

March 2026



Royal Flying Doctor Service
SOUTH EASTERN SECTION

Rubber2Road



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Motoring Update – March 2026

It's already been a busy and exciting start to the year since our January edition of Rubber 2 Road. The energy, passion, and momentum across our motoring community have set a fantastic tone for 2026, and I'm pleased to share a few highlights from the past two months.

One of the standout moments was the recent Outback Car Trek Survey to Tasmania. What an experience. From the warm and welcoming regional communities to some of the most spectacular roads and scenery in the country, Tasmania delivered in every way. And of course, the added bonus of Spirit of Tasmania sailing brought an extra layer of adventure and value to the journey.

Looking ahead, preparations are well underway for the Bright Smiles Charity Ride this April. The ride will support our RFDS Dental Program and shine a spotlight on the Northern Rivers region, where communities continue to recover from recent flooding. It promises to bring together purpose, connection, and the joy of being back on the road.

Over the past month, I've also enjoyed spending time with trekkers at various gatherings. These conversations—from reflections on past treks to ideas for what's next—continue to offer valuable insight into what matters most to this community.

As we move further into the year, the momentum across our motoring initiatives is building. I'm looking forward to seeing many more of you out on the road and sharing the experiences that make this community so unique.

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



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Royal Flying Doctor Service

EXTENDED TO THE END OF MARCH: BOOK NOW OR YOU WILL MISS OUT!

Spirit of Tasmania is proud to support Outback Car Trek travel, offering participants exclusive best-available passenger fares — but only if booked **before the end of March**. After that date, these fares and spaces may no longer be available



Official Spirit of Tasmania Booking Link

CLICK [HERE](#)

Once on the page, make sure you use the “**Book Now**” button at the **bottom** of the page (**do not use the Book Now button in the top right corner**).

By booking through this link, you'll access:

- Special event fares, and
- High-vehicle deck space for vehicles over 2.1m.

***YOU MUST BOOK YOUR OWN PASSAGE TO AND FROM TAS.
ENSURE YOU BOOK THE SAILING ON 3RD JUNE 2026.
You can book your own return passage on a date you wish.***

For more information

Please don't hesitate to contact Motoring Events team

motoringevents@rfdse.org.au



Just Weeks to Go! 2026 Bright Smiles Charity Ride

The countdown is officially on for this year's Bright Smiles Charity Ride and entries are still open! On 1 May, riders will take on the spectacular Northern Rivers Region, coming together to support the RFDSSE Dental Program and help deliver essential dental care to remote communities.

Whether you're a seasoned rider or new to charity events, this is your chance to combine purpose, adventure and some of the most scenic riding in Australia.

Fuel the Impact – Start Your Fundraising Today

As excitement builds for this year's ride, now is the perfect time for riders to launch their fundraising efforts and help the RFDSSE Dental Program deliver essential oral health services to remote and regional communities.

Every dollar raised through this event has a direct and meaningful impact—supporting mobile dental clinics that travel vast distances, providing preventative care and education to schools and families, and ensuring treatment reaches people who would otherwise go without.

Fundraising isn't just an add-on to the ride; it's the engine that powers real change. By sharing your rider story, reaching out to your networks, and encouraging even small contributions, you'll be helping to break down barriers to care and bring brighter, healthier smiles to communities across the Northern Rivers and beyond.

ENTER NOW! FOLLOW THE LINK BELOW:

[ENTER THE 2026 BRIGHT SMILES CHARITY RIDE TODAY!](#)

DONATIONS LINK BELOW:

[CLICK HERE TO SUPPORT TODAY!](#)

Why You Should Get Involved?

By signing up today, you'll be part of an event that delivers:

- A stunning regional ride through diverse landscapes and iconic towns
- Direct support for rural and remote Australians who rely on the RFDS for dental care
- A welcoming and motivated riding community that values camaraderie as much as the cause
- Access to pre-event updates, route highlights, packing tips, and rider resources

This is more than just another date in the calendar—it's a chance to make a real and lasting impact. With the event fast approaching, secure your spot today and start getting ready for a ride you'll talk about long after the engine stops.



