

COT RECCE



AUGUST 18-25, 2018

JULY 2018



Sensational Scenery

COT UPDATE

EVENT DIRECTOR, PHILIP BERNADOU

RESPECT THE LAND

After 16 months of negotiating, 7 surveys and thousands of kilometres, the 2018 road book has been completed. The 7 survey trips totalling 69 days in the Alice have been a delight and at sometimes a little frustrating but now we have a great special stage rally. With 36 special stages totalling just under 900 kilometres it will be another challenging long-distance event. The stages will suit both the big horsepower and the nimble smaller cars. I apologise in advance to the newly painted vehicles. Maybe a plastic wrap would be recommended, as there are a couple of

stages where the fauna is a tad close to the tracks. This is shaping up to be the most heavily contested COT. Still a few entries to be received but there are currently 45 listed and a lot of modifications and testing has been going on to past entrants. Special thanks to David (Dinta) Officer for his great assistance and support over the past 16 months.

The 2016 event threw some curved balls at us with the hail and rain cancelling the first day of competition but unless the centre receives some substantial rain over the next 2 months we will encounter the opposite this

year, dry and sandy. I think a bucket and spade should be a vital part of your in car equipment!!

Although no "Hayes Highway" this year there are still plenty of challenging stages with 8 over 40 km in length. As in past COTs we have included for your driving enjoyment another horror stage. Day 6, Whitewood, covering 52 km, will need to be driven with respect. Very tight, sandy and rocky, it has it all. Full details of leg distances with service and refuelling points will be listed in the first Bulletin out soon and outlined in the Guide to Competitors, available end July.

TAGALONG TOUR

Since my first trip on the feasibility study in June 2014, I have never had the time nor opportunity to investigate some of the great tourist spots around the course.

On the Ross River Highway I must have passed Jessie's and Emilie's Gaps 20 plus times. Last week looking for locations to take the Tagalong and Regularity events,

I dropped in. They are fantastic. Thank goodness for digital cameras for I would have run out of film after 10 or 15 minutes. One could never get tired of looking at the stunning scenery of the MacDonnell Ranges. Depending on the time of day and the way the sun hits the ranges it is forever changing.

All the organisers of the overnight spots

are looking forward to turning on a great night's entertainment. I would love to do this tour but unfortunately other duties beckon.

Positions are still available so if you are interested please drop me a line. All the information is available on our [website](#).

AUG 2018

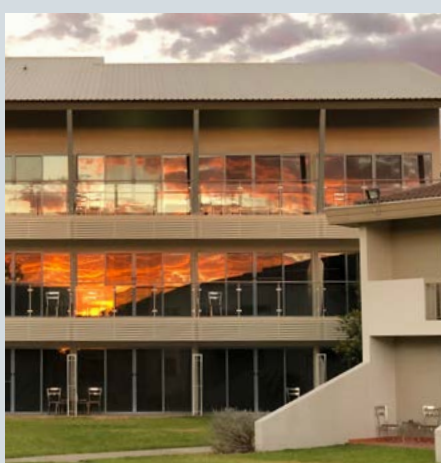
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25

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.

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ACCOMMODATION

If you have not booked your accommodation yet, I do have some rooms at the event HQ Crown Plaza Alice Springs. Rates as per our webpage. If interested, please contact me as if you go direct through bookings you will be informed that there are none available.

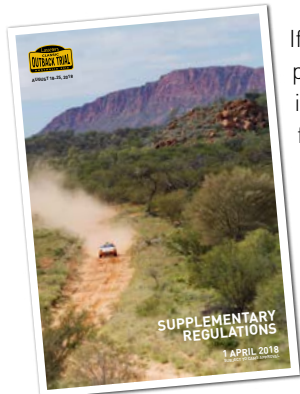
SCOUTS NT

As mentioned in earlier Newsletters Scouts NT, our Charity Partner, is entering a car and the Datsun 1600 is in the last stages of preparation, the crew had a baptism of fire in the last running of the Finke Desert Rally and all the support people are looing forward to the assault on the COT in August.

SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS

The supp regs are now on line together with the entry form which this year can be completed [online here](#)

If you have previously sent in a nomination form you must still go on line and complete the entry form.



Sun rise over Alice Springs

THINGS TO DO

What's to do in Alice? That's a question I get asked a lot. While the guys/gals are out rallying, what is there to do apart from lazing around the pool sipping on a gin and tonic?

We have received a great offer from Outback Ballooning. I have watched them floating over the Ranges and have made a booking with my family to enjoy the view from the air. We have received a great discount offer from the guys. Here is an excerpt from their brochure:

"Experience the breathtaking feeling of floating silently above the Outback as the sun slowly rises over the desert on our awe-inspiring hot-air ballooning adventure.

You will travel to the launch site in the cool pre-dawn darkness and begin the ascent just as the morning light begins to illuminate the rugged MacDonnell Ranges. Float gently across the vast expanse of the Central Australian outback – keeping an eye out for native wildlife and gain an appreciation of the remoteness of the area as the balloon glides across the landscape.

After landing, you may become involved in assisting the crew as they pack the nylon balloon back in to its bag or may prefer to take photographs, the choice is yours.

At the ballooning landing site, there is time to enjoy the desert tranquility as light refreshments accompanied by Australian sparkling wine and tropical fruit juice are served. There is an opportunity to purchase ballooning souvenirs and a commemorative flight certificate is given to all participants.

Return transfers from all accommodation in Alice Springs is included with pick up time approximately 1 hour before first light. Please allow up to 4 hours for this tour.

