

# 2014 CLASSIC OUTBACK TRIAL

NEWSLETTER #3-2014

CLASSIC OUTBACK TRIAL

July 2014

## ONLY 2 MONTHS TO GO!

With just over two months to the start of the 2014 event there is still a lot of planning and work to be done from all sides. Cars still to be prepared, course checks and roadbooks to be finalised. A few weeks ago the end of August seemed a long way off, still plenty of time!

The Sydney to London Marathon "The BIG One" has been run and won. Apart from some issues, it still must have been a fantastic adventure for the few entrants.

It will be great to see Mark Pickering's red Nissan 260Z from the SLM participating in the COT ("The BIGGER One") providing it arrives back in time! Congratulations to Geoff Olholm and John Doble for winning the SLM and to COT regulars Mark Pickering and Dave Boddy for finishing third. Congratulations also to other COT regulars Peter Riseborough and Gerry Bashford for coming second in their class in the Holden Commodore, Pat and Bradley Cole winning the John Giddings Memorial Trophy and Garry Williamson and Jeff Graham for third in the Australian leg.

The COT now has two international entries—David and Sarah Rayner and Warren Briggs with Aussie Matt DeVaus in the passenger's seat. See the article later in the newsletter.



Mark Pickering's 260Z

The entry list has been fluctuating around the 45 mark with new nominations still coming in. However, we are losing a few due to family concerns and work commitments. It is a strong field and is going to be the best COT ever. It's never too late to enjoy the only long-distance event testing crew and cars being conducted in Australia as entries do not close until 15th August.



Peter & Gerry



Pat & Bradley Cole



Garry and Jeff

### AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2014

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	31	01	02	03	04	05	06

### EVENT CALENDAR

#### Friday August 29

- Documentation / Scrutiny, Overnight Parkes

#### Saturday August 30

- Documentation / Scrutiny / Prologue / Welcome function, Overnight Parkes

#### Sunday August 31

- 1st Day Competition, Overnight Condobolin

#### Monday September 1

- 2nd Day Competition, Overnight Cobar

#### Tuesday September 2

- 3rd Day Competition, Overnight Ivanhoe

#### Wednesday September 3

- 4th Day Competition, Overnight Broken Hill

#### Thursday September 4

- 5th Day Competition, Overnight Broken Hill

#### Friday September 5

- 6th Day Competition, Overnight Renmark

#### Saturday September 6

- 7th Day Competition / Presentation, Overnight Renmark



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The Rayners' Capri

## The Internationals are Coming!

By Ian Swan

After hearing about the great events in Australia, and more importantly the Classic Outback Trial, the invasion has started.

Having competed in South America, Africa and Mexico in the past few years, we have made some wonderful like-minded rally friends. Our aim has always been to get as many of them out to our great wide land to enjoy what we have to offer. This year there are two of our friends coming from England and one from Sweden to get involved in the COT!

David and Sarah Rayner have been to Australia many times to visit and they have competed in the early 1990s in Targa Tasmania in their Sunbeam Tiger, but this will be their first "dirt" event out here. They have been looking forward to this year's event for quite some time and we are really pleased to see they can finally make it. David and Sarah compete regularly all over Europe in a variety of different styles of event and more recently competed in the Peking to Paris in their 1938 BMW 328.

We met in South America in the La Carrera Sudamericana in 2006 and again in the 2007 East African Classic Safari, and they will be finally bringing their Capri RS2600 out here. They will love it!

The recent Sydney to London Marathon had a number of entries from around the world and one of these had entered his 1965 Ford Mustang coupe with me taking up the second seat.

Warren Briggs has been competing in Europe very successfully in another Mustang in what is their Appendix K Touring car series. He had purposely built a new car for the SLM but unfortunately withdrew due to a number of reasons at the last minute. His beautifully prepared car had been shipped to Australia and is now sitting in my garage!

Warren is a New Zealander but has lived in England for the past 30-odd years. He owns a successful irrigation equipment manufacturing business in the UK that exports worldwide and has been involved in a number of other very interesting businesses over the years. Ask him about Formula One exhaust systems! A true enthusiast who can't wait to get out and dirty in the Aussie Outback. His brother's business, Mowbray Park farmstay holidays in Picton NSW, is supporting his Australian entry.

The car is all ready to go and what better event to tackle than the COT? Warren is lucky to this time have secured the services of talented Matt DeVaus in the passenger seat!

I had already committed to running the ever-'unreliable' Volvo with Val on the COT!

I hadn't navigated for twenty years and I was always worried about letting Warren down in the SLM, so when Matt was available Warren jumped at the opportunity.

To add a little more international flavor I knew I would need a few service crews to handle three cars, so I immediately signed up the experienced Peter Washington and then thought of another friend I had met when rallying overseas. In 2013, Val and I competed in a Mustang team in the La Carrera Panamericana, the "Mexican Road Race" (wait for the feature movie to appear soon at a cinema near you!!).

