



Roustabouts RV Club Inc.

Guidelines

Tagalongs

Long Paddock Drives

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What is a

Roustabout: A Roustabout is someone who works with the stock on an outback station. On Trips the Roustabouts are the drivers and passengers, vehicles and rigs form the 'mob' or the 'herd'.

Long Paddock Drive (LPD): In Australia, the term 'Long Paddock Drive' means moving a herd along a stock route or road. Our Club Trips move a group of rigs along many kilometres on outback roads. A Long Paddock Drive (LPD) travels to remote areas of our country for extended periods (normally six to twelve weeks). The Club believes the security and safety of Roustabouts, especially those on their first trip, is paramount. The emphasis is on providing a supportive approach to the travellers, many of whom may be inexperienced travellers. A Long Paddock Drive could be all bitumen, part bitumen / part off road or all off road.

Mystery Tagalong (MT): A Mystery Tagalong is a trip, normally of 7 to 20 days duration organised around the idea, that Roustabouts do not know where they are going or what events they will participate in, from one day to another. Support crew only advise the next location at a briefing prior to the day's travel. Prior to the event, club members are appraised of approximate costs.

Tagalong: A Tagalong is a group of people attending a country event or just doing a journey from one advertised location to another. The management committee and/or members organise the itinerary and other members are invited to attend. Support from a support crew may or may not be required on Tagalongs

Overview

These events support the Club Motto:-

- ✓ *On the country* - signifies we are on the ground living in our community
- ✓ *In the country* - we are immersed in country life and culture
- ✓ *For our Country* - we enjoy contributing and supporting our country and outback communities

Roustabout RV Club Long Paddock Drives, Mystery Tagalongs and Tagalongs (referred to in these Guidelines as 'Trips') encompass planned itineraries, pre-booked negotiated discounted accommodation, events and tours and a Support Team to assist Roustabouts as well as manage the administrative and operational requirements on a daily basis.

The Club organises and manages Long Paddock Drives in keeping with the outback station theme. Mystery Tagalongs and Tagalongs are designed as short-term journeys, travelling to the country, visiting rural and outback communities.

SECTION 1: Event Development

The Club LPD Coordinator develops, organises and manages the itinerary, accommodation, tours, reservations, attendee deposits, marketing, merchandising and competitions. The trips Support Team assist this activity.

Planning Timeframes - Long Paddock Drive

24 months (approx.) prior to LPD

1. Itinerary is prepared with indicative pricing, route and events
2. Brochure is prepared and advertised on the website
3. Expressions of interest are called for

18 months (approx.) prior to LPD

1. Ascertain the number of support crew needed to do LPD from expressions of interest received
2. LPD Coordinator calls for support crew volunteers

14 months (approx.) prior to LPD

1. Support crew number determines how many can attend the trip and/or whether the trip needs duplication
2. Formal attendance number for the trip is advertised to membership
3. Formal registrations sought with 'Non-Refundable Booking Fee' and 'Rig Fee' payment (Payment 1) by the determined date

12 months (approx.) prior to LPD

1. Registrations close with *Payment 1* Fees formalising attendance
2. Final negotiations on price, route and events occurs
3. Payment for the Accommodation (Payment 2), less the initial Non-Refundable Booking Fee is requested

9 months (approx.) prior to LPD

1. Accommodation payment (Payment 2) sent to trip organisations
2. Tours and Events payment is requested (Payment 3) from those attending trip

6 months (approx.) prior to LPD

1. Tours and Event payment (Payment 3) is sent to trip organisations
2. Meal payment (Payment 4) requested from attendees

3 Months (approx.) prior to LPD

1. Meal payment (Payment 4) is paid to trip organisations

Planning Timeframes - Mystery Tagalong and Tagalongs

Similar payment process with reduced timelines for payment.

1. Non-Refundable Booking Fee and Rig Fee is paid by those formalising attendance
2. Other payments maybe requested if organisations request early payment.

Support Team

Depending on the size of the trip, support crew numbers can range from three (3) to nine (9). If needed, support crew work in rotation during an extended trip.

The 'Boss Drover' looks after:

- a. The Roustabouts and deals with any issues that arise,
- b. Logistical and operational issues.
- c. Any issues with or alternatives to the itinerary,
- d. Travel briefings and their location, and
- e. Presentation of certificates of appreciation with the Head Stockman.

