

The Apex 40 RV & Others western Queensland Road Trip

The following are the details for another of Mark & Rosemary Tramby's, Tag Along Tours. Note the description "Tag Along" is used but it's far from a rigid itinerary, which often have exact departure times & arrival times, along with regulated stops. Flexibility is the key with these trips, depart when you wish, arrive when you want, stop along the way where you please. It is very important to note that this trip is not to be seen as a replacement for the annual Rort (which is cruising in 2026) but an addition to the Rort as another activity for the group to enjoy. This trip is fully sanctioned by National Board and you are covered under the Apex 40 Insurance scheme for this event. All Apex 40 members are welcome to attend, even ones that don't have an RV, but you **MUST** be a financial member to attend, if you aren't either update your membership or join at www.apex40.com

You are also welcome to join the trip, or leave the trip at any point, you just need to let me know by email at mtramby@gmail.com

Those without an RV are free to enjoy the same trip with cabin or pub room options at every stay along the way, it is believed National President Vic Ashby is one of those coming along to join us in cabin accommodation.

The meeting point, will be Lake Coolmunda Caravan Park (near Inglewood) on Tuesday the 19th of May. The trip in total is 12 days, 11 nights in length.

Group bookings are held at every caravan park but **NOT** at the Nindigully Pub, which will be a free camp for all the RV owners (just turn up) & line up like little soldiers as we won't be the only vans there. No need to put the awnings out, it is only one night. Pub room accommodation for everyone else, you'll need to book a room (or stay at the next spot which is St George and drive out for dinner that night at the pub and return afterwards back to St George, more on that in the Itinerary).

All travel days are under 300kms (or a lot less), we personally find this to be the optimum number to do things easily. The idea is to leave at a reasonable time each morning, take your time getting there, set up, have an afternoon nap and be good to go for happy hour around 4.00pm-5.00pm, there are no prizes for being first at the next park.

There will be a number of activities along the way (mentioned in the Itinerary), and we might add some additional pub dinners if the demand is there but all are optional. There are a few group activities as well but the aim isn't to fill each

and every day with stuff to do which allows you to pace yourself exactly as suits you.

Those travelling by car only will need either a car fridge, or an esky to carry your cold storage food & drinks along each day. Ice will be available at every stay along the way, including the pub stay. Although there are supermarkets at, or nearby, every place we stay, so you probably only need to cover off milk, cereal etc and then just buy whatever at each place based on what you are doing and then put that in the fridge in your cabin.

Important

I have “group” bookings held everywhere for power / water sites(20 spots held) and 3 cabins, if you prefer a non-powered site just ask when you call to book, these are of course a cheaper option, **BUT regardless you MUST MENTION** when you call that you are part of the Apex 40 group for these dates, that will ensure we are all together at each place, if you fail to do this you could be anywhere in the park so I ask this so we can be in one spot. These group bookings will only be held until the end of February, so that is the last date to book to ensure you get a spot and be in the same area as everyone else. If you book after this date there are no guarantees of getting you in, nor are you likely to be with the group, and a reminder it’s **UP TO YOU TO DO YOUR OWN BOOKINGS**. The cabins are for singles, couples, if anyone is prepared to share it would be cheaper, but I’ll leave that to you to organise.

I have listed most night time dinners as “camp kitchen dinner”. These can be a mix of BBQ’s, bring your own “bowl dinner” (Spag Bol for example), just bring down a few nibbles if you are light eater or order in some take away, so not every night has to be a BBQ, note it is not a requirement to join in for dinner each night. If you just want an easy night in your RV / Cabin that’s perfectly fine as well. We have a few group dinners as well but if everyone wishes we can add more of these in as we go along, Roma and Dalby might be good spots for these, again these are optional but we hope everyone does the group activities.

Rosemary and I will bring along some games, cards, music for us all to have fun as we travel along, and we might do a trivia night or two. But these may or may not come out (or happen) and only will if the mood is right. It should be a heap of fun for everyone and we do hope you can join us on what looks like will be an annual trip to the Rort OR trip like this if another cruise is chosen down the track.

We do hope you can join us though in 2026.

