



MEDIA RELEASE

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New RFDSSE Head of Motoring Events, Matthew Tosolini, to start in July 2025

The Royal Flying Doctor Service (South Eastern Section) is pleased to announce the appointment of Matthew Tosolini into the newly created role of Head of Motoring Events.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service recently took over the ownership of the Outback Car Trek, Bright Smiles Charity Ride and Drive 4x4 The Doc from Bill Patrick, a long-time valued supporter who has been managing the three events for almost two decades.

As Bill will be retiring from the events series, Matthew will be taking the reins from 2 July 2025 but will be attending the 2025 Trek from Bathurst to Cairns alongside Bill to learn the ropes.

A familiar face, Matthew has participated in four Treks as part of the 'Kommon Folk' team in car #145. Across those events, the team built three cars from the ground up.

"What really draws me back each year, though is knowing that while we're out there having fun and doing what we love, it's making a real difference. The money raised supports vital services in the communities we visit, and most importantly, it helps ensure that when someone needs the RFDS, the help will be there," Matthew said.

"I've always felt a strong connection to the rural and remote communities the RFDS serves, both personally and professionally. Having lived and worked in many communities that rely on the RFDS, I understand how critical access to emergency care is in these areas, where help is often hours away."

Matthew was formerly the National Capability and Technical Training Manager at Komatsu Australia, a leading manufacturer and supplier of construction and industrial equipment, technology and services.

With experience working closely with stakeholders to create valuable working relationships, Matthew is well positioned to collaborate with current and future supporters to take our motoring events into the future.

"We are delighted to have a Trekker take on these events in future. It's one thing to be able to organise the enormous logistics and fundraising efforts around something like the Outback Car Trek – but Matthew has the added benefit of understanding the camaraderie and the connection hundreds of people have had to the OCT and to the RFDS over many years," Greg Sam, CEO of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (South Eastern Section) said.

“I have known Matthew for many years, and I am certain that the Outback Car Trek, Bright Smiles Charity Ride and Drive 4x4 The Doc will continue to flourish under Matthew’s leadership. Matthew and I will be working closely together over the coming year and a half for a smooth and successful succession,” Bill Patrick said.

Matthew said there are two main reasons why he wanted to take on this newly created role: “First, working with the RFDS gives my children a chance to be genuinely proud of what their dad does. Knowing that the work we do directly helps people every day, through the funds we raise, is incredibly meaningful.

“Second, while it was the cause that drew me to my first Trek in 2018, raising vital funds for the RFDS, it was the Trek community that brought me back for three more. This is a group of people from all walks of life, each with their own connection to the cause, united by a shared purpose. That kind of inspiration is what makes you want to step up and take on a role like this, to help ensure the Trek stays true to its roots, in the most authentic and impactful way possible,” Matthew finished.

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About the Royal Flying Doctor Service

The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) is a not-for-profit charity which provides 24/7 essential lifesaving, emergency and primary healthcare to regional, rural and remote NSW communities.

For 96 years, the RFDS has taken the finest care to the furthest corner. We provide lifesaving outback emergency aeromedical retrievals and hospital transfers, as well as providing over 355,000 occasions of care over the last five years through on-the-ground GP and nurse appointments, dental care, mental health care, alcohol and other drug counselling, vaccinations, chronic disease management and telehealth.

The RFDS has proudly been named Australia’s most reputable charity 13 times by Reprtrak.
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