We operate every day, weather permitting. We do recommend you book for the first available day in the area to allow for re-booking in case of bad weather.

To experience this unique adventure, book online outbackballooning.com.au or phone 1800 809 790 and receive 15% discount when you quote **LCOT2018.**"

Other must-see locations include:

- Desert Park
- Reptile Centre
- Telegraph Station, and so much more...

[Check out our web page dedicated to these amazing adventures.](#)

Transfers are available.

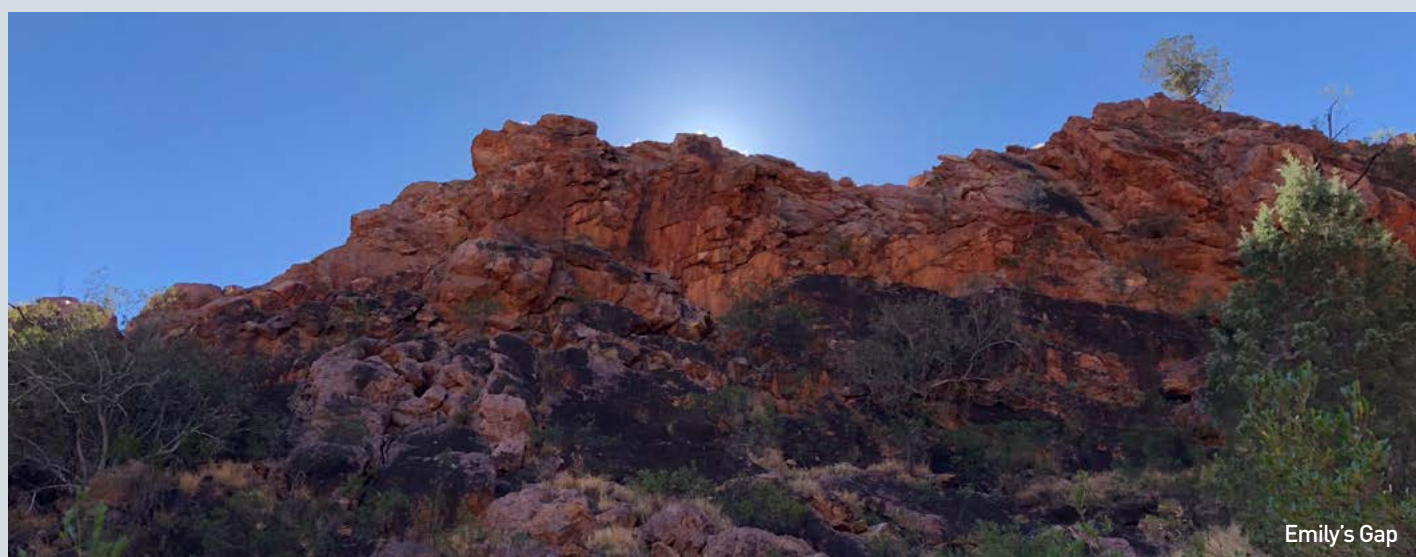
MERCHANDISE

The products have been ordered and produced and ready to ship to Alice Springs. Thanks to Geoff Veitch and the team at Phantom Marketing for making the process a seamless operation. Phantom Marketing has been the Targa supplier for many years producing high quality products. There are a number of other items that they have produced and you can go on line and

pre-order. Remember every competitor and official receive a complementary polo and cap, however, if you would prefer not to wait until the event, you can arrange for early delivery. [Check out the full range!](#)



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TRANSPORT

I have received requests for people looking to get transport of their vehicles from Sydney and Melbourne to the Alice. If you are considering hiring a transport company, let us know and we will put you in touch with other like-minded entrants.

Regarding the Internationals, the 2 x 40-foot containers will be transferred from Adelaide to AS on the train then by truck to Lasseters where they will be awaiting their owners to open them. They will return the same way, so thank you to all the offers but this has already been organised.

Regarding the offers for service for the Silver Arrows team, again the response has been fantastic. We are waiting for a response from David. If you are interested, please contact him direct:

david.dereuck@silver-arrows.com

Regarding the Porsche team, they will be serviced by the founder of Tuthill Porsche

himself Mr Francis Tuthill. It will be great to welcome him back to Australia.

Disappointing result for the Viking Motorsport Team in Morocco a couple of weeks back. 11 km from the finish podium while lying in 3rd position in the beautifully prepared Escort, a little roll over. We look forward in welcoming back Phil Mills with Jorge and Jose and the team with "Unfinished business".

While on the business of transport, we have received several enquiries regarding the hire of suitable service vehicles. Central Car Rentals and Thrifty have quite a few suitable vehicles.

Central Car Rentals, Caroline: 08 8952 0098
email: info@centralcarrentals.com.au
Thrifty, Steve: 08 8952 9999

ERCA REGULARITY

21 entries will compete over around 20 or so regularity stages on this year's event. With vehicles dating back to a 1926 Bentley Tourer, they will think that the Peking to Paris was a Sunday drive! Lots of scenery, lots of kilometres, lots of fun, should keep them entertained for the duration and will add another dimension to this year's event. We are trying to provide some of the vehicles to take part in the Henley on Todd parade in the Todd Mall on Saturday morning before they take part in our ceremonial start at the Convention Centre.

TYRES

For all your tyre needs please contact either Russell Stuckey at
Stuckey Tyre Service: 03 9386 5331
or Scott Nicholls at
Bendigo Tyre Service: 03 5444 1545