can be addressed before departure

With final preparations well underway, delays in submission may impact your ability to participate.

[\*\*DOWNLOAD YOUR SAFETY CHECK FORM HERE\*\*](#)



# Final Reminder – Submit Your Event Forms

As we move closer to the start of the 2026 Outback Car Trek, completing your event documentation is a critical priority. All remaining forms must be submitted as soon as possible, including your Entry Form, Medical Form, and Indemnity Form.

If you have any outstanding paperwork, we strongly encourage you to prioritise this immediately. Our team will be following up with anyone who is yet to submit.

[Help us keep everything on track—download and submit your forms today. \*\*CLICK HERE.\*\*](#)

## Updated Medical Form – A Critical Requirement for Your Safety

Submitting your updated Medical Form is essential for your participation in the 2026 Outback Car Trek.

If we don't have this form, we cannot complete your safety file – and we need this information well ahead of the event for our Doctor and Nurse to prepare.

### Why this matters:

Accurate and up-to-date medical details enable our team to respond quickly and effectively in an emergency, ensuring you receive the right care when it matters most.

If you haven't submitted your form, please do so immediately – follow-ups are already underway.

**Download a copy of the form under the 2026 FORMS:**

<https://www.outbackcartrek.com.au/newsletters>

**IF YOU HAVE ALREADY SUBMITTED THESE FORMS THERE IS NO NEED TO RESUBMIT THEM!**

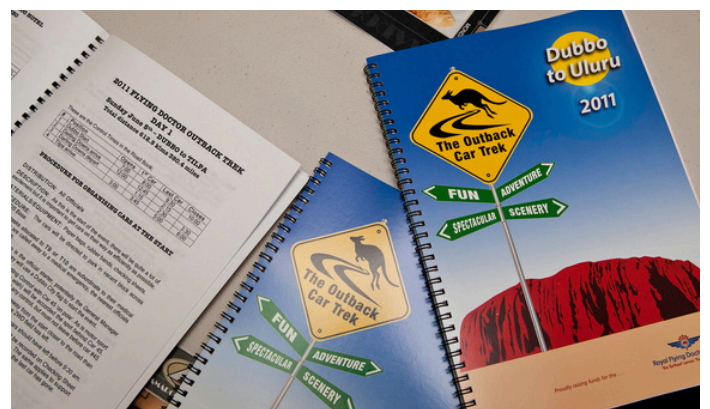
## Updated Indemnity Form – Immediate Action Required

All participants must complete the updated Indemnity Form ahead of the 2026 Outback Car Trek. This is essential for event compliance and confirming your participation.

If you haven't submitted your indemnity form yet, please send it through as soon as possible. Our team will be following up with anyone who still has this outstanding.

**Download a copy of the form under the 2026 FORMS:**

<https://www.outbackcartrek.com.au/newsletters>



# Final Reminder – Outstanding Trek Payments

As we enter the final stages of preparation for the 2026 Outback Car Trek, it's important that all outstanding entry and disbursement payments are finalised now.

These payments are critical to delivering the event – securing catering, confirming local community partners, and ensuring on-ground logistics are in place across the entire route.

If your payment is still pending, we strongly encourage you to complete it immediately. This ensures your place is confirmed and allows the team to keep planning on track without disruption.

## Entry Payments – Action Required

To secure your place in the 2026 Outback Car Trek, entry payments must now be finalised without delay.

These payments are essential to confirm your participation and allow our team to complete allocations, lock in logistics, and finalise event planning.

If your entry payment is still outstanding, please arrange this immediately to avoid any impact to your position in the Trek. Our team will be following up directly with participants who have not yet completed this step—we encourage you to **act now**.

## Bank Details for Payment:

### Account Name:

Outback Trek Gift Fund Account

**BSB: 032-816**

**Account: 199 573**

## Disbursement Payments – Urgent Action to Support Our Host Communities

Disbursement payments are now **urgent**, and we ask all participants to finalise any outstanding amounts without delay.

These payments are critical not just for event delivery, but for the regional communities that host us. Many of the local groups, service clubs, and small businesses we partner with rely on these funds to secure supplies, confirm volunteers, and prepare the catering and support services that make the Trek possible.

With limited resources, these communities depend on timely payments to deliver for us. Delays can directly impact their ability to plan and support the event at the standard we all expect.

If your disbursement payment is still outstanding, please complete it immediately. Our team will be following up directly—your prompt action helps ensure we can deliver a successful Trek while supporting the communities that welcome us each year.





