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Subject: Outback Car Trek Update
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Royal Flying Doctor Service

Car Trek Update 10th May

Only 26 Sleeps To Go!

Not long now until we all gather at the Metropolitan Hotel, slap bang in the middle of the main street in West Wyalong, on Saturday afternoon/evening 5th June. We will be ready to start the registration process at 4:30 pm, (officials and RFDS medical staff meet at 2 pm) Please be aware that registrations this year might take a little longer than normal due to COVID-19 paperwork requirements, so come in earlier rather than later.

THE 2021 DISBURSEMENTS FEE - we have been able to keep the costs the same as last year - \$990 per person. Apologies for the delay, but it was a moving target until we could agree on the costs involved with all of the caterers, schools, bus companies, councils and others that are involved. Payment can be made by credit card using the [FORM](#) on the website, or by direct deposit into the Trek bank account:

Outback Car Trek Pty Limited
BSB 082-798
Account 57432 0353

PLEASE use your surname as the deposit reference, and let me know via email when you have made the deposit.

We have been making payments to suppliers for a few weeks now, so CAR CAPTAINS please make sure all members of your car are

paid up by close of business this Friday 14th. If you paid disbursements last year your payment has been rolled over, meaning you can come this year for free 😄

BUSES will be put on to get you to and from dinner in Broken Hill, Dubbo and Port Macquarie (everywhere else you can walk). You will get a mud-map of each town pickup points, and they will perform 2 sweeps of each town. Please pay attention to the times that the bus will be near you.....

COVID-19 VENUE NUMBERS - we have been able to juggle some venue floor plans, and in some cases we have changed venues to slightly ease the cap on numbers, and we are hopeful that the square metre distancing rules may improve between now and early June. **HOWEVER** please remember that if we need to cap numbers in venues, those people who entered last may be catered for in alternate venues.

COVID JAB - today the NSW Government has released an extra 1,000,000 doses of vaccine for people over 40 in NSW, I'm unclear what be happening in other states. Given the tiny towns we are travelling through, and conversations you will be having with the locals, it would be advantageous to reassure them you have recently been vaccinated. Your call to get the jab or not, but it might just calm a local or two. It certainly can't hurt.

CAR SAFETY CHECK FORMS are required to be submitted to the Trek Office by the end of this week. Only a small number of cars have already returned their forms, so please make this a priority for this week. The form must be signed off by a licensed mechanic who is not the person who built or works on your car - someone at arms length.

INDEMNITY FORMS - even though I have sent out reminders to you, there are still 34 people who have not responded. The same goes for the

RFDS MEDICAL INFORMATION FORMS - despite reminders 37 of you haven't got them back. They only take a few minutes to complete, and the RFDS Medical Staff rely on the information they contain to properly stock their vehicles with the supplies, medicines and drugs that you might need.

MORE FORMS. There will be a COVID-19 Declaration Form that you will be required to sign, and bring with you to West Wyalong.

you will be required to hand it in personally at the registrations desk on the Saturday afternoon, signed and dated that day. The form will be emailed to you in the week before the Trek, so you can print it off and bring it with you.

AUCTION ITEMS are a great source of income for the RFDS and the Auction Night is also a great source of fun. This year the Auction Night will be in Gunnedah, and we need lots of goodies if you can help please. **PLEASE** let me know in advance what you can donate so I can make up an auction booklet for everybody to salivate over during the week. Turning up on Sunday morning and dumping goodies on the bonnet of T6 without notice doesn't help us extract maximum dollars from your generosity. Thanks in advance.

DONATIONS - there are still a lot of cars who are behind with their minimum requirement of \$7,500 for the Trek. Please do what you can to get yourself up to date ASAP. You can use the [DONATIONS FORM](#) on the website to make a credit card donation, or you can make a direct deposit into the RFDS Bank Account - let me know which method you prefer and I will give you the RFDS bank details.

