

Tri-State gathering for Easter 2019

Newsletter #3, 23rd January 2019

Planning for 'Return to ROTO' at Hillston, NSW over Easter 2019 is in its closing stages now. Registration and garment order forms have been sent out, eight trips (summary below) have been planned and will be double-checked over the Labour day weekend in March. In addition, alternate routes in the case of wet weather have been planned for some and will also be checked.

Catering planning is also well under way. **Anyone who has any kind of dietary requirement for health reasons MUST individually contact Alan Dash with details directly by eMail at alandash@bigpond.com giving him plenty of advance notice so that he has time to make appropriate arrangements. A less reliable means of contacting him is by 'phone to 0407 568 700 .**

Photographs showing the showgrounds, the town facilities and from ROTO 2001 are on public display on facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/Tri-State-Gathering-of-4WD-clubs-Easter-2019-2205609416361167/?view_public_for=2205609416361167. Alternatively, log in to your facebook account and search for 'Tri-State 2019' to bring up the page. You can make comments on there if you wish but since it is not intended as a communications medium for tri-state planning, you may not get a response from the planners.

The trips planned (in no particular order) are:

1> Self-Drive or wet-weather trip to Griffith on the bitumen arriving at Griffith Information centre. Visit Hermits cave, Pioneer Park Museum, Wineries, Lake Wyangan, and Art Gallery. Meet at designated time and return to Hillston. At least 220Km, 6 hours, easy.

2> Willandra National Park. Drive a loop through the park to the Willandra Shearing Shed and associated buildings, then to the Homestead, and explore the surrounds at your leisure. Inspect the remains of an old Stock bridge at the park's exit. At least 190km, 6 hours, easy. **NOTE: There is a fee payable per vehicle to enter NSW National Parks and dogs are not permitted entry.**

3>Cargelligo, Wallanthery. At the Wallanthery intersection view a Cobb & Co memorial. Drive to The River for a look and exit the river bank using a challenging option. Cross the bridge and view the site of the old bridge. Drop into Wallanthery Weir and Check out the bird life. Continue on towards Euabalong, viewing another Cobb & Co site on the way. Public toilets are available opposite the lunch spot at Euabalong. Visit the Cargelligo Weir and the Lake Cargelligo Railway site. At least 249Km, 7 hours, easy.

4>Merriwagga Hi Tea. Drive, or be driven to the Merriwagga Hotel for a delightful afternoon tea. Visit the Black Stump and Pioneer Women Memorials and see the community art work. Please bring you own expendable fine bone china tea cup and saucer acquired from an appropriate OP Shop. No dancing on the bar as it is the tallest in Australia. At least 79km, at least 3 hours, easy.

5>Merriwagga, Gunbar Church, Goolgowi. Pick up our Local Historian/Guide, Kel, who after pointing out some features of Merriwagga will guide us to points of interest related to the local legend of the Black Stump on our way to the Memorial Church at Gunbar. Our return journey is via Goolgowi where Kel will point out some highlights around the town before bidding us farewell at Merriwagga. At least 180km, at least 7 hours, easy.

6>Mt Hope, Coan Downs and Wagga Tank. Drive through Wallanthery on the Kidman way, pass the Great Central Copper mine and Mt Hope Cemetery. Stop at Mt Hope (Royal Hotel) and inspect Mt Hope Copper Mine ruins. On the Mt Hope Wagga Tank Rd reach Coan Downs. Here we have been given permission to enter the property and visit the historic Shearing Shed complex. Move on to look at the Wagga Tank which is still operational. Return via Roto. Depending on time we may be able to inspect the old Roto camp site and /or the railway ruins. 251Km, 7 hours, easy.

7>Roto Camp, Railway incident, Roto Lookout, Quarry Site, Roto Station. Visit the camp site of the Roto Tristate of 2001, the 2012 Railway derailment site and hear the story then travel to the lookout over Roto. Use **4WD** for part of this drive. From here to a quarry site on private property. Return via Roto Railway Station before visiting Roto Station, where we find a World War II site with links to Willandra Station and evidence of Chinese occupation in the area. At least 205km, 6 hours, easy.

8>Hillston **4WD** Hill. Drive approximately 84 Km on bitumen to a locally managed 4WD Buggy Racing area and drive some of the tracks. This will include ascents and descents on the hilly tracks at the back of the property. All vehicles must remain in convoy while on this property. Return to Hillston Approximately 67 Km on dirt roads. Distance, time and difficulty TBA