

## Newsletter & Drinks Invite

Hello everybody, I trust that the strange world we find ourselves in is treating you well, and self isolation hasn't driven anybody crazy. Yet.

### **Virtual Drinks Happy Hour:**

This Friday 1st May at 5:30 pm AEST I am hosting a virtual drinks **Happy Hour** using the internet, specifically using the ZOOM technology. From what I have seen and read it all seems pretty simple, but I guess we will find out at 5:31 pm on Friday? You can participate in the **Happy Hour** via smart phone, tablet or computer, BUT you will need to download the ZOOM App before you try and log on. AND - you will need to provide your own drinks.....

It will be a chance to catch up with everybody for an hour or so, listen to what has been happening around the countryside, and create some social interaction during a time when many of us haven't been getting out very much at all.

PLUS - at 6 pm we will draw the prizes in the second raffle of our Friday Raffle Series. The link to access the **Happy Hour** meeting is:

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwvf-quqilpE9wZi\\_Kde9NdNmazMEgVTpaJ](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwvf-quqilpE9wZi_Kde9NdNmazMEgVTpaJ)

The password is - trekdrinks - and remember to download the App onto your device prior to attempting to log on.

### **The Friday Raffles Series:**

In an effort to help with the downturn in donations to the RFDS we decided we will run a series of raffles each Friday night until June. The first raffle was drawn last Friday and the \$250 valued first prize was won by Michael Guthrie. The next raffle is tomorrow night 1st May and will be drawn at 6 pm during the virtual **Happy Hour**. Last week the raffle raised \$5,290 - thank you to those who participated. Hopefully this week we can sell more tickets and raise even more money. If you would like to sponsor the Raffles Series please let me know (tax deductible, of course).

Donations have nose-dived since the COVID-19 Pandemic broke out. To give you an example, in an average Trek year the donations tally to the end of April is \$750,000, this year the donations raised are \$310,000. And at a

time when the COVID crisis has pushed up the operating costs of the RFDS considerably.

Watch each week for the email detailing the weekly raffles, and to purchase your tickets this week go to <https://rafflecreator.com/pages/37200/outback-car-trek-friday-raffle-2-for-the-flying-doctor>. Our target is to have 100+ people each week buy tickets, hopefully you are able to help us exceed our goal, and help the RFDS.

### **The 2020 Trek:**

As you will be aware the postponed Trek is to meet in Wagga Wagga on Thursday evening 22nd October, and finish with lunch on Monday 26th October. A four day event rather than the normal seven days. The towns will be Wagga Wagga, Lake Cargelligo, Cobar and Dubbo. A big night is planned at the RFDS Visitor Experience Centre in Dubbo on the Sunday (visitors very welcome) and we will finish on the Monday lunchtime giving Sydney based participants time to be home for dinner, and back to work on the Tuesday morning.

All of this is subject to approval from the relevant government bodies and health authorities and rest assured, if there are any doubts regarding safety whatsoever, the postponed Trek will not go ahead.

### **Would You Like A Seat In A Support This Year?**

Michael Kirby & Derek Collinge in Car X84 are looking for a third person to come along this year - preferably someone who follows rugby and drinks red wine. Contact Mike at [kirbycrimlaw@tpg.com.au](mailto:kirbycrimlaw@tpg.com.au) to find out what is involved.

### **Do You Want To Sell Your Old Girl?**

I have had quite a bit of enquiry from people looking for Trek cars, so if you are thinking of selling your car, please drop me a line and I will try and match you up.

### **Changes To Car Eligibility:**

We have decided that 2020 is the year that we should make some changes to the car eligibility regulations, and a couple of seasoned Trekkers are working on what cars might be accepted into the event in future years. It's not as simple as it sounds. Part of the challenge is to not lose the heritage

aspect of the event whilst at the same time lowering the cost of the cars. We need to make sure that if cars do break down in the middle of nowhere, we can fix them and as we move into cars that were built in the late 70's and 80's we also move to cars that are more mechanically complicated, including engine management systems, electronic fuel injection systems, and so on. We hope to get some announcements out soon, so if you are considering a change of motor vehicle please talk to me first.

**Drive 4x4 The Doc 2020:**

This year's Drive 4x4 The Doc is still scheduled for the week after Melbourne Cup, and this year we are off to Tasmania for a week. We meet in Devonport on the Sunday afternoon of 8th November and the final night dinner is in Hobart on Friday 13th November. There are only a few spots left, and you can find out all about the event [HERE](#).

**Social Media:**

Much of what we do on the Trek, the Drive 4x4 The Doc and the Bright Smiles Charity Ride is disseminated via social media. Please get onto FaceBook and "like & follow" the pages we have set up for each of the events. The more people who like, follow and "share" the news the higher the rankings we get on Google and other search engines.

**STAY SAFE EVERYBODY**