THE MENINDEE LAKES are a natural wonder that I have only ever seen dry. It seems they will be full to overflowing on 7th June when we are in town.

THE ROADS are getting better. Last newsletter I advised that the unseasonal summer rains had left a lot of the roads heavily corrugated, and you should be paying special attention to shockies, springs, etc. You should still make sure all of your bouncy things are in good shape, and I have been receiving feedback that the Council are getting out there with graders. BUT as we use the roads much less traveled they might not get to our roads until long after we are gone. Removal of your dentures and tightening of your bra straps might be needed on a couple of these days.

VIRGINS are well represented this year, with 53 people and 6 brand new cars. We also have a couple of Trekkers coming back after a 20 year hiatus, so there will be a healthy sprinkling of new faces on the event. All Virgins will be sporting a green name badge, so please get out of your way to introduce yourself, and make them welcome.

STATE OF ORIGIN NIGHT this year is when we are in Dubbo and we have booked the Devil's Hollow Brewery for the night. If you are performing a crew change over in Dubbo, please make sure you come to the football. There food and drink a'plenty, plus there will be buses provided to get you there and back.

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IT'S HARD TO KEEP A SECRET. It seems that the RFDS staff who attended the Trek a couple of years back have been spreading the word in the lunch room. After hearing some of the stories, this year the RFDS Staff have entered a 2-car team. Some staff members can only join us for a couple of days, but there will be several people from South Eastern Section using up their annual leave to come along. Mixed between the Galaxie & a Support Car there will be Justin Marr, GM of Aviation, Polly Doak is GM of Corporate Services Claudio Grasso is Base Operations & Service Delivery Manager. Captain Tim Solomon flies King Airs and David Gabriel is the Principal Advisor of Health Safety & Environment. Rounding off their 2-car team is Nicholas Caines who holds a regional management role with Textron, the manufacturer of the Beechcraft King Air aeroplanes the RFDS use. Chief Cat-Herder is Steve Yerbury who does a great job helping the Trek Office with the myriad of little things that go into putting on a great Trek. Everybody from the RFDS coming along is paying their own way and using their annual leave, and has helped raise donation money to enter the two cars, just like you have. Well done to the RFDS Staff.

AND - let's not forget Dr Kiri Oates and Flight Nurse Kerry-lee Hassan in T9 & T10, who we hope will have absolutely nothing to do all week!

FIRST AID. On the subject of T9 and T10 we have decided this year to run a mini clinic each morning at outwards control, for any little aches, pains or concerns you might have. If its only a little niggle you are suffering from, perhaps wait for the morning clinic, but of course if it is an issue that requires more immediate attention, or you are worried, seek them out ASAP no matter the time of day.

The recent **BRIGHT SMILES CHARITY RIDE** saw 17 adventurous souls jump on motorbikes and spend 4 days riding through the NSW & Victorian Alps, spending nights at the towns of Tathra, Mallacoota and Tumut. Cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19 the route was designed to take in some the towns and countryside that was ravaged by the 2019/20 bushfires. Raising \$50k for the RFDS Dental Programme, several riders said it was the best time they had ever had on a motor bike - perhaps you might join us next year? (30 person cap).

EMAILS - some people tell me that they are not receiving these emails, so please check with your team members if they have

received this particular email? I use an email automation platform called “sendinblue.com” as I cannot send large numbers of emails from my computer without being blacklisted as a potential spammer. Sendinblue.com give me a report of each email delivery or non-delivery, classifying it as an email delivered, opened, clicked-through, soft-bounced or hard-bounced. Any soft bounces I resend, and any hard bounces are normally due to a closed email account, etc. and anything else I deem to have been delivered. Each person who has contacted me has been shown by sendinblue.com to have been delivered, which is obviously not correct. If you are not receiving my emails, after checking your spam & junk folders please let me know, and I will try and solve the problem.

WRAP UP As they say in the classics - “That’s All Folks” until next time at least. If you need any more information, or have anything to add, please drop me a line or give me a call.

Bill

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