



## CC2022 BACK TO BIRDSVILLE

### SUMMATIVE REPORT

The 2022 Corolla Capers was the 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive odyssey. The event this year involved 19 vehicles (11 corollas) and 37 participants. There were 8 new participants and 17 Rotarians in total. It took place from Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> of July to Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> of July and travelled almost 3,000 km.

**The Route:** On Day 1 the convoy headed north via Laura, Orroroo, Hawker to Wilpoorinna. On Day 2 Gordon Litchfield again led the convoy across his property and through neighbouring Mundowdna to Clayton on the Birdsville Track and on to Mungerannie. On Day 3 the group visited Cowarie Station and, as the Warburton Creek Crossing was closed, we kept to the Track to a camping location on Clifton Hills. Day 4 we arrived in Birdsville and in the afternoon the challenge of Little Red and then Big Red Sand Dunes. On Day 5 we went east then south to Cordillo Downs Shearing Shed and had a great campfire that night. Day 6 onto Innamincka via Arrabury in Queensland after having lunch at the Dig Tree and then preparation for the Big Night Out Back and Arch's Auction. A free morning on Day 7 and then on in the afternoon west to explore the Cooper and Burke, Wills and King's Memorials to finish with the Legend Campfire. On Day 8 down the Strzelecki to Lyndhurst and a great celebratory night at the Lyndhurst Hotel. On Day 9, the group travelled independently to Adelaide.

**Events:** On the 1<sup>st</sup> night, a PHF was presented to Gordon Litchfield recognising his support over many years for the event and a Certificate of Appreciation to Gordon & Lyn. Books for Bush Kids and Presentation of \$500 book credits to representatives of Marree, Leigh Creek and Hawker Schools and to Birdsville State School during a school visit. Arch's Auction raised almost \$8,000 at the Innamincka Big Night Out and Grenville & Ingrid took out the prize for the most impressive couple in costume. **Ron** was inducted as a **Legend** and for the Corollas, the challenge of Big Red saw a majority successful and Car 3 impressing the judges to be the Winner. Unfortunately, Car 13 suffered many internal and external ailments and, with some bush mechanics from Jason, limped back to Adelaide on the final day. We had a daily review -**The YDR**- and new caperer Nigel scooped the award given daily as the caperer giving most of self. The Big Bad Wolf will present the Golden Glove Box at the **Reunion on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October at the Caledonian**.

**Fundraising and Disbursements:** President Angela raised about \$2,250 from the Mailbag Draw and Steve Knight raised \$350 from the fines on the last night at Lyndhurst. Overall, we will be able to disburse \$19,000 to our designated projects:

**Domestic Violence RFDS Second Chances Books for Bush Kids**

**A postscript/ review comments highlighted the following:**

- Another successful, well organised event and acknowledged the committee and particularly Jack's organisation. Friendship and support from others were appreciated. Consideration be given to including early in the event, **introductions and a get to know you.**
- Some daily distances were very long but we reached each day's destinations in daylight. The extra day meant that we were able to reach Birdsville in 3 1/2 days and return in 5 1/2. **As a general rule, 400km daily and the destination by 4:30pm**
- As the event progressed, supplies were located and the kitchen more organised. Thank you to the 4WDs and towing vehicles. The roster of duties shared the work load but as always relied on a few to fill gaps and step up to take leadership. Thank you to Les and Mark Carter for organising supplies, Rob for his expert trailer packing and supervising Chefs in Angela, Liz and John. The Yiros and Campfire Stew received top marks.
- The route took the **odyssey to previously visited locations** but for many, locations for the first time. Innamincka District was mentioned by many as a highlight. **Staying in one location for two nights** made for a well organised camp kitchen.
- **Future odysseys should consider more CC challenges** and time to explore. Big Red certainly was rated as a highlight.

**CC2023 The following locations were suggested, and the committee will consider in planning next year's event along with the points highlighted above. Most responses mentioned a preference for mid-year and that we limit the trip to eight days.**

- Eyre Peninsular using Mt Ive and Pt Lincoln or Coffin Bay as bases to explore the Parks of Eyre.
- York Peninsular and Eyre Peninsular
- Keeping North out of the wet
- Googs Track and Coober Pedy
- Roundabout Coober Pedy
- Border Track and Mungo National Park
- Tibooburra via Silverton, Milparinka and back via Mt Freeling



**THANK YOU** to all donors of auction and raffle prizes and to Angela and Arch for their special efforts. David Rogers and Ken for the use of their 4WDs and Adam Lillecrapp for the use of his trailer. Ron Lillecrapp and Jack Kelso for organising donation of eggs, mettwurst (which raised \$750 from 2 auctions by Rob Searle) and pasta. Vic Isbester for printing the booklet and Rob & Ali Searle for collating the folders. Thank you to the Litchfields at Wilpoorinna and the proprietors of Mungerannie, Innamincka and Lyndhurst Hotels. Jeff Neale and Paradise Motors Mazda for the Rotary Sponsors vehicle and David Rogers for the Satellite phone. Thank you to Prospect RC for their continued support of the event. Finally, to the CC Committee for putting the show on the road.

**Ron Rogers for CC Committee August 2022**