

Open letter to past and present Great Australian Rally participants.

On behalf of the organizing committee of the All British Classic Car Club Vic Inc for the RACV Great Australian Rally, I would like to inform you of the problems faced in organizing this year's event.

The RACV took over sponsorship of this rally in 1999, and, in 2001, the finishing location for the display of our vehicles was moved to the Mornington Racecourse. At this location, the event has grown over the past 16 years to be one of the premier events for classic vehicles in Australia. Unfortunately, with a change of management of the racecourse to the Melbourne Racing Club, the 17th year of running this event has not lived up to our expectations.

As you are aware, the rally was always held on the Sunday preceding Australia Day. Last year we were informed that this day had been booked two years earlier by another party, (when we tried to book this weekend for 2018 we were told that it is not possible to book ahead until the racing calendar has been finalized?) so we were offered two dates in February which could not be finalized until another party had decided which of these two dates they wanted. We were given the 5th February, then later informed after the entry forms were printed and posted out, that we could not get access to the ground until 5am Sunday morning, as the venue had been let on the Saturday night to the "Let Go" festival. This meant limited, or no access on the Friday or Saturday, as we have always had previously to set up all of the infrastructure necessary to run this event.

The catering was totally inadequate, and what was available was of a very poor standard. In past years, this was handled by Wise Choice Catering who provided food stalls, food vans and a fully catered for dining room, all of which was of a very high standard. Their contract was not renewed when the current management was installed, and we were informed that the new management would provide all catering in house, and all would be as previous years. No outside food vans were provided for the large number of people who participate in, or attend this rally. The service from the canteen located in the betting area was inadequate, and the main dining room was not open. I think the management should stick to something they know and leave catering to the experts.

The committee will review and revise all aspects of the Great Australian Rally and report back to you on the future running of this event. With your fantastic support, we have raised approximately \$800,000 to help fund research to find a cure for cancer at Peter Mac.

Thank you for your past support. We will endeavour to rectify the shortcomings that we, and you, found this year, and we will advise you of our progress for future events.

Colin Brown
Rally Director
On behalf of the ABCCC Rally Committee