

2022 Tour of the 1984 George Derrick Memorial Trial

Geoff Byron

Before the 2019 Mallee Tour of the 1981 George Derrick Memorial Trial had concluded, a rough plan was hatched for the next tour of a Ross Runnalls epic car trial. This one would go to the opposite end of the state and pick up the route of one of Ross' three Victorian high country / Gippsland trials.

The 1984 George Derrick route was selected, due to the roads, the views, the diversity of the country visited, (did we mention the roads) plus some of the organisers having issues left unresolved from 1984!

This event visited all South Gippsland, East Gippsland and SE NSW.

The Tour will run on the Melbourne Cup weekend, from Saturday 29 October to Monday 31 October. There will be none of this 1980's start at midnight business, we will be running respectable daylight hours, with evenings devoted to social activities.

The route will closely follow the 1984 original and will look a lot like this:

Day	Route
Sat	Following a Traralgon start it's straight into some sandy plantation country to the SE followed by back road touring taking us further east. Then we enjoy a couple of nice mountain sections of over 100km between Bruthen and Orbost. <i>Overnight in either Orbost or Marlo (Marlo Hotel for dinner)</i>
Sun	The 1984 Div 2 was an all-daylight blast, on some then rarely used roads, that have since featured in Alpines. We run between Cabbage Tree Creek, to Bemm River then Cann River. Our day two, will follow all of that, then proceed, partially into the 1984 Div 3: up Buldah Gap Rd, over the NSW border into the start of the magnificent Bondi plantation roads. <i>Overnight Bombala (Imperial Hotel Bombala for dinner)</i>
Mon	A slightly shorter day that concludes the Bondi plantation roads then transports through Delegate back into Victoria. Then follows 100km of 1984 competitive across the Errinundra Plateau with views that were not available at 3am, 38 years ago. Some may decide to head home from Orbost or join the survivors at Marlo for, yes you guessed it, dinner, and socialising. <i>Overnight in either Orbost or Marlo (Marlo Hotel for dinner)</i>
Total	

Once again this is a non-competitive tour on open roads involving other road users but none-the-less fun to drive on in a safe, sensible manner. This is a long event (1105 km) so you and your chosen vehicle will need to be capable of maintaining solid pace on gravel-based mountain roads.

We must clearly distinguish ourselves from the competitive car rallies that run in these areas. Therefore, the organisers reserve the right to refuse entry, to obvious rally cars carrying significant sign writing, or those with high-end competition exhausts and driveability.

The overnight stops have been selected as they offer the greatest opportunity for accommodation, however, beds are not abundant. Therefore, if you wish to secure your accommodation you should contact Tom Kaitler ASAP, who can provide you the accommodation options.

Tom's contact details: Mob: 0427 513 084. Email: tom@gasflues.com.au

Further details will follow soon: Your organising team: Tom Kaitler, Robert Wilson, Gary Grealy, Geoff Byron with our guiding influencer ... Ross Runnalls.