



Bob Watson enters COT

Australian and multi state rally champion, Bob Watson, has decided to enjoy the event from the competitive side rather than the organising aspect.

"For me, the best possible rally experience is a long distance event that travels through places I would normally never go to, and has lengthy challenging sections that provide variety and excitement.

I have been fortunate to have competed in three Round Australia trials, and been involved in two London to Sydney Marathons, one as a competitor and one as an organiser. These events have given me great experiences and great memories.

After the notorious Repco Reliability Trial in 1979 no one seemed to be interested in running another

Round Australia event, so rather than hope for an event to come along I decided to run one instead. This was the 1995 Mobil 1 Trial, and organizing it was another new experience. After another long gap between events, the same thing happened in 2008 when I organised the Red Centre to Gold Coast Trial – I would rather have been a competitor, but there was no event to compete in!

In this era, when everyone is limited for time, running a full Round Australia event is just not feasible. This is why the Classic Outback Trial is the ideal compromise, offering outback rallying in a sensible time frame. Another advantage of the COT concept is that it gives crews time to catch up with one another during the event, whereas in the fair dinkum Round Australias, crews and cars were so stuffed that socialising was not on the agenda.

The best part of all about the 2010 COT is that I can compete in it! At last someone else has picked up the baton, so I am looking forward to getting back on the right side of the tracks – competing. I know the two Phils will put on a great event, and as my old Dad used to say – I wouldn't miss it for quids.

Bob Watson



February Survey

Phil and I departed Melbourne on Thursday 4th Feb encountering welcome rain on our way to the NSW border. It was short lived as we drove through the dry Riverina. Little rain had fallen around Forbes since Christmas so we were requested to bring the rain with us.

When we arrived at Forbes, although overcast it looked as though we had left the rain well to the South, the temperature was 34 and high humidity. All that changed the following morning when torrents of the wet rained down. The only two people not delighted to see the rain was Phil & I. After a visit to the NSW State Forester it was evident that any thoughts of a drive into the forest was not going to happen and in fact the rain was expected to continue for at least another 24 hours.

30mm had collected in the rain gauge by 5pm however by the following morning the rain had stopped and before going stir crazy we decided to look at the first stage we did last year. We had been told they had put the grader through and those of you that competed in last years event will attest

that the rain had made the tracks a "little" rough.

From the start of the forest section we could not see a grader blade results anywhere, however about 7km in we came across a new super highway, they called it a fire break! Luckily it will not affect us much and you will be pleased to know that, apart from a few smooth spots, it is just as rough and rutted as it was last year.

We then checked out two forests further south. With still lots of water on the ground the main forest track was quite firm. The Google Earth map of the forest looked very promising, however it fails to show the actual surface. I gave up counting the humps after the 35th!! Every 20 to 30 metres another bloody hump. Kilometre after kilometre we could not wait to get out of there. What a waste of a forest. The Forester...

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

EVENT CALENDAR

Sunday Aug 22

- Documentation
- Scrutiny
- Prologue
- Welcome function

Monday Aug 23

- First day of competition

Tuesday Aug 24

- Second day of competition

Wednesday Aug 25

- Third day of competition

Thursday Aug 26

- Fourth day of competition

Friday Aug 27

- Fifth day of competition

Saturday Aug 28

- Final day of competition
- > Presentation function

Accommodation

Accommodation information for the event is yet to be finalised (dates and locations) however in Forbes the Event Headquarters will again be at The Plainsman Motor Inn (formally Country Comfort) and in Coonabarabran at the El Paso Motel (same as 2009). Links to the relevant websites will be provided for accommodation reservations. In Dubbo the Tourist Office will set up a specific booking service for us; details in due course.



FRONTIER SERVICES 2010 CLASSIC OUTBACK TRIAL

NEWSLETTER #08

CLASSIC OUTBACK TRIAL

FEBRUARY 2010

...told us later that the council had put them in to prevent shooters from racing around. They succeeded; as the kangaroos were making the most of it, they were there in their hundreds!

Right next door was a larger forest, 3km wide x 6km long, however we could see from the map that there were lots of straight tracks, 2.5 km straights. We did find about 5km of twisty tracks but not worth the transport to get there.

After a quick bite to eat at Condo we set out to explore another forest to the north. Each forest has its own characteristics and this was no exception. Trail bikes use the forests and have made their own tracks some of which we could use but most are too tight. We might be able to make 12 - 15km section out of it but it could be too fast.

