



Classic Outback Trial visits Barraba

Around 45 competitors in a variety of pre-1995 classic rally cars will 'pit stop' in Barraba on Thursday September 3 at the half-way point of their six-day, 2,260km adventure event to Australia's round of the World Rally Championship – Repco Rally Australia.

Arriving from Coonabarabran via breakfast at Elah station, a refueling stop in Boggabri and two timed closed-road Special Stages in a State Forest, the field in the 2009 Frontier Services Classic Outback Trial is scheduled to arrive at Barraba Bowling Club from 1.25pm.

After refueling and lunch, the first cars will leave Barraba at 2.20pm for a transport stage to the Glen Innes Showgrounds, with the last Trial car expected to depart the Bowling Club by 4.30pm.

"The Trial will bring a colourful and spectacular event to Barraba," said event organiser Philip Bernadou. "This is not a 'Bash', but a serious motorsport event for classic and historic rally cars. Spectators in Barraba will experience the same sort of excitement as spectators at Repco Rally Australia, as service crews will be working feverishly on cars after the pre-lunch special stages, while Trial officials will also be in town."

Sponsored by Frontier Services – the organisation founded by the Rev John Flynn ('Flynn of the Inland') to assist disadvantaged people living in remote regions of Australia, the Trial starts in Forbes on Monday, August 31 and is travelling to the Tweed area of northern NSW via Coonabarabran and Glen Innes.

On the way, entrants in a variety of vehicles, from classic rally Porsches to Mustangs to a Lada Samara, will compete against the clock over 21 special stages on unsealed forestry roads and private property. Many of the tracks selected by the Classic Outback Trial have never previously been used for rallying, with up to 40 per cent of the route being competitive on some days.

On arrival in the Tweed area on Friday September 4, entrants will take part in a special night event on the Repco Rally Australia Super Special Stage tarmac course on the streets of Murwillumbah.

The following day, Trial entrants will compete against the clock at full rally speeds over three of the actual unsealed Repco Rally Australia special stages used by competitors in the World Rally Championship – two immediately after the WRC cars and the last ahead of the International rally field – giving entrants the same unique driving experience as RRA entrants.

The Classic Outback Trial field is headed by 2008 Red Centre to Gold Coast Trial winners and former Australian Rally Champions David ('Dinta') and Kate Officer in a Mitsubishi Colt Galant, with their rivals including top State and Historic Rally drivers and first-time adventurers.

The Trial is scheduled to finish in the Tweed area following its final Repco Rally Australia Special stage on the evening of Saturday September 5.

Further event information

For event information please contact Philip Bernadou Phone: 03 9836 9911, Mobile: 0412 498 602, or email: pora1@bigpond.net.au Website: www.classicoutbacktrial.com.au

For media information and publication-quality photographs visit 'COT Media releases' at: <http://gallery.me.com/philipbernadou#gallery> or contact Michael Browning on 0418 324 328

For more information on Frontier Services and Outback Links.

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