



Classic Trialers meet WRC warriors

The history, excitement and colour of a traditional 'Around Australia' trial will meet the hype, high profile and glamour of World Rally Championship rallying for the first time in Australia when the Frontier Services Classic Outback Trial shares four Special Stages in the Tweed area with the international crews during Repco Rally Australia from September 3-6.

Around 45 competitors in a variety of pre-1995 classic rally cars will compete over four of the RRA Special Stages on the Friday night and Saturday, giving entrants the unique thrill of being able to compare themselves against the world's best rally drivers.

It will be a fitting and much-anticipated climax to the six-day, 2,260km event with its 21 timed special stages that begins in Forbes in Western New South Wales on August 31 and travels to the Tweed area via Gilgandra, Coonabarabran, Glenn Innes, Tenterfield and Lismore.

Classic Trial Competitors will get their first taste of RRA action when they tackle the Repco Rally Australia Super Special Stage on the streets of Murwillumbah under lights on Friday evening, September 4.

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.

While their cars will pre-date those used by WRC competitors by a minimum of 14 years – and up to 43 years in the case of the oldest vehicle, a 1966 Ford Falcon – spectators can still be assured of spectacular driving.

While many entrants are weekend rally drivers and adventurers, the Trial field also includes 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.

Other vehicles in the event include a pair of 1980s Porsche 911s, two Ford Mustangs, a 1968 Mercedes-Benz 280SL rally car, a number of hot Datsuns, Fords and Holdens, a Leyland P76 and a Russian Lada Samara.

"The Trial will bring the colour of the tradition events that pioneered rallying in this country to Repco Rally Australia," said Classic Outback Trial organiser Philip Bernadou. "This is not a 'Bash', but a serious motorsport event for classic and historic rally cars and the crews are just as keen to perform well as entrants in the World Rally Championship round."

After tackling the WRC special stages, the Frontier Services Classic Outback Trial finishes at Tweed Heads, with the first cars arriving at the Jack Evans Boat Harbour Car Park from 3.00pm on the Saturday afternoon.

The Trial's official Gala Presentation Dinner will be held that evening at the event's headquarters at the Tweed Ultima. Most entrants, service crews and event officials will then be enthusiastic spectators on the final day of Repco Rally Australia on Sunday September 6.

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

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