# Get Involved – Help Drive the Trek Experience

Contribute an auction item or lock in additional guests for the Final Night Gala and help us create an event that delivers both an unforgettable experience and meaningful impact.

## Auction Item Contributions – Help Us Maximise the Impact

As we prepare for this year's Outback Car Trek, we're inviting participants to contribute items for our nightly auctions and the Final Night Gala – key moments that drive significant fundraising for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

A strong and varied auction lineup helps create energy, engagement, and generous bidding throughout the event.

Items such as unique experiences, sports memorabilia, travel packages, and premium products are always popular, but just as importantly, distinctive or unexpected items often spark great interest and friendly competition.

If you're in a position to contribute, we encourage you to get involved. Donations can be arranged ahead of the event with the Motoring Events team or brought along to the designated drop-off point at registration.

Every item added to the auction helps strengthen the overall impact we can deliver together.

## Additional Guests – Gala Dinner Book Now

We're pleased to confirm there is still availability for additional guests at the Final Night Gala Dinner.

If you're planning to bring guests, we encourage you to secure their place now. Advance bookings allow us to confirm seating, catering, venue capacity, and any special requirements – ensuring a seamless and enjoyable experience for everyone attending.

Please complete the Additional Guest Booking Form using the link below:

**[Additional Guest Form](#)**



# Fuel the Flying Doctor – New Momentum, Greater Impact

With the Trek fast approaching, fundraising has taken on new momentum – and now is the time to build on it. Every dollar raised continues to support the Royal Flying Doctor Service in delivering vital healthcare to remote communities across Australia.

We're seeing strong progress across the field, and it's a great time for teams to re-engage their networks, share their journey, and keep donations flowing. Whether it's a final push, a new initiative, or a simple reminder to supporters, every effort helps grow the collective impact.

## We're Here to Help

### We're Here to Support Your Fundraising

Our motoring community is at its strongest when we work together – and we're here to help you make the most of your fundraising efforts. Whether you're looking for fresh ideas, promotional support, or simply a starting point, the team is ready to assist. Don't hesitate to reach out – your success is our shared success.

## Bring the RFDS Into Your Community

One of the most powerful ways to elevate your fundraising is by involving the Royal Flying Doctor Service directly. Inviting an RFDS representative to your event – whether it's a community gathering, club function, or workplace initiative – can add a meaningful connection to the cause, inspiring greater engagement and support.

If you'd like to include the RFDS in your event, let us know and we'll do our best to support your plans.

## Stronger Together

The Outback Car Trek community has always been built on generosity, connection, and a shared purpose. Every conversation, event, and contribution helps extend the reach of the RFDS and the vital services they provide. Keep the momentum going, lean on the support around you, and know that you're part of something bigger—a community making a real difference, together.



# Drive Change Online – Power Your Fundraising

The Outback Car Trek is more than an adventure – it's a mission to support the Royal Flying Doctor Service. With online fundraising through Raisely, it's easy to make an impact. Share your fundraising page, reach your network, and build momentum – every donation helps deliver vital care to remote communities.

## For Teams – How to Set Up Your Fundraising Page

### Step 1: Team Captain Registers a Team Page

Create your team's fundraising page on Raisely. This will be the central hub for your team's donations.

### Step 2: Share the Team Page with Your Cars

Invite each car in your team to join the page so all fundraising efforts are connected.

### Step 3: Share Your Team Page Widely

Promote your team page across social media, email, and your networks. Encourage friends, family, and sponsors to donate.

## For Individual Cars – How to Set Up Your Page

### Step 1: Car Captain Creates a Page

Set up your car's fundraising page on Raisely to showcase your trek and make it easy for supporters to donate.

### Step 2: Share Across Your Network

Spread the word! Share your page link via social media, email, and with your sponsors.

## Top Tips for Successful Fundraising

- **Add a Personal Touch:** Share your story – why you're trekking and why RFDS matters to you.
- **Use Photos & Videos:** Visuals make your page more engaging and help donors connect with your journey.
- **Set a Goal:** People love helping you reach a target. Make it visible on your page.
- **Thank Your Donors:** A quick thank-you message goes a long way in building support.
- **Promote Regularly:** Post updates on social media and email your network to keep momentum going.

Click the picture below to go to the Outback Car Trek Raisely Page and get started!



