



Forest Chatter

30 December 2008

2009 Quit Forest Rally 3-5 April, 2009 — Busselton & Nannup, Western Australia

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS



2009 will see the Forest Rally celebrating 25 years as a round of the Australian Rally Championship. The Forest Rally was first run in 1983, but the first 2 years it was a round of the WA Rally Championship only.

The origin of the Forest Rally was the Rally of the Forests run by the Renault Car Club. In the late 1970's and early 1980's the Renault Club was a strong rally club when Renault assembled cars in Australia and were a big supporter of rallying. The Rally of the Forests had a reputation as a 50/50 navigation / driving event and was one of the hardest events on the WA Rally Calendar. However, with Renault pulling out of Australia and rallying the club suffered and did not have the members to continue to run the rally.

In 1982, John Poyner approached the WA Car Club to see if we would continue running the rally with the help of himself and Andy Van Kann. After much discussion and an agreement to rename the event the Forest Rally (to allow a sponsors name to be added) we took on the challenge. John was confident that the event could become the WA round of the ARC in the near future.

The first event in 1983 was run in the Manjimup region with the Clerk of Course being Ken Hynes (Leigh's father). John Poyner arranged some assistance from a new WA weekend newspaper the Western Mail and the Western Mail Forest Rally was then up and running. The first winner was John Macara and David Hatley.

1984 was a repeat of 1983 and then in 1985 the Light Car Club chose to not apply for their Safari Rally to be a round of the ARC, so the WACC applied and was granted the rights. The ARC returned home to the WACC (the club ran the first ARC in WA in 1974).

Fons Berkhout took over as Clerk of Course and we were able to pick up extra sponsorship from Nissan WA and the event was renamed the Western Mail Nissan Forest Rally. The rally started from the Perth Entertainment Centre and the first Special Stage was up the famous Zig Zag's in Kalamunda. The rally then ran on the Jarrahdale railway stage before heading off to Manjimup for the rest of the stages. The first winner was Ross Dunkerton who had already won the WA round of the ARC in 1975, 77, 78 and 81. He then went on to win the Forest Rally again in 87 and 91, with a total of 7 wins.

In 1986 the club was contacted by the Narrogin Chamber of Commerce who was looking for a major event to be based in their town. We thought we were onto a good thing and moved the rally to Narrogin and ran down to Manjimup and back. The event was run there again in 1987 and it turned out they didn't have as much money as we thought they had, and we returned to Perth in 1988.

A look at the 1986 Entry List shows some interesting names. John Atkinson (car 4 and father of Chris who is competing in the WRC) was driving as were Ross Dunkerton (6), John Macara (11), Rob Herridge (12), Peter Flood (18) and Tolley Challis (36). A range of co-drivers were Coral Taylor (10), Greg Flood (13), Adrian Stafford (19), Russell Nelson (26), Craig Wimbridge (32) and Leigh Hynes (44) – yep, some of us have been around awhile.

In 1988 Ross Tapper took over as Clerk of Course and the rally started from the Perth Motor Show at the Burswood Dome. BP came on board as the naming rights sponsor and were with us until 1991. Stages were run up the Zig Zag again and then ran down to Manjimup with an overnight stop there and finished back at the Motor Show on Sunday afternoon.

In 1989 the rally was "shortened". Starting at the Raffles Hotel it went via Dwellingup and Harvey and the overnight stop was in Collie. Sunday was a run down to Grimwade and back to the finish in Collie. In 1990 we started a "Super Special Stage" around the Curtin University Car Park (before Rally Australia) and then headed off to Bunbury via Dwellingup, Harvey & Grimwade and came back to Perth on Sunday. 1991 was a similar event.

In 1992, BP withdraws as the major sponsor and we were able to bring Broughton Auctioneers on as the naming rights sponsors. The "Super Special" was moved to the Claremont Showgrounds and Saturday stages were around Mundaring for the first time. On Sunday it was once again down to Harvey and back. It was also the first year that Neal Bates and Possum Bourne were to compete in the Forest Rally. 1993 & 1994 were once again similar events to 1992.

1995 was the start of the Healthway sponsorship who continues to be the naming rights sponsor. In 1996 the rally started in Forest Place in the centre of the city for the first time and HQ moved out to The Vines Resort. The rally was then run completely in the Mundaring area. This format continued until 1999. It was then becoming very obvious that the Water Corporation didn't want rallying in the Mundaring region and the roads being used were too fast for an ARC. We then took the gamble to move the rally to the Nannup Plantations and the Rally HQ to the Geographe Bayview Resort in Busselton.