The 'Head Stockman' looks after:

- a. Long Paddock Drive/ Mystery Tagalong Registration Forms for the Roustabouts,
- b. Insurance documentation,
- c. Roustabout amendments and bookings for tours and events,
- d. Reconfirmation of Roustabout numbers, accommodation, tour and event pricing,

- e. Preparation of briefings in consultation with the Boss Drover,
- f. Presentations of certificates of appreciation with the Boss Drover, and
- g. Printing of event updates for distribution and updating of notice board daily.

'Stockman/Stockwoman' looks after:

- a. The management of the 'Drive Olympics' and determined charity donations,
- b. Free camping meal management, and
- c. General merchandising and additional souvenir shirts.

The 'First Aider'

- 1. Organises and manages medical appliances and first aid kits and supports members if needed.
- 2. Calls the RFDS if needed

The 'Ringer/s'

- 1. Is a general support person assisting the Drover and support crew with all activities on the trip.

Support Vehicles

At least one support team vehicle has a UHF radio, a high frequency (HF) radio, an EPIRB, defibrillator machine, oxygen therapy machine, RFDS approved first aid kit, blood pressure monitoring kit, communication with RRVC Office and onboard computer and printer support.

SECTION 2: Registration Protocol

Expression of Interest (EOI)

- Overall responsibility and approval of a trip rests with the Club Committee.
- Club members who attend musters and events will have Priority Placement on any trip.
- Depending on the numbers, the Support Team may plan an additional trip or start a waiting list.
- Indicative pricing will be advertised on initial itineraries.
- When formal registrations are received, negotiated prices based on registration numbers will occur and members advised of final prices.

Registration Form

Electronic 'Expression of Interest' Registration Forms are located at the bottom of each trip's information page on the website. These forms can be submitted until the applicable trip's first payment date.

Formal Registration and Payment Process

‘Non-Refundable Booking Fee’ and ‘Rig Fee’: Formal Registration

When Expressions of Interest are called for a particular trip, the advertised non-refundable booking and rig fee (*Payment 1*) needs to accompany the registration to confirm commitment.

The non-refundable booking fee will be applied against the subsequent accommodation payment (*Payment 2*) when requested. The rig fee will be absorbed in event organisation and administration.

Additional Event Payments

In addition to Payment 1, there will be 3 additional payments called during the year prior to the trip, these being:

1. Payment 2 Accommodation
2. Payment 3 Tours & Events
3. Payment 4 Meals

Mystery Tagalongs and Tagalongs follow the same deposit process but may vary due to the itinerary.

All Payments

The Club’s LPD Team in consultation with the Treasurer shall resolve whether:

- payments are to be made into the Club Branch Bank Account and disseminated to the various organisations by the Treasurer, or
- it is the Roustabout’s individual responsibility to make payments direct to the various organisations and provide a payment confirmation copy to the Club LPD Team nominee.
- Payments must be made by the advertised closing date.

Cancellation after Payment/s Paid

If a trip cancellation is requested after fees and payments have been made to organisations / suppliers:

1. The cancellation must be advised to the Long Paddock Drive Coordinator immediately.
2. It is the Roustabout’s personal and total responsibility to contact all organisations for a refund of payments,

The Long Paddock Drive Coordinator will:

- provide the member with each organisation’s contact details and send a message to the organisations advising cancellation and approval to pay any refunds directly into the member’s account, and
- not be responsible for any cancellation or administration fees levied by the organisations due to the cancellation or the failure of any organisation to provide a refund.

Non-refundable Booking and Rig Fees

- Requests for reservation cancellation will forfeit the non-refundable booking fee.
- The Rig Fee will also be forfeited as the money is used for operational and administrative costs associated with the event.
- Emergent situations, exempted with full refund provided

Emergent Situation – On Event

1. Circumstances must be advised to the Drover immediately.
2. You will be requested to provide your bank account details to the Head Stockman
3. The Head Stockman will contact all forward organisations, will provide them with your bank account details and seek a refund of money paid
4. The support crew will assist with your departure needs

SECTION 3: General Information

Trip Decisions

The Support Team unobtrusively support the Roustabouts and seek to ensure everyone's security and safety. For this reason, every person's situation/circumstances are taken into consideration. The Boss Drover will consider "what is best for all travellers" and the 'lowest common denominator' in deciding an outcome.

Roustabouts may discuss any trip issue/situation with the support team but the final decision rests with the Boss Drover.

Reasons behind decisions that involve a Roustabout's personal circumstances will not be disclosed to other Roustabouts, without the affected Roustabout's approval.

