

From: Bill Patrick - Outback Car Trek billp@outbackcartrek.com.au
Subject: This email contains some important information regarding donations for Trek 2020 & Trek 2021
Date: 19 May 2020 at 8:59 am
To: Peter Dooley peter_dooley@cathaypacific.com



Hello to all.

Each of the last few weeks has brought a little more light to the end of the **COVID-19** tunnel, and while there is still a very long way to go, we are cautiously confident that the situation is slowly becoming better each week. It seems a second wave of infections is inevitable, but there does appear to be an air of optimism from the relevant governments and health authorities as we move forward.

We are still planning for the postponed 2020 Trek to commence in Wagga Wagga, meeting for registrations on Thursday 22nd October. An email survey conducted last week of the Trek community uncovered a growing number of people who would like to come along for a seven day event, whilst due to work and economic pressures a number of people still wish to attend a 4-day event. We had responses to our survey from 73 people (out of 575 people polled), plus a few phone calls from teams who were ringing around their group to gauge who wanted to do what, but please - let me know ASAP your thoughts. Decisions will be made this week.

TREK 2020. It seems certain that we will run the 2020 Trek in two parts. Part A from Thursday evening to Monday lunch, and a seven day Trek from Thursday to Thursday. Part A will be Thursday evening 22/10/20 to lunch on Monday 26/10/20, and the full event from Thursday 22/10/20 to Thursday evening 29/10/20. The finish line will still be at the Sunshine Coast, and we are negotiating with the people at Twin Waters to see if we can run our final night there cost effectively. Please be patient and let us work through the various issues and options, and we will be in touch as soon as we can. I suggest you mark block these dates in your diary now.

DONATIONS. Given the current circumstances, we have decided to alter the donation requirements for the Trek in both 2020 and 2021. For these two events, the current minimum donation requirements of \$7,500 per vehicle per vehicle will be dropped. Instead of a minimum donation we simply ask that each participating car “raises and donates as much as it can” to the RFDS. There are some Trekkers who can still afford the normal minimum donation, but there are some who are struggling to raise much money at all. **But whatever your circumstances do your best**, raise as much as you can for the RFDS and **still come along on the Trek, you are more than welcome.**

Anybody who has entered Trek 2020 but is now unable to attend the event, all of the monies you have paid for the 2020 event will be automatically transferred across to the 2021 Trek. (**FYI** it is expected that Trek 2021 will take place between 5th & 12th June 2021, as per normal).

MEALS & DRINKS & GATHERINGS. As you might appreciate, feeding and watering Trekkers in 2020 will be different to what we have experienced in past years. It is highly likely that food buffets, etc. will become a thing of the past, and we anticipate that social distancing of some sort will still be in force in October. Only time will tell and over the next few months we will be spending quite a bit of time with the caterers and community groups who will feed us along the way to figure out how we will all be fed in a safe manner. We are in the throes of appointing a person who will manage the requirements of the Trek from a **COVID-19** perspective, and they will make sure that all of our catering arrangements, health requirements, the public gathering rules, social distancing and so on will exceed the requirements of the governments and the health authorities.

In short - we will do everything required to exceed expectations, and to keep the Trek community and the communities through which we travel, safe.

ENTRY FORMS. In coming weeks I will be reissuing entry forms etc via the website and email - please keep your eyes and ears open for the new forms, and please feel free to call me if you have any questions or comments.

AND:

DID I MENTION THE WEEKLY RAFFLES SERIES and TREK HAPPY HOUR??? With the operating costs of the RFDS shooting through the roof, and the drop in the donations being received so large, we started running a weekly Raffle For The Doctor series. The raffles is advertised mid-week and is drawn at 6 pm AEST on a Friday night, during our Trek virtual Happy Hour that runs from 5:30 to 6:30 on Friday nights. Please buy some tickets each week, and if you can ZOOM in to the Happy Hour each Friday.

stay safe,

Bill.

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