More Mates, More Smiles – Join the 1 May Ride!

New to the Bright Smiles Charity Ride –or bringing someone who is?

Great news: the RFDSSSE will waive the \$230 entry fee for every first-time rider. If you bring a mate who's new, their \$230 entry is waived too. More riders, more impact, more smiles—let's grow the crew for 1 May.

Why Bring a Mate?

The 2026 Bright Smiles Charity Ride is all about connection—on the road, in the communities we support, and within our riding family. This year, we're excited to make it easier than ever for new riders to join the adventure with our Bring a Mate campaign.

If you're a first-time rider, or if you bring someone who's new to the Bright Smiles Charity Ride, the RFDSSSE will waive the \$230 entry fee for the new participant. It's our way of welcoming fresh faces, growing the riding community, and increasing the impact we can make for the RFDSSSE Dental Program.

Riding with a mate not only doubles the fun—it doubles the difference we can make for the communities we serve. Whether you've got a long-time riding partner, a colleague keen to get involved, or someone who's always talked about joining a charity ride, now is the perfect time to get them on board.

How to Use the Fee Waiver

1. Enter now for the 2026 Bright Smiles Charity Ride (1 May).
2. Invite a first-time rider (friend, colleague, clubmate) to join you.
3. On the entry form, tick the box for "Bring A Mate Campaign" and enter their name for your mate.
4. Submit to the Motoring Events team—then start planning your ride together.

Tip: If your mate enters first, they can list you as the referring rider so their \$230 is still waived.





Honouring Our Trek Alumni

Celebrating 20 Treks and Beyond

We are proud to honour the trekkers who have completed 20 or more Outback Car Treks—a remarkable milestone that reflects decades of loyalty, generosity, and commitment to supporting the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

These alumni have helped shape the Trek into the iconic event it is today. Their spirit, leadership, and passion have guided new participants, strengthened communities, and contributed to millions raised for remote healthcare. This page is dedicated to recognising their extraordinary achievement.

Here, you'll find the names of our 20-Trek Alumni—true champions of the Trek and lifelong supporters of the Flying Doctor.

Thank you for your years of dedication. The Trek wouldn't be the same without you.

Alumni Impact: Over \$27.7 Million Raised

Our long-serving trekkers—those who have completed 20, 25, and even 30+ Outback Car Treks—have created one of the most enduring legacies in RFDS fundraising. Across the years represented in their milestones, our Alumni have helped raise an extraordinary \$27,706,013 for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

This remarkable contribution has supported emergency flights, remote healthcare, dental services, and vital outreach across some of Australia's most isolated communities. Their dedication, year after year, has shaped the Trek's culture and strengthened the Flying Doctor's ability to deliver life-saving care where it's needed most.

To every Alumni Trekker—thank you for your loyalty, leadership, and outstanding impact. Your commitment continues to change lives across remote Australia.

30 Treks or More – Lifetime Legends

- Howard Dredge
- Mike Wheatley
- Mike Thompson
- Roger Wells
- John Gorman
- Neville Simpson

25 Treks or More – Outstanding Commitment

- John Graham
- Larry Shutes
- Phil Wickham
- John Peaty
- Peter Cook
- Bob Barbour
- Dennis Poole
- Dennis Foster
- John Fidler
- Kym Bailey
- Peter Wilson
- Rob Blain
- Robert Ceccato
- Syd Howard
- Denis McFadden
- Greg Hunter Snr
- Byram Johnston
- John Todd
- Michael Browne
- Brian Coffey
- Ken Todd
- Norman Rydge
- Peter Gallagher
- Peter Kennedy
- Peter Macintosh

