

RFDS Motoring Events

The Outback Car Trek, The Bright Smiles
Charity Ride and the Drive 4x4 The Doc



29th July 2025

TREK 2025 – CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

At the time of writing this newsletter, donations for the 2025 Outback Car Trek are sitting at **1,586,383**, BUT WATCH THIS SPACE; there is still more to come. We are expecting one more pledge for the MUTT Car of \$10k and another pledge of \$19k for Darren Wickham in Car 3 to come in during the next few weeks. This will close the books for Trek 2025.

When these pledges are received, the Outback Car Trek 2025 will have raised more than **\$1.615 million dollars** – a truly fantastic achievement, and one of our highest fundraising totals ever. Well done to everyone involved.

MATT TOSOLINI IS NOW IN THE CHAIR:

You will have seen communications from Greg Sam in the past week or so introducing Matt Tosolini to you all, and Matt also sent out an email last week introducing himself. For those of you not aware, Matt's email is Matthew.Tosolini@rfdsse.org.au and he can be reached on his mobile phone at 0439 815 638. I know Matt would like to hear from as many people as possible with your thoughts and aspirations for the future of the Outback Car Trek, the Bright Smiles Charity Ride and the Drive 4x4 The Doc into the future.

Don't be shy 😊.

TREK 2026 IS GOING TO TASMANIA!

PLUS - EVERY SINGLE NIGHT ON TREK 2026 WILL BE SPENT IN A TOWN WHERE THE TREK HAS NOT BEEN BEFORE! That's right, every night in 2026 will be spent in a brand-new Trek town.

The Trek will start in a major regional centre (to be decided) along the Murray River on Saturday May 30th, and we will finish in Launceston on Sunday June 7th, 2026. We will all travel together across Bass Strait on a **night sailing** on Wednesday night June 3rd. You queue up, park your car, enjoy a drink and dinner on the boat and you wake up in Devonport – how simple is that!

The Trek Office has block booked 110 car spaces (at a group discount) on the Spirit of Tasmania, and a Trek Booking Page will be out in mid-September for you to book your car spot.

BESIDES THE DISCOUNTED FERRY BOOKING RATES, THERE WILL ALSO BE TREK EARLY BIRD INCENTIVES AVAILABLE TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO ENTER EARLY.

Matt Tosolini: P: 0439 815 638 E: Matthew.Tosolini@rfdsse.org.au

Bill Patrick: P: 0418 626 799 E: billp@outbackcartrek.com.au

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As we made very clear in Cairns, Trek 2026 will overnight in towns with plenty of accommodation options, and you should have no trouble in obtaining motel rooms each night if that is your preference.

Matt & I are just back from a week in Tasmania checking out suitable roads and venues for next year, and we have come away incredibly impressed. We have found no shortage of sensational dirt roads, and glorious vistas and great sightseeing, for you to enjoy next year. Every time you turn a corner you will want to pull over and take a photograph. The State has welcomed us with open arms, and rest assured they are champing at the bit to entertain us next June. Booking details and available discounts with the Federal Hotels Group will be out to you with the entry forms in mid-September for you to secure your Tasmanian accommodation early.

On our travels, the locals provided us with an interesting couple of facts:

1. Hobart is the second driest capital city in Australia in winter, and
2. The morning temperatures in Hobart, Launceston, and the Tasmanian East Coast generally, are significantly higher than most towns across inland NSW and Queensland in June

Entry forms will be out mid-September and the Tassie Trek in 2026 is shaping up to be one of the best of all time!

THE 2026 BRIGHT SMILES CHARITY RIDE:

The BSCR is normally held in late April/early May each year, and at this stage the 2026 dates set down are Thursday 30th April to Monday lunchtime May 4th. Matt is in the process of plotting the route, and it will most likely be held around the Oberon & Southern Highlands area of NSW. If you have any ideas for a different route, or a different date (and I know a couple of you do) now is your chance to reach out to Matt and pass your ideas across.

In closing, a big and hearty welcome to Matt Tosolini, we can't wait to get the Trek to Tassie, and we look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming Focus Group meetings, or on our next event.

(AND CONGRATULATIONS ONCE MORE ON A HUGE DONATION TOTAL FOR TREK 2025!)

Bill Patrick

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