



## Classic Outback Trial starts in Forbes

Forbes 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 and starting point from August 27-September 1.

Around 45 competitors in a variety of pre-1995 classic rally cars will leave Forbes to contest the competitive five-day, adventure event to Australia's round of the World Rally Championship – Repco Rally Australia – 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 the City for the Trial, with many spending up to five days in Forbes before the event heads to Coonabarabran on Tuesday, September 1.

While in Forbes, entrants on Sunday evening August 30 will enjoy the event's special Welcome Function hosted in the Council chambers by the Mayor of Forbes, Cr. Phyllis Miller and other Councilors, while the event will start officially outside the Town Hall in Harold Street from 9.00am on Monday August 31.

After special stages in the Condobolin area, including a refueling and service stop at the Condobolin Show Grounds, Trial competitors will return to Forbes for the night, with the first cars expected back at the Forbes Show Grounds from 1,30pm.

On the Tuesday morning (September 1), the field will leave from Gordon Duff Drive from 8.00am, with the last car expected to depart by 9.30pm.

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 Forbes," said Frontier Services Classic Outback Trial organiser Philip Bernadou. "This is not a 'Bash', but a serious motorsport event for classic and historic rally cars."

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 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 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](mailto:pora1@bigpond.net.au) Website: [www.classicoutbacktrial.com.au](http://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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