



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.

It's now been a couple of weeks since Phil Rainer and I completed the second survey run and we are now even more excited than ever about the way the event is unfolding. In particular, we are extremely pleased with the assistance and support we are receiving from local shires, NSW state forest and property owners, which is critical to ensure access to the most exciting competitive areas.

The first two days are locked away and we just need to complete the first and last stages on the loop around Coonabarabran for day three.

Here is a brief outline of what you have to look forward to:

Day 1 9am start outside the town hall at Forbes. Two great forest sections then service and lunch at Condobolin followed by a 49km section through three adjoining properties to finish the day. These three stages should sort out any bugs in you and the car and we have allowed plenty of time at the end of the day to get ready for the next five days. Even better, it's 29% competitive!



Day 2 the first 14km section is a fast run through a property that was recently purchased from a Japanese consortium that had spent millions of dollars to provide an 'outback setting' for Japanese tourists. The current owner Graham, while travelling Route 66 across the United States was drawn to an unusually popular attraction aptly named 'Cadillac Ranch' located in the West Texas panhandle near Amarillo. There, 10 classic Cadillacs are buried up to their windshields, providing a public spray paint graffiti canvas for anyone inspired to leave their mark. This inspired Graham to provide a

similar attraction using the Aussie Holden Ute. We have arranged for a service point located in front of the 14 brightly painted utes. Something to show your kids!

We then travel to the Tottenham State Forest then on to lunch and service at a property 21km north of Tottenham before a 37 km competitive section through the property. The final competitive on the way to Coonabarabran is another great 21km section through a state forest. A great 19% competitive day.

Day 3 We transport north to a property for a 20km squirt around tracks that have been specially graded for your enjoyment! This is followed by two great sections through the Pilliga State Forest, the second – a 58km section – is the longest of the event, and has a bit of everything: long straights, creek crossings, overgrown tracks and tight twisty forest roads.

The last section of the day will lead us to Pilliga Pottery where we will enjoy pizzas from a wood fire oven, refreshments in a great atmosphere with German hospitality. You will be amazed to see what can be accomplished in 20 years of hard work and dedication. Our host and owner, Maria, found the land which is 30 km north of Coonabarabran 20 years ago and everything you will see there is the fruit of their labour. This day is 42% competition!

Day 4 is still work in progress, however we have a great property south of Coona where the owner, Steve, is going to "carve out" 15km of tracks – just for us! Steve restores WW2 trucks and jeeps along with old tractors in his spare time. Amongst his collection is a Chamberlain tractor similar to "Tail End Charlie" that followed the original REDeX Trials and the recent Red Centre events. The final



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

stage of the day into Glen Innes was last used on the London to Sydney marathon and is 21km of fantastic shire road.

Day 5 at this stage is a mystery to us all, but we have received much appreciated assistance and recommendations from local state forest officers and will let you into the secret in the next newsletter.

However the final event of the day will be the Rally Australia Super Special Stage around the streets of Murwillumbah. This will be one of the highlights of the COT that will be worth saving some rubber for!

It can now be confirmed that we will be competing on three WRC stages on Saturday – the first two after the WRC cars and the last stage before the main field, which is a very special privilege for COT competitors. Two of the sections are corporate hospitality and public viewing stages. What a way to finish off six days of competition!



ACCOMMODATION, LUNCHES AND PRESENTATION DINNER

Phil Rainer has again found us some great accommodation along the way and secured some extra special prices to keep your budget in check. We have endeavoured to obtain preferential rates at all overnight stops and in most cases the local Tourist Information Centre (details in the Accommodation Guide) can assist; or you can make contact direct. Don't forget to mention that you are with the Classic Outback Trial.

TWEED HEADS

As you will see from the Accommodation Guide on our website that the venue at Tweed Heads has been changed.

Originally the 'Outtrigger' was listed, however due to room constraints and costs this has changed. We have now negotiated very good rates at the TWEED ULTIMA APARTMENTS (next door to the Outtrigger) where Headquarters will be located and this is also the location of the Presentation Dinner.

The apartment-style rooms are spacious, very comfortable and have great views of the beach and surrounding area. Contact details are:

Tweed Ultima Apartments

20 Stuart Street

Tweed Heads NSW 2485

Phone: 07 5599 3500

Fax: 07 5599 3611

Email: info@tweedultima.com.au

Web: www.tweedultima.com.au

Contact: Diane Berg

If you have already made a booking at the Outtrigger, you don't need to change; if not, make sure you mention that you are with the Classic Outback Trial if making a reservation at the Tweed Ultima Apartments as we have negotiated special rates for competitors as well as undercover carparking.

