

Proudly supporting



# THE OUTBACK CAR TREK

*proudly raising funds for The Royal Flying Doctor Service*

25<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Trekkers,

**Re: COVID-19 and the 2020 Outback Car Trek, and FAQ's**

The health and safety of our Trekkers, volunteers and the outback communities we support are our utmost priority.

Due to the current COVID-19 situation, and government restrictions on travel and social distancing, it is with disappointment that we have decided to postpone the 2020 Outback Car Trek to a date later in the year.

Now more than ever, the Flying Doctor needs funds to support their work. That's why we have rescheduled the Trek, meeting in Wagga Wagga on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020. Due to the extraordinary circumstances we have also changed the format of this year's event, and it will now take place over four days, with the route yet to be decided. Please keep in mind this is subject to change given the evolving nature of the Coronavirus situation.

All disbursement payments to the Outback Car Trek will be automatically carried over to the rescheduled event. The donations and fees already paid to the Royal Flying Doctor Service will also be carried over, and the everydayhero fundraising pages will be extended.

If you have any questions regarding payments already made, please feel free to contact me at 0418 626 799 or email [billp@outbackcartrek.com.au](mailto:billp@outbackcartrek.com.au)

While we are disappointed to have to take this course of action, we have a responsibility to all our event volunteers, participants, sponsors and partners to remove any uncertainty. We expect this decision will give participants enough time to defer flights, cancel leave commitments and/or other bookings.

The Sydney safety check day on April 19<sup>th</sup> has also been postponed to a date to be confirmed.

While we are all practicing our social distancing skills, now is the perfect time to tune up your car and continue to raise more funds than ever for the much-needed Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Stay safe & healthy

Best wishes  
Bill Patrick

The Outback Car Trek  
*30 years proudly raising \$30 million for the Royal Flying Doctor Service*  
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## **FAQS**

### **Why has the trek been postponed?**

The 2020 Outback Car Trek has been postponed due to COVID-19. Following current health advice and regulations, the event has been postponed until later in the year in the interests of safety for all participants and the general public.

### **How was this decision made?**

As the Outback Car Trek organiser, I have not taken this decision lightly. After consultation with health professionals, it was decided that it was in the best interests of all participants and the public to postpone.

### **Why wasn't the trek cancelled?**

The Flying Doctor needs funds more than ever. Cancelling the event would have a significant impact on donations so we decided to postpone to a later date.

### **When will the Outback Car Trek resume?**

We still hope & believe a shorter Trek will go ahead commencing in Wagga Wagga on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. But this is, of course, subject to the ongoing COVID-19 situation and government and health advice.

### **How will this affect the Royal Flying Doctor Service?**

The Outback Car Trek is the largest single fundraising event for the Flying Doctor annually, and the RFDS need donations now more than ever before. Whilst we expect the Trek will be back on the road in October, we need you to continue to dig deep to keep the Flying Doctor in the air.

### **What will happen to the money paid upfront?**

All fees and donations paid so far will be automatically rolled over to the revised event, as will the everydayhero donations already collected. Should health advice be against running the Trek in 2020, everything will be rolled over to the 2021 event.

### **Is the RFDS responding to COVID-19?**

The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) is part of Australia's larger health system and considered an essential service. They will continue to provide vital emergency medical and primary health care services to rural and remote Australia.

The RFDS deals with infectious diseases as a routine. COVID-19 presents challenges in terms of potential volumes of patients needing care, however we are actively working closely with Federal and State Health Departments in preparation for coming weeks/months.

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