

AMSAG CAR RALLY SATURDAY 28/10/2017

For all emergencies, call VK2BOR (control) on 2m.

How To Get To the Meeting Point By 1230 hrs

From Wauchope, Take Bago Rd to first, small roundabout at end of Bago Road, turn right into Ron Banks Rd, the service road to Herons Ck, past where the old school was. Meeting point is at the end of the service road with railway line overpass on the right, straight ahead of the 'T' intersection is a large tarred bus turning area, meet on the bus turning area.

From Port, drive South on Pacific Hwy to Bago Rd turnoff and proceed as above. There is no right turn off Pacific Hwy into Herons Ck anymore.

From South of Herons Ck, turn left into Herons Ck off the Pacific Hwy.

The only access to the Pacific Hwy, from Herons Ck, is via the service road to Bago Rd or, Herons Ck Rd the service road to Kew.

Race organisers are not providing an escort to checkpoints, so take your map to find Start, Finish & MRC8. I will guide to MRC4 & MRC5 if necessary. Checkpoints will all have a barrier set up so should be relatively easy to find, yeah right.

Kew Hotel crew go the usual way and collect fish & chips on the way.

Radio Use

Net Control will be called "VK2BOR" and will be situated at Rally Start. Everyone else will use the checkpoint they are located at, as their call, e.g. "VK2BOR - MRC7", is MRC7 calling Control. Keep it brief and to the point, someone else may be waiting to report an emergency. VK2BOR can make any ACMA required ID announcements. If we use our location and not our calls to identify ourselves, control will know immediately where you are.

We (ORARC) will Use the club 2m repeater at Middle Brother, 146.700MHz, -600, 91.5, for the race comms emergency and message frequency with a backup on 52.525MHz, the 6m freq will be between MRC6, Start & Kew Hotel, monitor 6m if you have it. MRC6 has been designated a rally SOS point and public viewing area by rally organisers.

VK2ZHE & VK2ATM will be at Kew Hotel with the ORARC van, a quiet place will be needed to get away from the noise of cars and spectators. VK2FSTU & VK2SJJ will be at rally HQ at Blacksmiths Inn, Johns River and will use ORARCs 70cm 438.525MHz Middle Brother repeater, or UHF simplex if there are problems getting into the repeater. Henry ZHE & Steve SJJ might like to arrange an alternative UHF simplex freq suitable to you both.

Checkpoints

I have noticed road names can differ if you are looking at a topo map, online map or Google Earth. The rally organisers have used an aged topo map (copies emailed earlier). All checkpoints will have a barrier erected before we get to them, easy to find. Rally organisers have a detailed instruction sheet advising how to find all checkpoints, to be emailed later.

PLEASE REPORT INTO CONTROL ONCE SETUP AT YOUR CHECKPOINT FOR A COMMS TEST AND SO ORGANISERS KNOW THE POINT IS MANNED

Start - Old School Rd just off Cedar Creek Rd.

MRC4 - Junction of Old School Rd & Milligans Rd.

MRC5 - Junction of Link Rd & Dividing Ridge Rd.

MRC6 - Junction of Blackbutt Forest Rd, Blackbutt Rd & Milligans Rd.

MRC7 - Junction of Blackbutt Rd & Bulls Ground Rd.

MRC8 - Perrotts Rd near the old quarry.

Finish - Perrotts Rd just off the new Herons Creek Rd.

Exiting checkpoints

You will need your maps to exit the checkpoints, anyone near MRC6 will see Blackbutt Rd running off that checkpoint, a quick easy exit and the road is excellent. MRC4 & MRC5 should find the overhanging scrub on the way back to Start has been removed for them, by the rally cars.

The following are two separate collections-

On completion of the rally, for the day, wait for the sweep car to stop and collect the plastic box with CB radio, paperwork etc then you may leave the checkpoint.

If you have a tape barrier at your checkpoint, collect it and any other rally gear and stack it out of the way but visible where the rally cleanup crew will see it, for collection.

Be aware of the clean up car when exiting, it should be the last vehicle on the track.

What to bring

Insect repellent, sun screen, chair, hat, rain coats, clip board, pen/pencil, safe footwear, 2m radio, gazebo, any food and drink you may require for the afternoon.

Latest is we will be issued with rally HH UHF CBs.

Handheld reception, through the ORARC repeater, is a bit iffy at checkpoints MRC4, MRC5, MRC6 & MRC7 so it will pay to use in car mobile radios (10-50W) or try a HH through a magnetic mount antenna on car roof. I have allocated cars to checkpoints with mobile radios, just in case. Cutters for cutting cable ties to access barriers & from rally officials get spare cable ties if there are none in your plastic box.

Checkpoints and road closures

MRC4, MRC5, MRC6, MRC7 & MRC8 on map supplied are checkpoints and road closures, it will be up to us to control the road closures, there are also radio relays at the START & FINISH, with a radio station at the KEW HOTEL car park where there will be a remote refuel station for rally cars, officials will collect crews road card details which will be sent by ZHE & ATM, via 70cm, to VK2SJJ & VK2FSTU at BLACKSMITHS INN, Johns River (rally HQ). For those at checkpoints, record the time passed your location, against the car number, on the sheet provided in the plastic box.

It is a criminal offence for anyone to breach, remove or damage the barriers, you are within the law to warn anyone doing so that they are breaking the law, if need be attempt to convince users of the danger, radio details on 2m to VK2BOR, if ignored, and public are on race track, advise whether public are on foot, motorcycle or type of vehicle.

Any accidents/incidents to be reported to VK2BOR ASAP so rally organisers can take appropriate action.

Rally organisers will be providing road control officials at both Start and Finish.

General

The first 10 cars may not be in any particular number order, they are selected by ballot. It will be necessary to see the number on the car as it passes your checkpoint, for recording the time it passes, against the car's number on the vehicle tracking sheet. Do not record the position of the car e.g. 3rd or 5th just the number on the car against the same number on the sheet.

The whole course has reasonable mobile phone access, except for a small portion of race track. All rally cars are fitted with UHF CB radios, rally organisers will be using commercial radios on UHF CB for the rally and Peter's (VK2MPK) UHF antenna.

From Start to MRC4 there is some low overhanging scrub that will damage car mounted antennas if hit at speed, if you choose to access your checkpoint this way go slowly.

Watch out for snakes, don't frighten them.

If your assistance is required, be careful and be aware of your surroundings.