

Road Boss Rally and GIVIT preparing to take the long road for a good cause

Final planning is underway for this year's iconic Road Boss Rally when adventurers will head through outback NSW and Queensland bringing a financial boost and some fun to communities along the route.

RBR founder and organiser Jamie Lawson and GIVIT's NSW Drought Manager Scott Barrett will be in Cowra, West Wyalong, Merriwagga, Hillston, Mt Hope, Tilpa, Tibooburra, White Cliffs and Paddlesack this week.

Mr Lawson will be completing his final survey for the July rally route and coordinating logistics of fuel supplies, accommodation and catering with local suppliers, bringing a financial benefit to many towns feeling the effects of the ongoing drought. **Mr Barrett will meet charity and community group representatives this week to spread the word of GIVIT and offer them support to help meet the needs of drought-affected residents.**

This year's Road Boss Rally, a fun and adventurous motoring event raising funds for online not for profit GIVIT, will depart Cowra on July 9 before overnight stops through NSW's Mt Hope, White Cliffs, Packsaddle and Tibooburra, then cross the border to Queensland's Noccundra, Thargomindah, Noorama, Nindigully, Kingaroy and the finish line at Caloundra on July 18.

Residents of towns and communities along the way are invited to take part in the fun and frivolity of the rally, including entertainment on rally nights and view the colourful vehicles. During the July rally, GIVIT and the RBR will deliver essential donations to communities.

Around 150 adventure seekers in 70 rally cars and support vehicles will hit backroads and 3,000km or rugged bush tracks between Cowra and the Sunshine Coast. Dubbed "the Road Boss" for fearlessly taking participants where most rally organisers wouldn't dare venture, Mr Lawson, who is based in Alice Springs, said July's 10-day odyssey would travel across thousands of kilometres of remote outback tracks via the heritage-listed Burke and Wills Dig Tree on the South Australian and Queensland border.

Rally entrants from all across Australia and even the UK and US will enjoy some amazing adventures led by Mr Lawson whose family have organised iconic Australian motoring events for 32 years. Events organised by Jamie and his father Allan have raised an estimated \$20 million for charities over three decades.

Last year's rally from Brisbane to Booligal raised \$250,275 for GIVIT.

“It’s not just the tens of thousands of dollars that the rally participants spend along the way in some remote towns but the fact we’ve teamed with GIVIT to find out exactly what’s needed in the communities we visit. Rally entrants and GIVIT will help these communities get what they need,” Mr Lawson said.

Mr Barrett has travelled extensively across NSW’s drought-affected regions to establish the real needs of residents. He said GIVIT was working with hundreds of local charities, schools and community services across regional NSW to support rural communities with the items they need while purchasing locally whenever possible.

“The range of requests during the drought has been huge and it shows that different communities have different needs,” he said. “GIVIT has been asked to provide school shoes and uniforms, air cons and fridges, work boots and dog feed; there’s no standard need, and that’s one of the great things about GIVIT. We are providing the things people actually need. And we know that because it’s what they are asking for.

“GIVIT has delivered hope and positive change to so many communities still struggling with the harsh effects of the drought. The donations of these vital items have changed lives. I am excited to be joining the Road Boss Rally and supporting even more communities.”

GIVIT is determined whenever possible to buy needed items within the local community, providing assistance not only to individuals, but to the local traders also struggling in the drought.

Mr Lawson will spend this week finalising the rally route, gaining property owner approval and organising catering, often a vital fundraising avenue for local community groups.

The 2019 Road Boss Rally will depart Cowra, NSW, on Tuesday, July 9, with overnight stops in Mt Hope, White Cliffs (July 10), Packsaddle (July 11), Tibooburra (July 12), Noccundra (July 13), Thargomindah (July 14), Noorama (July 15), Nindigully (July 16), Kingaroy (July 17) and Caloundra (July 18).

Keep up with rally progress at roadbossrally.com.au and GIVIT givit.org.au

For more information, or to arrange an interview with Jamie Lawson or Scott Barrett, contact media@givit.org.au / 0444 503 759

About GIVIT

GIVIT is a national online not-for-profit connecting those who need with those willing to give. Through its website givit.org.au, trusted Australian charities are supported as they request essential, quality items on behalf of their clients. GIVIT matches their needs with public and corporate generosity, facilitating quality goods to reach our most vulnerable, impoverished and marginalised individuals in a safe, easy and timely manner. Since establishment in 2009, more than 1,200,000 items have been donated via GIVIT to assist Australians in need. In 2011 GIVIT established its disaster recovery service following the Queensland floods and managed the donation of more than 18,000 items. Since then GIVIT has become the official partner of the Queensland Government managing offers of assistance after disasters on its behalf and has already distributed more than 207,000 items after 2019 Queensland flooding. GIVIT distributed more than 16,000 items to people in need after the 2018 Queensland fires and after 2017’s Tropical Cyclone Debbie, coordinated the donation of 92,000 items. In 2015, GIVIT gained national attention with Founder and Director Juliette Wright receiving Australia’s Local Hero Award by the National Australia Day Council and inducted into the Australian Businesswomen’s Network Hall of Fame. In 2019, she was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM). GIVIT also received a National Resilient Australia Award by Australia’s Attorney-General for its disaster recovery service and The Australian National Innovation Challenge Award.