



CC2023 - THE MALLEE MUNGO MAYHEM

SUMMARY REPORT

The 2023 Corolla Capers was the 21st Odyssey.

The event this year involved 16 vehicles (9 corollas) and 31 participants (5 new participants and 15 Rotarians). It took place from Saturday 22nd July to Saturday 29th July and travelled some 2150 kms. The weather was very kind with fine days and cold nights.

THE ROUTE On Day One, the convoy headed from the Burnside Council Carpark (a new departure venue) and President Vic and PDG Paul waved the convoy off up the southeastern freeway to Taillem Bend for a wee stop and then on to PINNAROO for lunch. The Groundsman Café was a popular outlet. Our destination was the PINE PLAINS LODGE in Western Victoria. Getting there presented the corollas with a driving challenge arriving after sunset. The following days in the sand dunes and **MALLEE** of the Wyperfeld National Park. The accommodation and facilities were excellent and the sand challenges a plus. On the Tuesday we headed north across the Murray to POONCARIE on the Darling and the following day to **MUNGO**. *This location took participants out of their cars to walk the dunes of this unique world heritage site.* Thursday, we followed the Darling River north via the historic Tolarno Station to Menindee for a BBQ lunch. We viewed the extent of recent floods along the roadway, saw an abundant array of wildlife, and



observed the remnants of past settlements. In the afternoon it was on to Broken Hill and then SILVERTON for two days of **MAYHEM** - a convoy to Mundi Mundi and Umberumberka, the Winner's Cup on a track south of the town, a campfire with Broken Hill Rotary and a crazy dress up like Mad Max at the Silverton Hotel. The odyssey departed Penrose Park after breakfast on the Saturday for a return day trip to Adelaide via the Barrier Highway.

EVENTS Three days of sand driving challenge tested the corollas on the first three days. Pine Lodge was an excellent staging point. *The visit to Mungo National Park was an event highlight.* Two driving days in Northwestern Victoria and along the Murray and Darling provided magnificent and varied pictorial vistas. Big Dave's GAMES NIGHTS were well received and an entertaining inclusion raising BIG LOSSES for the participants at Pine Plains Lodge, Pooncarie Hotel and Penrose Park. Broken Hill Rotary joined us around the campfire on Thursday evening and the Big Bad Wolf detailed many contenders for the



Golden Glovebox. Rob Searle's WINNER'S CUP event won by Car 1 at Silverton was the precursor for an enjoyable final night at the Silverton Hotel for the MAD MAX MAYHEM BIG NIGHT OUT and Arch's Auction. What a legend along with his Prospect Boys and let's not forget **Andrew Wald's** elevation to the Legend Hall of Fame.

FUNDRAISING Four projects this year were the focus of various fundraising efforts. Thank you Arch, Angela, Mark Carter and Ron and all participants for their generous support and contributions. The Tuckerbox and Arch's Auction raised over \$8000. The projects in 2023 were:- **Books for Bush Kids** - Presentation of \$500 book credits to Pooncarie and Menindee Schools; Support of the **Gepps Cross Food Centre**; the **Children's Cancer Association South Australia** and **Youth Options** – training programmes for marginalised Youth in Adelaide. All great projects. A total of \$18,000 is recommended for disbursement. This figure is arrived at after all receipts and expenditure have been rationalised.

THANK YOU'S and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS * * * * *

All sponsors of individual vehicles. All participants who organised Raffle and Auction prizes; David Rogers and READS FURNITURE for storage facility; and OTR for fuel vouchers. Special mention to Nigel Brown for organising a significant range of Donations for Raffle and Auction; Jack Kelso for organising donation of San Remo pasta and Vic Isbester for eggs. Les Dennis with Mark Carter for purchasing and delivering supplies; Lillian Lin for printing booklet and Rob and Ali Searle for collating. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the three accommodation venues – Pine Plains Lodge, Pooncarie Hotel and Silverton Hotel. Again, we acknowledge the support of Paradise Motors making the Rotary Mazda BT50 vehicle available and also Dave Rogers and Grenville Smith for their 4WD vehicles.

The committee has met to finalise CC2023 business and arrangements for 2024 are underway. Thank you to the Management Committee and a Special mention to **Jack Pappin** for his Meticulous Administration and **Angela Ellis** for Convening the Catering and rallying help in the kitchen in her unique way. Great supervision **John** and support **Michelle** and wonderful food **Angela** and *'s to **Dave and Karen 's Pasta sauce. Well done Doug & Rod** for being early risers to cook breakfast.



The reunion and presentations will take place at the Caledonian Hotel on Tuesday 26th September.

Ron Rogers for CC Committee August 2023