

# COT RECCE



AUGUST 18-25, 2018

JANUARY 2018



Ooraminna Homestead

## COT UPDATE

EVENT DIRECTOR, PHILIP BERNADOU

Happy New Year. I trust that you all had a fantastic Christmas and were able to share it with your family and friends. Well another year has passed and that leaves only 8 months until the start of COT18.

### CLUB CARS

With the issue of the revised National Rally Code, effective as from 1/1/18, Club Cars are now not eligible to be run in National events. Anyone affected by this ruling is asked to contact me as soon as possible.

### UPDATE ON LAST SURVEY

Our Clerk of Course Tom and I became involved with the inaugural Targa Florio Australian Tribute held a few weeks ago, the same weekend as the Alpine Rally!! Having only 3 ½ months to organise an event that should have taken 12 months kept us fairly busy and I apologise for the lateness in providing this update to you.

David and I spent 10 days in the Alice in early November and again found some great exciting and challenging new roads to play on. The 2016 event was conducted totally on private property with the

exception of the Arltunga Tourist Road and the Pinnacles Track.

For the 2016 event we surveyed many tracks but some were so overgrown we found them impassable. Thanks to the property owners the obstructed roads have now been graded and will be included in this year's event. These roads are so tight and twisty they'll give the smaller cars a chance to show their skills and will greatly assist in cutting out some transport distance. By adding an extra day in 2018 we will see several more roads closed with the assistance of the NT Government.

AUG 2018

| THU | FRI | SAT | SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  |

## EVENT CALENDAR

**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.

**19-25** Classic Outback Trial rally.  
**25** Presentation dinner function.

# COT RECCE



## TAGALONG TOUR

The Australian Outback has one of the most fascinating and unique landscapes anywhere in the world. For 2018 we are incorporating a tour event designed for 4WD and AWD SUV vehicles as part of the 2018 Classic Outback Trial.

Without needing a roll cage or helmets, the tour will take place over 5.5 days beginning on August 20, 2018 along selected special stages of the COT. Led by well travelled local identity, Neil Ross, the tour takes in sights such as the iconic Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve to the south and Arltunga Historical Reserve to the east of Alice Springs as well as the many breathtaking landscapes on private properties that could not otherwise be experienced.

The course has been set with an additional night under the stars incorporated into the schedule. We have also obtained some great rates from Central Car Rentals for a 4WD hire, 'fly in fly out' deal, which can include camping equipment. The itinerary is on our website and will be a great event if you enjoy fantastic scenery and travelling around the Alice on properties not normally accessible.

All overnight stops at Ross River Homestead, Gemtree, Old Ambalindum Homestead and Ooraminna Homestead include campsite, dinner and breakfast. Cabins are available at an extra cost. For more information, contact [Phil Bernadou](#) for the full itinerary.

## CLASSIC OUTBACK TRIAL - MODERN

Following a successful competition debut in 2016, the Classic Outback Trial will once again welcome competitors with modern rally cars to experience the challenge of the week-long endurance event.

Initially born as a long-distance rally for classic cars, in recent years there has been a growing interest from competitors with modern competition vehicles to take on Australia's Red Centre epic. First introduced to the event in 2016, modern competition saw a variety of cars entered from the turbo charged all-wheel drive Subaru Impreza WRX of winners Peter Neal and Craig

Whyburn to a front wheel drive V6 Mitsubishi Magna and even a diesel Subaru Forester.

Open to both 2WD and 4WD vehicles, including those with turbochargers built since 1988, the rally offers those not wishing to compete at State and Championship level an opportunity to participate in a unique challenge that only the Classic Outback Trial can deliver. The start order seeding for each day will be based on the fastest vehicle starting first, irrespective of which Competition it is based in, unlike in 2016 when the seeding was within each Competition.

## ACCOMMODATION

Due to a convention which was booked over 12 months ago, taking place at the Alice Springs Convention Centre in the middle of our event, people attending the convention got in early and booked their accommodation covering 2 or 3 nights. This has caused an inability to book rooms through 16<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> August. I understand that if you want to stay at Lasseters you would have to move out for 2 or 3 nights then move back in. This of course is totally disruptive.

In view of this dilemma we have approached several other accommodation places close to Lasseters and so far we have obtained the following discounted rates.

The hotel next door to Lasseters, the Double Tree by Hilton, is offering a 10% discount if booked on line, [click this link](#).

The [Alice Springs Tourist office](#) is also a great place to find local accommodation. There is still plenty of accommodation in the Alice but don't leave it too long to book.

## NEW ENTRIES

It is great to see more internationals entering the COT. The Tuthill Porsche 911 that ran in the Sydney to London Marathon in 2014 is once again making the trip to Australia. Driven by Jacques Castelein and Joost Van Cauwenberge, it would have to be at the pointy end by day 7. It is also rumoured that Francis Tuthill will be bringing his VW Beetle designed for the

East African Safari. Another entry from the Sydney to London is the 1983 Holden Commodore of Peter Riseborough with Gerry Bashford in the passenger seat. Both have done many COTs and it will be great to have them back again.

And the first nomination received for 2018 was Adam Kaplan who will be returning in his very quick 1985 Mazda RX7.

