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THE OUTBACK CAR TREK

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TREK TRIPE

1st March 2023

TREK ENTRIES:

Trek 2023 entries have been slow to come in. There are only 94 more sleeps before we meet at the Murchison Tavern in Geraldton on Tuesday 30th May, and over the next week I need to commit final numbers to the various venues, caterers, fuel providers, etc. along the Trek route. Many venues require a critical mass to be able to provide services cost-effectively (or at all) so if you are going to enter, but have not yet done so, *please download your Entry Form and return it to the Trek office this week.*

We will be letting people & towns know what our requirements are next week.

BROOME IS TREK AUCTION NIGHT:

Broome is an ideal town for our mid-point town, allowing crews to change over, partners to fly in for a catch up, etc. It is also the perfect location for our **Auction Night**, which will be held on Monday night 5th June. If you are conducting crew changes, please make sure they are in Broome for the Auction Night – auctions are a huge source of funds for The Doctor, and we don't want the RFDS to miss out.

THE ROADS IN THE KIMBERLEY:

The roads in the Kimberley are receiving a large amount of attention from State & Federal Governments. Getting the roads open is a national priority.

The Broome-Derby Road (the Great Northern Highway) has been open during daylight hours for a couple of weeks now, with nightworks continuing to get the road back in shape for the coming tourist season.

The Gibb River Road is still closed to through traffic, with local traffic access only in some areas. There is still flooding in a couple of spots and WA Roads haven't been able to get crews working yet, however I am assured that this is "pretty normal" for February/March.

These roads are vital supply lines to the Kimberley & NT communities that they service, and masses of resources are being marshalled to get them back into shape as soon as possible. My spies assure me that all will be well with the Gibb by early or mid-May, barring any more unforeseen weather events.

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CAR TRANSPORT, AND CEVA:

I am still waiting for CEVA to provide me with their booking form, for distribution to participants. They have confirmed prices as per below, we now just need to get the paperwork...

Transport TO CEVA Perth Depot in High Wycombe

Departing from	Cost All inclusive
Adelaide Depot	\$770.00
Sydney Depot	\$1130.00
Melbourne Depot	\$1050.00

Cars will need to be lodged with CEVA by the end of April, date to be confirmed.

Transport Ex CEVA Darwin Depot in East Arm

Travelling to	Cost All inclusive
Adelaide Depot	\$1150.00
Sydney Depot	\$1600.00
Melbourne Depot	\$1400.00
Brisbane Depot	\$1500.00

(These prices might change for over-height or over-length cars, to be confirmed in the booking sheet.)

Broome to Perth::

I have located a Broome based carrier who will be able to help at a price of \$1,150 per vehicle, transporting the cars back to Perth on a flat top truck. If you are considering this as an option to let me know ASAP so I can let the carrier know volume of cars requiring transport, and I will put you in touch.

VHF RADIOS:

We noticed last year that Trekkers who are running older style 40 channel UHF radios are having trouble hearing, and being heard, by those people who have 80 channel systems. Our boffins have confirmed to us that this problem will only get worse, and in the short future the 40 channel UHF's will start to be unable to receive signals from the 80 channel systems. 80 Channel systems have been around for over 10 years, so it might be time to upgrade if you haven't already done so.

SUPPORT CAR NEEDS A TEAM:

I have an enquiry from a Townsville based 4WD that is keen to enter the Trek but needs a team who would like him as their Support vehicle. Is there anybody out there looking for a Support car for this year's Trek? Let me know.

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BRIGHT SMILES RIDE and CLASSIC CARS:

We have decided to test the water and open up a few spots on the Bright Smiles Charity Ride at the end of April to Classic Cars. The BSCR is a bitumen rally, spread over 4 nights and 3.5 days, raising funds for the RFDS Dental Program. This year the event begins with welcome drinks & dinner in Dubbo on Thursday evening 27th April and finishes at Bulahdelah with lunch on Monday 1st May. If you have an older car and would like to come for a relaxed drive along sealed roads, enjoy restaurant meals and motels every night, then check out the BSCR website [HERE](#) and let me know if you would like to come along and join the fun.

EUGOWRA FLOODS:

Trekkers will remember that we put together an appeal for the town of Eugowra in Central NSW, who were hit by massive flooding in November, causing not only significant damage to the town, but also several fatalities. We had considered doing a Christmas toy-run, but due to the lack of services available in town the community was unable to receive us. We donated 33 x \$100 EFTPOS card gift vouchers instead. Thank you to all who contributed.

BIG DOG COMES OF AGE:

St Mary's Band Club was the place to be a couple of weeks ago when Car 9K9, aka Big Dog celebrated its 21st Birthday in grand style.

300 party goers danced the night away, guest speakers regaled the audience with sensational tales and memories, and some \$50,000 was raised for the RFDS in the process. Well done to John Gorman, Rob Lanham & Greg Lemmon, and also their partners, teammates and supporters on a fantastic event and result.

BABY COCKROACHES ROCK:

February is also the month for the Cockroaches annual Golf Day, and this year the "baby cockroaches" stamped their influence on this longstanding event. The changes were subtle yet exciting, as the second generation of this wonderful Team added live music and an Antipasto tent to what has always been an exciting day of golf, fun & fundraising.

And fundraise they did, with \$70,000 flowing to the RFDS from the day! Well done to all.

(P.S. Old Cockroaches rock too.....)

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BIG DOG's MINI TREK:

The mini-trek starts in Orange on 30th March, and there are only a couple of places left. To secure a spot on this fun-filled long weekend in central west NSW contact John on 0418 296 262, Greg on 0407 011 085 or Rob 0413 857 412.

CARS FOR SALE:

We have updated the "Cars For Sale" document on the front page of the website. If you are looking for a car, if you have sold your car, or if you wish to purchase a car, please let me know and we will help.

VALE KEITH "ALFIE" ALLEN 1939-2023:

One of nature's true gentlemen, Alfie's ill health stopped him coming on the Trek back in 2014. His legacy goes much further than his participation in 20 Outback Car Treks, however. Alfie's love for all things Flying Doctor, his commitment to community and his affinity with the outback have had a significant effect on all those around him.

Alfie's immediate family members have now taken part in more than 110 Trek & Drive 4x4 The Doc events – a wonderful legacy that was celebrated by more than 300 mourners at his recent funeral.

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