Sunday; the rain held off and the outlook was good so we set off to east of Forbes to investigate a couple of forests and two shire roads that had been shown to us on our last visit by a Shire Engineer.

We spent the better part of 4 hours checking out every track we could find in the odd shaped 9km x 5km forest. It looked very promising but very wet in places. We finished up with a 53km fantastic challenging stage. A few long wide straights with a lot of great tight twisty tracks and three passage controls.

The other forest we looked at was too rough; would be OK for off roaders but not for us. Shame as there was a nice up hill and down dale section. The shire roads were also disappointing - just too fast, so back to the drawing board.

Monday we had an appointment with Dubbo tourism to organise our overnight stop location and find a suitable HQ for the night. The motel recommended, the Cattleman's Country Motor Inn, is managed by the nephew of the late Adrian Ryan. It is a small world.

On our way to Dubbo we met the Forester at Peak Hill. This delightful elderly 65 year old citizen took over managing the forest many years ago from his father. He knew every inch of every track of the forests he is responsible for. He had made dams, fences and you will pass by the original state forest office which is still almost standing.

The main forest is split in two and due to the recent rain, they had over 4 inches since Friday - he suggested we did not go into the northern section. This forest stage is a blast, well it will be when it dries out and the fallen trees are cleared. There were a couple of damp patches that the ECS and ABS on the Mitsubishi Pajero did not handle too well. I still do not understand how when you breath in (to fit between a couple of trees) the car gets narrower? Luckily for the bank account it did. I must say that we were very impressed with the Pajero; it served us well.

We managed to collect an amazing amount of mud checking out the tracks. On our way back from Dubbo the skies opened up once more. Great rivers of water covered the road and did a great job of cleaning the underneath of the car. We still had to spend a lot of time with the high pressure hose to make it look as though it had not been "off road" before returning it to the hire company.

We departed Forbes on the Wednesday and called into Echuca on our way back home. The five of us, Michael Browning, Tom Snooks, Bob Watson, Phil Rainer and myself, are organising, on behalf of CAMS, the CARNival National Car Club event at Echuca - Moama from 1 - 4 October this year. The official launch was conducted at the historic wharf precinct and received plenty of media coverage. We are expecting around 2,000 cars to participate in competitive and static displays. Bob is conducting 5 rally sprints on the Saturday; 4 on forest tracks and one at the Heartland Speedway. It will be a blast. For more information visit : <http://www.camscarnival.com.au>



Our next survey will be conducted during March around the Dubbo and Coonabarabran area. I am extremely pleased with the progress and the support and cooperation we are receiving from the councils, communities and State Forest officials. The competitive sections will really test all three components of the entry: driver, co driver and car. There will be at least four sections in excess of 50km in length with the shortest around 8km.

If anyone has property contacts south of Coonabarabran or around Dunedoo, Dubbo and the Wellington area I would love to hear about them. The National Parks have virtually taken over all state forests south east of Coonabarabran.

Welcome Function / Presentation Function

The Welcome Function will be held at the Forbes Town Hall at 6pm after the Prologue on Sunday afternoon. This years' briefing will be in written form as it is necessary to have this to all competitors prior to the Prologue. After the Welcome Function you are free to find a hotel, restaurant or club for further relaxation!

The Forbes Services Club is an ideal venue for our Presentation Dinner. The facilities are great and it is in the middle of town, right opposite the HQ. Drinks will be available from 6.30pm and a 3 course dinner served commencing from 7pm. After the Presentation Function the Club will remain open for your continued enjoyment.

Website

The [website](#) has been brought up to date with new information and it is being regularly updated.

Officials

We are delighted to announce that we have a full contingent of officials; most have assisted on the Red Centre to Gold Coast and last years C.O.T.

Road Crews:

Bill & Joan Bennett
Ron & Marcia Brown
Peter & Marg Fraser
John & Elaine Hammond
Pat & Ann Hetherman & crew
Steve Hollowood
David & Sue Johns
Peter & Judi Lewis-Williams
Peter Millear
Leslie & Jan Shadwick
John & Julie Quayle

Sweep: Jim Reddiex

Recovery: Geoff Thomas

HQ/Crow: Kevin Shaw

Results: Garry Searle & Alex Ross

Overnight Stops: Noel Claridge & Geoff Lonmon

We welcome them all back.

Sponsorship

Opportunities still exist for sponsorship. If you see a way we can promote a product or business through the communities and fellow participants please contact us to discuss the possibilities.

