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Trek Tripe

The Newsletter of the Outback Car Trek

Issue 5th July 2017



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24

SLEEPS HAVE ALREADY PASSED



THANK YOU TREK PARTICIPANTS

It is now only a little over 3 weeks since we finished Trek 2017 in Port Macquarie (and what a night that was)! Most of you by now will have returned to your “normal” life, back at home.

I am sure that each of you will have many fond memories of the week you spent travelling through some of the most wonderful country, in support of the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

People often mention to me that a couple of weeks after they return home they will be at work, or sitting on the lounge watching TV, and just start smiling as they remember something that happened when they were on the Trek. It might be something that happened at one of the schools we visited, or some of the locals you chatted to, perhaps the mateship, or simply the memory of the stunning scenery, that made you smile.

One thing is for sure - Trek 2017 might be over, but it is in no way forgotten,

THANKS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUSITY

The Trek spent most of its time in NSW this year, and for that reason participant numbers were down a little. Obviously that will reflect on the donations total, but the mean & mode donations per car are up on recent years, which is a good sign. As soon as we know what the total donation are – I will let you know.

Thank you one and all for your generosity – as you saw in the Road Book, and heard from the RFDS staff on the Trek – the Flying Doctor creates great outcomes from the donations you provide.

SHANNONS CREEK WAS A HIGHLIGHT

There are not that many opportunities in your life to observe an aeroplane landing on a public road, much less an RFDS plane dropping in to have lunch with you.

Bringing the plane in for lunch at Shannons Creek was one of the highlights of the week, and reinforced the importance of the Trek to the RFDS. The logistical challenges, and the amount of collaboration between the various government authorities and local volunteer groups to pull it off was enormous, and a big thank you to all concerned.

Special thanks also go to the Packsaddle Progress Association, and to the Broken Hill School Of The Air, for looking after us so well during the day.

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COMMUNITY FUND RAISING

A huuuuuge congratulations to the entire Trek community for getting behind the local schools, progress associations, kindergartens, rodeo clubs, hospital auxiliary's and various other community groups on the way around the route this year.

Your generosity manifested itself in many ways, from getting your windscreen washed, to displaying your golf chipping prowess, taking part in guessing competitions, buying raffle tickets, and purchasing local merchandise and memorabilia.

It is hard to pick out any one event for special mention, **BUT** – a big shout of thanks to all Trekkers (and I will embarrass Peter Dooley and Rob Blain by singling them out for special mention) for the fantastic effort at Tibooburra. I had encouraged the local school to come along to our dinner at the two pubs that night to sell raffle tickets, to help the 6 kids travel to the Far West Children's Home at Manly for their bi-annual excursion. I even stuck my neck out and set the expectation that they might be able to raise \$750 for their efforts.

You can imagine how they felt when they went home with in excess of **\$6,000.00** – a wonderful, wonderful example of your generosity. **PLUS** when we returned home Leonie Pierce (passenger in Dools car, #CX111) approached Rex Aviation and managed to get a donation of two free tickets to Sydney for the kids to use, helping the kids even further. Thanks Leonie!

Congratulations for all of your community input and generosity during the week – it is a good thing that you do, and you should be very proud.

MEDIA EXPOSURE

The RFDS media campaign paid big dividends, with many radio and newspaper interviews conducted, plus TV interviews as well. A big vote of thanks to the film and photography crews this year, and especially Allan Coker, Prue Steel and Rachel Saunders. They were responsible for an absolute storm of media activity in the weeks leading up to the event, during Trek week itself, and ongoing exposure since we came home.

We have enjoyed tens of thousands of social media hits on the Trek Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter accounts, raising the profile of the event enormously. The posts were informative, the photography was stunning, and the film clip vignettes were witty and fun.

Have a look at <http://www.outbackcartrek.com.au/2017-trek-videos>

TREK REUNION

We held a reunion lunch in Melbourne last Saturday, and we had 37 attendees – thanks to everybody for making the day so much fun.

I am trying to work out dates that might suit most people for a Sydney reunion, most likely in or around the city on a Saturday in mid/late August – what are your thoughts a Saturday lunch? The lunch in Melbourne was very well received and it was very well attended.

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BSCR REUNION

The Bright Smiles Reunion will be on Sunday 13th August, at David & Jenny Hancock's house in New Lambton at 11:30 am. RSVP is required, please refer to the invitation at the end of this newsletter.