Mandatory Items

- On a Club Trip, all Roustabouts require a working UHF radio and flexible aerial.
- In gazetted remote locations, Roustabouts may be required to carry additional water and fuel on-board.
- A personal EPIRB and/or winch system, whilst not compulsory, is highly recommended.
- Bull bars are recommended to reduce the damage from impact with animals.

Name Badges

All members attending trips are required to wear name badges at Happy Hour and organised events.

Trip Rig Fee

The Club imposes a small non-refundable fee on all rigs when attending a trip. This fee goes towards cost recovery of Club organisational administration. On Long Paddock Drives and

tagalongs, the fee is \$1 each day of the formal itinerary, per rig. (e.g. 60-day Drive = \$60 per rig) Participants only attending a portion of the trip, pay the full rig fee, not a pro-rata rate. If attendance of the trip is cancelled by the member, the rig fee is forfeited as a cancellation fee.

Group Discount

Organisers endeavour to negotiate group discounts for the trips based on a minimum number of rigs/attendees. If this group number is not achieved or falls below the minimum during the trip, the promoted/advertised pricing could be affected. Past experience has shown Loyalty Cards are not accepted on trips due to bulk discounts being provided.

Pets

Most trips travel through National, State Parks and indigenous sensitive areas and in many areas, pets are not allowed to leave car parks. In view of this, pets are not allowed on any Long Paddock Drive, Mystery Tagalong or Tagalong organised by the Club.

Itinerary Map/Site References

The latest edition of Camps Australia (currently, Camps 9) is the main map used to determine distances, locations and stopover points on itineraries.

Long Paddock Drive Travel Mode

Two methods are available,

1. Independent travel
2. Group

Independent Travel

This is the preferred method of travel on all Long Paddock Drives although not always an available or a recommended option in government designated remote locations (e.g. Tanami Track, Diamantina Development and Bourke Development Roads)

The independent traveller shall provide the Drover with information on their travel if varied to the itinerary. If variation of travel causes the cancellation of pre-booked accommodation, the above-mentioned cancellation procedures will apply, and it shall be the individual traveller's responsibility to seek any refunds that may be applicable.

In remote areas, it is strongly recommended that independent travellers do not travel solo but invite other Roustabouts to join them and travel as a small group. Independent travellers must ensure their rig is well maintained (especially batteries and refrigerators) and prepare for and be responsible for their own security / safety whilst travelling. They require

- a. A working UHF radio with long range, flexible aerial
- b. Additional water and fuel on-board (as necessary)
- c. A personal EPIRB on-board. (strongly recommended in gazetted remote areas)

Group Travel Protocol

In gazetted remote locations or in areas where there is only a primary road and/or little sightseeing or tours, (E.g. Birdsville Development Road, the Burke Development Road, Australia's Longest Shortcut, Birdsville, Oodnadatta and Strzelecki Tracks etc.), it is highly recommended the support team utilises group travel techniques.

In general, after discussions with the Roustabouts, participants would be split into equal groups with a 'Leader' and 'Tail End Charlie' on each group. Roustabouts would join a group as they are ready to leave or in a designated group as planned in consultation with other Roustabouts. Each group would leave about 15 -30 minutes apart and each rig should allow approx. 30 seconds between each vehicle in the group.

Daily Briefing

Travel briefings are generally held the afternoon, prior to departing the site, usually at 5pm. It is important at least one Roustabout from each rig attends.

Trip Start Times

Independent Travel - Roustabouts on independent travel decide their departure time, ensuring arrival at the end of day location is by 4.00 pm. local time.

Group technique – unless otherwise decided at a briefing, group departures will be at varying times from about 8.00am. Each group should allow 15-30 minutes between group departure times. On departure each rig should allow a 30 second gap between vehicles. (30 second gap = approx. 500 metres)

Emergency Information

Information on the Trip Registration Form is provided to emergency services if you fail to arrive at the day's end location by the nominated time.

Daily Driving Distance

Trip distances are approximately 250 - 300 kms per day unless in remote locations requiring additional distance to get to the evening site. Roustabouts may discuss optional driving distances with the Drover and alterations to the planned schedule may occur.

Outback Drive Operating Speed

Roustabouts need to drive to road conditions at all times.

Planning of itinerary times and distances are based around an average travel speed of 90 kms.

Dirt Roads - in discussion with Roustabouts, dirt road speeds of approx. 60-70 kms or lower

Bitumen Roads - in discussion with Roustabouts, a higher speed to a maximum of 100 kms may be agreed.

Group travel - when leaving the location, minimal speed is recommended until 'Tail End Charlie' advises that all rigs in the group are "on the road". Always allow a 30 second gap (500 metres) between vehicles.

