

January Survey

Having just returned from our second survey I am delighted to advise that we have the making of a great outback event. How different from the last two COT events, which took us through the tight, NSW forests tracks and a few properties. This year's event offers a taste of the Round Australia and Red Centre to Gold Coast feel – challenging long dirt road transports and VERY large properties to play in.

One forgets how frustrating setting up an event can be and questions why we subject ourselves to the torment! But then you meet the property owners – the true characters of Australia. Why they want this style of life has always been a mystery to me. They have no control on the one thing that can make them or break them, the weather. Without their generosity we would not have an event.

Thanks to our 2010 event (!!) the rain has brought some relief to the parched outback. The country looks fantastic with plenty of feed and water. Now this is great for the farmers but it does make our job of finding suitable tracks a tad difficult. The grass is high and disguises the tracks that were made several years ago. We know they are there because our maps and GPS tell us so but in some cases they are not maintained. With modern machinery the tight little track that once meander across the large paddocks have made way for a very large CAT highway that makes a straight line from ground tank to ground tank.

A week prior to Phil & I departing Melbourne, Alan Wells and Ann Healy surveyed the territory for the Condo to Cobar leg. Alan, who directed the Condo 750 event for many years, has a vast knowledge of the area so who better to find the stages. Thank you Alan & Ann.

Thanks to our sponsors we travelled the 4,400km of the survey in the newly released Navara 6 cylinder turbo diesel. It was the correct vehicle for the exercise. In trying to find the tracks, that were heavily overgrown, we travelled over some very rough and heavily wooded land. The Navara handled the conditions without effort. Fuel consumption was amazing for a vehicle of its size and we only had one puncture and that was caused from a self-tapper we picked up somewhere.

One thing that stood out on the survey was goats. Goats, goats and more goats. Along with the kangaroos and emus they will need to be negotiated as much as the stumps and ruts.

Our trial travels through one large property (over 200,000 acres) that has around 15,000 goats behind fencing with another 5,000 outside.

Thankfully goats are much higher on the intelligence scale than sheep, they scatter and kept out of our way; mind you we were travelling a lot slower than the competitors will be.



Big Cat

AUGUST 2012

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25

EVENT CALENDAR

Friday August 17

- Documentation / Scrutiny, Overnight Forbes

Saturday August 18

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

Sunday August 19

- 1st Day Competition, Overnight Condobolin

Monday August 20

- 2nd Day Competition, Overnight Cobar

Tuesday August 21

- 3rd Day Competition, Overnight Ivanhoe

Wednesday August 22

- 4th Day Competition, Overnight Broken Hill

Thursday August 23

- 5th Day Competition, Overnight Broken Hill

Friday August 24

- 6th Day Competition, Overnight Renmark

Saturday August 25

- 7th Day Competition / Presentation, Overnight Renmark

Nominations: The deposits are still rolling in with 30 registered as we go to press. At least another 12 have advised me that they will be entering so we are fast reaching the 50 cut off mark. With only 5 months till the event, time is rapidly passing. Nominations received: Michael Arundel, Steve Ashton, Gerry Bashford, Steve Blair, Brian Canny, Joseph Cudo, Michael Coates, Pat Cole, Andy Crane, Robert Dyer, John Giddings, Jeff Graham, Greg Hannah, Kim Harper, Peter Houghton, Chris Lee, Rod McEwen (Neil Cuthbert) David McKenzie, Dan Murphy, Graham O'Connor, Mark Pickering, Tod Reed, Murray Rogers, Geoffrey Sawyer, Ben Seehusen, Trevor Stilling, Jim Taylor, Peter Thompson, David Travis and Graham Wallis. Thank you for your support.

2012 CLASSIC OUTBACK TRIAL

NEWSLETTER #16

CLASSIC OUTBACK TRIAL

FEBRUARY 2012

The Ivanhoe night should be one of the highlights of the event. On each visit to this little hamlet we have seen a lot of changes. The hotel is in full flight with alterations being made. They are erecting a very large under cover beer garden which will hold the spit roast dinner on the Tuesday night which is right across the road from the caravan park. The various community clubs are preparing the feast. The new owners of the caravan park have settled in and have cleaned up the neglected grounds.

