

The Outback Car Trek

A business unit of the Royal Flying Doctor Service
South Eastern Section ACN 000 032 422.



17th May 2025

ONLY 12 MORE SLEEPS until Bathurst. I'm looking forward to seeing everybody at the Family Hotel for registrations between 4:30 and 6:30, after which time registrations will close, and **CUT-A-RAMA** will kick into gear.

SPECIAL GUESTS IN BATHURST:

Birtles and the Bean. We are excited to announce that a special guest will be joining us at the Bathurst start line... Warren Brown, the Daily Telegraph's cartoonist and motoring expeditioner, driving his iconic 1925 Bean 14 Sundowner.

Last year, Warren and Editor-at-Large Matthew Benns set off on a round-the-world trip from London to Melbourne, retracing the tyre-tracks of Australian adventurer Francis Birtles, who first made the trek in 1927. The extraordinary journey not only retraced history but also raised over \$120,000 for the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS).

Much like the Outback Car Trek, the expeditions are a symbol of resilience, exploration, and the determination to push boundaries. And also like us trekkers, we share an unwavering commitment to support the charity bringing healthcare to the outback: the RFDS.

The fiery red Bean will be revving proudly with us at the start line. Warren is hoping to join the Bathurst dinner, breakfast and drive down to Dubbo with us. We will also see Warren at breakfast in Dubbo before we part ways. The Bean is a hardy machine – I understand Warren and Matthew travelled through Europe, Egypt, the Middle East and Asia without a breakdown. The first time the Bean team had an issue was on the home stretch in the Northern Territory. I think the Bean will keep up with us just fine. Please give our honorary trekker a warm welcome when you see him in Bathurst.

ON MONDAY THE RFDS WILL BE IN A POSITION to announce the Head of Motoring Events. As I said in the last newsletter, I am sure you will be impressed with the new appointee. They will be coming along on the year's Trek in T1, starting to learn the ropes from the very beginning.

BREAKFAST IN CAIRNS ON THE MONDAY – all Trekkers received an email from Greg Sam inviting them to join him and members of his management team to breakfast at the Pullman International on Monday morning 9th June, from 8:00 am.

Join Greg and his team at the Breakfast Table to:

- Meet the RFDS team face to face
- Hear how the Outback Car Trek will operate under the RFDS's stewardship
- Share ideas for what's next for the Trek
- Discuss how you would like to be engaged and through what mediums in future

PLEASE RSVP by using the reply button in your email.

The Outback Car Trek, PO Box 5158, Dora Creek NSW, 2264

Ph: 0418 626 799 E: billp@outbackcartrek.com.au W: www.outbackcartrek.com.au

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FINAL NIGHT DINNER GUESTS – (not Trek participants, but your guests) are shown in the table below. Please double check, and then triple check, that we have names for everyone.

Vehicle	Guest	Vehicle	Guest	Vehicle	Guest
13	Christine Scurr	F2	Christine Smith	T1	Josh Bamford
151	Jane Meyer	F3	Irene Galea	T1	Lysia O Keefe
153	Helen McCourt	F3	Gemma Bartolo	T1	Steve Yerbury
153	Julie Clarke	XF3	Sue Mifsud	T1	Greg Sam
154	Maree Doyle	XF3	Sharon Bonnici	T1	Dee Vodden
154	Sally Cummins	X3333	Glen Cagnola	T1	Suz Gaunt
155	Renee Shearer	X3333	Eddie Toffanello	T1	Georgie Kershaw
156	Fiona Dinhan	X888	Annie Sogal	T12	Glenda Gallant
1869	Janice Barbour	X89	Jamie Rodger	T12	Maxine Hollis
84	Yvonne Hack	X89	Colleen Wright	T16	Ellen Smith
84	Daphne Pembroke	X89	Irene Ajani	T16	Lisa New
84	Christina Pembroke	X89	Gwenda Shaw	T3	Ally Dench
85	Jacinthe Pool	X89	Adele Batson		
85	Mrs Fazzolari	X96	Marg Kennedy		
92	Wal Kurta	X96	Irene McKeering		
92	Leanne Pitt				

NORTH BOURKE – is anybody staying at North Bourke? **I need to know now** so I can arrange a bus for you to get to & from the dinner at the Bourke Bowling Club. Let me know this week please, or you run the very real risk of a (very) long walk.

AND TALKING ABOUT FORMS – A number of you will receive a text this weekend explaining to you that our insurers require all 2WD Trek cars to submit a confirming Safety Check form. I have received a small number of phone calls from people who need a couple more days, but please – get your forms in ASAP.

INDEMNITY & MEDICAL FORMS – a large number of people still have not returned these forms, and texts will be sent to you this weekend. You can find the forms on the last 3 pages of the Entry Form on the Trek website – please download, complete and return to the Trek office ASAP.

AUCTION ITEMS AUCTION ITEMS AUCTION ITEMS – We need more auction items, we have very little at the moment, so anything you can think of that somebody else can't possibly do without, donate it to the auction please. On the subject of auctions **PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE** give me advance notice of items as soon as you are able.

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ROACHTAILS & ANTIPASTO – the Baby Cockroaches are set to excel themselves again this year, by providing Happy Hour and an antipasto feast at Quilpie.

 ***It's not just about cocktails. It's about the cause*** 

Every sip supports the Royal Flying Doctor Service, keeping Aussies safe across the most remote corners of this country. So, when you join us, you're not just having a once in a lifetime outback experience —you're making a real difference for the Doctor.

QUILPIE 2025 – One town. One team. One experience not to be missed!

Please remember that the Baby Cockroaches meet all of the expenses of the evening out of their own pocket, and 100% of your donation for the evening gets through to the RFDS.

DID I MENTION AUCTION ITEMS ARE NEEDED?

CAIRNS ACCOMMODATION - I have emailed previously, and sent a text to you all, about a SNAFU with the Pullman Cairns International booking link: it defaults to the wrong date. **PLEASE** check your booking confirmation to make sure you have the correct dates for your stay.

THE FLOODING HAS MEANT that we were unable to get away and conduct our second survey of the Trek route. Please be a little understanding if there are some errors in the Road Book (these are normally corrected after the second survey) and remember – “Que Sera - That's Trekkin' “

AND – DON'T FORGET – WE NEED AUCTION ITEMS 😊

PLEASE LIKE THE TREK FACEBOOK PAGE – please log onto FaceBook and like our page: <https://www.facebook.com/www.outbackcartrek.com.au/>

AND

TODAY IS FLYING DOCTOR DAY! The anniversary of the first flight in 1928. At 97 years young, that is nearly a century of continuous care the RFDS have provided to regional, rural and remote communities. The Royal Flying Doctor Service are on a mission to ensure they can continue to bring the finest healthcare to all Australians who live, work or travel throughout NSW. And the RFDS can't do this without you.

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