



Proudly supporting



Royal Flying Doctor Service  
SOUTH EASTERN SECTION

Media Release

21 April 2026

## **Celebrity power helping local car trekkers reach charity target**

On Sunday, 5 June, over one hundred pre-1978 cars will leave Narrabri in northern New South Wales and wend their way via the Gulf of Carpentaria to Port Douglas in Far North Queensland.

This annual four-wheeled pilgrimage, known as the Outback Car Trek, has raised over \$23 million for the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) since its inception in 1990. Last year's contribution was over \$1.3 million, an amount it hopes to match or even better this year.

Right in the thick of it will be Team Black Cavalier a.k.a. David Nutter and Barry Pitcher from the Melbourne suburbs of Berwick and Upper Beaconsfield in car 1966 – a specially modified 1966 Ford Galaxy able to withstand the rigours of a 3,500 klms trek through some rough and tumble country.

“We got involved through friends who have been Trekkers for fourteen years. They badgered us to get involved and help raise funds for the Flying Doctor and I'm very glad we did,” said David.

“Last year was our first and what a great Trek it was, one of the best in recent memory. We saw some fantastic parts of Australia and met some great people. There's a real sense of camaraderie during that week in the bush.”

“David and I are both city-based boys, but when you travel through the Outback you really get a sense of what a vital service the RFDS is for these communities, providing emergency, patient transport, clinic and telehealth services,” said Barry

“I also love the way the Trek supports small towns and their businesses who I regard as the real spirit and backbone of this country. The arrival of 300 'Trekkers' injects badly-needed money into those local economies and we also do some community fundraising along the way. It's been estimated that the Trek leaves some \$760,000 in the places it visits along the way.”

Team Black Cavalier are aiming to raise \$25,000 for the RFDS and are edging closer every day with the help of donations from family, friends, Rotary, businesses, and other people who have logged onto their Everyday Hero page thanks to secret weapon, Aussie pop icon Kate Ceberano.

She has given the boys the thumbs-up and promoted the cause on her Facebook page and in other media. “*You are MY Every Day Heroes for supporting this wonderful cause. This Australian Iconic service!*” wrote Kate who has supported special fund-raising concerts for

the RFDS in London and Western Australia recently.

“We got in touch with Kate through a mate who is related to her. She was delighted to help out by supporting us on her Facebook page, which has over 40,000 followers. She’s one popular lady,” said Barry.

The RFDS is one of the world’s most comprehensive aeromedical organisations, taking emergency and essential primary healthcare services to the people of remote, rural and regional Australia. Last year, nationally, the Flying Doctor helped over 292,000 people – that’s one every two minutes.

“The RFDS is a not-for-profit organisation. While partially supported by the Commonwealth and State governments, we rely heavily on fundraising and donations from the community to deliver and expand our services and to purchase and medically-equip aircraft and to finance other major capital initiatives,” said Greg Sam, Chief Executive Officer of the RFDS’ South Eastern Section.

“We’d like to thank all the Trekkers for their stalwart support over the past 26 years and wish them all the best for the 27<sup>th</sup> Outback Car Trek. Long may they continue.”

“We’ve made a good start, but the more we raise, the more we can donate to Australia’s most reputable charity. We would encourage everyone to go to our Web Page at [https://outbackcartrek2016.everydayhero.com/au/Car\\_1966](https://outbackcartrek2016.everydayhero.com/au/Car_1966) and give whatever they can afford. Every dollar helps,” said Barry.

“Keep an eye on our web page for the latest news on car 1966 and how we are progressing towards our target.”

- ENDS -

For more information: contact trekkers David Nutter on 0417 781 880 or Barry Pitcher on 0418 569 855

#### **ABOUT THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE**

The not-for-profit Royal Flying Doctor Service has been taking the finest care to the furthest corners of Australia since 1928. The service provides 24 hour emergency cover to 90% of the Australian continent, via a modern fleet of specially equipped aircraft. In the past year, the South Eastern Section conducted almost 5,000 clinics, took over 6,400 telehealth calls, had over 53,500 patient contacts and transported almost 8,500 patients.