Mark

Itinerary

Day 1 Tuesday 19th May, Lake Coolmunda (near Inglewood 2 ½ hours west of Brisbane)

Lake Coolmunda Caravan Park

Cunningham Highway

Coolmunda (near Inglewood)

Phone – (07) 4652 4171 or

lakecoomunda@yahoo.com.au

Rates- P/W sites \$40 per night Cabins \$165 per night (these were the rates for 2025, still waiting on advice as to 2026 costs).

Check in from midday (sites) or 2.00pm (cabins), note these times are common for every stay along the way.

Happy hour will commence at the camp kitchen from around 4.00pm. There will be an open fire and you may like to consider a BYO BBQ night tonight to kick things off for the trip, a BBQ is supplied.

Day 2 Wednesday 20th May, Lake Coolmunda

Today is a free day to relax and enjoy each other's company. However, there is a little to see in the area so we will have a run through the previous night of the options to consider. Lunch at the nearby Inglewood Hotel is worth a look as the food is pretty good and inexpensive.

Pizza Night

This caravan park has a big wood fired Pizza oven, so tonight, after our happy hour, bring your own makings for a Pizza dinner, if you don't have anything there's a good IGA at Inglewood which is only a short drive away. If you don't eat Pizza bring along whatever else you wish.

Happy hour at the usual time tonight, followed by the Pizza dinner.

Day 3 Thursday 21st May Lake Coolmunda -Nindigully Pub 275kms

Head out the Cunningham Highway towards Goondiwindi (a good place to refuel as the prices there are always reasonable) before heading on to the Gully Pub (which is quite a famous spot for its "Road Train Burgers").

The RV's will park either opposite the Pub or a little further down towards the creek where the toilet facilities (no showers) are available. This is a completely free camp with no power or water so your RV has to be able to manage 1 night without power.

There are no cabins here but the Pub does have basic rooms, **I do NOT have a group booking** on these so that's first in best dressed when you ring or email the pub, and don't bother to mention Apex 40 as they will not know what you are talking about.

Dress up Night

Tonight is "Hawaiian" night, almost everyone has a Hawaiian shirt (or flowery shirt) if not they are as cheap as chips at Lowes, so tonight we dress up for our Pub Dinner night in Hawaiian shirts , and or Lei's (you can usually pick those up for next to nothing at the cheap shops) , you don't have to do this but it is a bit of fun!

Nindigully Hotel

Nindigully

0461 539 896 for room bookings)

nindigullypub@outlook.com

Alternative to free camping or pub rooms

If you can't manage an overnight unpowered in your RV, or you would prefer more comfortable accommodation than a pub room, our St George Caravan park is just 50kms further on so the option would be to call them and ask to book you in for a night early and then drive back to the Gully Pub for the group Dinner that night returning to St George afterwards. I would warn you however that driving at night in the country can come with dangers (Kangaroos's etc) so I do feel it's better to stay if you can.

Dinner tonight will be an the Nindigully Pub, perhaps checkout the "Roadtrain Burger" on Google, not sure if you can fit that in but you might like to have a crack. You can check out their very extensive menu at

www.nindigullypub.com.au

They also do breakfast the following morning, so those travelling by car basically won't need anything for this night's stay and you'll be able to get ice there to keep your other items cold.

Day 4, Friday the 22nd May, Nindigully -St George 50kms

Maybe a sleep in this morning, or a trip into town (St George) for morning tea / lunch in the main street before checking in to our caravan park. Remember its only 50Kms so no point being in St George at 9.00am when check in is 12.00pm / 2.00pm.

Pelican Rest Caravan Park

12022 Carnarvon Highway

St George

(07) 46253398

info@pelicanrest.com.au

Rates for the 2026 season are yet to be set, this is another GDay Park so those with membership will get 10% discount, rates for 2025 were \$50 per night PW, with cabins starting from \$165, when you call to book, they will book you in but the rates are not going to be set until March, they will advise you at that time.

Happy Hour at the camp kitchen from 4.00pm otherwise a free day.

Day 5, Saturday 23rd May, St George

For those interested in joining Alan & Mary Bach, the St George Park Run is on this morning at 7.00am, you can walk the 5km if you prefer.

As a special treat I have organised for the group to visit, and have lunch at,

Riversands Winery

66 Whytes Road

St George 4487

We will meet at the winery at 11.00am, first up will be a wine tasting and you can of course buy whatever you like but I must strongly suggest you try, and buy, the F..King good Port. Honestly its fabulous as is their Muscat. They do have Reds and Whites, just taste and see how you go they aren't bad (nor great) but it's nice to support an outback business so spend up!! The lunch is fairly extensive, you can check out the menu on their website

www.riversandswines.com

Happy hour and BYO BBQ dinner tonight at the camp kitchen.

