

Exercise Cameleer

"200"

The Great Camel Race has been and gone, but it certainly was one of the highlights of our year. Those who had the chance to either ride or support the race will remember their experiences for a long time to come.

What the Cameleers actually achieved is really quite remarkable. They drove to the centre of Australia on two camel catching expeditions, actually caught eight camels, brought them to Townsville, broke them in, made their saddles, prepared for the race, then rode the camels more than half way across the country, supported the entire activity from Townsville, rotated two hundred of the unit through the support crew, and had a good time doing it.

Exercise Cameleer "200" achieved all it set out to do, the activity was a success.

The initial idea for the activity came from WO2 Ian Dew and Capt. Warren Farmer, who were both posted in January and unable to participate.

The unit sought sponsorship from the Townsville business community to help cover costs associated with its participation in the activity. Sponsorship was received from FAI Insurance Group and Southers and Taylor, a local Solicitors firm. Support, by way of donation of goods or services, was also received from:

- Australian Airlines
- Avago Group of Companies
- Fotographics (N.Q.) Pty. Ltd.
- Ron McDougall Agencies Pty. Ltd. and
- Sheraton Breakwater Casino-Hotel

As a result of Jim Bowen's win in the sixth stage of the race the prize money has been dispersed as follows:

- \$2000 - Legacy Club of Australia
- \$1000 - The N.Q. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty
- \$1000 - The Endeavour Foundation
- \$1000 - The Salvation Army
- \$1000 - The Royal Australian Flying Doctor Service

Thanks need to go to the camels, Baldy, Sightseer, Sally, Hitchhiker, Cami, Cleo and Mad Jack. The riders, Steve Rose, Jim Bowen, Glen Bartlett, Kel Haydon, Jeff Hayes, Andrew Elliot, Rod Wilkinson, the reserves Eamon McGarry, Gary Sheffield and especially the cook, Les Holmes, whose efforts throughout the entire race were outstanding.



Jed, Cowboy, Wilko, Jim, Col, Irish and Barney



The Brave "Cowboy" Rose



LCpl Jed Hayes





LCpl Jim Bowen



"Buddy"



Barney and Sally



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