

July 2024 Newsletter

Greetings to all Rallytives and those who are interested in joining our trusty group.

I hope this letter finds you well and keeping warm on these short wintery days.

Having just returned from Griffith where we farewelled one of our much-loved Rallytives, I feel that sharing this here is important.

Words and photos from Track Boss, Terry Stewart.

In Memory of Koala Jones
1962 to 2024

It is with a saddened heart that I share the news of the passing of Koala Jones.
CAR 1163 GUM LEAVES. 1996 VS COMMODORE S/WAGON

Koala passed away from Pancreatic Cancer while in hospital in his hometown of Griffith NSW.

Koala has not been well over the last couple of years, he tried hard to come on the 2018 rally, he was not working, and his health was down.

He could not make the 20-year reunion in Griffith on Saturday 2nd March '24 but certainly made the breakfast the next morning.

I spoke to him in May, and he sounded well, and his spirit was high, but you never really know with cancer, you just take it day by day. He was in hospital for about 2 weeks leading up to his passing.

Koala did his first rally in 2010, then in 2011, and in 2012 with navigator Ken Brydon.

Then 2013 and then 2014 with navigator Ben Baker.

He then ran out of Kens, so Ray Greig navigated for Koala in 2015, 2016, 2017 and his last rally in 2023.

Koala's fundraising efforts were greatly appreciated by those CF sufferers who benefited from his mighty efforts. A big thank you!

Rest in Peace Koala Jones.

Photos attached from 2023 Rally.



Only 54 days to go!

REGISTRATIONS, GET THEM IN NOW.

Entries will close on Friday the 9th of August 2024. This means all entry fees, catering fees, and the minimum donations must be paid by this date. Donations over the minimum will continue to be accepted until the end of the rally as usual.

EFTPOS will be available at registration and throughout the rally **BUT** I would prefer all possible transactions to be completed by direct debit before the event.

Please get your registrations in before this time so that I can get the right information to those who need it. As usual the entry form is attached.

DIETARY NEEDS.

If you or one of your crew has any special dietary needs/ requests, you need to let us know as soon as possible so we can arrange these with our caterers. Requesting special meals when you turn up on registration day won't be possible. Many of the smaller communities will be pre-ordering what is needed for our meals and won't have other options on the day.

ADDITIONAL NUMBERS TO THE WELCOME AND FINAL DINNERS.

I also need to know numbers for any extras that would like to attend the welcome and final dinners. Family members, sponsors and supporters are all welcome to join us at these events, but places must be paid for before the entry closing date so they can be included in our booking numbers.

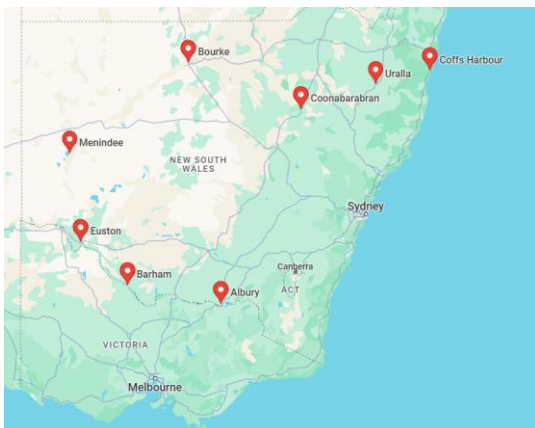
Prices are:

Welcome Dinner	\$50.00	Atura Albury Function Room.
Final/ Awards Dinner	\$60.00	Coffs Harbour Surf Club.

RALLY ACCOMMODATION.

Book all your accommodation, as with many of the small towns we visit, beds are in short supply. A list of accommodation contacts was in the January Newsletter, email me if you need more info. Camping is available behind the venue in Menindee if you have missed out on accommodation there. As usual, we have a Pantech truck available to carry your camping equipment and swags.

THE 2024 GREAT ESCAPE OZ CAR RALLY OVERNIGHT STOPS.



- Albury Rego 31st Aug
- Barham D1 1st Sept
- Euston D2 2nd Sept
- Menindee D3 3rd Sept
- Bourke D4 4th Sept
- Coonabarabran D5 5th Sept
- Uralla D6 6th Sept
- Coffs Harbour D7 7th Sept

THE THEME NIGHTS FOR THIS YEAR ARE.