This has been proven to be a great success. In 2001 the first Busselton Toyota Super Stage was run and continues to be run each year. Over the years the event has had great support from our sponsors including Eventscorp & Busselton Toyota. Media sponsors in The West Australian (in 1996 they did a wrap around of the whole paper), Busselton-Dunsborough Times and HotFM. Our longest sponsor would be Finline Print who has just about been with us for all of the 25 years.

Many officials have come and gone over the years. Ross Tapper has been involved for every year, Terry Mann has done the commentary & MC each year and others like Barry Percival have been long term officials.

Over the 25 years there have only been 9 different winners. Neal Bates & Coral Taylor has won it 6 times as a team and the great Possum Bourne 5 times. The 2003 Forest Rally was the last event Possum was to compete in. A full list of Past Winners can be found on the websites, www.wacarclub.com.au and www.rally.com.au.

The journey over the last 25 years has been long and winding and at the same time with plenty of challenges but also many great times and a lot of fun. Lets hope that the rally will still be running in 25 years times, but hopefully there will be a new Clerk of Course, MC and Sweeper!!

2009 Quit Forest Rally Course is Set

The course for the 2009 Quit Forest Rally has now been set and awaiting approval from the authorities. The rally will be similar to other years as we use the same plantations each year. The major changes are to the Brockman and Helium Stages which have been changed to give the competitors variety in the roads and to give the spectators some variety.

The roads are maintained to a very high level and drivers will find them very easy to drive on with minimal tyre wear and vehicle damage. Although we are now in the middle of the holiday season, keep in mind the rally is now just over 14 weeks away.

The stage changes are:

Heat One		
Busselton Toyota SS (2)	2.16kms	Same as 2008
Kinky (2)	12.60kms	Same as 2008
Ferndale (2)	24.40kms	Same as 2008
Healthway (1)	10.67kms	Same as 2008
Ellis (1)	14.29kms	Same as 2008
Nannup Oval (2)	0.85kms	Same as 2008
Total	104.98kms	

Heat Two		
Busselton Toyota SS (2)	2.16kms	Same as 2008
Brockman (2)	19.12kms	New Stage
Folly (2)	8.87kms	Same as 2008
Healthway Loop (2)	10.88kms	Slightly Longer
Ellis (1)	14.29kms	Same as 2008
Helium (1)	15.73kms	New stage
Total	112.08kms	

Thank You Frank & Ann

With the immanent arrival of their first grandchild and the desire to reduce the amount of time they spend on rallies, Frank & Ann Skipworth are cutting back on their involvement in the Quit Forest Rally.

Frank has been the Deputy Clerk of Course and Ann has been the Event Secretary and Officials Coordinator. Along with their children Samantha (and son-in-law Duncan) and Adrian and parents Kees and Sue they have put a lot of work into making the rally a success.

They won't be lost completely to the rally with Frank continuing on in Rally Base with Wendy Walker and Ann will help train her replacements.

Since the rally moved to Busselton & Nannup they and their families have been committed to help get the rally established in the area. Hopefully they can now relax and be able to enjoy the rally a lot more in the years to come.

SITUATION VACANT

OFFICIALS COORDINATOR

With the retirement of Ann Skipworth we are looking for a new Officials Coordinator. Ann will be available to train her replacement and will continue to maintain the RallyWA database.

The Officials Coordinator needs to liaise with the Team Leaders like Stage Commanders, Spectator Marshal, Regroups, Scrutiny etc and keep tabs of who is on their team. Where possible direct officials registrations to each of the teams.

They will also receive all the Officials Registration forms and notify all the officials of their teams, pick up locations and times. They would also need to ring officials to ask them if they can help, this is very particular for Road Closures.

It is a busy job for the weeks leading up to the rally but can be done After Hours. All phone and fuel costs are covered by the rally. If you are interested please call Ross on 0418 950022 or email rosstapper@bigpond.com.

CONGRATULATIONS Dr Rik

Long time Chief Medical Officer for the Quit Forest Rally, Dr Rik Hagen, has been appointed Chairman of the CAMS National Medical Committee.



Dr Rik has also been involved with Rally Australia, the F1 Grand Prix, Australian Safari and many local rallies. Over the years a number of competitors can thank him for their welfare as he managed to get them from remote parts of the bush in crumpled rally cars and into hospitals.

The even better news he will continue to be part of the Forest Rally team and along with the MSR FIV Team all competitors and officials can be guaranteed we will have the best medical crew out on the rally

Busselton Motorfest

On Sunday November 30th our local competitors put on a display of rally cars at the Busselton Motorfest. The Motorfest attracts over 260 cars on display and anyone who has any interest in cars came along to have a look. The rally display was just inside the Entry/Exit so attracted plenty of interest.