The screenshot shows the Raisely fundraising page for 'The Annual Outback Car Trek'. At the top, there are logos for the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the event, along with navigation links: 'About', 'The Route', 'REGISTER YOUR CAR / TEAM', 'SUPPORT A CAR', 'JOIN A CAR', and 'Login'. The main heading is '30TH MAY - 7TH JUNE 2026 THE ANNUAL OUTBACK CAR TREK'. Below this, it says 'Join the premier Charity Motoring Event in Australia raising millions for The Royal Flying Doctor Service'. There are two buttons: 'REGISTER YOUR CAR / TEAM' and 'SEARCH FOR / JOIN A CAR'. At the bottom, it displays '\$6,146 raised' and '\$500,000 goal' with a progress bar.

# 9K9 Mini Trek – A Weekend of Impact and Community

The 9K9 Mini Trek proved once again that impact isn't defined by distance, but by the people involved and the purpose behind it. Across the weekend, trekkers, supporters, and local teams came together to create something truly memorable – an event that combined energy, connection, and a shared commitment to making a real difference.

The 9K9 Mini Trek was a reminder of what makes these journeys so memorable – bringing great people together, hitting the road with purpose, and embracing every moment along the way.

From the outset, there was a strong sense of anticipation as the convoy assembled and prepared to roll out. That familiar pre-departure buzz quickly gave way to the rhythm of the road, with trekkers settling in, radios crackling to life, and the first kilometres setting the tone for the weekend ahead. It didn't take long for the group to find its stride, with conversations flowing as easily as the road stretched out in front of them.

Each day delivered its own unique mix of driving, connection, and discovery. The route provided the perfect backdrop – varied landscapes, changing conditions, and plenty of opportunities to pause, take it all in, and enjoy the surroundings. Whether it was navigating open stretches, rolling through regional towns, or pulling over for a quick regroup, every stop added to the experience and reinforced the shared journey.

What stood out most across the weekend was the energy within the group. There was a genuine enthusiasm in everything – from the early starts to the final kilometres of each day. The friendships built naturally, with plenty of banter, support, and shared moments that turned a simple drive into something far more memorable. It's that balance of adventure and connection that defines a Mini Trek, and it was on full display throughout.

As always, the purpose behind the Trek remained a constant thread. Fundraising efforts were woven into the weekend, with participants rallying together to contribute in meaningful ways. There was a clear understanding of the impact these efforts would have beyond the road, and that shared goal added another layer of significance to the journey.

Evenings offered a chance to slow things down and bring the group together. After a full day on the road, these moments became highlights in their own right—time to reflect, share stories from the day, compare driving highlights (and lowlights), and enjoy plenty of laughter. It's in these relaxed settings where connections deepen and the true spirit of the Trek really comes to life.

By the time the final leg arrived, there was a strong sense that the weekend had delivered on every level. Not just in the kilometres travelled, but in the experience shared—new memories made, connections strengthened, and a collective effort that extended well beyond the drive itself.

The 9K9 Mini Trek once again proved that you don't need vast distances to create something meaningful. With the right people, a clear purpose, and a willingness to get involved, even a short time on the road can leave a lasting impression.

If you have a story you'd like to share send it through to our team at [motoringevents@rfdsse.org.au](mailto:motoringevents@rfdsse.org.au)



# A Tribute to Allan Coker – Capturing the Spirit of the Trek

After an incredible journey spanning nearly two decades, Allan Coker has made the decision to hang up his camera at the Outback Car Trek and take some well-earned time to focus on family.

Since joining the Trek in 2008, Allan has been a constant presence behind the lens, quietly documenting the moments that define this event.

From the vast outback landscapes to the candid interactions, the challenges, the laughter, and the connections formed along the way – Allan had an incredible ability to capture it all.

Over the years, his work has become an integral part of the Trek's story. Many of the memories we reflect on today—whether they're milestones, unforgettable moments on the road, or the spirit of the communities we visit—have been preserved through Allan's photographs.

His eye for detail and instinct for timing ensured that no moment of significance was missed, creating a visual legacy that will continue to be shared and appreciated long into the future.

Beyond the images themselves, Allan has been part of the fabric of the Trek community. Always approachable, professional, and dedicated to his craft, he brought a sense of calm and consistency to every event, no matter the conditions.

While we will certainly miss having Allan on the road with us, we are incredibly grateful for the contribution he has made from 2008 through to 2025. His work has helped shape how the Outback Car Trek is remembered and celebrated, and for that, we thank him.

Allan, thank you for the memories you've captured and the stories you've helped us tell. We wish you all the very best as you take this next step and enjoy more time with your family—you've more than earned it.