20 Treks or More – Dedicated Alumni

- James Calvert-Jones
- Joffa Dowie
- Paul Gallant
- Harley Kruse
- Robert St Clair
- Bill Patrick
- Chris Quinlan
- Graham Bate
- Matt Coleman
- Peter Lamb
- Stephen Knox
- David Hicks
- Peter Dooley
- David Shaw
- Grant Nathan
- John Butler
- John Leeds
- Mike Pollard
- Alan Mugford
- Bart Elias
- Frank Bird
- Geoff Smith
- Jock Collings
- John Levy
- John Milne
- Malcolm Edwards
- Maurie Smith
- Peter Mattick
- Peter Shaw
- Roger Snaith
- Tony Smith



Outback Car Trek Survey Wrap-Up

Insights, Highlights & Lessons from
the Road

Strengthening Community Connections Along the Route

As we prepare for this year's Outback Car Trek, we want to share a key highlight from our recent survey: the fantastic engagement opportunities awaiting trekkers throughout the journey. Our team met with a range of schools, sporting clubs, and community groups, many of whom have long supported the Trek quietly in the background.

These communities are incredibly enthusiastic about welcoming Trek teams, and several stops will include opportunities for interaction—whether that's a school visit, a morning tea, or a fundraising moment hosted by local service clubs. Many of these groups have long-standing ties to the Trek, and they're excited to play a visible role in this year's event.

These touchpoints will not only add richness to your trek experience but also reinforce the real impact the event has in the communities we travel through.

Route Adjustments, Sailing Logistics & Weather Impacts

The survey has also helped us identify important operational considerations for trekkers. This year's Trek involves coordinated timing with Spirit of Tasmania sailings, and we'll provide detailed instructions on loading, timing requirements, and documentation well ahead of your crossing.

Recent weather events have also played a role in shaping the final route. Flooding west of Albury caused several road closures during our survey period, highlighting the need for flexible planning. Our team is monitoring these areas closely and has prepared contingencies should conditions change again closer to the event.

As always, safety and smooth logistics remain our top priorities.



Stunning Scenery Awaiting Trekkers Across NSW, Victoria and Tasmania

The survey revealed a diverse and memorable route ahead. Trekkers can expect classic outback views across regional NSW and the Victorian Mallee, with wide plains, wheatbelt country and red-earth landscapes. Further south, the route showcases dramatic coastal scenery along the Great Ocean Road before crossing Bass Strait on the Spirit of Tasmania.

Tasmania offers a fresh change of scenery, with rolling green hills, pristine coastal roads and charming regional towns. Altogether, the route delivers a striking mix of landscapes that will make this year's Trek especially rewarding.



Spirit of Tasmania Survey Learnings: What Trekkers Need to Know

A smoother crossing starts with good preparation—here are the key takeaways from our recent Spirit of Tasmania survey trip.

Biosecurity Requirements – Clean Your Vehicle Before Arrival to the Geelong Terminal

Tasmania has some of the strongest biosecurity laws in Australia, and one of the key requirements is that vehicles must not carry mud, seeds, or soil that could introduce pests or contamination.

To support this, all trekkers are strongly encouraged to wash off mud and debris before arriving at the Geelong Spirit of Tasmania terminal.

To make this as easy as possible:

- We have organised Marcus Oldham College students to assist by washing wheel arches and removing clumped mud on the day for a donation.
- There are also four self-service car washes located near the terminal for anyone who prefers to do a more thorough clean which we will publish in the roadbook.

We will provide time during the day for everyone to complete this step. A clean vehicle helps ensure a smooth boarding process and avoids delays during biosecurity inspections.

Pack an Overnight Bag – No Access to Vehicles After Boarding

Another important operational note: once the ship is loaded and the vehicle deck doors are locked, you cannot return to your vehicle for any reason during the crossing. This includes access to medications, clothing, or personal items. To avoid being caught out, we strongly recommend bringing a small overnight bag with everything you may need onboard, such as Medications, Toiletries, A change of clothes, Phone chargers and any valuables you prefer to keep with you.

