



Drive 4x4 The Doc

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Royal Flying Doctor Service

14th August 2020

LATEST NEWS AND UPDATES

The 2020 Outback Car Trek:

Things are currently looking pretty grim for any Victorian or overseas participation for this year's postponed Trek in October. Given the increase in COVID-19 cases in NSW this week, things are not looking too much better in NSW, but at the moment I am hopeful the Trek will still take place.

There are a number of stakeholders involved in the event including our participants, the communities we visit, the RFDS, and the caterers and fundraising groups who we work with along the way. Given the social distancing rules that will still be in place in October, some of the caterers have problems with numbers for a group our size, but we believe we have managed to work with all of the towns to create acceptable alternatives in each location.

At the moment I think we have a solid 66% chance to proceed with the Trek but watch this space.

The 2021 Outback Car Trek:

In a normal year (will normal be normal ever again?) by now we would have completed our first survey of the 2021 Trek route, and we would be getting ready to communicate the route to everybody. Obviously we haven't been able to get out and drive what we had started to plan 8 months ago, so I can't tell you where we will be going to (or where from) but I can give you the dates – Saturday 5th June 2021 from a town near the VIC/NSW border, to Sunday 13th June somewhere in Queensland.

I'll give you a hint about the route – the SA Government have committed to seal the Strzelecki within the next few years.

Quote: - "a new sealed two-lane road (3.5m lane width) with 1.0m sealed shoulders"

Work is scheduled to commence sealing the first section of the Track this Christmas.

SO – we are going to drive the Strzelecki in June 2021, before they seal the bloody thing!

(Covid-19 permitting.....)

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

31 years proudly raising \$31,000,000 for the Royal Flying Doctor Service

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The 2020 Drive 4x4 The Doc:

We are still hoping to run the Drive 4x4 The Doc in Tasmania in November, but things are looking pretty shaky there too. We have as a “**Plan B**” the dates of 7th February to 12th February 2021 on hold, and a decision will have to be made in the next few weeks. Please - don't go changing or cancelling anything just yet, let's wait a little longer to see what happens with border openings, etc. The Spirit of Tasmania has started to accept bookings, so that is a good sign.

The Bright Smiles Charity Ride:

Postponed from April due to the pandemic, we are now looking at scheduling the 2020 event to Thursday 26th November to Monday 30th November, with the route still as originally planned – far South Coast of NSW via Mogo to Tathra, Mallacoota, the Snowy Mountains to Tumut and finish on the Southern Highlands. We will be visiting those communities who have been impacted by continual droughts, have been decimated by the bushfires, hit by the COVID-19 lockdown on travel and now inundated with floods. Just another year in rural Australia I suppose ☹️.

We will again have to wait and see if the 2020 BSCR will go ahead in November, but please be positive and lock the dates in now. It is only a small and manageable group (20 people) so fingers crossed.

On the subject of motor bike riding, a small number of us from Sydney & Newcastle (and Dora Creek) have formed an informal riding group and are trying to set up a pattern of riding for a day, sometimes an overnight trip, once or twice a month. Not much is organised, it is not related to the RFDS, no fees involved, just a pleasant day(s) out in the country with like-minded mates.

Twisty roads, tiny towns, small pubs. If you would like to get onto the mailing list for these rides – let me know. The numbers are usually only a handful of people, so we are not too badly affected by the pandemic.

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