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Subject: Lots of important information re Trek 2022  
Date: 14 May 2022 at 8:39 am  
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Trek 2022 is only 3 weeks away.....



**REGISTRATIONS AND CUT-A-RAMA** - It's not long to go now before we all gather in Parkes for the registrations evening, and of course the world famous A-Rama. The Coachman Hotel/Motel at the corner of Welcome and Dalton St is the place to be on Saturday 4th June, and I look forward to welcoming participants and their supporters from 4:30 pm onwards.

Located right in the heart of the Parkes CBD, the hotel is well set up for group our size, and it has a fantastic bistro that can cater to large numbers. Cut-A-F will be in the thick of the action in the main bar on Dalton St.

**OFFICIALS** - you are booked into the North Parkes Hotel, and our briefing commences in the restaurant there at 2:30 pm.

**LA NINA** - The question on everyone's lips this week is the weather. None of can influence the weather, but we do have some solid Plan B's in place. As w found with all of the rain during the 2021 Trek, we can still have lots of fun, dri some of the roads less travelled and make lots of new friends, even when it ra

Watch this space is all I can say at the moment.

Over a week ago I started to lock in firm numbers for catering for all of the me along the way, and our commitment to these suppliers is simple: if we can't r after you have ordered supplies in, we will not see you out of pocket. Many o them have 3 week lead times (or longer) and that makes it important, even if v are forced onto Plan B roads, that we still hit our lunch and overnight stops w humanly possible. **PLEASE** do your part if the weather does close in on us, a make the effort to get to the designated breakfast, lunch and dinner stops via detour roads.

**BREAKFAST** on the Sunday Morning is at the Parkes Services Club (park at rear of the Club off Caledonia Street) and the doors open at 7:00 am. There v a participants briefing in the auditorium at 8:45 am sharp and the Pace Car le: at 9:30 am.

We will tell you this at the briefing, but you need to think of this now. When yc packing your car make sure your snatch straps are easily accessible, not buri the boot under a spare tyre - there is a high likelihood that you will need them during the week. Also, just as driving on dirt is different to driving on the tar, d on wet dirt roads requires a different approach to driving on dry dirt roads. Th and other points will be covered at the briefing, but best to start thinking about issues like this now. Such as what gear do I start off in after I am bogged?

Also to be discussed during the briefing will be the new method in the road bo **classifying hazards "Cat 1, Cat 2, Cat 3"** and so on. These categories were defined at the time the survey car last drove the road (so beware, the conditio might have deteriorated since then). Cat 1 is a hazard (grid, dip, gate, etc) th requires you to steady and slow your speed, and then proceed with due care : attention. Cat 2 is a hazard that requires you to slow down to 50 km/hr and proceed with caution, and Cat 3 requires you to slow to a walking pace and be prepared to stop at a moments notice. There are a couple of Cat 5's marked book also, and these obviously require extreme caution.

**ENTRIES** - we are undergoing an audit of all entry forms this weekend, and w be identifying those entries that do not contain signed indemnity forms, medic forms or vaccination certificates. If we are found to be missing your forms we be in contact early next week to request them, but why wait - if you know you haven't submitted these forms, please do it now.

**SAFETY CHECK FORMS** - we will also be identifying cars who do not appea have returned their signed Safety Check Form - please make sure you have y

signed forms and that a copy has been returned to the Trek office.

**PACE CAR** each day - we trialled the pace car system in 2021 with a lot of success, and we will continue this approach in 2022. No one is to overtake the Pace Car and *I would like a few volunteers for Pace Car duties* - people who can go out first, maintain a good road speed, and set the driving style for the rest of the field. Please drop me an email if you would like to be a Pace Car for a day.

**FUEL DISTANCES** - the longest fuel distance is Thargomindah to Augathella, 500 kms with no fuel along the way. This distance without fuel is not unusual, Trekkers should be prepared.

On the subject of distances, I received a call from Bulloo Shire last week, advising that a road they had expected to be opened in time for the Trek would not be opened, and in fact it had been decided by Council to close the road permanently. This meant a late re-routing of the day via the Noccundra Pub, and thanks to Margaret and family for fitting us in for lunch at extremely short notice, literally in the middle of nowhere. Fuel will not be an issue on this day.

**VIRGINS** - we are continuing to attract new participants to the event, and this year we will have 36 people who have not been on a Trek previously. They will be distinguished by a green name badge, and I ask you to make yourself known to them and make them feel welcome. New people are the future lifeblood of the event, and we want to do all we can to retain them.

(This is another reason we switched last year to a 30 year old rule - we want to lower the cost of building a car to attract new entrants).

**FREE CAMPING** is arranged in all towns except for Parkes and Hervey Bay, for the details are in the road book.

**CAR CARRIERS** - after my text to Trekkers earlier this week we now have a couple of more irons in the fire, and I am hopeful of being able to set up a drop point for the cars in either Hervey Bay or Maryborough on arrival, with the cars being shipped south within a day or two of the Trek finishing. I do not yet have pricing, but I am hopeful of having the details sorted early next week. CEVA is available from 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday at Pinkenba (near Brisbane Airport) if you want to drop your car in there.

**AUCTIONS** - we are starting to collect some great auction items, but still we need more. Auctions are a wonderful source of funds for the RFDS and we need Trekkers to dig deep and see what they can donate. Please let me know if you might be able to donate an auction item - no item too big or too small, too common or too expensive - we need them all, but it helps if I can get them in the auction booklet before we pack the car and leave for Parkes.

**FINAL NIGHT DINNER GUESTS** below are a list of guests that I am currently catering for on the final night dinner. Please check this list for completeness and let me know of any additions or alterations, by next Thursday 19th May.

'151	Jane Meyer	'85	Mrs Fazzolari
'151	Renee Shearer	'85	Mrs Horner
'152	Fiona Miles	'T1	Jennifer Mastr
'153	Julie Clarke	'T1	Rob Blain
'153	Helen McCourt	'T1	Julianne Blain
'1966	Adele Withers	'T1	Sabrina Monta
'1966	Diana Nutter	'T16	Lisa New
'245	Emma Toffanello	'T16	Ellen Smith

STG	EMMA THURTON	STG	EMMA THURTON
'345	Denise Thrift	'X89	Di Spruitenbur
'64	Serena Turnock	'X89	Gwenda Shaw

**BUSES IN HERVEY BAY** - Hervey Bay is an awkward place to use buses to collect people for the final night dinner - it is a collection of suburbs stretched 13 km of coastline. A few months ago we asked you to book within a reasonable distance of the Beach House Hotel at Scarness and hopefully you have done

**IF YOU NEED A BUS TO AND FROM THE DINNER I NEED YOU TO EMAIL YOUR HOTEL ADDRESS, AND NUMBER OF PASSENGERS, BY THURSDAY 19TH MAY.**

I have no doubt there is something I have missed, so please call me or email there is something you would like to know, or needs further clarification.

Fingers crossed that La Nina takes a break for a month or so, and - I'll see you 21 sleeps!!

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