

BIRDSVILLE RACES ENTERTAINMENT

The Birdsville Races

Birdsville's busiest week of the year occurs in September. Visitors converge on this tiny outback town from all parts of Australia and the world on the first Saturday in September for the Annual Birdsville Racing Carnival over two days (Friday and Saturday).

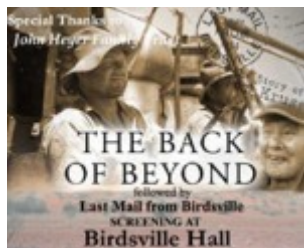


The first race meeting was held in 1882 as an event for hack and stock horses with a few local spectators. The carnival now includes a 13-race program and prize money in excess of \$140 000. The XXXX Gold Birdsville Cup is a much sought after trophy and is famous throughout the world.

Situated three kilometres to the South East of the town the track itself is on a claypan alongside the sand dunes. The track is 2000m in circumference with the longest race, 1600m XXXX Gold Birdsville Cup starting in the back straight. All starts are on the course proper with the exception of the 1000m, which starts from a chute. Birdsville is one of four tracks in Queensland that run anti-clockwise

Crowds of over 6000 racegoers celebrate the carnival each year enjoying two days of quality outback racing and three great nights of live entertainment. Other entertainment includes the Fashions of the Field, Fred Brophy's Boxing Troupe, Equine Fun Day (Thursday), a variety of food vendors, a giant auction and much more. Great entertainment, class horseracing and premium hospitality makes for a fantastic week in the heart of Australia's outback.

BACK OF BEYOND MOVIE



Outback mailman Tom Kruse was a film star before his Hollywood namesake Tom Cruise was born. The 1954 Australian film classic *The Back of Beyond* introduced Tom Kruse and his 1936 Leyland Badger mail truck to a generation of Australians. Most never forgot the extraordinary images of the man and his battered trucks doing battle each fortnight with the sand and isolation along the Birdsville Track - outback Australia's toughest mail run.

Enjoy an introductory screening of *Last Mail from Birdsville - The Story of Tom Kruse* tracing the recovery of the badly deteriorated Badger from the desert near Birdsville in 1986, its painstaking restoration and the final mail re-enactment down the Birdsville Track in 1999. This double feature will screen during race week.

LIVE MUSIC

The Birdsville Shire Hall will play host to live entertainment during race week. Rhythm and Rhyme Night with Paul Costa and friends- Thursday 30th August. The perfect way to ease into the fun filled weekend with a relaxed intimate evening's entertainment with Paul Costa. Paul's star has burned brightly since 2004 with the release of his debut solo album Walkin' In These Shoes. Since then Paul has become nationally recognized as a multi-award winning artist, including four Golden Guitar nominations under his belt. This is Paul's third trip to Birdsville and it promises to be a great weekend of entertainment. www.paulcosta.com.au

Friday Fun Fare - 31st August 2012

A night with a difference. Join award winning Australian artist Paul Costa and Murray Hartin for an evening of conversation and entertainment. Paul Costa is the whole package - he's got the looks, the voice and the attitude - but most importantly he's got the music.

Murray Hartin is a hysterically unique Australian Storyteller and poet made famous by his poem turbulence.

Tickets \$30, a \$15 discount applies for medallion holders. Seats strictly limited.

Rockin' and Turbulence with Paul Costa and friends - Saturday 1st September

Round out the weekend with a huge night of live music from Paul Costa and his boys.

FRED BROPHYS BOXING TROUPE



Fred Brophy is the last boxing tent showman in the world and he's become a legend at events around the outback. Fred is a fourth generation showman; his dad was a side-show operator and his mum - a trapeze artist.

The Boxing Troupe has become as much an iconic part of the races as the races is an iconic event in itself. Brophy is truly one of Australia's greatest entertainers and his nightly shows opposite the Hotel are a must for all visitors.

Spirit Safaris Birdsville Races Tours also includes, while in Birdsville -

- Visit Simpson Desert and 4WD climb of Big Red Sand hill
- Bourke & Wills Tree visit
- Diamantina River bird watching
- Scenic flight option over Simpson Desert and or Goyder Lagoon
- All meals
- Transport to race track
- Gold Medallion entry to all official events including 2 days of 8 races each day, and the following
 - Entry Thursday night BRC entertainment
 - Entry Friday Races
 - Discounted Entry Friday Night BRC Entertainment*
 - Entry Saturday Races
 - Entry Saturday Night BRC Entertainment
 - Discounts on selected BRC Souvenirs*

Pre and Post Birdsville -

2012 tours after July - Note that wetlands walks are available at Lake Eyre, Muloorina wetlands and Cooper Creek wetlands but Kalamurina activities are replaced by Cooper Creek & Muloorina wetlands time. Cooper Creek cruise is now not available as cruise is not running due to Birdsville Track being open.

Call 1300 763 188

Sydney 02 8213 3225 Brisbane 07 3137 1607 Melbourne 03 9017 6862 Perth 08 6364 3651

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BIRDSVILLE RACES TOURS - www.spiritsafaris.com/pdf/BIRDSVILLE-RACES-TOURS-2012.pdf

LAKE EYRE Tours & Flights are here - www.spiritsafaris.com/lake_eyre_tours_flights.htm

Brochure for Lake Eyre, Birdsville & Corner Country - <http://www.spiritsafaris.com/pdf/LakeEyreToursFlights.pdf>

ALL TOURS (excluding Lake Eyre) SUMMARY are here - www.spiritsafaris.com/tours.htm

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