

# COT RECCE




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MARCH 2020

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## COT UPDATE

EVENT DIRECTOR, PHILIP BERNADOU

### WELCOME TO 2020...

...and what a year we have ahead of us. With 5 months until the start of the event, the last COT, it is very hard to predict what is ahead considering what has happened over the past 5 weeks. At this stage it is full steam ahead and one way or another the event will be held, being postponed if necessary. Any decision on this issue will be made closer to the event.

The boys, David and Ross, completed the second recce in the middle of February and they are extremely pleased with how it is all coming together. See David's report later in this Newsletter.

We have requested the closure of 10 shire roads from 8 councils and after a meeting held in Blayney in early February with representatives of the 8 councils, the road ahead looks extremely promising. We received unanimous support from all the councils making our job for this event so much easier.

I was extremely saddened with the loss of my dear sister Yvonne on the day of Louise and my 50th wedding anniversary on the 14th February. Yvonne resided in Forbes and was the main reason the 2009, 2010 and the 2012 events all started from that town. Apart from cheap accommodation when setting up those events it was always nice to come home to a country dinner each night. Phil Rainer, Bob

Watson, Steve Hollywood and recently David Officer all experienced Yvonne's hospitality. Yvonne and her late husband, Ian, managed a 34,000 acre property at Tottenham in the heart of NSW, and those of you that took part in the 2010 event may remember several stages and the great lunch we had in the shearing quarters on that property.

We welcome 2 new members to our tight organising group, Bruce Keys who will be looking after our publicity and media and will be on the event taking photos beside Ian Smith and also writing media releases for the website, social and mainstream media.

We also welcome back Steve Hollowood who was very involved with the planning and conduct of the 2016 COT in the Red Centre. Steve will be taking on the role of Road Director Regularity. Great to have him back, although, he has been keeping the website and the social media channels operating.

The Regularity event will again be supported by the Endurance Rally Club of Australia (ERCA) who plan to have a few starting points around Australia and converge on Parkes for the start. So far we have around 13 nominations but the list keeps growing. For more information check out the website.

After the great success of the Tagalong Tour conducted around Alice Springs in

2018, we have collaborated with a specialty tagalong tour company in Bathurst, Greg (Simo) Simpson, who has put together a fantastic 7 day fully catered event, complete with accommodation, commencing in Parkes on Sunday 9th August travelling north and finishing with the COT in Bathurst on Saturday 15th. Full information is on our website: <https://classicoutbacktrial.com.au/2019/06/12/tagalong-with-the-classic-outback-trial>.

We can only accept 6 to 8 SUVs or 4WDs so if you are interested please contact me to secure a place.

The Supplementary Regulations will be placed on the website on 1 April.

Entries are still rolling in, with 2 Porsches from Belgium and the very quick and immaculate Escort from Wales for our 2 Argentine friends. List on page 3.

As was circulated recently this will definitely be my last COT. I know I have said it before but with 7 down and 1 to go my time is up. Apart from organising them it is getting so much harder jumping through all the hoops to all the regulations and paperwork, it does take 2 years to plan. Louise and I have our son and grandchildren living in Canada and we want to spend more time with them during their summer, our winter.

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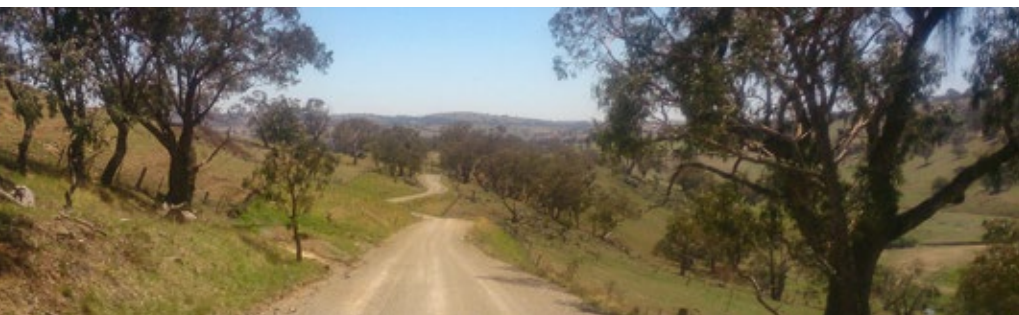


## NEW TRACKS FROM DINTA

Ross and I left for Parkes on the 24th February to finalise and check over our proposed course for the COT 2020.

We have 5 special stages each day, with the first two days being based in Parkes and heading west to Condobolin for a mix of two private property and three forest stages each day. Some stages will be familiar to those who competed in the 2012 & 2014 events.

- **Day 1** features the longest stage of the event, a fast 65km on private property, after a couple of warm up stages. Lunch and service will be at the Condo Show Grounds.
- **Day 2** will start with a big 47km stage in Strahorn Forest. This stage should be called the Coat of Arms as we saw hundreds of kangaroos and emus in here, along with the odd pig and fox. Again we will be stopping at the Condo Show Grounds for the lunch and service.



