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The Great Escape Oz November 2020 Newsletter

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

It has been a tough few month 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.

As we head towards Christmas, I need to remind you that April 2021 is not far away, so you need to get your team together, get registered, get the fundraising going and prepare your car. The course is set but the tracks have not been surveyed due to border closures but hoping to start shortly so the first survey will be completed prior to Christmas.

There is a change in our overnight stay in Broken Hill due to Outback Resort not being very flexible with their charges, so I have decided to have the rally stop in town where there is plenty of accommodation. 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**. A further factor in booking early is that the school holidays in South Australia are 2 weeks later than the eastern states, so again book early.

FUNDRAISING

I am putting a "The Great Escape Oz Raffle" together for Entrants Fundraising. We did this for many years and it certainly helped entrants in their Fundraising. To give you some background, I'll organise the prizes, 1st, 2nd and 3rd and I intend to make them worthwhile items of keen interest and value. Get your orders in now so that I can mail the tickets out to you. Once the book is sold return the sold book to me, bank the funds into the Beyond Bank account and email me so we can then allocate those funds to your car. Sell 1 book or 10 books all money generated will be credited to your car. This has worked before and was very successful for entrants in raising funds. We will have this up and going in the next 2 weeks.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: To ensure the funds are credited to your fundraising you **MUST** put your car number as the deposit reference.

The Great Escape Oz website is being updated with the overnight stays, new entry forms, Rules and Regulations, Tips and Tricks. All these doc's help in preparing for The Great Escape Oz 2021 Rally. www.thegreatescapeoz.com

Over the last couple of months we have had 2 weekend MINI RALLIES which I have called,

“TO THE BUSH FOR THE BUSH” one in Mudgee in July and one in the Hunter region in October. The bush has been hit with drought, fire, floods and then Covid-19. So these mini rallies gave us the opportunity to all catch up and put some money where it was needed. We wanted to get out there and help the regions and put some money and smiles on faces in those areas hardest hit and I believe it has achieved that goal. I estimate that on each mini rally we have left around \$25,000 plus in the footprint of each of the mini rallies in Mudgee and the Hunter, this is money left in the towns and villages visited.

It did not cost the participants any money to enter, nor did I ask for any fundraising. Donations are always welcome which go towards the total fundraising \$'s which will be handed over the Cure4CF at the end of the 2021 Rally. All admin costs were to my own expense, these included but were not limited to the preparation and printing of the Track Book, name tags along with organising various aspects that make this type of event a success. My thanks to Jonathan Chapman (Chappy), Russ Maxwell (Doc) and Troy Leathem (Tog) for their help in surveying the tracks for the mini rally in Mudgee and Peter Margetts and Malcolm Boardman for their help for the Hunter Mini Rally and all those who stepped up to help to ensure the track was safe and all participants finished the day safe and sound

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

Things are starting to change, sad about Queensland but we are going to move on, Australia and Australians need to realise we are all in this together and not shut the place down. People will suffer from this financially and that will have a flow on to other health problems which will include mental health. This is going to be an unknown factor in years ahead.

The Mini Rallies have played their part in bringing not only our regular “rallytives” together but also many new people, so I believe these weekends have helped keep us all together in a small way as we have waited for borders to reopen. Hunter Mini rally photos on website; www.thegreatescapeoz.com

Nevertheless we are all ready to go on 10th to 17th April 2021. Here is an overview of the adventure and fun in front of you. Starting in the Barossa and finishing in Augathella Qld via Birdsville for the GEOZ Wacky Races GEOZ style. We travel into Broken Hill and will have brekkie in Silvertown where they made Mad Max. We then we overnight in Tibooburra and go to the drive-in theatre. Then onto “the corner country” known as Cameron Corner where the borders of NSW, SA and Qld meet. If the gate is open, we can have a team relay around the point of longitude 141° east and latitude 29° south and the famous Dog Fence. And of course there is always a Cold Beer available at the store. It is just a great experience as you pass through the open gibber plains—where you can see for miles to sandy undulating land. We will have a game of golf, all equipment provided, just bring your own faults.

Then off to Innamincka for overnight before heading on to Birdsville where we will kick up some dust and that's just in the bar. Next day for lunch the pub at a reclaimed town, called Betoota before continuing onto Windorah for our overnight stop. Then onto Quilpie for lunch before heading up to Tambo, which is famous for the TAMBO TEDDY, for another overnight stop. Prepare for some fun times at dinner in the pub. Then next morning we start our home run but first I am hoping to arrange for us to have lunch at the wonderful Caldervale Station, where all the stockman and women ride horses to muster the cattle where there are over 25,000 head of cattle. After lunch, we have a short WACKO into Augathella for the Awards and Final Dinner. If you cannot get fun and adventure out of that round up, then you are hard to please.

YOU MUST BOOK EARLY as South Australia are on School Holidays and people are wanting to get out: DO IT NOW.

Attached is the accommodation options with all details, the 2021 GEOZ Entry form. Get your letter of Authority to Fundraise once you have registered and paid rego fees, request raffle tickets to sell for your own fundraising.

If you have any more questions just call or email.

2019 THE GREAT ESCAPE RALLY DVD.

I have received an email from Jerry Dunn who apologies for the delay in getting this DVD out which is part of your entry fee. I understand you have received your photo album of the rally which was mailed out by CFA. The same principle applies to the DVD. Each car receives 1 copy, if more are required then there is a modest fee. But again all this is controlled by CFA, so I suggest you write/email CFA as you are entitled to a copy of the 2019 Great Escape DVD.

See Ya Down the Track

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