



## Welcome to the Classic Outback Trial

This event is the fulfilment of the initial concept of the 2008 Red Centre to Gold Coast Trial, where the aim was to run an outback trial event that would finish at Australia's round of the World Rally Championship, Rally Australia. The Classic Outback Trial will embody the exciting features of the Red Centre to Gold Coast Trial but will be shorter, cheaper and easier on rally cars and service crews.

### Survey One

As you will have heard by now the event is on. With 30 deposits paid, sponsorship from Nissan Australia, and great support from the NSW towns on the route, it was decided to press on. With the interest received from prospective entrants, we should begin the event with 50 + starters. Please let anyone you think may be interested know about the event.

The first major survey was conducted from 16th to 23rd March. Phil Rainer and myself drove an effortless 670km, 7 hours up the Newell Highway to Forbes in the Nissan XTrail four cylinder diesel turbo, and then tackled the Trial route proper. Average fuel consumption for the 3,321km entire survey was 8.8ltr/100k. For someone looking for a light duty 4WD capable of handling challenging rally roads, this is a great vehicle.

A major factor in selecting Forbes as the starting point for the event was the central location. An easy 6 hours from Sydney, 7 hours from Melbourne and a (not so easy) 10-12 hour trip from Brisbane. Although feeling the squeeze like all major regional centres, the City of Forbes has warmly welcomed the event and provided us with every assistance.

Another factor was that my sister and brother in law, have, for the past 20 years been "fine upstanding" citizens of the town. Ian is a past Mayor and Yvonne, a former community nurse and women's health worker who shared the 2007 Citizen of the Year award, has also been a Rotary president and member of many council committees. Their assistance has opened many farm gates in the area and assisted greatly in obtaining services in Forbes. I am sure you will meet them during our three day stay in Forbes.

The Property owners of Burdenda, north east of Tottenham gave us carte blanche over the their 36,000 acres, properties, and we found 37km of very "interesting" farm tracks, most of it running beside the Bogan River. The hospitality given to us by Sue and Ben at Burdenda and Dee and Bruce Brierley from Gwabegar was outstanding and is one of the highlights in organising these events through the Australian outback.

A brief run down of the competitive sections:

**Day 1:** Three stages total  
competitive approximately 80km,  
transport approximately 275km  
Forbes overnight

**Day 2:** Four stages total  
competitive approximately 94km,  
transport approximately 446km  
Coonabarabran overnight

**Day 3:** There will be a loop around  
Coonabarabran, still to be surveyed  
Coonabarabran overnight

**Day 4:** Four stages total  
competitive approximately 122km,  
transport approx 400km  
Inverell or Glen Innes overnight  
(to be confirmed)

**Day 5:** Still to be surveyed

**Day 6:** Still to be surveyed

The next survey is 20th – 27th April

### AUGUST

### SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

### EVENT CALENDAR

#### Sunday Aug 30 - Forbes

- Documentation
- Scrutiny
- Welcome function

#### Monday Aug 31 - Forbes

- First day of competition,  
loop around Condobolin

#### Tuesday Sept 1 - Coonabarabran

- Second day of competition

#### Wednesday Sept 2 - Coonabarabran

- Third day of competition

#### Thursday Sept 3 - Glen Innes

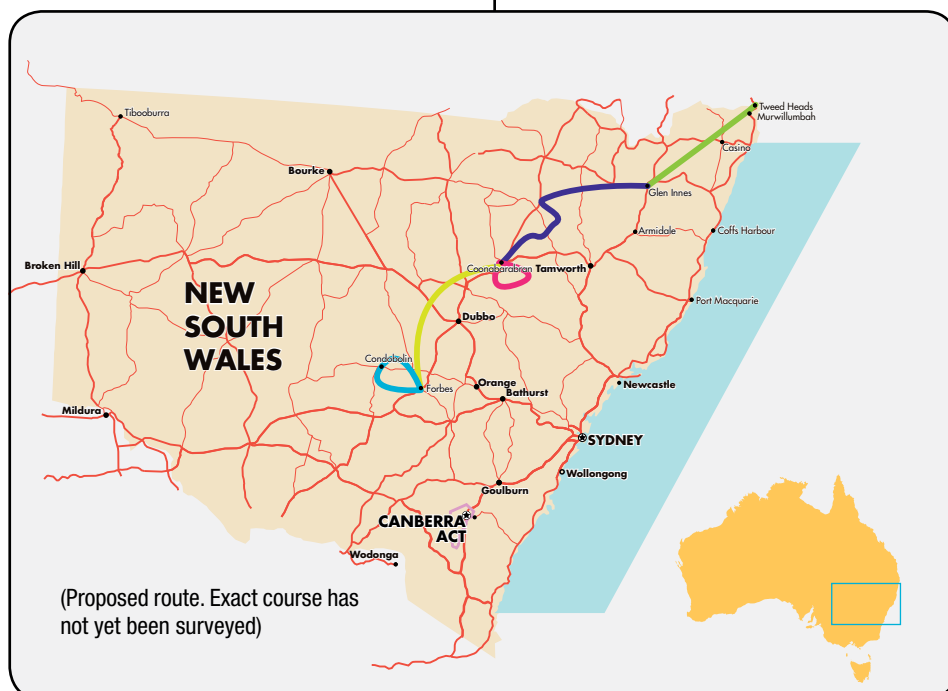
- Fourth day of competition

#### Friday Sept 4 - Tweed Heads

- Fifth day of competition  
> Super Special Stage

#### Saturday Sept 5 - Tweed Heads

- Final day of competition  
> 3 WRC Special Stages  
> Presentation function



## Rally Australia WRC stages:

Discussions are still taking place regarding the number, locations and dates of the WRC special stages that we will run over. It looks as though we will be competing on three WRC stages. The Super Special Stage will be run on Friday night at approximately 1800hrs. We will keep you posted.