Breakdown

It is highly recommended that all participants have the highest roadside assistance cover available through RACQ (or other State's motoring bodies). In the event of a breakdown, the Support Team will discuss the issue/event with the Roustabout concerned.

It is the personal responsibility of the Roustabout whose rig has had a breakdown to remain with the rig, however, in discussion with the Support Team, if necessary, a Support Team member or another Roustabout may remain with the Roustabouts

Happy Hour

When stopped at a free camping site Happy Hour is normally around 4pm. When in a caravan park, Happy Hour is optional as many Roustabouts are touring or doing other activities.

The provision of food at Happy Hour is optional and there is no compulsion to provide any.

LPD/Tagalong Meals (Sizzles)

During organisation of the trip, sausage/hamburger/other sizzle type meals may be included when at free campsites. On average these may be once every 2 weeks or so.

Roustabouts will be asked to indicate on their registration, whether they wish to participate or not and will be asked to pay for these meals when trip payments are called.

The support crew will seek volunteers to purchase commodities along the route. Roustabouts can request additional "sizzle meals" during the trip.

These meals are full cost recovery from the Roustabouts on the trip.

Movie Nights

During the trip, movie nights may be organised by the support crew for viewing at free camping sites.

Trip Olympics

During the trip, games will be organised by the support crew for free campsites. These games will take the form of "Trip Olympic games" and prizes will be provided.

Participating in the games is purely optional.

Code of Conduct

This sets out the standards of behaviour expected of members when attending a Roustabouts RV Club event. In agreeing to be part of the event, each member must also agree to adhere to these codes at all times.

Members must:

- Treat all people associated with the Club, including members, volunteers, partners and external stakeholders, with respect.
- Consider the welfare of the Club and members at all times.
- Be honest at all times.

Unco-operative behaviour:

- A member who becomes unco-operative or unruly will be counselled by the Boss Drover (or his representative) in the first instance.
- If the in-appropriate behaviour continues the member will be instructed to leave the event immediately.
- Failure to co-operate may result in the Police being called to assist.
- If this occurs, further action via the RV Club Constitution may be undertaken.

Road Train Protocol

A Road Train is an articulated truck with multiple trailers attached and up to 54 metres (170 feet) long. When a road train is approaching, Roustabouts need to consider the most appropriate action to take.

In a group travel situation, the 'Leader' or 'Tail End Charlie' will advise the group and recommend the necessary action. The recommended action will be for vans to leave the road and stop until the road train has passed. The 'Leader' or 'Tail End Charlie' maintain contact with the Road Train Outback Driver to achieve a safe pass.

In an independent travel situation, the Roustabout should contact the Road Train Driver on Ch40 UHF and work with the driver to achieve safe passage by the road train. The recommended action is to leave the road and slow down (and if necessary, stop) until the road train has passed.

1. Extra care is required when sharing the road with road-trains.
2. Always give a Road Train plenty of room, as the buffeting from displaced air as you pass in opposite directions can be quite severe.
3. Buffeting will occur when a large vehicle or truck passes you and your caravan. You must be ready to adjust to the feeling of being pushed off the road as the vehicles passes.
4. Allow at least 1 kilometre (3000 feet) of clear road before overtaking a road train.
5. Dust from passing Road Trains, on outback roads, will obscure your vision so do not take risks, slow down or stop at the side of the road until it settles.
6. Monitor your rear-view mirror and if a Road Train is coming up behind you, contact the driver on UHF Ch 40 and work together to achieve safe passage by the Road Train.
7. Road Train Drivers and truck drivers in the outback are excellent and are happy to work with you. Road Train drivers can assist at breakdowns and accidents and have direct access to the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Highway Air Field

In outback Australia, main roads are used as runways for the Royal Flying Doctor Service and private plane emergency landings. These sections of road are well sign posted at each end of the runway and the road actually looks like an airport runway.

1. Never park or stop within the sign posted airfield area
2. Police vehicles or ambulance may or may not be present when a medical aircraft is approaching
3. Be aware aircraft may be attempting to land so maintain a visual search of the sky
4. If an aircraft is on the ground, STOP, do not travel further until directed by emergency personnel or the pilot.
5. Assist with turning the aircraft for take-off if requested by emergency personnel or pilot.

For More Information or Clarification

Please contact the Roustabout RV Club Inc.

- Phone Secretary on 0412 614 260, or
- Email: office@roustaboutsrvclub.com.au (Linked)