# Community Spotlight:

## Cheeky Trekkers Tee Off in Barmera – Big Fun, Bigger Impact

The Cheeky Trekkers brought their signature energy and personality to Barmera, SA for a golf day that delivered everything you'd expect – great company, plenty of laughs, and a meaningful contribution to the Outback Car Trek and the RFDS.

Set against the relaxed backdrop of Barmera's Riverland surrounds, the day drew a strong turnout of locals, and RFDS supporters, all keen to get involved both on and off the course. From the moment players arrived, there was a real sense of camaraderie, with stories shared, teams formed, and good-natured banter flowing well before the first tee shot.

Once play got underway, the tone was set – this was golf, but not quite as you know it. True to the Cheeky Trekkers' style, the course saw a mix of impressive drives, unexpected shots, and plenty of "creative" interpretations of technique. There were moments of genuine brilliance, quickly followed by shots that kept everyone entertained. Laughter echoed across the fairways, and no one took themselves too seriously – which is exactly what made the day such a success.

Off the course, the event continued to build momentum. With strong support from local sponsors and the wider Riverland community, fundraising efforts were front and centre. Raffles, auctions, and donations all contributed to a fantastic result, reinforcing the spirit of giving that underpins the Outback Car Trek.

What stood out most was the connection between the trekkers and the local community. Events like this are more than just a great day out – they're about bringing people together behind a shared purpose. The support shown in Barmera reflects a genuine understanding of the impact the Royal Flying Doctor Service has in regional areas, and a willingness to get behind that cause in a meaningful way.

For the Cheeky Trekkers, it's a reflection of what they bring to the Trek each year: energy, humour, and a strong commitment to making a difference. Their ability to create an atmosphere that is both welcoming and impactful is what continues to set them apart.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who took part – players, organisers, sponsors, and the Barmera community. The day was a great reminder that when you combine good people, a great attitude, and a worthy cause, the results speak for themselves.





# Drive 4x4 the Doc Survey Wrap-Up

Insights, Highlights & Lessons from the Road

## Unmissable Moments – Connecting with Communities Along the Route

One of the true highlights of this year's Drive 4x4 the Doc – and something you won't want to miss – will be the incredible community connections waiting for you along the route.

Following our recent survey, it's clear the excitement in regional towns is bigger than ever. We've met with schools, and community members who are ready and eager to welcome us in person – many of whom have been quietly supporting the RFDS for years and are now stepping forward to be part of the experience.

Throughout the journey, you'll have the chance to stop, engage, and be part of something special – whether it's visiting a local school or sharing a community breakfast.

They're not just stops on a map – they're a core part of the experience, and an unforgettable reminder of the impact we make together.

## On the Ground – Route Planning in Action

Planning for Drive 4x4 The Doc is well progressed, with route insights from our recent survey helping shape a smooth and enjoyable experience for all participants.

Weather conditions have played a role in defining the route, with some areas impacted during the survey period.

Our team is continuing to monitor conditions closely and has contingencies in place to ensure the event runs safely and seamlessly after the second survey if the situation remains the same.



## A Spectacular Outback Landscape Awaits

Thanks to recent weather, Outback New South Wales is looking its absolute best – alive with colour, greenery, and a renewed energy that transforms the landscape. What is often recognised for its red earth and vast horizons has taken on a fresh character, with vibrant growth adding a striking contrast to the classic outback scenery.

Participants can expect truly spectacular conditions, with wide open plains, rejuvenated countryside, and a visual experience that's as unique as it is memorable. It's a rare opportunity to see the outback in this form – making this year's journey through NSW something genuinely special.



# Drive 4x4 the Doc 2026 – More Than a Drive, A True Outback Experience

The 2026 Drive 4x4 the Doc is set to be one of our most meaningful journeys yet, travelling deep into the far western VIC–NSW outback and celebrating 90 years of the RFDS in NSW.

## Drive 4x4 the Doc – Into the Heart of Remote Australia

Drive 4x4 the Doc 2026 invites participants on a journey that goes beyond the tracks – deep into the regions where the Royal Flying Doctor Service is not just important, but essential.

Traversing far western Victoria and into the remote reaches of western New South Wales, this year's route has been carefully designed to immerse participants in the landscapes and communities that define RFDS country.

From outback stations to isolated townships, every kilometre tells a story of resilience, connection, and reliance on the Flying Doctor.

Along the way, participants will experience unique RFDS touchpoints that bring this connection to life – including a special opportunity to recognise the 90-year legacy of the Broken Hill base, a cornerstone of remote healthcare in Australia.