Once the crossing begins, the vehicle decks remain closed until the ship docks in Devonport, so please make sure you have all necessary items with you before leaving your vehicle.

Fuel Restrictions – No Petrol Jerry Cans Allowed Onboard

One of the most important learnings from the survey is that petrol jerry cans cannot be taken onboard the Spirit of Tasmania, regardless of whether they are full or empty. This is a strict maritime safety requirement, and security checks at the terminal will enforce it.

The good news? You won't need them.

Our planned route has been designed carefully, and the longest distance between fuel stops is 350 km, well within the range of every Trek vehicle. With reliable fuel access along the way, you can leave the jerry cans at home and travel lighter and safer.

We'll share reminders ahead of time—but please ensure your vehicle complies before arriving at the terminal.



A Story of True Mateship: The Heart of the Outback Car Trek

Every year, the Outback Car Trek brings people together through a shared love of the bush, adventure, and supporting the Royal Flying Doctor Service. But behind the dust, the laughs, and the long days on the road, there is something far deeper that binds trekkers together—mateship. A kind of loyalty, friendship, and support that shows its true strength when life is at its hardest.

One Trekker recently shared a story that captures this spirit in the most profound way.

For more than 20 years, he has been part of a trek team—a group built around long friendships and unwavering hospitality. After joining them on his first Trek around 2014, he quickly became part of the family, forming bonds that have lasted for decades. As he describes it, “they accepted me like a brother, and I can’t say how much the friendship means to me.”

That mateship would soon be tested in a way none of them expected.

Last year, his wife was diagnosed with cancer. Even amid the uncertainty, and with her encouragement, he chose to join the 2025 Trek—knowing how much the event meant to him. But while the team was in Karumba, word came through that his wife had been admitted to hospital back home in Coastal NSW. They were almost as far from home as possible.

Without hesitation, two of his Trek mates insisted on driving him the eight hours from Karumba to Cairns so he could catch the first available flight home. They did this willingly, without expectation, even though it meant missing the final stop of the Trek. They simply did what mates do: they showed up, they drove, and they got him home when it mattered most.

He made it back in time to be with his wife—and those final moments together became even more precious when she sadly passed away in October.

This story is more than a reflection of hardship; it is a reflection of the unbreakable bonds that form on the Trek. It speaks to what this community represents: looking out for one another, stepping up when it counts, and standing alongside mates through the highs and the heartbreaks.

As he prepares for new challenges and looks forward to heading to Tasmania this year, he offered his story as a reminder of what the Outback Car Trek truly is.

It’s a fundraiser.
It’s an adventure.

But more than anything—it’s a family.

And in his words, he is “happy for this story to be shared.”

If you have a story you’d like to share send it through to our team at motoringevents@rfdssse.org.au





2026 Outback Car Trek

Your Next Great Adventure Begins in Tasmania!

Get ready for an unforgettable adventure! This year's Outback Car Trek will take you from the rugged beauty of the Loddon Mallee and Wimmera all the way to the stunning landscapes of Tasmania—delivering one incredible driving experience after another.

From outback plains to coastal curves and cool-climate country roads, every kilometre offers something special. And as always, every team will be helping raise vital funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, making a real impact for remote communities along the way.

If Tasmania has been on your list, this is your moment. Entries are open and filling fast—secure your spot and be part of a trek you'll never forget.

Entries Open – Don't Miss Your Chance!

The 2026 Outback Car Trek is open for entries, and excitement is building fast. This is your opportunity to take on Tasmania's rugged wilderness, mountain passes, and breathtaking coastal roads—all while supporting the life-saving work of the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

By entering now, you'll:

- Secure your place in one of Australia's most iconic charity motoring events
- Gain early access to route maps, accommodation details, and key event updates
- Join a passionate trekking community committed to making a real difference

Spots are limited and interest is high—once entries fill, they're gone. Don't wait until the last minute.

