

THE RACV GREAT AUSTRALIAN RALLY

Sunday 18th January, 2009

Last year the RACV Great Australian Rally raised more than \$45,000 for the Peter Mac Cancer Institute – a truly splendid result. We thank all of those who took part and we are looking forward to an even more successful Rally next year. There were some comments from clubs about the changes that were introduced to make the Rally a more powerful fundraising event in 2008. These comments have been taken on board and a number of significant changes have been made. Many clubs have been strong supporters of this major event, and the feedback has been seriously considered. The RACV Great Australian Rally Advisory Committee thanks those clubs for bringing several points of concern onto the agenda for planning the 2009 event.

There will be a number of changes to the format of the 2009 Rally, however, it should be appreciated that there could be detail changes to the preliminary information provided here. There will be an update in the November issue of the AOMC Newsletter.

The date for the Rally, Sunday 18th January, 2009, has been set and it can be placed in diaries with absolute confidence. Three start venues have been established – there will be starting ceremonies in the City of Melbourne, at Stud Park Shopping Centre and at the Westernport Marina at Hastings. There will not be start ceremonies at Brandon Park or Casey Civic Centre, as there have in the past. After the start, there will be two options with respect to the route to Mornington:

Option I

After departing the start venues, the cars will drive to Mornington via a route that will take the City starters to Frankston and then on to Somerville. Cars from Studfield Shopping Centre will also be directed to Somerville, and those starting from Hastings will join the rally route at Bittern. From Somerville, cars will drive via Tyabb to Hastings and on to Bittern where a right turn will be made to cross the Mornington Peninsula, and at Dromana the route will follow the coast via Safety Beach to Mornington. The finish and major display will be at Mornington Racecourse.

Hastings starters, mostly older cars, will be travelling at a slower pace, so please watch out for them.

Option II

This option will allow those who desire it, to drive straight to Mornington. It will be necessary that those who are having their vehicles judged use this option. To be fair to the judges, it is vital that those vehicles that will be judged arrive at Mornington Racecourse, and are in place as soon after 10:00 am as possible.

For all entrants there will be a free sausage sizzle and tea or coffee. At Hastings, the local Scout Group will be offering the same, but there will be the option of purchasing an egg and bacon sandwich. Once the cars arrive at Mornington, there will be a welcoming cup of tea or coffee for all entrants.

The RACV Great Australian Rally Committee has finally negotiated for the facility to serve morning tea at the racecourse. We hoped to do so this year, but could not get around an exclusive catering agreement that the caterer has with the racecourse. That is now fixed; enjoy your cuppa, to which you are entitled amongst good company!

A major feature of the display will be the Cavalcade of Transport – from this country's earliest days right through to the latest hybrid and solar powered cars. This will be a most interesting display, so, be sure not to miss it! The organising Committee are also hopeful of a large motorcycle entry next year – please pass on this request to your club members.

During the afternoon you will be able to collect your Commemorative Rally Plaque which, it is anticipated will become a collectable feature of future RACV Great Australian Rallies.

Entry brochures are due out soon and a quantity will be brought to Delegates' Meetings. The Advisory Committee looks forward to the continued support of the historic vehicle club movement. It would be fair to say that most of us know someone in the heritage motoring scene who is being treated for cancer. Let's, all of us, do our bit, and crusade for those who are in the care of Peter Mac! Watch out for a further update in the November edition of this Newsletter.

Mike Allfrey.

RACV Great Australian Rally Committee