Running from 17–21 November 2026, the event offers five days of purpose-driven adventure – combining challenging tracks, meaningful community engagement, and a firsthand understanding of the impact of the RFDS.

## Celebrating 90 Years of Broken Hill Base

This year's route proudly recognises the 90-year legacy of the Broken Hill Base, one of the most iconic and historically significant centres in RFDS history. Participants will learn more about its origins, operations, and the communities it continues to serve.

## Experiencing the Reach of the RFDS

This year's Drive 4x4 the Doc will take participants deep into the landscapes that define remote Australia – where vast distances, red dirt roads, and open horizons are part of everyday life.

As the journey unfolds, teams will move through regions where the Royal Flying Doctor Service plays a critical role, gaining a firsthand appreciation of the scale and remoteness that shapes these communities. Along the way, shared moments with locals – over meals, conversations, and simple encounters – bring the experience to life.

It's these connections that sit at the heart of the event, turning every kilometre into more than just a drive – it becomes a journey through community, country, and purpose.



# Where are we going?

## Day 1: Mildura → Mildura via Murray-Sunset National Park

The adventure begins with a loop from Mildura through the vast landscapes of Murray-Sunset National Park, setting the tone for the trip with a true outback experience. Participants will take in wide horizons, changing terrain, and the region's iconic pink lakes – delivering a memorable start from the first kilometres on the road.

A standout moment of the day is the community lunch stop, where participants will connect with locals. Returning to Mildura, Day 1 strikes the perfect balance of driving, connection, and introduction to the journey ahead.

## Day 2: Mildura → Mount Gipps Hotel NSW Via Pooncarie

Day 2 sees the trip cross into New South Wales, heading deep into the state's remote west for an overnight stop at a hotel older than Broken Hill itself. As the landscape opens up, participants will experience the scale and isolation that defines this part of the country.

This leg offers a powerful reminder of the vital role the Royal Flying Doctor Service plays, with communities in this region relying heavily on its support. It's a rare opportunity to witness firsthand the distances, challenges, and importance of the service we're there to support.

## Day 3: Mount Gipps Hotel NSW → Packsaddle → Mount Gipps Hotel NSW

Departing the overnight stop, the convoy continues north to Packsaddle – an iconic outback roadhouse and a well-known stop for travellers crossing this remote part of the country. It's a classic outback experience, offering plenty of character and a chance to take in the unique atmosphere of the region.

From there, the trip returns to Mt Gipps, where teams will come together for an evening of connection, reflection, and celebration after another rewarding day on the road.

## Day 4: Broken Hill → Silverton → RFDS Experience

The final day provides a unique opportunity to connect more deeply with the Royal Flying Doctor Service, with a dedicated engagement and trip around Silverton. This historic outback town offers a powerful backdrop, combining rich heritage, film history, and some of the most iconic landscapes in Australia.

Through this experience, participants gain a firsthand insight into RFDS operations and the vital role the service plays across remote Australia—bringing the journey full circle with a meaningful connection to the cause at the heart of the Trip.



# Trek Cars Are Ready — and Selling Fast!

If you've been thinking about buying or selling a Trek-ready vehicle, now's the moment. Several cars have already been advertised within the Outback Car Trek community – and some have sold almost immediately. Demand is strong, buyers are active, and well-prepared Trek cars are being snapped up as soon as they appear.

If you're planning to list yours, don't wait. And if you're a buyer hunting for the right vehicle, keep an eye on the website – new opportunities are appearing (and disappearing) quickly!

## What We Need to Promote Your Car:

To make your listing stand out and connect you with buyers quickly, please provide:

- 3 high-resolution photos (showing different angles and key features)
- Brief description of the car and inclusions (e.g., modifications, gear, extras)
- Seller contact information
- Price
- Location

Once we have these details, we'll feature your car in our network and help you find the right buyer fast.

## Ready to sell? Send your details to:

[motoringevents@rfdse.org.au](mailto:motoringevents@rfdse.org.au)

## Why Act Now?

- **Demand is high:** We have multiple buyers actively looking for Trek-ready cars.
- **Supply is low:** Few cars are currently listed, so yours will stand out.
- **Support the community:** Selling your car helps new Trekkers join the adventure and continue raising vital funds for RFDS.





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If you have any articles, enquires, feedback or stories to share,  
please contact us at [motoringevents@rfdsse.org.au](mailto:motoringevents@rfdsse.org.au)