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## The Great Escape Oz May 2020 Newsletter

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

It has been a tough couple of months for the country and to a broader extent, the world. I hope you, your family and friends have all come out of this period in good health, both of body and mind while we hopefully wind back the isolating life, we have needed to maintain during the coronavirus pandemic.

To all the **MUMS** I hope you have a Great Mother's Day and you are spoiled.

The last couple of days of the 2021 rally were challenging in getting things in place, due to some changes from the original overnight stops as they were not available. That aside all is well now, I have attached the updated accommodation option sheet for the April 2021 rally, but you **MUST BOOK EARLY** as **APRIL IS SHOW TIME IN THE BUSH**.

**Also all of the Great Escape Oz website is being updated with the overnight stays, new entry forms and poster being designed and printed.**

This is not only my monthly Newsletter but I have added a little story as many of you have told me you like my stories, so I hope you get some inspiring info. In addition, I have added some of my weird problem solving fun things to do while in isolation.

It is going to be a little shorter than "War and Peace", only marginally, so have a good lie down and have a good read, as you have nothing much else to do?

As I closely monitor the public health updates and the spread of coronavirus throughout Australia and around the world, the health and well-being of all rallyitives and their families has been my top priority and that was the bases of me postponing both the Mini Rally in March and the Full Rally in September.

As of now, I am hopeful that we will meet up in person at the mini rallies coming up over the next few months, specifically the main 7-day rally scheduled for 10 to 17 April 2021. More information on the Mini Rallies further in this Newsletter.

As many of you realise I also have responsibilities as President of Cystic Fibrosis Worldwide (CFW) and I am trying to assist in many of the countries that do not have the appropriate resources to deal with the virus for the CF Community. These requests are mainly coming from the eastern bloc countries and which includes Russia. It has given me some time to look at how CFW can help but also realising that these governments do not see Cystic Fibrosis as a high priority. As an outsider, to change that mindset is an exceedingly difficult thing to do. What I learnt from the work that I did in Kazakhstan is, find a CF parent, they become a warrior and that person gathers others around them and I put the plan together to fight and get the government on side.

Various parts of Australia have really coped a hammering by mother nature over a number of years and now they have the virus to deal with as it restricts our health and certainly our movement.

Areas have had drought for many years with extremely low water reserves along with water restrictions in regional towns and cities. And as the bush is trying to deal with that--- some areas had the worst bush fires ever and then in other areas this was followed up by floods. But many of those drought affected areas did get a silver lining when they received their best rain fall in years, so some joy for the bush.

As we all saw this unfold, we wanted to get out there and help the regions and put some money and smiles on faces in those areas hardest hit. But then the country was hit by coronavirus and we were told to self-isolate, no travelling – so no helping the bush.

Our regions are certainly looking forward to welcoming everyone back when the time is right. In some areas they are doing it particularly tough, having lost everything. One thing we know about bush people is their resilience and commitment.

This is an exercise that I did a few years ago looking at how car rallies support the bush. There are a number of car rallies which operate and support a range of charities; this all started in 1985 when Dick Smith the entrepreneur and adventurer took a group of intrepid motorists from Bourke NSW to Burketown Qld. (I worked with Dick from 87 to 99). There were other rallies before 1985 but these were the first purpose charity events.

Over the years millions of dollars have been raised for these selected charities, but also millions of dollars have been left in the bush, as these rallies pass through the various regions. You could say a win, win situation?

A number of years ago I decided to do an audit on the money left in the bush during the days on the road, remembering the added days of getting to the start location and then getting home from the finish line. I used the Great Escape 2014 Fun Car Rally for CF as the example, as that is when I did the exercise. Within that rally there were 47 rally cars and 15 official vehicles.

So let us look at the brake up of the expenditure items.

- Fuel
- Catering
- Accommodation
- Refreshments
- Smokes and sweets
- Tyres
- Mechanical repairs or requirements
- Miscellaneous

So a rally with the number of vehicles stated above, within a 24 hour foot print the amount spent is around \$50 000.00. You can do your own maths on what it leaves over the rally days and the lead in and lead out days and that is going to be in the order of \$500 000.00 left in the bush within the area the rally has travelled. Some council's welcome rallies as they get it, and they see the big picture, but others have little time for rallies, so the area misses out on the pennies.

So why am I telling you all this? As the coronavirus has stopped/forbidden us to go out into effected areas of bush fires and drought, that is why I started looking at Mini Rallies to get something going , so in a small way we could help the bush.

We tried to put a mini rally on at the end of March, but needed to postpone that due to travel restrictions. Well here is some good news, the postponed March Mini Rally will now be held on the NSW, ACT and Sth Aust. Long weekend 3,4 & 5 October2020, again helped and supported by Frank and Belinda Corby around the Hume Weir, Albury area.

The purpose of doing this apart from helping the bush is to get as many rallyitives back together and also giving the opportunity for families and new people the chance of experiencing the fun and adventure within charity car rallies, visiting the country areas, getting to know rallitives and other and hopefully they like what they see and come on board for the normal 7 day The Great Escape Oz 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021. So, again a WIN, WIN situation.

I am planning a further Mini Rally around July/August '20 that will be in the Mudgee area, this will just be a normal 2-day weekend event, Russ (Doc) Maxwell is helping out in this area.

There are no fundraising or other fees involved with these 2 proposed mini rallies. Your cost will be fuel, your catering and accommodation. So come join the fun of the Rally in July/August around the bush and the wine fields of Mudgee and 3-5 October around beautiful Hume Weir/ Albury area. I will have all the detail including times etc. in the next Newsletter. Just save the date in Oct and will have the confirmed Mudgee times next Newsletter.

Put those dates in your diary and start getting the car and the team ready. You can bring the family and the family car, of course the rally car if it is ready to go. We will have transport sections if that is what you want to do or there will be WACKO and transport sections, in general we will be taking it easy, so everyone gets to have some fun. Then in the evening the

rallyites sense of fun comes out and we know how they enjoy having fun and they will get everyone to enjoy the rally and the bush humour.

Now some of my weird humour to help you in these difficult isolated times:

If you think you're bored during the coronavirus pandemic. Sir Isaac Newton invented calculus during the plaque. Do you know how bored you have to be to invent calculus? Further trivia: It is believed that people with CF at the time did not die from the plaque, remembering it was an airborne and also spread from rats, I believe Bats were not involved.

Heres' one for the maths scholars which fits into the way the virus spreads:

The Chessboard and the grain of rice example which has recently been regurgitated in the news and how the 'spread' is demonstrated on the exponential game Chessboard = 64 squares. Now place one grain of rice in the first square, two grains of rice in the second square, four grains in the third square --- keep doubling and when you get to the 64<sup>th</sup> square you need to- wait for it- I've got to get this right—9,223,372,036,854,775,808 grains of rice – that 9 in front represents Quintillion by the way. So this is for the big numbers people, it does not include me. Quintillion is a billion on steroids! It is defined as a number which is equal to 1 followed by 18 Zeros. Now the strange thing about this is, the USA standard is 18 Zeros, but the British standard is 30 Zeros. Why did I ever start working at things like this and start looking further? **WHY?**

I always thought that numbers were the same right around the world but google tells me I am wrong.

**Accommodation towns and contact details for 10 to 17 April 2021.**

**Get your accommodation early as around this time is Country Show Time in the bush and beds go very quickly.**

I have attached the Accommodation Options for 2021 Great Escape Oz Rally

See ya down the track

Terry Stewart

Track Boss

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