[ENTER TODAY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT - CLICK HERE!](#)

Secure Your Spirit of Tasmania Crossing – Time Is Running Out!

The countdown is on, and the Spirit of Tasmania is filling fast for the Outback Car Trek. If you haven't locked in your sailing yet, now's the moment—reserved trekker allocations will be released to the public at the end of March, and once that happens, we can't hold or guarantee any spots.

Your Tasmanian adventure starts the moment you roll onto the ship, and booking early ensures you get:

- A guaranteed place for your vehicle and gear
- Preferred sailing times that match your travel plans
- Exclusive Outback Car Trek participant rates

With interest building and demand climbing every week, last-minute bookings may not be available post March.

[EXCLUSIVE TREK RATE FOR SPIRIT OF TASMANIA - BOOK HERE TO SECURE YOUR SPOT](#)



2026 Forms Required Please Submit ASAP

To keep preparations for the 2026 Outback Car Trek on track, we need all remaining paperwork submitted as soon as possible. This includes your Entry Form, Medical Form, and Indemnity Form. These documents are vital for organising logistics, confirming participant details, and ensuring we have accurate safety and emergency information.

If you haven't sent through every required form, please do so immediately. Our team will be in contact with anyone who still has outstanding documentation.

[Download and Submit Your Updated Forms Today](#)

Updated Medical Form – Your Health Matters

Your health and safety are central to our event planning. The updated Medical Form captures essential information that our medical and support teams rely on during the 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 medical information helps our medical crew respond effectively in an emergency and ensures you receive the right care if required.

If you've entered but haven't submitted your Medical Form, please return it immediately, as 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

The Indemnity Form has been updated and must be completed by all participants before the 2026 Outback Car Trek. This document is essential for event safety, compliance, and finalising 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>



Urgent Reminder: 2026 Trek Payments Needed Now

As we move into final preparations for the 2026 Outback Car Trek, we're asking all participants to settle any outstanding entry and disbursement payments without delay.

These payments play a crucial role in locking in catering and community groups assisting with the on-ground logistics that make the event run smoothly.

Timely payment ensures we can confirm your place, allocate resources correctly, and keep all planning on schedule. If you still have payments owing, please complete them as soon as possible. Our team will be in touch with anyone who has outstanding amounts.

Entry Payments – Action Required

To finalise your place in the 2026 Outback Car Trek, entry payments must now be settled as soon as possible.

These payments confirm your participation and allow us to complete allocations, prepare logistics, and finalise event resources.

If your entry payment is still outstanding, please arrange payment immediately. Our team will be following up with participants who have not yet completed this step.

Bank Details for Payment:

Account Name:

Outback Trek Gift Fund Account

BSB: 032-816

Account: 199 573

Disbursement Payments – Needed Urgently to Support Local Communities

Disbursement payments are an essential part of our event planning, and we now urgently need all outstanding payments finalised.

Many of the community groups, service clubs, and small regional caterers who support the Trek rely on early payments to secure supplies, confirm volunteers, and prepare catering and venues. Because these groups operate on very limited budgets, they often require funds well ahead of the event to lock in what they need.

To ensure we can meet these commitments on time—and to support the communities that make the Outback Car Trek possible—we ask that all participants complete their disbursement payments as soon as possible.

Our team will be following up with anyone who still has outstanding amounts.





Get Involved: Support the Trek & Final Night Gala

Get involved and help shape this year's Trek by contributing auction items and confirming any extra Gala attendees now.

Auction Item Call-Out – Your Donations Make a Difference

We are now collecting auction items for both the nightly auctions held throughout the Trek and the highly anticipated Final Night Gala. These fundraising moments are central to the spirit of the Outback Car Trek and consistently deliver some of the largest contributions to the Royal Flying Doctor Service each year.

