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The Great Escape Oz July 2020 Newsletter

G'day to all Rallyitives and those that are interested in joining our trusty group.

I trust everyone and their families are well, and I hope to catch up with some of you later in the month at the MINI RALLY 25-26 JULY Mudgee Region.

We are still in this state of uncertainty, but it seems to be improving outside of some areas but not within greater Melbourne, with most boarders getting close to reopen apart from the NSW and Victorian boarder, so with this happening we look set to go back into lots of uncertainty again. Australia is the lucky country as we can control our national borders, we have reasonable politicians who most of the time use common sense. Our population in the main has listened to the health instructions and got on with doing what they had to do within the restrictions, I feel that is a reasonable overview of what has happening in Australia, outside of the massive job losses and business going to the wall. Just remember the year 2020 and tell your grandchildren as I have told mine, this is a 1 in 100-year pandemic and remember the small things that you as a child have lost.

The spread of the COVID-19 has unsettled us all. My thoughts are with those who have lost their job and those directly impacted, our healthcare workers, particularly our supermarket workers who were brought into a situation by some stupid people wanting a bathroom full of toilet paper and other essential items that they could have waited for without what we had to witness on TV. This whole situation has destabilised the world financial markets and has had a direct impact on people from all walks of life, we will navigate through these challenging times. "That is my reading of the day" A reading from Track Book 2020 Verse 1.

MAKIN 'TRAX'S MINI RALLY WEEKEND OF THE 25-26 JULY 2020 MUDGEE REGION.

Now let me give you an overview of the Mini Rally we have coming up over the weekend of 25-26 July'20 around the Mudgee area. This has been put together by Russ (Doc) Maxwell, our medic, Jon (Chappy) Chapman and Troy Leathem both from Car 102 (Old Muds) all

residence of Mudgee and I thank them for their effort and time of putting the tracks together. Also Chappy has written of the towns and areas we will be travelling through, so you get a better understanding of what makes the region tick. Again, the spirit of the rallyitives has shown through again as the 3 people mentioned just jump in when need to get the job done, so a big thank you fellows.

We leave from **The Globe Hotel Rylstone at 10am Sat 25 July**, if you are lucky you could get accommodation Friday night (24 July) if needed The Globe Hotel 02 6379 1048 there is room to camp out the back, nothing like a very cold Rylstone morning to wake you up.

From Rylstone we "WACKO" to Lue through some beautiful country (Glen Davis and the Capertee Valley, recognised internationally as better and bigger than the Grand Canyon).

From Lue we go to Crossroads and onto Gulgong, the town on the Original \$10 note. All these towns or forgotten towns all had massive populations during mid to late 1800's with a population of over 20,000, they were all seeking their fortune from GOLD. Chappy has put some good research into what you are going to see as we pass through these near forgotten places. So we have done 3 WACKOS' to get to Gulgong all dirt roads but no corrugations. When it comes to good ol' dusty roads and adventure it doesn't get more enticing than iconic NSW roads.

We have lunch at the Centennial Hotel after a nice lunch we head out on a short transport to get to a control to start the final WACKO run of the day into our overnight stop and dinner at the Royal Hotel Hill End. After Dinner and the normal Great Escape Oz Fun we settle in for a good night sleep an equally good Brekke at the Royal, with a reasonable time start we hit the tracks heading to Mudgee.

The plan is to finish in Mudgee at Kelly's Pub, where you can have lunch while we sort out the Winners of the Weekend, don't worry no big sacks of money, we are keeping that till April next year at the finish of the big Rally 10 to 17 April 2021.

Now things you need to know.

Accommodation Globe Hotel Rylstone 02 6379 1048. Get in quick if you are going to be there Friday night 24 July, you can camp out the back.

Accommodation 25 July. Royal Hotel Hill End 02 6337 8261. Get in quick, no camping out the back. There is a camping ground in town and Hill End Lodge Motel 02 6337 8200.

Accommodation if needed at Kelly's Hotel Mudgee 02 6372 1842 Sunday night.

There is an MINI RALLY entry form attached so get it to your friends and get them involved and they can see the fun they are missing out on if they don't come away on The Great Escape Oz Fun Car Rally 10 –17 July 2020. 7 Days of great tracks through hugely different countryside, great pubs and the great after dinner stories.

Froggy recovering.

John 'Froggy' Selth had a leg operation on June 30, this was to improve the blood flow has it has restricted his movement and making it difficult to walk any distance. So he took his first new steps on Friday 3 July and expecting to be home the 6 July so he can terrorise Kaye.