GLEN INNES

The Event Headquarters will be located at the New England Motor Lodge, 160 Church St.

Further accommodation information will be published and circulated as it becomes available or contact Phil Rainer:

0418 517 385 or prainer@bigpond.net.au if you have any queries.

LUNCHES

Where appropriate we will arrange for light lunches to be available at reasonable prices, from a local service club or charity, at locations where time permits. Please support these organisations. Details will be published in due course.

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

If you have special dietary requirements please let us know so we can advise the caterers accordingly.

CLASSIC OUTBACK TRIAL

– THE TOUR (Alias 'Bob's Bash')

Bob Watson, former Australian Rally Champion and organiser of the 1995 Mobil 1 Trial and last year's Red Centre to Gold Coast Trial, is taking a break from competitive rally duties to have some fun running the Classic Outback Trial Tour.

Unofficially known as 'Bob's Bash in the Bush', the Tour will accompany the competitive Classic Outback Trial which starts in Forbes in central NSW on August 31 and finishes on September 5 at Tweed Heads, where it will link up with Repco Rally Australia, the Australian round of the World Rally Championship.

The Tour will be conducted predominantly on bitumen with a few good quality gravel roads and will visit some of the Classic Outback Trial control points as well as many interesting central NSW tourist attractions.

These include McFeeters Motor Museum and the unique 'Utes in the Paddock' outdoor exhibition in Forbes, 'The Dish' telescope in Parkes, Dubbo's famous Western Plains Zoo, the Warrumbungle National Park and Pilliga Pottery in the Coonabarabran area, the Australian Cotton Exhibition Centre near Glen Innes and the Mt. Warning Shield Volcano in the northeast NSW hinterland. Cameras and good spirits are essential.

Trial and Tour participants are assured of a warm welcome by the Central NSW community and accommodation for the events is being offered at attractive rates.

Any registered vehicle of any age is eligible for the Tour, and absolutely no rally preparation is required. Instructions will be provided in simple format and there will be no time pressures. Points will be awarded for correct answers to information required along the course.

Bob Watson promises three things to Tour entrants: No stress, no car damage and no late nights (driving, not socialising, that is!).

The Tour is being run under the auspices of the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport (CAMS), which ensures that participants are covered for personal accident insurance and public risk liability.

Entry fee for the Tour is \$1,500.00, which includes admission to the Classic Outback Trial's Welcome and Presentation functions, all maps and instructions, plus membership of a CAMS car club and provision of a CAMS Level L2S licence.

As a special bonus, Tour participants will also get free entry to the World Rally Championship Super Special Stage to see the world's best rally cars in action, as well as free passes to the associated Speed on Tweed classic car spectacular on the closed streets of Murwillumbah.

Finally, all Tour entrants will be given a personally signed copy of Bob Watson's recently published autobiography covering his life and adventures in motorsport, titled 'In Control'.

After a civic reception and welcome function in Forbes on Sunday August 30, the Trial and Tour start in the main street of Forbes on Monday August 31. Overnight stop locations during the tour will be in Forbes, Coonabarabran, Glen Innes and Tweed Heads.

If you are interested in the Classic Outback Trial Tour, contact Bob Watson direct on

(03) 9646 1066, 0427 201158 or email bobwatso@bigpond.net.au. We promise you a week of interesting driving, camaraderie and light-hearted fun, with an exciting conclusion at Repco Rally Australia and Speed on Tweed.

EVENT CLOTHING:

We are currently negotiating with several suppliers for the supply of COT event clothing. One way or the other entrants and officials will receive at least one top and hopefully a cap. Will keep you informed

NEW SPONSORS:

We are delighted to announce the sponsorship of Peter Lehmann Wines as our official wine supplier. We will enjoy their wines at the welcome function at Forbes and at the presentation dinner at Tweed Heads. With a bit of luck we might also get the General Manager and son of the great Peter, Doug, to dust off his Datsun 1600 and join us!

Although the 3G telephone network is widespread and communications around the course is far better than we experienced on the RC2GCT, we needed to guarantee perfect communications with our officials and safety crew, so, we have once again obtained equipment from Telstra Country Wide. They are supplying us with satellite phones that will enable us to have total contact at all times and places.