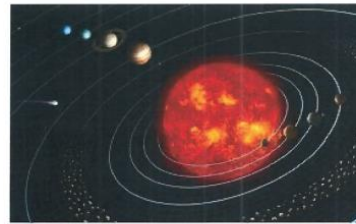
Euston Day 2



Class of '24

Yes, you guessed it, yes that's right
We'll all go back to school tonight.
The only change for us will be it's
Not in a classroom as you will see.
Dress to impress, the options open
Check out the bar to get your potion.
Then relax, let's set the scene
The Great Escape OZ
In Menindee has been.

Coonabarabran Day 5



Astronomica

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star
Planets align for us from afar.
Let's hold the fascination
"Outer Space Brings"
Dress like the Jetson's
Or an outfit that pines

Coffs Harbour

Day 7

Teresa has a grass lei for everyone to wear on the final night.



Presentation Night

Let's all get lei'd in sunny Coffs
The water's edge we'll be.
With fancy shirts or grassy skirts
You're guaranteed some fun.
So, limber up, the limbo do?
Your Lei supplied for you.

In addition to the above themed nights, on Day 6 we will be travelling from Coonabarabran into the Pilliga Scrub for breakfast. It will be an early start, so save time and wear your PJ's to breakfast.

REGISTRATION DAY DETAILS.

Saturday 31st of August.

- 10:00 am. We will meet in Albury at Noreuil Park, near The River Deck café. I will issue your door stickers and get ready for our parade.
- 11:30 am. The parade will commence, lapping the main drag 'Dean Street' before returning to our starting point at Noreuil Park. We will then disperse to find our own lunch and carry out final preparations.
- 1:30 pm. Scrutineering will open in the Atura Albury car park. Once our officials have inspected your car you can bring your pass report to the registration desk, check off all your details and receive your 'Track Book'.
- 3:30 pm. Safety briefing to be held inside Atura function room. **All entrants must attend.**
- 6:00 pm. Doors open for 'Welcome Dinner'.
- 6:30 pm. Dinner starts.

EVENT SAFETY

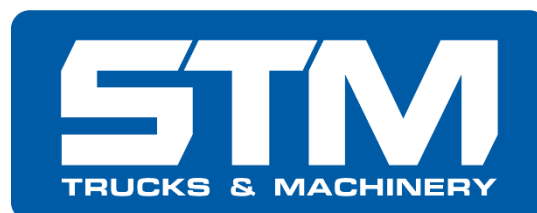
I plan to trial a 'new' safety measure to our event this year. I will be using the 'Live 360' phone app that many other similar events use to find lost souls. On a **VOLUNTARY** basis, I will ask the principal entrant of each team to join our Live 360 group. This will assist us to find you if you turn up missing.

FUN AND GAMES ON THE ROAD.

We have several games that we play or get up to on our travels, but we would like to add to our list. A number of teams have already arranged to set up a fun activity along the track, so if anyone else has some suggestions for games either on the track or better still at an overnight stop, please email your suggestion and rules how it operates. This is a good opportunity to boost the funds raised for Cure4 CF while on the road!

SPARES TRUCK.

Once again, STM have agreed to support our event again this year by providing a spares truck for our journey. Their support last year was invaluable, and I thank them for their generosity.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS.



As most of you would understand, your entry fee only partially covers the cost of running this event at our current entry numbers. The answer is 'we need more teams to enter', but until then I have started writing to many businesses asking for their support to keep 'The Great Escape Oz' great. As these generous companies come online, I will be sharing them here. If you know of a business that would like to support us like these have, send me a line.

FUNDRAISING PAGE.

For those of you that have your entry in already and have started raising donations, Cure4CF have set up an online fundraising page for our event. This will streamline and give more options to how donations can be made. The Cure4CF fundraising page link is: <https://the-great-escape-2024.raiselysite.com/>

You will need to set up an account on the page so people can donate to your team online. This will be added to your fundraising tally. I have added a link from the Great Escape website to this donation page. That means you can tell anyone who wants to give you money to go to the Great Escape website, click donate, find your team, and transfer the money. Cure4CF will send a tax deductible receipt directly to them.

If you have money in cash or in your account already from people, that will have to come through the Great Escape account so I can organise a Cure4CF receipt.

SOCIAL MEADIA.

Many of you have already seen the new video posts I have released to generate more interest for our event on Facebook and Instagram. If you haven't, look them up and share them to all of your contacts. I want everyone to see how Great our Escapes can be.

I think that's enough information overload for now so, get your entries in to secure your spot, promote the event and dazzle your sponsors with the posters.

See you down the roads less travelled.

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