One of the eight service crew members they had supplied was a Swedish guy called Ralf Christensson (aren't they all?), and I knew he would be a great asset. Ralf is one of those guys with stories to tell that you won't believe. Rickshaw racing in India was his last adventure. He has also just won his class and come third outright in the smaller Mexican event known as the Chihuahua Express in a Mustang and won his class in the Pikes Peake Hill climb. A very interesting guy and a great addition to our service crew.

We are still looking for possibly two more good spanner men to join us on the COT, so if you know anything about Fords and Volvos, and don't mind getting your hands dirty then perhaps now is the time to contact me! You never know you might learn some Swedish.



Warren Briggs's Mustang

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## Road Officials

They say "No officials, no event" and how true that is. We have been very fortunate in recruiting the best road crews available. Most have been with us since the Red Centre Event in 2008:

- David & Sue Johns will team up with Les & Jane Shadwick
- Bill Bennett & Ian Barton with Cameron & Lachlan Jay
- Peter Millear & Graham Hutchinson with Kaye Kilsby & Lui MacLennan
- Senior citizens Bob Watson & Dave Johnson with Garry Harrowfield, Ian Ellis & Geoff Boyd
- Rick Hartmann & Dave Smith with John & Elaine Hammond
- Peter & Marg Fraser.

The event now caters for over 56 officials to ensure that the event runs as smoothly as possible. Thanks to them all for making my job look easy.



## Change in Regulations for Clothing

Please note the changes to the regulations with regard to the clothing and FHR requirements. The regulations and lots of other information is available on our ever expanding [website](#). Please keep up-to-date by checking in every week or so. If you are unable to access the website feel free to contact me and I will forward any forms you may want.

## Keith Morris Joins the Team

A very welcome face to join our great official team is Keith Morris. Keith has been involved with the COT in the 2010 event as the CAMS course checker. Keith will be assisting the Clerk of Course and taking on the important role of the CRO (Competitor Relations Officer). Great to have you back Keith.



## Medical Intervention Vehicles

The wellbeing of the competitors, service crews and officials has always been paramount in conducting the COT. With the increase in entries we have again called on the expertise of Motorsport Safety & Rescue to supply the highly qualified medical personnel. This year's event will have two MIVs to ensure the highest safety available. With the introduction of the Frontal Head Restraints from 1 July this year and the continued use of the RallySafe system we are not leaving anything to chance.



## Thank You To Our Sponsors:





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## Accommodation

There is still plenty of accommodation at all overnight stops with the exception of Condobolin. There are still a few two-man tents available with the view of the landscape at Ivanhoe and if you are experiencing problems with your bookings please contact us and we will assist.

## New Challenges

We are always looking for something new to test you and your vehicle and this year we aim to keep your excitement level on a high plateau.

There is a new 11km prologue; on Day 2 we have joined two stages to form a great 93km stage; on Day 3 we have three new stages, one of which may be in contention for the best stage of the event; on Day 4 we have a new 56km stage into Menindee. Day 5, apart from the two runs at the Broken Hill Speedway, there will be two new stages to finish the day at the Silverton Pub for lunch.

I know those of you who competed in the 2012 event will be very disappointed that we will not be re-using the 9 Mile stage again!

We have a new stage on our trip to Renmark on Day 6, and a new forest stage to sort you out on the final day of competition.

That's nine new stages. Plus, there are eight stages over 50km, including one of 93km! All in all, it should be the best COT yet.

## Memories

In the past we have produced a DVD of the events, some great, some so-so, and all long and boring to anyone outside the event! This year we are



producing a coffee-table book—80 pages, hardcover, all-colour book and something that you will be proud to show your sponsors, family and friends. No more yawning at the 10-minute mark of the slideshow with only 2hrs 50 minutes to go!

We will announce details for the book in the next couple of weeks, along with a sample. We will offer the book in two options—a general COT 2014 book, and a personalised one that features a chapter on your crew. We will be taking orders for the books before the event—especially if you want the personalised one! More on this soon...

All competitors and officials will also receive a polo shirt and cap as a memento. Additional polo shirts and caps will be available for order in the lead-up to the event.

## Forms

A reminder to competitors that you all need to complete an entry form to follow up your nomination. These are available on the [website](#) for download or you can link through to our online forms site. All competitors should have received login credentials for the forms site. If not, please contact us if you are having any difficulties.

## Keeping in Touch

The COT is broadening its social media presence—we now have [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) presences, and will be adding YouTube shortly. There are links and feeds on our [website](#). We will be posting to our website regularly in the lead-up and during the event and sharing links to [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Make sure you tell your friends and family who won't be on the event so they can keep track of what's going on!

Philip Bernadou - Event Director



## COT ON TWITTER

