

TAGLONG RIDERS READY TO LEAVE THE DOWNS

Riders on the Year of the Outback Tagalong Ride from Longreach to the RNA Showgrounds have nearly reached the last stage of their journey.

Since Sunday the group has left Dalby and passed through Jondaryn and Toowoomba on their way to Cambooyah, Clifton, Allora and Maryvale before making the descent through Spicer's Gap to the Fassifern Valley.

The Warwick Shire Council has planned a special welcome barbecue for them at Allora and Boonah Shire will stage a community campfire with music and bush poetry at the showgrounds on Tuesday night, August 13.

Another celebration is planned in Beaudesert Shire where Mayor Ron Munns will offer hospitality at both the Beaudesert Showgrounds, and on the last night out of the ride at Chambers Flat.

Horses will be sprayed for ticks at Beaudesert and official paperwork completed ready for the procession down Gregory Terrace to the RNA Showgrounds on Saturday, August 17.

Riders who joined the group on June 30 at Longreach will have travelled 1,400 kilometres through a range of terrains and climate conditions.

Boss Drover and former Queensland Minister for Lands, Bill Glasson, said riders and horses who completed the trip would have shown the same spirit of adventure as enabled the pioneers to carve a path through the wilderness to establish Outback communities that have since contributed so much to Australian prosperity.

"This is the only Year of the Outback event that has enabled country and city riders to come together as one and to link the various communities along the ride route with the comradeship that is part and parcel for which the ride stands," Mr Glasson said.

"I feel very proud to have been a part of what is truly the ride of a lifetime.

“Not only the riders, but the team of six cooks led by former shearer’s cook, Hank Cosgrove, our semi-trailer driver, Ian Thompson, and the people and communities who have supported us along the route deserve recognition for what has been achieved to date.

“We also feel tremendous gratitude to the Special Events Unit of the Queensland Police Force and the officers who have helped us along the way.”

Minister for Primary Industries, Henry Palaszczuk, and Deputy Lord Mayor, Tim Quinn, will meet the riders when they assemble at the Roma Street Parklands prior to the procession led by the Queensland Mounted Police to the showgrounds.

The ride has been organized through a partnership of the Royal National Association and the Hall of Fame, with the sponsorship and support of the Queensland State Government through Minister Palaszczuk and the Office of Rural Communities.

Mr Palaszczuk praised the role of sponsors Ergon Energy, .Ridleys Agri Products, Pauls Parmalet, and Linfox in getting the ride on its way.