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THE OUTBACK CAR TREK

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TREK TRIPE

12th May 2023

22 SLEEPS TO GO



G'Day to all, and yes, it is only 22 more sleeps until we rock into the Murchison Tavern on Tuesday 30th May for Trek registrations and the world renowned Just Cuts **CUT-A-RAMA**. Trek registrations will kick off around 4:30 pm and will close at 6:30 pm, and "The Murch" as it is locally known will rock on into the night. A popular local spot for meals and drinks, the Murch is located in Chapman Rd, right in the heart of the CBD, one street back from the water.

There is a buzz in the air. CUT-A-RAMA is promising to be even more wild and successful than ever before, as we let our hair down and embrace the excitement of commencing our first Trek in WA since 2005 (Esperance to Alice Springs).

COVID hasn't gone away, so don't be too complacent about the disease, and **PLEASE** pay attention to any symptoms you may be displaying and act appropriately. Many of us still remember the 2014 Trek when a couple of Trekkers jumped out of their car in Alice Springs, came to the opening night, and promptly infected half the event with a flu variant that knocked many people flat for several days. Please be vigilant and sensible.

BROOME AUCTION

WE NEED PLENTY OF AUCTION ITEMS

PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP WHAT YOU ARE ABLE TO DONATE

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CAMPING:

Remember – no camping has been arranged for you in any locations.

BROOME AUCTION:

The night we arrive in Broome is **AUCTION NIGHT**. We will arrive in town in plenty of time for you to be at the Roebuck Bay Hotel ready and willing to spend your hard earned in aid of the RFDS, and buses will get you from your accommodation to the venue and back. It will be a great night at “The Roey”.

I say this most years, but this year we have a real problem:

WE NEED AUCTION ITEMS PLEASE

AND – if you can drop me a line in the next few days to let me know what you are bringing to Geraldton, that will be a great help. I will be putting the auction booklet together on Tuesday. Photos help too.

DONATIONS:

Whilst on the subject of money, please check to make sure your donations are up to date, and if not, they need to be brought up to date in the next day or two.

CARS & CREW JOINING IN BROOME:

We have several people and cars joining us in Broome for Part B of the Trek, please make sure you are there on Monday, and attend the auction Monday night, where you will pick up your registration goodies at The Roey from Kylie & Daniel from T6.

BROOME LAY DAY:

As previously advised, Tuesday in Broome is a lay day, and nothing has been arranged, including meals. There is much to see and do in Broome, and there is no shortage of places to eat and drink. **REMEMBER** the “Staircase to the Moon” is happening on Tuesday 6th June at 7:31 pm. There are only a few vantage points where you can view this phenomena and Cable Beach is not one of them. It is suggested that you have a look at the visitbroome.com.au website and make a booking.

OFFICIALS BRIEFING IN GERALDTON:

At The Gerald, 2:00 pm prompt on Tuesday 30th.

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GETTING TO GERALDTON:

Whilst a lot of Trekkers have chosen the CEVA option, quite a few are driving across from the eastern states and Adelaide. I know from experience these cars will have a lot of fun making the journey.

We have a Virgin car from Sydney who is making the drive and would love to “buddy up” with other cars on the way across. If you can offer some good old fashioned Trek hospitality to Charles & Justin on the way over, they would appreciate it. They are looking to leave their Sydney homes on or about 21st or 22nd May and meet somewhere, but they are flexible.

Justin Millard 0411 700 072 or Charles Manfredi on 0412 653 591.

VIRGINS:

This year we have another healthy crop of Virgins to introduce to the wonders of Trekking, and you can identify them by the green badges they wear. I know most Trekkers are shy by nature, but please – make yourself known and make them welcome – they are our future.

EFTPOS IN REMOTE LOCATIONS:

During COVID we have all got used to tap & pay for even the smallest purchases, but in remote locations there sometimes isn't any EFTPOS at all, or the internet is so patchy it switches off just as you are ordering your first beer of the evening. The most likely problem areas are marked in the book the day before to remind you to take cash but do everyone a favour and make sure you have cash in your pocket for raffle tickets and drinks, and maybe enough for a tank of fuel as well – just in case.