Good luck Froggy along with an easy and quick recovery.

Aussie Bush Story.

Technology leads us into many different areas now both for business and pleasure and as we hear regularly some can lead to traps in finance and personal relationships. We use social media to tell the world what we are doing or looking at what others are doing, but this story that follows really tells how social information was spread before we got all these gadgets etc. Our, Gus Clements from Cowra sent this through to me as he knows I love bush stories, you should see my bookcase. I am sure you'll love the story, real Aussie stuff and typical working bush family that didn't have much but got heaps. See what you think and if you have good old Aussie stories of yesterday send them through and lets all know more about how things were done, when technology was not the buzz word.

This is a Great True Story

LENNIE AND GINGER MICK

A wonderful story of endeavour by a young Australian.

You may not have read or heard before the story of Lennie Gwyther and his horse Ginger Mick - the stuff of legend, being an annal from an Australia that no longer exists.

It's 1932 and Australia is in the grip of the Great Depression. One in three workers are unemployed. Decrepit shanty towns hug the outskirts of the big cities.

A scrawny rabbit caught in a trap will feed a family for a week. Country roads are filled with broken men walking from one farmhouse to another seeking menial jobs and food.

On the outskirts of the South Gippsland town of Leongatha, an injured farmer lies in bed unable to walk – or work. World War I hero Captain Leo Tennyson Gwyther is in hospital with a broken leg and the family farm is in danger of falling into ruins.

Up steps his son, nine-year-old Lennie. With the help of his pony Ginger Mick, Lennie ploughs the farm's 24 paddocks and keeps the place running until his father can get back on his feet.

How to reward him?

Lennie has been obsessively following one of the biggest engineering feats of the era – the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. He wants to attend its opening. With great reluctance, his parents agree he can go.

So Lennie saddles up Ginger Mick, packs a toothbrush, pyjamas, spare clothes and a water bottle into a sack, and begins the 1000+ kilometre trek to Sydney.

Alone. That's right. A nine-year-old boy riding a pony from the deep south of Victoria to the biggest and roughest city in the nation.

Told you it was a different era. No social media. No mobile phones.

But even then it doesn't take long before word begins to spread about a boy, his horse and their epic trek. The entire populations of small country towns gather on their outskirts to welcome his arrival.

He survives bushfires, is attacked by a 'vagabond' and endures rain and cold, biting winds.

When he reaches Canberra, he is welcomed by Prime Minister Joseph Lyons, who invites him into Parliament House for tea.

When he finally arrives in Sydney, more than 10,000 people line the streets to greet him. He is besieged by autograph hunters.

He becomes a key part of the official parade at the bridge's opening. He and Ginger Mick are invited to make a starring appearance at the Royal Easter Show. Even Donald Bradman, the biggest celebrity of the Depression era, requests a meeting and gives him a signed cricket bat.

A letter writer to The Sydney Morning Herald at the time gushes that "..... just such an example as provided by a child of nine summers, Lennie Gwyther was, and is, needed to raise the spirit of our people and to fire our youth and others to do things – not to talk only. The sturdy pioneer spirit is not dead ... let it be remembered that this little lad, when his father was in hospital, cultivated the farm – a mere child."

When Lennie leaves Sydney for home a month later, he has become one of the most famous figures in a country craving uplifting news. Large crowds wave handkerchiefs. Women weep and shout "Goodbye". According to The Sun newspaper, "Lennie, being a casual Australian, swung into the saddle and called "Toodleloo!"".

He finally arrives home to a tumultuous reaction in Leongatha. He returns to school and soon life for Lennie – and the country – returns to normal.

These days you can find a bronze statue in Leongatha commemorating Lennie and Ginger Mick.

But Australia has largely forgotten his remarkable feat – and how he inspired a struggling nation.

Never taught about him in school?

Never heard of him before?

Spread the word.

We need to remember – and celebrate – Lennie Gwyther and his courageous journey.

It's a great story. God knows we need these stories now, more than ever.

(Stolen from Garry Linnell's article in The New Daily!)

See also <https://www.smh.com.au/national/the-nineyearold-who-rode-a-pony-1000km-to-sydney-20150121-12v3kq.html>

Please find attached entry forms.

The Great Escape Oz Mini Rally 25-26 July'20 Entry Form

The Great Escape Oz Full Rally (7 days) 10 – 17 April 2021

See ya' down the track.

Terry Stewart Track Boss

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