



Classic Outback Trial to spend two nights in Coonabarabran

Coonabarabran will experience all the excitement and colour of a traditional 'Around Australia' motoring event when the 2,260km Frontier Services Classic Outback Trial makes the city its home for two nights on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 1-2.

Around 45 competitors in a variety of pre-1995 classic rally cars will be arriving from Forbes and Gilgandra on the second day of their six-day, adventure event to Repco Rally Australia – Australia's round of the World Rally Championship – which will be staged in the Tweed area from September 3-6.

Along with service crews, officials and supporters, the Trial will bring an army of up to 250 enthusiasts to Coonabarabran, where's the event's headquarters for two nights will be the El Paso Motor Inn on the Newell Highway.

The first of the Trial cars is expected at the Coonabarabran Show Grounds from 4.45pm on the Tuesday afternoon, with the last arriving around 6.00pm.

On Wednesday (September 2), the field will leave the Show Grounds from 9.00am for a competitive loop north of the City that will include four timed Special Stages on private property.

The day's rally action will finish at Pilliga Pottery, with the first cars expected around 2.00pm. After lunch and an inspection of the Pottery, the Trial field will return to Coonabarabran for the night.

On Thursday September 4, the field will leave the Show Grounds from 7.30am for a busy day of rallying, with breakfast at Elah Station from 8.00am, two Special Stages north of Boggabri – where entrants will refuel from 10.45am – with the event stopping for a service break and lunch at the Barraba Bowling Club from 1.30pm.

That afternoon the trial will head for its next overnight stop at Glen Innes on its way to join Repco Rally Australia in the Tweed area at the weekend.

Entrants in the Classic Outback Trial include former Australian Rally Champions David ('Dinta') and Kate Officer from Melbourne, who will crew the same 1971 Mitsubishi Colt Galant that they crewed to victory in last year's 7,600km Red Centre to Gold Coast Trial.

"The Trial will bring a colourful and spectacular event to Coonabarabran," said Classic Outback Trial organiser Philip Bernadou. "This is not a 'Bash', but a serious motorsport event for classic and historic rally cars. It will give the City a taste of the action to come at Repco Rally Australia at the weekend."

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.

On the way to see the world best drivers compete in Repco Rally Australia, 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.

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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