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Trek Tripe

The Newsletter of the Outback Car Trek

Issue 12 July 2018



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TREK 2018 DONATIONS

Thanks to all concerned for your wonderful efforts in fundraising for the 2018 Trek. We received several donations we weren't expecting, which was a very pleasant surprise, and there are still a few more donations to come in.

Including the proceeds of the auction nights, donations for the 2018 Trek are currently at

\$ 1,449,874.11 and counting...

A sensational result and a **HUGE** thank you to all concerned!



30 TREKS FOR \$30 MILLION

\$30 million over 30 Treks is an objective that is well worth striving for.

To hit the \$30 million target we will need to raise \$1.75 million on the 2019 event which is a very achievable goal. To put that into perspective, we have exceeded \$1.5 million four times, including \$1.65 million twice, over the past ten years.

The RFDS have committed to helping us with improved marketing collaterals, plus some programs that will help us to become more effective fundraisers, and we will get these out to the Trek community soon after we release the precise details of the 2019 event early in September.

We will hit the ground running for the 30th Trek!

The Outback Car Trek

29 years of proudly raising funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service

PO Box 5158 Dora Creek NSW 2264

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WE'RE HAVING A BALL

An important initiative of the 30th Trek is the inaugural Outback Car Trek Black Tie Ball. This gala event will be held on August 24th 2019 at Luna Park in Sydney.

We are talking with a number of hotels in the vicinity, and they are setting aside a block of rooms for the event. We want to make sure our interstate and intrastate Trekkers and their supporters come along and help make the night a resounding success.

PLEASE - save the date and start organising your table of ten now. AND if you would like to put your hand up to be on the organising committee – let me know.



THE 1ST SURVEY

Mike Browne & I set off on the first survey of the 2019 Trek this Sunday 16th July, and I expect to arrive home around 5th August. The first survey is the one where we spend quite a bit of time sniffing out those little used back tracks, and chatting to station owners about trying to gain access across private property.

WHERE ARE WE GOING IN 2019?

In keeping with tradition, our 30th Trek will be longer than the normal one week in length, it will be more like 12 days, plus or minus a day or two. The extra days allow us to get to some of those far flung remote locations we can't normally reach.

As I explain to people, until we complete the first survey of the prospective route the overnight towns and the dates are still a little bit up in the air. What we plan on paper doesn't always work in the real world, and the domino effect of something catching us off guard during the survey is very real and can have a significant impact on our planning.

BUT – the objective is to start in Renmark and finish in Kakadu around 12 days later, on or about the 14th June 2019 to be confirmed.

YES – we will be travelling up the Birdsville Track and yes there will be a fly in fly out town, and that town will be either Mt Isa or Alice Springs.....

Rest assured it will be a Trek to remember. We will let you know the exact details by early September.

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DRIVE FOR THE DOC PEOPLE

Don't worry – we haven't forgotten you!

The 2018 Drive 4x4 The Doc event will be held from Wednesday afternoon 14th November and will finish after lunch on Sunday 18th November 2018.

We will meet for a wine tasting and dinner at the world renowned Oakdene vineyards on the Bellarine Peninsula near Geelong on the Wednesday, and over the next 4 days and nights we will travel along the Great Ocean Road, then up and over the Grampians before we arrive at our finish line at Moliagul for lunch, at the site of the birthplace of Dr John Flynn.

Save the dates, organise another couple in their own car who might like to join the fun, and we will get full details and entry forms out shortly.

CARS CARS CARS

We have a number of people looking for Trek cars, and the cars are in short supply. Do you have a car for sale? Do you know anybody else who might have a Trek car that they haven't used for a while? We would like to help some of the new Trekkers get into a suitable vehicle, do please let me know of any cars out there.

SUPP REGS & SAFETY CHECKS

Given the passage of time between reviews, and the longer Trek next year coupled with the fact that we will end up in some pretty remote locations, I have asked a couple of seasoned Trekkers to take a look at our current Supplementary Rules & Regulations, with a view to updating the rules & regs. That will naturally flow onto the way we conduct the safety checks currently, and we will update the safety check requirements as appropriate also.

PARTICIPANT BRIEFINGS

The pre-Trek participant briefings we held this year were a hit, and the improvement in radio communications and overtaking techniques was very noticeable as a result. We will continue with the briefing next year, and we will make them more wide-ranging and robust.

INCIDENT PROCEDURES

Also next year we will include in the Road Book an incident procedure for Trekkers to follow in the case of any mishaps, and we will also allow some time on day 1 of the Trek to "stress-test" those procedures. All part of bringing the event into line with modern day safety requirements.

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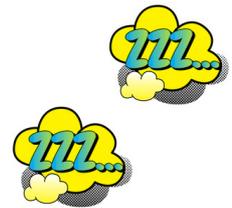


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AND REMEMBER:

ONLY **325** MORE SLEEPS



UNTIL THE 2019

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