

From: **Outback Car Trek** [billp@outbackcartrek.com.au](mailto:billp@outbackcartrek.com.au)  
Subject: TEST - Outback Car Trek - More updates and important news  
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Drive 4x4 The Doc

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## Outback Car Trek News

**Not long to go now** before we hit the road to West Wyalong, with Trekkers travelling from all points of the compass to get there. Please travel safely, and arrive refreshed. I look forward to seeing you in the Metropolitan Hotel after 4:30 pm for Registrations, and of course the World Famous CUT-A-RAMA.

**The OFFICIALS MEETING** will be at 2 pm. All officials are staying at the Cameo Inn, and I will get out an email next week with rooming arrangements.

**COVID-19 And The Trek.** We have slowly become accustomed to the various requirements of COVID-19, such as checking in to venues, distancing where possible (or required), face masks on occasion, and so on. Things won't be any different in the bush than they are in the city so please extend every consideration to our country cousins. Just because you are away from home doesn't mean you can throw away the rule book. I would recommend interstate visitors download the **Service NSW App** before they leave home, this will help reduce any log-jams when using the QR Code system to check in to venues.

**Money Money Money.** As everybody is aware, participation in the Trek is "a reward for raising \$7,500 (or more) for the Royal Flying Doctor Service". As I write this email quite a number of people are not up to date with their donations, and we need your help to get the books in balance. All donations must be brought up to date well before you arrive in West Wyalong.

The Trek this year looks like raising in the vicinity of \$650k for the RFDS, with one car from SA having raised \$75k on their own. Whilst \$650,000 is a considerable sum of money, it is down on the \$1.65 million that the Trek has been consistently achieving in the years running up to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The RFDS are facing the perfect storm of rising costs and increasing complexity in providing vital health care to all who live and work in the bush. Please do what you can to help them.

The **Auction night is at Gunnedah** on the Thursday, and we are slowly collecting auction items that you can't possibly live without, **BUT** - we need more. The auctions are a great source of income for the RFDS and we need more items to put up for sale. If you can

provide an item for auction please let me know in advance, and if you can get it to West Wyalong **Kylie & Daniel in T6** will look after it from there.

We are unable to accommodate the **Beer'N'Bundy Happy Hour** this year, which is a great pity because it is a great fund-raiser for the RFDS. But never fear, we have some fun ideas that will raise an equal amount of money at the start line on a couple of mornings. Please join in the fun, and have your wallet/purse handy.

**Door Panels.** If you are in West Wyalong on Saturday morning, track me down and I'll put your door panels on for you on Saturday morning, or perhaps between the Officials Meeting and the start of Registrations that afternoon. If you are arriving into West Wyalong that evening we will have highly trained and skilled volunteers available to put your door panels on for you **during breakfast** on Sunday morning. Whichever option you decide please **remember TO BRING YOUR CAR NUMBERS WITH YOU** so they can be affixed after we put the door panels on.

**Long Day to Cobar.** We have known for a couple of weeks now that the Paroo Overflow (125 kms west of Tilpa) will rise earlier than anticipated and close the road, as a result of the heavy rains in North Queensland several months ago. Slowly unfolding are also some interesting developments with the water flow down the Menindee-Darling basin. We have several options up our sleeve from Broken Hill-White Cliffs-Tilpa-Cobar to keep us on the dirt nearly the whole way, and decisions will be made next week, as the waters pass, as to which roads we will use.

This means that we will enjoy a longer drive than normal on the Tuesday and we will require an early start ex Broken Hill, but we are well prepared. An upside will be that the Menindee Lakes will be full when we get there, the first time in over 10 years.

**A Tour of the world class RFDS Visitor Experience** will be a highlight of our Dubbo overnight stop (as well as watching the State of Origin at the **Devil's Hollow Brewery**). We will be having breakfast on Thursday morning at the **Outback Trek Cafe** at the RFDS Visitor Experience Centre, and the RFDS will split us into manageable group sizes to provide us with a guided tour of the facility, each tour taking around 30 minutes. We have allowed for a later start than normal on the Thursday morning, but don't waste it by sleeping in, get out to the airport and enjoy the RFDS Visitor Experience before or after your breakfast.

We still have **people looking for a ride** - if you have a spare seat and can fit in a passenger please let me know.

**Indemnity & RFDS Medical Forms** - hard to believe I know, but a handful of people still haven't returned them.....

**Car Safety Check Forms** are now overdue, please get them to me by the weekend.

A **COVID-19 Declaration Form** will be distributed to you in the week

before the Trek. You will be required to present yourself at the registration desk with your form **CLEARLY** and **NEATLY** completed, signed and dated on or after 4th June. (Any Doctors on the Trek please take note re the clear and neat handwriting comment). This will slow the registrations process just a little, but not too much.

**Are you getting these emails?** Please check with your fellow crew members if they have received this email. When I checked with several people over the past 10 days who think they aren't getting the emails, it seems they are getting them, but they are going to junk mail. If that is your experience, please add this email to your "safe senders" list, and the problem should disappear.

**P.S. A note about our sister events:**

The **DRIVE 4x4 THE DOC** is on in November, details to be uploaded onto the website next week. If you would enjoy a couples-friendly 4WD drive in the bush with motel accommodation and restaurant meals every night keep the 10th to 14th November free.

And the **BRIGHT SMILES CHARITY RIDE** is on from 28 April to 2 May 2022. If a 4-day bitumen motorcycle ride with 25 or 30 like minded people appeals, keep those dates free. This year the route (tbc) might be from Tumut-Corryong-Bright-Sorrento-Apollo Bay-Great Ocean Road. Details will be on the website in August, but save the dates now.

Have a great day everybody, happy to chat about any questions, issues or ideas you might have.

Bill.

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