Day 6, Sunday 24th May St George-Roma 196kms

We turn north today heading up to one of the largest agricultural centres in Queensland, Roma.

Big Rig Tourist Park

4 McDowell Street

Roma

(07)46222538

info@bigrig.net.au

Rates-P/W sites \$54 per night, cabins for 2, \$165 per night

Note this is a “Gday Park” so if you are a member quote your number when booking for a 10% discount.

Happy hour and BBQ dinner at the camp kitchen tonight.

Day 7, Monday 25th May, Roma

Today is a free day although this park is opposite the “Big Rig” tourist site which is worth a visit whilst here, and a trip out to the largest saleyards in Queensland is well worth the time (there’s a great interpretive centre you can visit). I am going to try and see if we can get a guided tour of the saleyards, these do happen but only on Tuesdays, so that is “work in progress”.

Happy hour and “bowl food” (meaning anything you like, but not needing a table to eat at) dinner in the camp kitchen

Day 8, Tuesday 26th May Roma-Dalby 268kms

We head back east today to another large agricultural town, although now also known as a coal mining centre and these days a very, very busy little town.

Dalby Tourist Park

32 Myall Street

Dalby 4405

(07) 4662 4793

admin@dalbytouristpark.com.au

Rates- P/W sites \$40 per night, cabins for 2 \$165 per night

Happy hour and BBQ dinner in the camp kitchen

Day 9, Wednesday 27th May Dalby

Jondaryan Woolshed Visit (with shearing demonstration) morning tea and damper provided, cost will be \$20 a head (seniors pricing).

The woolshed is 44kms from Dalby on the Toowoomba Road, we need to be there at 10am for morning tea.

Happy hour & BBQ or bowl food dinner at the camp kitchen.

Day 10, Thursday 28th May, Dalby - Esk (via Toowoomba bypass) 146Kms

Esk Caravan Park

16 Hassell Street

Esk

(07) 54241466

info@eskcaravanpark.com.au

Rates P/W sites are \$69 per night , cabins from \$189 per night

Well, I have left the best (park) until last. This place is amazing, heated swimming pool, the most fabulous camp kitchen and just beautiful grounds, you are going to LOVE it!!

Walking distance (literally 150 metres) to a fantastic IGA and 200 metres to the main street, this caravan park is the ducks nuts!!

Day 11, Friday 29th May, Esk (Somerset Dam morning tea)

Pack your own morning tea as we drive out for a look at Somerset Dam (about a 20km drive each way), I will give everyone instructions on how to get there the night before, or use your GPS, we are going to “The Spit Lake Somerset”.

This evening, we have our farewell group dinner at the fabulous Grand Hotel (choose from an extensive menu), you can check out the menu on www.grandhotelesk.com the steaks are fantastic, as are the Pizzas but there's lots to choose from. We will head down to the pub (it's a 500 metre walk from the park) for 5.00pm drinks and dinner from 6.00pm. It's also a great opportunity to say farewell to everyone as tomorrow is departure day.

Day 12, Saturday 30th May

You can join Alan & Mary Bach at 7.00am for the Old Esk Railway Station Parkrun (or you can walk instead) and still manage a 10.00am check out from the park.

This will be our final stay so say your farewells either the night before or in the morning before you leave.

Costs (accommodation only & approximate)

RV owners per couple or single \$500

Cabins stay for a couple or single \$1700

Other costs (other than food and approximate)

Tour and 2 pub dinners couple \$240 Single \$120

Plus of course your fuel costs which I have not listed as these will vary from setup to setup.

G'Day Parks membership

This is worth exploring if not a member as two of the parks we stay at are affiliated with them and will offer a 10% discount on your stay, and especially those in cabins will more than cover the cost of joining, its \$45 for a seniors membership, you can join at www.gdayparks.com.au

Our RV owners may be members already, if not you wouldn't cover the cost of membership if you had to join just for this trip.

In conclusion

Rosemary and I hope you join our little 2026 adventure and hope to see you in 2027 on the way to wherever the Rort is going to be held, after that we will see where the Rorts are going to be held as to if we do this again.