**Supplementary Regulations** and Entry Forms should be on the website by Easter. If you have registered your interest in entering the event, you will receive a copy via email or through the mail.

## Accommodation:

The following HQ locations have been finalised:

**Forbes:** Friday 28th, Saturday 29th, Sunday 30th and Monday 31st. Rally HQ will be at The Plainsman – Comfort Inn 22 Sheriff Street T: 02 6852 2466 E: comforbes@exemail.com.au

**Coonabarabran:** Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd – Rally HQ will be at El Paso Motel Newell Highway T: 02 6842 1722 F: 6842 2673

**Tweed Heads:** Friday 4th and Saturday 5th – Outrigger Twin Towns Resort T: 1800 19 20 20 E: twintowns@outrigger.com.au. The Presentation dinner will be held here, and we hope to have everyone connected with the rally staying at this location.

Full list of all available accommodation with special rates will be posted on the website ASAP.

**Servicing:** The entry fee includes registration of one service crew and service instructions. Additional service crew fee will be \$50.

The service crews will be travelling on bitumen for the majority of the event, some good quality gravel roads will also be used.

LPG, diesel and ULP+ is readily available around the course.

**Dust:** Again dust will be a problem. You will notice in the Sup Regs the inclusion of dust lights and UHF radio as standard equipment.

**Gates:** As per the RCGCT we will be opening and closing several gates during the event. One stage will require the person in the non drivers seat to extricate themselves from the vehicle on about 15 occasions. I understand the Blue Tooth headsets are now available!

We will be erecting a warning sign 150 meters prior to each gate.



## Website

The COT website is up and running and we'll post all accommodation details and will keep you up to date with all the latest news.

## Deposits received:

Michael Arundel	Ken MacDonald
Steve Ashton	Robert Mifsud
Gerry Bashford	Hal Moloney
James Calvert-Jones	Terry Naish
Pat Cole	Geoff O'Donnell
John Cooper	Mark Pickering
Andy Crane	Michael Pinckham
Paul Darrouzet	David Rainers - UK
Hilary Evans	Ben Seehusen
John Giddings	Ian Swan
Phil Hooper	Penny Swan
Peter Houghton	Jim Taylor
Jamie Lawson	David Travis
Chris Lee	Chris Woodhouse
Michael Long	



# Forbes rallies for outback car trial

Forbes will host up to 200 motoring enthusiasts later this year when a week-long rally trial gets underway in the shire.

Repcos Rally Australia's 2009 Classic Outback Trial will begin in Forbes on Monday, August 31, with up to 60 classic rally cars expected to compete.

The actual competition will be held on rural properties in the Forbes and Condobolin shires but the event will also include a welcome function at Forbes Town Hall on Sunday, August 30.

Coordinator of the competition and former rally driver, Philip Bernadou, said the event should bring about 60 vehicles to Forbes and about 200 people will spend several days and nights in the town.

Mr Bernadou, the brother of well-known Forbes resident Yvonne Shaw, said the rally should provide a boost to the local economy and will interest all car lovers and motor sport enthusiasts.

Day one of the competition, a loop from Forbes to Condobolin and back, will start near Town Hall and the rally cars are expected to be on show for interested locals before the rally moves on.

Mr Bernadou said Forbes was well suited to host the start of the seven day rally, being centrally located for Victorian, NSW and Queensland competitors.

"We looked at Griffith and Dubbo [as potential rally start points] but both those places were a bit big for our purposes, and plus, having some connection to the Forbes area, I thought I could utilise the contacts I had," Mr Bernadou said.

The rally starts in Forbes in late August and will culminate in Tweed Heads on Saturday, September 5.

It is a lead-up event to this year's Australian round of the World Rally Championships and is expected to attract between 50 and 60 vehicles, ranging from pre-1981 historic rally cars, classic rally cars built prior to '83, production cars built prior to '96 and station wagon-type recreational four wheel drives made prior to 1990.

The Forbes-Condobolin loop on day one is set to follow some of the easier sections of the annual Condo 750 4WD off road event, which is staged each April.

Mr Bernadou said spectators are not encouraged to



Mayor Phyllis Miller welcomes rally organiser Phil Bernadou to Forbes earlier this week. 03/09/08

enter private land to watch the rally but there will be opportunities for people to view the start of the Forbes stage and attend the welcoming function.

"We hope to have the cars on display outside Town Hall on Sunday [August 30] afternoon and another display before the first day of competition on Monday morning," he said.

"We may also use the showground on Monday afternoon as a service area for the cars."

After Forbes the rally moves on to Coonabarabran for the second and third stages, and Casino for the fourth section.

The fifth and final days of competition will be held in Tweed Heads, and will feature sections of the World Rally Championship course, which gets underway as the trial concludes.

Running alongside the trial and sharing the same overnight stops will be the Classic Outback Tour, open to any road registered vehicle and without the requirement for roll-over protection or other special rally modifications. For more information visit the trial website at classicoutbacktrial.com.au.