TELSTRA:

Telstra is the dominant source of connectivity in remote locations. If you are not a Telstra customer, and if staying in contact is important to you (including payments on your phone), you should look at grabbing a Telstra SIM card before you leave home.

VEHICLE SECURITY:

There is probably no politically correct way of saying this, and if there was I wouldn't use it. We are staying in (only) one or two towns where at night you need to make sure your cars are locked, and your valuables are secured.....

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SUNSETS:

Spending eight nights on the coastline of the Indian Ocean means we are sure to see our fair share of great sunsets, but nothing, absolutely nothing, should be more spectacular than the sunset in Carnarvon. Think a Broome sunset on steroids.

Buses have been arranged to get you to the café at One Mile Jetty (aptly named Sunsets Café) in plenty of time to grab a beer, hold hands with your favourite Trekker, and be enthralled as the sun sets into the water. Dinner is here at Sunsets as well. The bus mud-map for pickups will be handed out at control.

THE GIBB RIVER ROAD:

I am reliably informed that the Gibb is now “like a billiard table”. In 27 more sleeps we will find out.

ROACH-TAILS:

Our overnight stop on the Gibb River Road is at Mt Elizabeth Station. Leaving Broome that morning the Cockroaches will be selling an incredible little goodies pack that, amongst other items, includes a “roach-tail” glass (think cocktail). When you get to Mt Elizabeth you will enjoy an Anti-Pasto spread to die for, and some Roach-Tails. Enjoy, and every single cent of your \$100 per person goes to the RFDS. To help, on the Wednesday morning please have your \$100 note per person ready or hit the QR code above, or the road book and show your screen as “proof of purchase”.



FUEL ON THE GIBB:

Is at Mount Barnett Roadhouse, about an hour before Mt Elizabeth. Everyone will need to fuel here, there is no fuel at Mt Elizabeth. Take note that Mount Barnett normally closes at 3:00 pm, however they will stay back for a while to serve us fuel. According to our schedule, last cars should be in Mount Barnett by around 3:30 pm so if you're running later than that you will need to contact them – the number is in the book.

KUNUNURRA DINNER:

At the Hotel Kununurra we will need to take dinner spread over two sittings – 5:30 & 7:30 pm. You will be given a wristband at control at Ellenbrae Station during the day to signify which sitting you are on. Please wear it so the staff know you are part of the Trek, and please be on time, it is an alternate drop meal.

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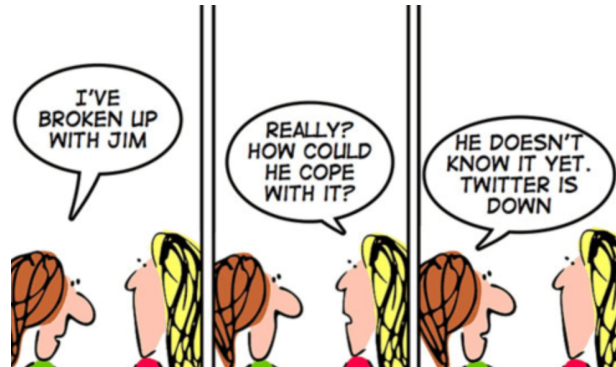


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SOCIAL MEDIA:

We have taken a few extra steps to boost our social media profile this year, and you can play your part. The photographers and videographers will be uploading files each evening via satellite link, and the Trek has employed a social media expert to use those files to place posts across FaceBook, Instagram and LinkedIn a couple of times per day. In the Road Book we have placed a “social media cheat sheet” for you to read, and perhaps use some of the hints in the cheat sheet to not only share the Trek posts, but also to enhance the posts you might make for maximum effectiveness. Hashtags are important – use #rfdstrek (plus others) whenever you post.



KATHERINE DINNER:

I only got two responses regarding buses in Katherine, so I presume you are all staying at Knotts Crossing Resort. Nothing has yet been organised to get you to the dinner.

BUSES IN DARWIN:

Third & final call. To make sure we get everybody to dinner at the Casino in plenty of time for the sunset, please let me know TODAY where you are staying so I can schedule buses efficiently.

PORT HEDLAND MINING CAMP:

Bookings closed.

SEE YOU ALL IN GERALDTON – TRAVEL WELL, TRAVEL SAFE.

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