

From: Bill Patrick billp@outbackcartrek.com.au
Subject: Facts and figures about Treks 2021, 2022 and 2023 (and other important news)
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Trek Newsletter

As you know **TREK 2020** was cancelled due to COVID-19, and the donations for 2020 were rolled over into a combined 2020/2021 event. Whilst we are waiting for the RFDS to formally confirm the donations totals for the 2021 portion of the combined Trek (so we can send the books out for their annual Audit), we can confidently tell you that the combined 2020/21 Trek donations total will be **\$1,526,699.80** - yet another sensational result during these incredibly tough COVID-19 affected times.

As soon as we get the final tick from the RFDS we will be able to advise you of individual car & team fundraising totals.

CONGRATULATIONS and **WELL DONE** to everybody. The costs to the RFDS of providing services during the Pandemic has risen exponentially, and they need our financial support more now than ever before.

A big **SHOUT OUT** to our Victorian Trekkers who were unable to participate in the Trek due to border closures at the very last minute. Their cars were fuelled, their bags were packed, but they were unable to get out of Victoria. **WE MISSED YOU!**

THE WEATHER during Trek week over the past couple of years has behaved itself reasonably well. We all appreciate that our country cousins (and therefore we city slickers) can't survive without decent rainfalls, but of course we only want it to rain the day after the Trek has travelled through. This year the weather didn't play ball and the heavens opened on Day 2, just after we left Broken Hill. The remaining five days were significantly affected by closed roads and swollen creeks, but with the exception of part of the field missing the lunch at Tilpa we managed to hit all of our remaining scheduled meal stops. Making sure we hit each meal location should never be underestimated - their planning has been underway for months and it gives the local communities an incredible lift, as well as a chance to do some vital fundraising. Even the **SNOW** on our way down the Great Dividing Range didn't stop us calling in for lunch at the tiny village of Kentucky, and the snow covered mountains gave us the most memorable photo opportunities.

Whilst we spent more time on the black top than we traditionally do, everybody had a great time, the community engagement was at an all time high, fun fun fun was the order of the day and there were smiles on everybody's faces 24 hours per day.

In short, a great week was had by all.

The 2021 **TREK PHOTOS** are up on the website, you can find the links to them under the ["Link to Photo Albums"](#) tab. If you find a photo that you particularly like, Allan Coker will blow it up, and mount and frame it for you for a very modest price - some of which Allan gives to the RFDS. [Email Allan](#) if you want something done and he will be happy to help.

Treks 2022 And 2023 (Yes 2023)

TREK 2022:

Whilst we are still waiting to see what will happen with Covid 19, vaccination rates, border openings and

Whilst we are still waiting to see what will happen with COVID-19, vaccination rates, border openings and closures, and whether St George will ever win another Premiership, we haven't been sitting on our hands since the end of the last Trek. We have not been able to leave the Trek Office and conduct any surveys, but planning for the coming years has been progressing as best it can on paper and via phone calls and email.

The route we calculate on paper never actually works in practice plus we spend a lot of time on surveys uncovering new routes and farm tracks, communities who are keen to help us, etc. and all of this has an impact on our original decisions. As a result, I am unable to release the planned overnight stops for Trek 2022 just yet, but as has been previously advised, the Trek will start in a south-western NSW town with Cut-A-Rama on Saturday 4th June and will finish at **HERVEY BAY** on Saturday 11th June.

As soon as we can get out on a survey, we will confirm the route.

TREK 2023 will be a "LEGENDS AND ICONS" TREK !!

It's a little out of sequence but we have decided to run a **LONG TREK** in 2023. The dates will be within the window of Saturday 3rd June to Saturday 17th June 2023. The exact start date is subject to us settling on the start town.

WE WANT YOU TO TELL US WHERE TO GO IN 2023. We ask for your feedback to help us pick the best possible *Legends & Icons Trek* route. It is absolutely a blank canvas at the moment so let me know your **iconic** towns, your **legendary** experiences, and the roads and towns to die for. The start location is open, the finish town is open, and the FIFO town is open. The only thing pencilled in at the moment is the date window - somewhere between the 3rd and 17th June 2023.

[Email me your feedback ASAP](#) and we will get it all up on the whiteboard for early consideration.

CARS FOR SALE:

After the success of the 2021 Trek there has been a fresh wave of people looking for cars - some are Virgins keen to join the fun, and some are Veterans looking to upgrade. Most people have a pretty firm idea what they want, and I have a small number of cars on my list, but I am always on the lookout for more. If you know of a car that might be available, please let me know so I can keep it in mind. Likewise - **if you sell your car** - don't forget to let me know so I don't waste people's time.

TREK 2021 PATCHES:

We have finally been able to get the patches you ordered for the 2021 Trek made up, and I emailed people who pre-ordered the patches earlier this week.

CATCH-UP DRINKS IN MELBOURNE & SYDNEY

As soon as we have some clarity around travel we will be setting up Trek Drinks & Canapés nights in both Sydney & Melbourne. We will keep you posted as soon as we can set some dates, and we would love to see as many people as possible there.

SISTER EVENTS:

The Bright Smiles Charity Ride and the Drive 4x4 The Doc are both very successful long weekend fundraising events for the RFDS, and I encourage Trekkers who have either a motorcycle or a 4WD (or both) to consider coming along to join the fun.

The [BSCR](#) is a bitumen only motorcycle event and at the end of April next year it will start in Tumut and will be travelling through the Southern Alps, across the Queenscliff Ferry and down the Great Ocean Road. The [Drive 4x4 The Doc](#) is a couples friendly 4WD event and will take place in February, starting in Swan Hill with 2 nights at Mungo Scrub and one night at Wentworth in far western NSW.

I encourage you to visit the websites and get a feel for the events, they are both a lot of fun.

and remember

only 249 more sleeps 😊

Outback Car Trek

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