



TRACK TALK SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018

I am sure everyone is home safe and sound and the dust has settled following the end of the 2018 Great Escape.

I have received many comments, emails and phone calls from those who were on the 2018 GE and they have clearly indicated that it was a great rally. Some from those who have done more than 20 rallies, saying it was the best! That was pleasing to hear and read. I think the success surrounds a number of important factors, that was great tracks, great pubs, great food, great spirit within the rally and no long days, that is the recipe for success, so I'll be sticking to that successful formula.

I want to further acknowledge the help I received from Craig Yates (CQ), Peter Roulstone (Rolly), Craig Willis, Jason Coleman and Jerry Dunn, along with Jamie Lawson. All these people gave help in tracks, towns, pubs and scoring.

Sure, the numbers were down but it meant nothing regarding the spirit, which is something special within the Great Escape, this has been built over many years and is now a major part of the GE DNA.

As you know the rally started off in a strange way with me off to hospital prior to the Welcome Dinner at Wilberforce. Still no clear understanding of what happened to my hands which just froze up with incredible pain! All good now although they are doing further tests.

This put a lot of pressure on the officials. Towball in particular, who was just made Zero car who then had to take over as Track Boss for at least 8 hrs until I returned from hospital prior to brekkie the next morning,

Again, it shows just how genuine people step up with no fuss and get on with things. A big thank you to Towball for his sense of co-operation and understanding of what needed to be done. Not forgetting the other officials who rallied around Towball in support. There were lots of changes needed due

to a number of circumstances with lower numbers in officials, others had to pick up other jobs, all done with a smile of their face. The other 2 official teams to step up were Lloyd and Gary in C7 who become Sweep and did a great job. Also, Ben and Justin C6, who are the technical gurus of the GE they are brilliant. Thanks also to Steve & Ern who unfortunately had to leave us early as Steve had a death in the family.

As we had fewer officials, a lot of people jumped on board in giving a hand in doing check points when they could give time. These included; Sharon Johnson, Rick Smith and Gary Tesch, Rolly and Bluey, Barry and Sandra Cornford, Roslyn and Reg.

These people drove to us, stayed over a couple of nights, joined in where they could and just did everything they were asked to help in check points which meant we did not have to use any of the back up vehicles.

Treat people the right way and you gain their support. So, with all that in place we were now off to cross the Great Dividing Range 14 times from west to east and east to west through some of the prettiest country around, according to the Victorians, they did not know existed, from the Hawkesbury to the mountains.

The overnight venues certainly worked, keeping the group together in great pubs with great food and lots of singing and games. Rally days, only 1 day over 500klms and 1 over 400 klms, the rest being under 300klms which gave time to enjoy the areas we were travelling in, games, bonnet parties and clay shooting to happen.

We certainly enjoyed the 2 days we had in Slim Dusty country including the arranged visit to Slim's childhood home. We all can't wait for the photos and the video.

Following the clay shooting at Cherrabah Resort, we all know who we would go to war with as the good shooter's popped off the clay in quick time.

We had good weather most of the way although it was cold at night. Although we had lots of creek crossings and causeways, there was very little water in them, apart from 1 water crossing where 4 cars got struck.

Then of course young Maddy got the Apex going into a corner off centre and collected a tree leaving the '89 Commodore as a write off. Thankfully with only injures being a sore shoulder and bruised ego.

We had a great country auctioneer in Tenterfield who certainly added well needed dollars to CFA's fund raising. This was a very emotional experience for me when I put (Rosie's) EZI 508 number plate up for auction. I told the story how and why I brought the '72 HQ Holden Panel Van and then how it become Rosie. I will do more on this as many of you were still asking questions beyond Tenterfield and I'll seek out Rob and Brad and get them involved in the rally and get them to tell their story of what I asked them to do back in 2001. Both have CF and both have had transplants. It's a great story as both have lived successful lives and done lots.

I must say everyone got involved with the various theme dress up nights/day. The gowns and costumes were fabulous and certainly added to the event/theme.

So again, thank you to all the entrants and officials who made this Great Escape a great success at all levels.

Planning is well underway in getting the 2019 on a mud map.

It will start in Cowra and finish in Canberra, with a special finish.

Dates:

Sunday 8 th September 2019	Rego and Scrutineering
Monday 9 th September 2019	Start
Wednesday 18 th September 2019	Finish in Canberra

Put the dates in your diary and arrange your leave.

Please find entry form attached.

Once you have returned your entry form to me a full Welcome Pack will be emailed to you giving you all the information needed to enter and have fun and adventure on the 2019 Great Escape for Cystic Fibrosis

Any questions please call 0413 704 104 or email trackboss508@gmail.com

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