

What's going on in the Land of Oz?

“Drought, Fires, Seasonal Floods and Storms” we have had the lot!

All of this is in Dorothea Mackellar's poem 'I love a Sunburnt Country'.

A verse we all know from school.



*A land of sweeping plains – of rugged mountain ranges, of droughts
and flooding rains, I love her far horizons, I love her jewel sea.*

*A land of rainbow Gold for flood and fire and famine – she pays us
back three-fold.*

Written over 100 years ago, it really tells us what this Great Southern Land is all about. All of this and more is in her deep and true love for her country.

To those whom I have not spoken to; *HAPPY NEW YEAR* and to those who have been out fighting Bush Fires and rescuing in the Floods: **GOD BLESS YOU.**

In the light of the recent disastrous drought, which still continues in some areas, and followed by the Bush Fires with some still burning, all of this has ravaged our nation. We need to remember where we have travelled through and thank those many people, some we have met and just think what they have been through. Regional communities do it tough anyway they don't need these extra burdens.

After 18 years the Great Escape has evolved into **The Great Escape Oz, a 7 Day Rally.**

Still a Fun Car Charity Rally which now supports another arm of Cystic Fibrosis via the **Cure 4 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.** The Great Escape and now **The Great Escape OZ** is a unique way of visiting parts of Australia that are off the tourist routes and often on your bucket list.

Over the years the areas we travelled through have been affected by one or the other and in cases a double hit.

In 2010 we were on the beautiful Kangaroo Island, now more than half of the island is burnt to the ground.

2014 another island adventure to Tasmania, they didn't miss out this year with fires.

2016 who could forget the floods around Bourke and Louth which prevented us in going to the Birdsville Races.

2017 we were not that far away from the Adelaide Hills which suffered this year from fires.

2018 all that lovely timber area on the Great Dividing Range around Tenterfield, Drake, Casino area and beyond have suffered from the fires.

2019 it felt like the fires and in some areas the floods were tracking us, as the fires around Cooma then across to the coast where we went through Cobargo up into the back of Batemans Bay and Nelligen.



Yes, 2020 is a 7 Day Rally!

We still travel along off the beaten tracks, but no more off work, away from home and family for 2 weeks. All done from 1 weekend to the next weekend in September each year.

The 2020 rally starts in Nuriootpa (Barossa Valley SA) and ends at Bonus Downs Station, Queensland via Birdsville.

You will find all the information you need to get cracking via the following links.

 [Trackboss508](#)

W: www.thegreatescapeoz.com.au

Well it's not only a New Year but also a New Rally 'The Great Escape Oz'. A new Format which is a 7 Day Rally away from the normal 9 or 10 day rally which was born in September 2019 and the 2020 planning is well underway.

Entry forms are out, survey on the go, website under-construction, fundraising via everyday hero up (almost up & running), poster designed and ready to distribute.

Click on this icon to download your 2020 Entry Form:



The general consensus on a 7 Day Rally is that it will help people manage things within their work life and of course family life. You will still get the WOW factor plenty of bush tracks new towns to visit and remember this is the first year in a double-header, which would have been difficult to put into a 1 year 9-day event.

Part two of the sequel is the 2021 THE GREAT ESCAPE OZ, which will be its 20th year and we will be starting not far from where we finish this year on our way to Karumba Nth Qld the bottom of the Gulf.

All your accommodation requirements were in the December Newsletter with name and phone numbers, there is limited accommodation within the overnight stops so book early.

Any questions give me a call or send an email.

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THE GREAT ESCAPE OZ WEBSITE

The brand-new website www.Thegreatestescapeoz.com.au is under construction as I am writing this Newsletter. All the info you need to know about the rally; Tips & Tricks, Rules & Requirements, Entry Forms and other general but useful facts. Of course photos and videos of past rallies. It will also highlight all the basics about the history of the rally, information on where the rally has gone over the past 18 years. I want to get some of the entrants and officials to write their story. There will be some surprises, so it's worth the look, but not just yet.

MINI RALLY: Save the date 28-29 March '20.

As I have indicated in the last Newsletter, I was planning to have a Mini Rally early in the new year but what was going on with the fires I did not want to put more stress in the areas or participants.

Frank and Belinda Corby from Albury have been doing the course layout for the weekend of Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 March in the Albury/Hume Weir area.

The plan is to be at the start point around 11am then a 1.5hr course which will take in bush roads, forest tracks and some tar before lunch in Jingellic. Then after lunch onto other track and some scenic roads back to the Hume Weir we would be doing about 240 klms in the mini rally.

There are 2 types of accommodation at the Weir.

- Lake Hume Tourist Park. They have self-contained cabins, camping and power sites. 02 6049 8100
- Lake Hume Resort. Motel Accommodation and Cabins. 02 6026 4444.
Frank tells me that they are a bit exy!

The next thing we need to work out is the Saturday dinner which could be at the Boat House Restaurant, this is part of the Lake Hume Resort, where you would order your own meals.

The other option is to have a BBQ at the Lake Hume Tourist Park as they have BBQ areas. In regard to brekkie on Sunday morning again at the Tourist Park café we can get Bacon/Egg Rolls etc.

There is no cost in holding the event, it is just pay for your own accommodation, meals and refreshments. I think the tourist park looks the go; we need to come to a decision on catering.

I will be sending further detail out about this "get together/mini rally".

This is a call to save the date; **Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 March '20** be at the start point by 10.30/11am. On Saturday 28th.

In advance I would like to thank Frank and Belinda Corby for their time and commitment to make this happen.

Get your registrations in before the mini rally as that will allow me to order the door stickers (with your car # printed on them). I will then bring them with me to the Mini Rally so you can start using them. You must have registered and paid your registration by no later than **February 28, 2020.**

BOOK COVER POSTER

The Book Cover and Poster are now completed and as you would have noted we have maintained the colourful cover that we have used over many years.

TOYOTA WINDOW SIGNS

I have had generic window signs made for Toyota which will advertise the GREAT ESCAPE OZ.

FUNDRAISING

By now many of you would be right into your fundraising for the rally, this could include

- Joker Runs
- BBQ's at Bunnings
- Seeking sponsorship
- Balls, Events, Dinners
- And 1000 other ways all using your imagination as you are all very creative.

EVERYDAY HERO: Watch this space!

Via Cure4 Cystic Fibrosis, a page is in the process of being set up for The Great Escape Oz.

The intention is that each time a car registers and has paid their registration, their Car is entered as a "Team" within The Great Escape Oz. Your supporters can donate to your car via this page.

Safe Travels, see ya down the track

Terry Stewart

Track Boss

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