The more variety we have, the more excitement—and generosity—we can inspire. We're looking for items that stand out and spark interest, such as unique experiences, sports memorabilia, travel packages, premium products, or anything else you think will attract strong bidding from our passionate Trek community. Even smaller or niche items often create friendly competition and add great value to the overall fundraising effort.

If you have something to contribute, please contact the Motoring Events team ahead of time or bring your item to the designated drop-off point at registration.

Every contribution helps, and each donated item—large or small—directly strengthens our fundraising impact across the event.



Additional Guests – Gala Dinner Book Now

If you plan to bring additional guests to the Final Night Gala Dinner, you can book now ahead of time. This ensures we can confirm seating, catering, venue capacity, and special requirements well before the event.

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

[Additional Guest Form](#)

Early submissions aid us in delivering the best possible experience for trekkers and their guests.



Fuel the Flying Doctor – Keep Your Fundraising Momentum Strong

Fundraising is a core part of the Outback Car Trek, and now is the time to drive donations and build momentum for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Every contribution helps deliver vital healthcare to remote communities.

We encourage all teams and individual cars to promote their fundraising, rally supporters, and keep donations flowing in the lead-up to the event. The more momentum we create together, the greater the impact we make.

We're Here to Help

If you need support with your fundraising—be it event ideas, promotional material, or simply guidance on how to get started—our team is here for you. Don't hesitate to reach out; we're committed to helping you make your events as successful and impactful as possible.

Invite the RFDS to Your Fundraising Events

We also encourage you to involve the RFDS in your fundraising activities. Whether you're hosting a community event, a club gathering, or a workplace function, having a representative attend can boost credibility, engagement, and excitement.

If you'd like an RFDS presence at your fundraiser, simply reach out and we'll do our best to be there.

Together, We Make the Difference

The Outback Car Trek community has always been defined by its generosity, spirit, and shared commitment to supporting the Royal Flying Doctor Service. With your help, we can make 2026 another remarkable year of impact and connection.

Keep the fundraising going, reach out if you need support, and remember—we're right beside you on this journey.



Drive Change with Your Fundraising Efforts

The Outback Car Trek is more than an adventure—it's a mission to support the Royal Flying Doctor Service and help deliver life-saving care to remote communities. Fundraising is a vital part of this journey, and we've made it easy for teams and individual cars to get started through Raisely. Whether you're a Team Captain or a Car Captain, follow the steps below and start making an impact today!

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!



A screenshot of the Raisely fundraising page for 'THE ANNUAL OUTBACK CAR TREK'. The page features the Royal Flying Doctor Service logo and a '30TH MAY - 7TH JUNE 2026' banner. The main heading is 'THE ANNUAL OUTBACK CAR TREK' with a sub-heading 'Join the premier Charity Motoring Event in Australia raising millions for The Royal Flying Doctor Service'. There are buttons for 'REGISTER YOUR CAR / TEAM', 'SUPPORT A CAR', and 'JOIN A CAR'. A progress bar shows '\$6,146 raised' out of a '\$500,000 goal'. The background image shows a rugged off-road vehicle driving through a dusty, hazy landscape.

Community Spotlight:

Team 3333's Golf Day raises big for the Outback Car Trek

On Tuesday 10 February, joined by members of the RFDS Community Fundraising team, we attended Lynwood Golf Club as fellow members of the Outback Car Trek came together with supporters, sponsors and friends for the annual Team 3333 Golf Day—an event that has quickly become a standout on the community fundraising calendar.

Before a single ball was struck, the day had already generated nearly \$40,000 for the RFDS. Since then, that total has grown by many tens of thousands more, with donations continuing to roll in as supporters extend their generosity in the days following the event.

From the moment players stepped onto the course, the unmistakable energy of Team 3333 set the tone. Anyone who's met their iconic team captain, John Graham, knows his enthusiasm is contagious—and it was on full display throughout the day.