- **Day 3** will start with another long stage in Back Yamma Forest followed by three great shire road stages travelling to Molong for the lunchbreak and then finishing in a pine forest before we end the day at Orange.
- **Day 7**, our last day, has only three stages but they will be memorable. The last stage is a great shire road where Tom Snooks had a car burn to the ground many, many years ago! We will finish in the heart of Bathurst for the traditional spray.

- **Day 4** is not to be missed. Three great stages in Mount Canobolas pine forest and two great shire road stages. On our August survey we encountered quite a bit of snow on this day so be prepared for anything. Lunch and service in a great little town at Cancour.
- From Orange we head east to Bathurst for **Day 5**. I said Day 4 is not to be missed but the same applies for this day and the next. Five fantastic shire roads, some great scenery and a crossing of the Macquarie River to contend with. I am sure we will get another country feast at the lunchbreak at Sofala.
- **Day 6** has 5 stages to the south and east of Bathurst in State forest and some great roads through the pines. If you don't enjoy these roads you won't enjoy any roads, anywhere. Black Springs is the site for our 45 minute lunch and service break.



The timing of Phil's and my next trip is currently up in the air due to the COVID-19 situation but as soon as we are able we will head back up to Parkes to write the road book and probably do some more course clearing of fallen trees, etc.

Some of the stats, not yet final:

- 1,470 km** liaison
- 740 km** Special stage
- 2210 km** total distance
- 18** State Forest stages
- 4** Private Property stages
- 11** Shire roads stages

David (Dinta) Officer,  
Assist. Clerk of Course

## ACCOMMODATIONS

As previously advised the accommodation at the HQ in Parkes is fully booked but still plenty of other great motels, Caravan Parks and cabins available in town. The Mercure in Orange still has plenty of rooms available as does the Rydges in Bathurst. Check out our website for lots of offers.. [All the information is on our website.](#)

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## NOMINATIONS

This is shaping up to be one of the best events we've conducted. With the great forest, properties and shire roads the challenge will be there to preserve cars and crews over the 7 days. Attached is the total

list of nominations. Thank you all.

Due to time restrictions we are limiting the entries to 60, so, to ensure your spot complete the nomination forms on the website together with the \$1,000 deposit to

guarantee your spot. PLEASE list your name when making direct debits.

[The pre-regs are available now](#), and cover administration, entry, vehicle eligibility and decals on vehicles.

DRIVER FIRST	LAST	STATE	CODRIVER FIRST	LAST	STATE	VEHICLE MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	CLASS
Michael	Arundel	VIC	Simon	Healey	VIC	Ford	Mustang	1969	Classic
Shane	Attwell	WA	David	Moir	WA	Ford	Falcon GT	1971	Classic
Brian	Canny	VIC	Stephen	Canny	QLD	Porsche	944	1983	Classic
Michael	Coates	SA	Justin	Coates	SA	Layland	P76	1973	Classic
Pat	Cole	NSW	Bradley	Cole	NSW	Mercedes	280SL	1968	Clavssic
John	Cooper	NSW	Ross	Warner	NSW	Ford	Falcon	1979	Classic
Kurt	Dujardyn	BEL		TBA		Porsche	911	1979	Classic
Hilary	Evans	VIC	Doug	Fernie	VIC	Datsun	1600 SSS	1971	Classic
Tony	Gilfuis	WA	TBA	TBA		Ford	Escort	1977	Classic
Peter	Glennie	NSW	Peter	Clark	NSW	Datsun	1200 Coupe	1972	Classic
Jorn	Granger	QLD	TBA	TBA		Ford	Capri Parana	1970	Classic
Greg	Hannah	VIC	Jacqui	Collhole	VIC	Holden	Commodore	1981	Classic
Kim	Harper	VIC	Alex	Kovacevic	VIC	Ford	Escort RS2000	1972	Classic
John	Henderson	NSW	Jeff	West	NSW	Volvo	144 DL	1974	Classic
Warren	Herrick	NSW	Glenda	Lawrence	NSW	Holden	Commodore VB	1979	Classic
David	Hills	NSW	Ben	Richards	NSW	Ford	Escort RS 1800	1976	Classic
John	Hills	NSW	Michael	Tuckey	NSW	Ford	Escort RS 1800	1976	Classic
Tony	Jordan	NSW	Richard	Davidson	NSW	Triumph	Stag	1974	Classic
Adam	Kaplan	NSW	Aleshia	Penney	NSW	Mazda	RX7	1985	Classic
Bruce	Lake	WA	Peter	Hall	WA	Datsun	240Z	1973	Classic
David	McKenzie	VIC	Terry	Brain	VIC	Chrysler	Galant	1973	Classic
Scott	Middleton	VIC	Neil	Schey	VIC	Ford	Escort RS2000	1985	Classic
Robert	Mifsud	NSW	Starr	Mifsud	NSW	Datsun	Stanza	1981	Classic
Jorge	Perez Companc	ARG	Jose	Volta	ARG	Ford	Escort Mk2	1978	Classic
Mark	Pickering	NSW	Dave	Boddy	NSW	Datsun	240Z	1973	Classic
Tim	Shepherd	VIC	Bruce	Shepherd	VIC	Peugeot	505	1985	Classic
Justyn	Snooks	QLD	Steuart	Snooks	VIC	Nissan	Stanza	1979	Classic
Trevor	Stilling	NSW	Jon	Thompson	NSW		TBA		Classic
Ian	Swan	VIC	Val	Swan	VIC	Volvo	242	1075	Classic
Andrew	Travis	NSW	David	Travis	NSW	Nissan	Gazalle	1984	Classic
Michael	Valantine	NSW	TBA	TBA	NSW	Datsun	Stanze	1980	Classic
Joost	Van Cauwenberge	BEL	Jacques	Castelein	BEL	Porsche	911	1972	Classic
Michael	Verge	VIC	Ewen	McPherson	VIC	Holden	Commedore	1980	Classic
Joel	Wald	VIC	Chris	Ellis	VIC	Datsun	Stanza	1978	Classic
Graham	Wallis	VIC	Brian	Ward	VIC	Peugeot	309 GTI 16	1989	Classic
Michael	Ward	VIC	John	Fraser	NSW	Toyota	Corolla	1976	Classic
Murray	Young	QLD	Paul	McBean	QLD	Datsun	180B SSS	1973	Classic