Thanks to Matt Snaddon, Tom Wilde and Leigh Hynes



2009 Calendar

The proposed rally dates for both the ARC and the WARC are below, some date are still to be confirmed.

2009 Australian Rally Championship Calendar

Rd 1	13-15 February	Rally Tasmania
Rd 2	7-8 March	Rally of Canberra
Rd 3	3-5 April	Quit Forest Rally
Rd 4	9-10 May	Rally Queensland
Rd 5	4-5 July	NSW
Rd 6	1-2 August	Sprint Auto Parts Rally SA
	3-6 September	Repeco Rally Australia
Rd 7	17-18 October	Victoria

2009 WA Rally Calendar

Rd 1	3-5 April	Quit Forest Rally (WARC/WACS)
Rd 2	2 May	Lewana Stages (WARC/WACS)
Rd 3	6 June	Experts Cup (WARC/WACS)
	1-8 August	Australasian Safari
	20-23 August	Quit Targa West
Rd 4	19 September	Donnelly River (WARC/WACS)
Rd 5	17 October	Safari Rally (WARC/WACS)
	14 November	Darling 200 (WACS)

Interstate Truck Transporting

As every Western Australian knows, it is a long way from here to anywhere. Each year out interstate competitors need to work out how to get their rally car, sometime their recce car and their crew from home to Busselton and back.

Not only is there the cost of travel but quite often just as important is the time off work.

This year we are doing our best to organise a car transporter to take the cars from Melbourne & Adelaide direct to Busselton and return. To make this viable we need 7 or 8 cars to make the trip. SO far we have had 4 crews to say they are interested and possibly a truck to make the trip over.

We will continue to work to make this happen. We would appreciate all interstate crews who may be interested in making this happen to let us know and to coerce other crews into doing the same.

It will be a lot easier to convince a transporter to come over if we can tell them we have 8 cars ready to go.

Please contact Ross on 0418 950022 or rosstapper@bigpond.com to register your interest.

Be Part of the 2009 Quit Forest Rally

If you would like to know more on how you can be part of the 2009 Quit Forest Rally either as a competitor an official or a supporter please call Ross on 0418 950022 or email rosstapper@bigpond.com.

Nannup Accommodation and the Great Escapade Bike Ride

On the Friday of the Quit Forest Rally, 3 April, around 3,000 bike riders and their entourage will be in Nannup. This is part of the Great Escapade Bike Ride that will be travelling from through the south west during the week.

It starts in Margaret River on Saturday 28 March and then goes via Busselton, Donnybrook, Bridgetown, Manjimup, Pemberton, Nannup and finishing back in Margaret River.

We encourage all our officials who would normally stay in Nannup on the Friday evening to BOOK NOW. The organisers of the Bike Ride have generously allowed the rally officials to have first go at booking accommodation.

The bike riders will be camping on the Nannup Oval but after 6 days of riding and camping it is almost guaranteed that many of them will be looking for a bed to stay in.

For assistance with an accommodation booking in Nannup call the Nannup Visitor Centre on 9756 1211 or go to www.nannupwa.com

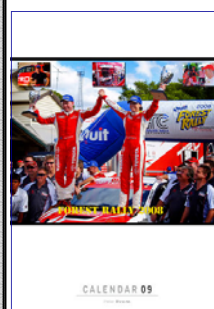


Now is the time of the year to have some time off to enjoy it with family and friends.

The organising committee of the Quit Forest Rally and the WA Car Club wish all our officials, competitors, supporters and sponsors a happy and prosperous new year and we look forward to catching up with everyone in April.

Please drive carefully over the holiday period. As motor sport enthusiasts it would be great to think we are setting an example on how to drive.

2009 Calendar



Enthusiastic rally photographer, Peter Evans has gone one step further and produced his own Calendar with photos from the 2008 Quit Forest Rally.

It is very professionally done with the quality equal to any calendar purchased in a shop. It can be purchased on the red bubble website for \$30.00:

www.redbubble.com/people/hawk23/calendars/everything/tags/australia

The months are:

Front Cover	Neal & Coral on Podium
January	Eli Evans and Chris Murphy
February	Michael Guest & David Green
March	David Thomas and Lee Tierney
April	Neal Bates & Coral Taylor
May	Glen & Matt Raymond
June	Helium Stage—Scenic View
July	Graeme Miles in mirror
August	Julian Wright & Jeff Huggins
September	Geoff Leatt-Hayter and John White
October	Justin Dowell & Matt Lee
November	Alex Stone & Dianne Madlener
December	Michael Guest & David Green