The entire team embodied the same spirit that defines their Outback Car Trek journeys each year: determination, goodwill and a genuine commitment to making a difference. Guests and RFDS representatives were welcomed as if they were long-time family members, a hallmark of the culture Team 3333 has proudly nurtured over the years. That warmth carried through every moment—from registration and friendly pre-game banter to the post-event gathering where stories and laughter flowed in equal measure.

And of course, no Team 3333 event would be complete without a healthy dose of humour. The golf offered plenty of entertainment. Some players delivered impressive shots; others showcased more... creative interpretations of standard technique. Balls travelled sideways, clubs were questioned, and at least one shot seemed to defy physics entirely. But that's part of the magic—the day isn't about perfect scores. It's about turning up, enjoying each other's company, and raising critical funds for the RFDS.

For many in attendance, including trekkers who travel thousands of kilometres each year, supporting the RFDS is deeply personal. They've seen the need firsthand and met the people whose lives depend on our service. Their commitment comes from that lived connection.

The partnership between the Outback Car Trek community and the RFDS has always been anchored in trust, respect and a shared dedication to supporting people in the bush. This year's Team 3333 Golf Day once again demonstrated why that relationship remains so strong.



Drive 4x4 the Doc 2026 – Into the Outback, Into Our Story

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 Broken Hill Base.

A Journey Through the Heart of RFDS Country

This year's Drive 4x4 the Doc will take participants through some of the most remote—and most important—locations the Royal Flying Doctor Service operates in. Travelling between far western Victoria and western NSW, the route has been designed to showcase the landscapes, communities, and outback stations that rely on the RFDS every day.

Along the way, teams will enjoy unique RFDS experiences, including an opportunity to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the RFDS Broken Hill Base—a cornerstone of our history and an enduring symbol of the Flying Doctor's service to remote Australia.

The 2026 event will run from 17–21 November, blending adventure, community connection, and meaningful purpose across five unforgettable days.

Pricing is currently being finalised and will be published shortly on the Drive 4x4 the Doc website.

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.

Showcasing Remote RFDS Regions

From desert landscapes to red-dirt horizons, this year's Drive will take teams directly through regions where RFDS crews deliver emergency aeromedical care, dental services, mental health support and more. It's an opportunity to experience the vast distances our teams cover every day.

Across the journey, participants will share meals, stories, and experiences with the people who call these outback towns home. These touchpoints reflect what Drive 4x4 the Doc is all about—community, country, and connection.



Where are we going?

30 April 2026
Dungog, NSW

Start your Bright Smiles Charity Ride adventure with a relaxed evening in the charming town of Dungog. Riders will come together at the Settlers Arms Hotel for an official ride briefing at 5:00 PM, followed by a group dinner at 6:30 PM. It's the perfect opportunity to meet your fellow riders, share stories, and soak up the excitement before we hit the road.

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

The event launches with a loop through Murray-Sunset National Park, one of Victoria's largest and most spectacular wilderness areas. Expect wide landscapes, pink lakes, and an outback atmosphere that sets the tone for the entire event.

A unique community lunch stop is planned to connect participants with outback locals who proudly support the RFDS.

Day 2: Mildura → Western NSW (Overnight Stop TBC)

Day 2 crosses the border into NSW, heading into the remote west for an overnight stop at a location currently being finalised. This section highlights the scale and isolation of RFDS territory, giving participants a rare glimpse into communities that rely on the Flying Doctor more than most.

Day 3: Western NSW (Overnight Stop TBC) → Packsaddle → Broken Hill

From our overnight stop, the convoy travels north to Packsaddle, a quintessential outback roadhouse that has become a beloved stop for RFDS crews and travellers alike. Returning to Broken Hill, teams will settle in for an evening celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the RFDS Broken Hill Base.

Day 4: Broken Hill → Silverton → RFDS Experience

The final day offers an opportunity to experience RFDS history and operations firsthand, with a dedicated RFDS engagement in and around Silverton—a town rich with heritage, film history, and iconic outback scenery.



Trek Cars Are Already Hitting the Market — 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

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