

COT RECCE

PREVIEWING AUSTRALIA'S GREATEST RALLY EXPERIENCE



18-24 JUNE 2016

NEWS FROM THE EVENT DIRECTOR, PHILIP BERNADOU



We have just returned to wintery Melbourne after spending 10 magnificent days in Alice Springs - we are delighted to advise that the route for the 2016 Classic Outback Trial is 98% completed!

We have put together 5½ days of breathtaking roads and amazing scenery, although those driving may miss some of the views.

It is looking like the 2016 COT will have a total distance of around 2,443 kilometres, with some 47% competitive. There is a great selection of roads catering for all, from the big horsepower to the tight, nimble cars.

The course covers as far south as Stuarts Well, Aileron to north, Old Ambalindum to the east and out the Tanami Road to the west. There will

be at least 5 special stages per day with a couple of 6 stage days just to keep up the pressure. The length of stages ranges from 5 km to 122 km, with 6 stages over 50 km in length. All stages (bar one) will be conducted on private property.

There will be at least 2 major service points per day with other locations around the course for non-time allowance checks. We will assist with service points wherever possible but due to the terrain it may not be possible to get to the end of each special stage.

The service park at Lasseters will be available at the end of each day's competition and there will be a security guard patrolling the Lasseters fenced carpark each night.

The road conditions vary from smooth

packed clay, sandy riverbeds, rocky outcrops, and everything in between – but this could all change by the time we conduct our next survey in November. The one thing we did notice since our last survey in May was the deterioration of some of the roads. With the sub zero temperatures over the winter months and the cattle truck traffic, the roads have dried out and lots of bulldust was the result. However, with the rains in January and February this could all change again when the graders start road maintenance.

Our schedule for finalising the course is mid November. Then we'll go back to Alice Springs in March to see what has changed with the summer rains. The CAMS course check will be in April.

JUNE 2016 EVENT CALENDAR

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24

16 Crews and officials arrive.

17 Documentation and scrutiny.

18 Documentation and scrutiny continues; prologue close to Alice Springs (to assist with determining the start order); and welcome function for all participants.

19-24 Classic Outback Trail rally.

24 Presentation dinner function.

SURVEY REPORT



One of the joys in planning the event around Alice Springs has been the amount of support given to us. Contacts, lack of red tape, station owners, police and even the correctional centre! It is a town and territory very heavily into motorsport and the encouragement has been fantastic. Even the kangaroos have kept

their distance.

Congratulations to the Central Australian Rally Sports Club on their recent CAMS affiliation. The vice president is now the proud owner of the very successful winning vehicle from the 2010 and 2014 COTs – he now has 10 months to tame the beast.



ACCOMMODATION...

There are still plenty of rooms available at Lasseters but don't leave it too long as the rooms are filling fast. And, don't forget Lasseters special accommodation offer for bookings before 31 December. See <http://classicoutbacktrial.com.au/accommodation/> for more info.

REGULARITY...

Interest is mounting with the introduction of the Classic Outback Regularity. It is a Time-Speed-Distance (TSD) competition of precision driving. It will follow the route of the Classic Outback Trial on dirt surfaces and will include approximately 20 regularity tests over the special stages.

The challenge for the participating crews will be to drive along a special stage keeping to the average speeds set by the organisers, which will be no greater than 80km/h. And, the speeds may vary within a stage. The organisers will calculate the precise time participants should arrive at any point on the route if they kept to the exact set speed. The perfect team would be on time at any given point along the stage. Times will be recorded by the RallySafe device fitted to each vehicle.

More information can be found on our website: <http://classicoutbacktrial.com.au/classic-outback-regularity/>



GOPRO FOOTAGE...

I am just doing the final editing of many, many minutes of footage taken on the bonnet of the Nissan Patrol. These videos will be soon up on our YouTube channel. You will shortly see the vast variety of roads and surfaces the event covers. Remember when viewing that we are travelling slowly in a rented 4WD – what might look fast and straight will take on a whole new dimension in your rally car at twice the speed!



TELEVISION COVERAGE...

We are currently negotiating for an hour long free-to-air and Fox television production. This will greatly enhance the possibility of obtaining major sponsorship and give the entrants a greater chance to also obtain personal sponsorship. We will keep you informed of our progress.

EXPLORE CENTRAL AUSTRALIA



DAY TOURS...

As advised in the last newsletter, there will be daily tours covering all the local sights around Alice Springs for family and friends. On two of the days the tours will include a visit to the lunch and service breaks with opportunities to see the cars in action. We will place all the tours on our website with booking details a little closer to the event.