There is a great buzz around the town. Although each day will be fairly intense with plenty of competition, we will ensure that the end of day will allow for plenty of service time and R & R. We have selected the best "Pub of Choice" for each night stop providing a venue for all the discussions of the great drives that were undertaken. Our next survey, in March, will fill in the gaps on some days. We have made contact with property owners and through their advice we will obtain some more great stages

for your driving pleasure.

We are already receiving lots of press with stories and pictures featuring in the Forbes Advocate, the Cobar Age and Broken Hills Barrier Daily Truth.

On each survey we will be keeping in touch with the local media and we will be giving out the event poster on our final course check in June. The releases are up on the [website](#).



Ivanhoe Pub

Accommodation:

Forbes: Still vacancies at The Plainsman, event HQ, and plenty of beds at all the motels, hotels and caravan parks in town.

Condoblin: There are still a few rooms available at the newly built The New Railway Motel, again event HQ, as well as other motels as listed on our accommodation guide. For those of you who want to camp, we discovered a fantastic free site at the Gum Bend Lake, worth consideration.

Cobar: Due to the increased mining and tourism beds are tight. Still a few beds at the Cobar Central Motor Inn, event HQ, however if you are experiencing difficulties try the Cobar Caravan Park. It is under new management and they have offered special rates for sites and cabins. Just mention the COT and you will receive a 20% discount.

Ivanhoe: Only 20 of the 45 tents are still available. These substantial home for the night two man tents are supplied with stretchers, mattresses, sleeping bags and towels. Do not miss out — the alternative is not a pretty sight!

Broken Hill and Renmark: Still plenty of beds in motels, hotels and caravan park available.



Gum Bend Lake



Cobar



Ivanhoe Tents

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Cobar: We received a great amount of assistance with introductions to property owners from John Martin, Manager Tourism & PR at Cobar, and from Ian Tucker the local Frontier Services minister who covers the Cobar and Nyngan Patrol. Those that participated in the 2010 COT may remember Ian at Coonabarabran with a flat battery in his Nissan Patrol. Ian is a wealth of information and in walking

around Cobar there were not many people that Ian did not know. Apart from his pastoral duties, that cover a very large district, Ian is also the Chaplain for the Stare Emergency Services. Ian will be assisting with the breakfasts at the start of each day. We were introduced to the local Lawyer and Notary Public, Geoffrey Langford, who has a "few acres" 30 km south of Cobar. After obtaining permission

we set off to see if the roads through his property were suitable. Man what a stage! The property abuts another and after a few telephone calls we headed south again and met the owner, David, who navigated us around his "spread" and the end result was a great 40km stage. Should any competitors require any "spare parts" in Cobar, David has a few car bodies that can be made available!



Cobar: Ian Tucker



spares at Cobar

Broken Hill: Setting up an event of this nature through new country for us has its problems and the main one is contacts. Property contacts came in abundance thanks to the assistance of Kevin Hind, manager of the West Darling Hotel (great accommodation rates) and Mick Baldwin. Both are

very involved in motorsport in the Broken Hill area and their assistance resulted in contacts to some great property stages. I have visited Broken Hill on quite a few occasions and wondered why there were so many deep culverts on most of the roads. Now, I know that it rains in BH, not as much as they would

like, but when it does rain it rains. It would appear that there is little underground storm water drains as the rain from the roof tops runs straight into the streets. This results in a LOT of water in a very short time span. One benefit is that it allows one to clean the underneath of a vehicle.



Broken Hill



Car cleaning service

Article 301: Eligible Vehicles

We have had several enquiries from prospective entrants regarding the newly introduced CAMS Club Cars category. We are currently discussing their inclusion in the event.

Yours in motorsport

Philip Bernadou

Event Director

Nomination forms and lots of other information can be accessed from the [website](http://www.classicoutbacktrial.com.au) www.classicoutbacktrial.com.au

Gary's Tyre Service

Gary's Tyre Service has again offered their services before, during and after the event. They will have the rally truck following the trial so contact Gary on 02 9676 8655. The link is on our [website](http://www.classicoutbacktrial.com.au).



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