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## NOMINATIONS (REGULARITY)

DRIVER FIRST	LAST	STATE	CODRIVER FIRST	LAST	STATE	VEHICLE MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	CLASS
Gerry	Bashford	VIC	Ted	Perkins	VIC	Ford	Escort		Regularity
John	Crighton	QLD	Marian	Crighton	QLD		MGB GT	1972	Regularity
Bill	Gill	SA	Kathy	Gill	SA	Mercedes	350 SLC	1972	Regularity
Blair	Healy	VIC	Mary	Healy	VIC	Peugout	404	1964	Regularity
Warren	Herrick		Glenda	Lawrence		Holden	Commodore VB	1979	Regularity
Tim	Kennon	VIC	Chris	Lee	VIC	BMW	321i		Regularity
Paul	Kirkham	VIC	Mariella	Kirkham	VIC	Datsun	510	1970	Regularity
Phil	Macwhirter	VIC	Laurette	Macwhirter	VIC	Alfa	Giulia	1970	Regularity
Andrew	Raper		Stuart	McDonald		Ford	Fairlane	TBA	Regularity
Marti	Shelton	QLD	Barry	Shelton	QLD	Ford	Delux Coupe	1941	Regularity
Jan	Sinclair		Anne	Sinclair		Holden	Monaro	1971	Regularity
Rhys	Timms	VIC		TBA		MG	SA	1936	Regularity
Mark	Westbrook	WA		TBA		Holden	Commodore	1980	Regularity
Heather	Worth	NZ	Jo	Worth	NSW	Volvo	Amazon	TBA	Regularity



Edited Reviews by Bob Watson



## SOUTHERN CROSS INTERNATIONAL RALLY & AUSTRALIA RALLY CHAMPIONSIP

### Southern Corss International Rally

This book by Tom Snooks documents the history of the Southern Cross International Rally in a very thorough and entertaining manner. There is no one more qualified to write the story of the rally, as he was the Event Director during the great era of Total Oil sponsorship which lifted the event to a truly world class level.

Tom has combined official rally entry lists and results with accounts of the event taken from contemporary motoring magazines. The result is a fascinating read, and facts presented may settle a few questions among those who competed.

The challenge presented by the classic Southern Cross rallies will never be repeated. Fields of top International competitors, stages up to 240 kms long over superb forest roads, variable weather that on occasions reduced the number of finishers to less than ten. The Cross was

always a formidable test of driver, co-driver and car – and you could add service crews too!

Tom Snooks, you have captured the essence of one of Australia's greatest rallies with this book, and in doing so you have helped us all celebrate what was indeed the Golden Era of rallying in Australia. Well done.

### Australian Rally Championship

This book is a faithful and well-informed history of the Australian Rally Championship from its inception in 1968 up until the introduction of the highly technical turbocharged four wheel drive rally cars that changed the face of rallying in the late 1980s. It is a span of 20 years which Snooks describes as the "Golden Age of Australian Rallying".

The way the events are written up with progressive results and competitor incidents, as well as the vehicle eligibility issues being

well explained, all maintain the interest of the reader, who will be a rally enthusiast.

Through individual descriptions of every event in that period, the reader can follow the development of normally aspirated two wheel drive rally cars through from an unsophisticated beginning in the late 1960s to the thrilling battles waged by the factory backed highly developed Ford Escorts and Nissan 710s and Stanzas that represented the pinnacle of that type of rally car.

As a competitor in Tom's Golden Era, I found the book a fascinating read and a must-have reference tool. Results, highlights, everything is there, nothing is missing. Well organised, Mr Snooks!

Books are \$50 each plus \$25 postage.

### To order these contact:

Steuart Snooks on 0413 830 772 or [steuart@steuartsnooks.com.au](mailto:steuart@steuartsnooks.com.au)