



Proudly supporting



# Trek Tripe

14<sup>th</sup> May 2023

## NOT LONG TO GO NOW

Trek 2024 is only 19 more sleeps away, hopefully everyone's cars are in top condition, and you have returned your **SAFETY CHECK FORM** to the Trek office? We need these back ASAP please.

On the subject of forms – have you completed and returned your **INDEMNITY FORM** and your **RFDS MEDICAL FORM** yet? If not, please send them in now.

## MOLIAGUL

The birthplace of John Flynn is on our itinerary this year, located only 78 km from Bendigo. Now a ghost town, you will be able to pull up and take a few photos of the John Flynn memorial on your way through what used to be a vibrant community of 4,000 people and seven pubs. (Moliagul is also where the 66 kg *Welcome Stranger* gold nugget was found in 1869.)

## DONATIONS

Supporting the vital work of the RFDS is the primary outcome of each Outback Car Trek and our donations total for this year's Trek is climbing to a very respectable figure. There are still a few cars that are a little behind, and I ask you to bring your donations up to date as soon as you can please. We recognise that the current economic climate makes your task a little harder than in previous years, and we appreciate the effort that goes into helping the RFDS continue to provide the mantle of safety that John Flynn first envisioned back in 1928.

## AUCTIONS

On the subject of donations, nothing boosts the coffers of the RFDS quite like a great auction result, often raising \$50k in a single night. Our main auction is in St George on the Friday night this year, and we are on the lookout for just about anything that Trekkers can provide to help make our auction night a success. The shelves are a little bare at the moment, so anything you can beg borrow or steal to donate to the auction night is very much appreciated.

Please drop me a line and let me know what you are able to come up with, so we can start to draw up the auction booklet.

*(A couple of auction teasers: I can tell you that we have been donated a Supercars Bathurst 1000 hospitality package that will blow your socks off. We also have been donated a propellor from an RFDS plane, all polished & shiny).*

The Outback Car Trek

34 years proudly raising \$34.5 million for the Royal Flying Doctor Service

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## *Trek Tripe*

### **ACCOMMODATION AUCTION**

The auction for the ten rooms at Arkaroola and the ten rooms at Innamincka was a resounding success, with \$9,000 raised for the Flying Doctor. Thank you to everybody who participated.

### **CUT-A-RAMA**

The world-famous CUT-A-RAMA will be held at the Bendigo Bridge Hotel from about 6:00 pm, preceded by Trek Registrations from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. Each year the guys & gals from Just Cuts get right into the spirit of the Trek and send us on our way in grand style with a dazzling array of cuts, colours, and shaves. A significant fundraiser for the RFDS each year, please come along with a few spare dollars in your pocket to support their efforts.

### **MONEY \$\$ MONEY \$\$ MONEY \$\$**

Now that I have your attention – you will need cash most nights this year, do not rely on EFTPOS. We are in several locations that either don't have EFTPOS at all for your purchases, or if they do, they only have one terminal for 200+ people and very patchy connectivity that could drop out at any time.

I suggest you hit the ATMs in Mildura and stock up, you will need cash for your drinks in Burra, Arkaroola, Innamincka, Hungerford & St George. You will also need cash for your fuel in Hungerford, they can't rely on the internet to be working all the time.

And let us not forget the raffle tickets at the schools and dinners along the way, please bring a little extra cash to purchase raffle tickets wherever you can. A few city dollars goes a long way supporting remote community groups & schools.

### **FUEL DISTANCES**

One of the great things about days on the Trek is the fact that we get away from it all. So much so, that we often travel hundreds of kilometres between towns and fuel bowsers. Our longest fuel day will be on the Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June - Hungerford to Dirranbandi is 519 kms, Hungerford to St George is 605 kms.

### **CAMPING**

The Trek has arranged (and paid for) for camping in Arkaroola, Innamincka, and Hungerford. Anywhere else you will need to make your own camping arrangements.

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### **ACCOMMODATION BALLOT**

If you were successful in the accommodation ballot, you received an email at the time, telling you what you had been allocated. Please print off that email and bring it with you, so you know where you are staying on the night in question. You will need to know where to find your bed.

### **CEVA**

The form for anyone wanting to truck their cars home with CEVA has been on the website for a few weeks now. Please use the form to book your car with CEVA ASAP if you haven't already done so.

### **DRIVE 4x4 THE DOC**

Put the dates in your diary now – November 12 – 16, starting in Canberra and finishing in Bright.

### **IS THIS NEWSLETTER GETTING THROUGH?**

Recent changes to the way that the major email providers manage the flow of emails means that very often newsletter style emails don't get to all of the intended recipients. Please check with your fellow Trekkers and ask if they got this newsletter. Let me know of any that didn't get through and we will see what we can do to fix the problem.

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