ARE YOUR 2017 PAYMENTS UP TO DATE?

The dust has now settled, all of the catering groups and all of the accounts have been paid, even the BAS return has been done. Now we can turn our attention to making sure that all of the cars individual donations are up to date and recorded properly. As many cars exceed the minimum donation requirements, and with donations being made by various disparate methods (cheques, EFT, fundraising websites, credit cards, etc.) it is hard to make sure we have everything logged and recorded accurately, and all pledges are recorded and followed up.

If you still have donors that have not yet fulfilled their pledges – please chase them up now, and if you need any help, sing out.

(For those of you not aware, all of the donations are banked instantly into an account the RFDS operate specifically for the Trek. The RFDS have had the money since day one.)

The Auditors will be in soon, and we want everything ship-shape before they arrive.

SURVEY

Thanks for all of the offers from people to help me conduct the next survey. If all goes according to plan, Mike and I should get away mid/late July, and be back early August.

TREK 2018 IS GOING TO THE WHITSUNDAYS!

Trek 2018 will be a one-week event. Planning has been underway for several months and as I announced on the Saturday night in Port Macquarie, next years event will finish at Airlie Beach on Saturday June 9th.

I also announced that Tamworth **will probably** be the start town, subject to a satisfactory survey in August. We intend to have the outline of the route, and entry forms, up on the website by late August.

P.S. I have already received the first entry into the 2018 Trek, paid in full!

Trek 2019 will be the 30th Trek, and will be held over a longer period. It will most likely be held over 10 or 12 days, finishing on Friday 14th June 2019. To be confirmed.

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DRIVE 4X4 THE DOC – NSW & VICTORIA

The overnight towns have all been set, caterers put in place and the accommodation sorted. We should have the costings finished in the next few days and the entry forms up on the website by this weekend. I will text everybody to let you know when they are available for you to download.

- **Drive 4x4 The Doc NSW** - will commence after work with a briefing, welcome drinks and dinner at Pokolbin on Wednesday evening September 6th, overnight in Denman, Gloucester & Hawkes Nest, and finish on Stockton Beach (hopefully) at lunchtime Sunday 10 September.
- **Drive 4x4 The Doc Victoria** - will commence after work with a briefing, welcome drinks and dinner at Marysville on Wednesday evening November 15th, overnight in Beechworth, Corryong & Rutherglen, and will finish with lunch at Echuca on Sunday 19th November.

TREK CARS FOR SALE

The list of cars available is constantly changing, with a few cars having changed hands in the past few weeks. Stocks are limited, and I have a number of people looking to purchase cars. Some of them are people new to the Trek, and some people are looking to upgrade their car.

Regardless of if you have advised me before – *if you have a car that is still for sale* – please let me know now and I will put a classifieds newsletter together.

MERCHANDISE

We have a small number of those outrageously stylish Trek 2017 shirts still available, and they are yours for the ***bargain basement investment of \$25*** (plus postage).

Sizes available:

MENS:	LADIES:
2XL	SIZE 16
XL	SIZE 14
L	SIZE 12
M	SIZE 10

Email me or call me if you want to purchase one or more of the shirts (at well below cost).

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AND REMEMBER:

ONLY **332** MORE SLEEPS



(and they will pass very quickly)

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PARTY! REUNION! PARTY!

After another very enjoyable long weekend on the 2017 BSCR, we would love to get together for lunch and a bit of fun with participants (new, old and future) in the Bright Smiles Charity Bike Ride.

Not only will it be really great to catch up on news and adventures, but will also give us the opportunity to discuss the 2018 ride, meet the new comers and make them welcome, get in the riding groove and perhaps do a bit of bike talk.....

Perhaps treat this as a recruitment drive for new participants?

PLEASE bring your Partner, please bring the kids. Invite a friend.

IMPORTANT DETAILS

- When: Sunday 13th August
- Where : 38 Marshall Street, New Lambton Hts 2305
- Time : 11.30 am
- BYO drinks – David & Jenny will supply the food
- RSVP 1st August
- Ph: 0249 575320 0413977116
- E: jennymhancock@bigpond.com
djjmhancock@bigpond.com



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Anyone interested in making a weekend of it is most welcome to stay over either the Saturday, the Sunday or both.

Please pass this invitation on to anyone you think may be interested in coming along on the ride.

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