

Follow the Yellow Boat Road

Robert Pennicott's circumnavigation of Australia for Polio



TASMANIAN ENTREPRENEUR TO CIRCUMNAVIGATE AUSTRALIA FOR POLIO CAUSE

25 MAY 2011 – On Tuesday, 31 May 2011, Tasmanian entrepreneur Robert Pennicott will be departing for an epic journey entitled “Follow the Yellow Boat Road”, when he circumnavigates Australia in a 5.4m inflatable yellow dinghy to raise funds for Polio eradication. His aim is to raise the additional \$39 million needed by Rotary International to hit the \$200 million benchmark, to which Bill Gates has pledged to contribute \$355 million more. The grand total of \$555 million is anticipated to lead to the total worldwide eradication of polio, with a donation of just \$10 vaccinating 17 children.

A passionate mariner and conservationist, Robert, who is also the founder of award-winning, Tasmanian eco-cruise business Pennicott Wilderness Journeys, was keen to commit his skills to the worthy cause. Funds will be raised via an online auction of up to four coveted seats on each leg of the voyage. Online donations will also be accepted at www.followtheyellowboatroad.com. “Follow the Yellow Boat Road” will be one of the biggest fundraising efforts ever undertaken in Australia.

“In my lifetime, I hope to make a substantial difference to the world,” Robert said. “I have dreams to give away a lot more money than what I do now, so I have come up with an idea that will make me the catalyst to hopefully raising many millions of dollars.”

“Follow the Yellow Boat Road” will see Robert circumnavigate Australia in an anti-clockwise direction from Sydney to Sydney, on a voyage that is expected to take approximately 75 days and cover 12,000 nautical miles. Accompanying him on an identical 5.4m Naiad rib vessel will be Mick Souter, the Pennicott Wilderness Journeys Operations Manager, who is equally as skilled and inspired for the journey. Two seats per boat will be auctioned via the website www.followtheyellowboatroad.com to the highest bidder on 48 of the expeditions 77 segments, with all funds raised going towards the cause. 92 per cent of the funds will be donated to Rotary

International's Polio Plus campaign, and 8 per cent will be donated to the Pennicott Foundation, which will undertake island and coastal restoration projects in Australia and around the world. Pennicott Wilderness Journeys was instrumental in eradicating the population of feral cats on Tasman Island that were responsible for killing over 50,000 seabirds per year.

The itinerary has been planned to allow time for the passengers on each of the 48 segments to explore the impressive scenery and spectacular wildlife along the Australian coastline. Robert expects to encounter several whale varieties, dolphins, seals, sharks, crocodiles, dugongs, hundreds of sea birds and spectacular caves, blowholes, sea cliffs, varying geology and dramatic rock formations. He also intends to voyage into very remote areas, including a day dedicated to exploring the 'Head of the Bight' where approximately 100 Southern Right Whales and their calves gather – an occurrence rarely seen from the water given its distance from any boat access point. Robert and Mick, with over 70 years experience on the water, will provide an exclusive, unforgettable, money-can't-buy experience for their passengers.

For more information on Follow the Yellow Boat Road including donations, sponsorship opportunities and the full itinerary, visit www.followtheyellowboatroad.com.

Robert Pennicott

Robert started his first business as a fisherman in the pristine waters of southern Tasmania, before creating Bruny Island Cruises in 1999 out of a desire to show people the rugged beauty of the Bruny Island coast. His passion and enthusiasm for the business has seen it evolve into a world-class ecotourism experience, which has won numerous awards and accolades for his conservation and sustainability efforts, and business excellence.

In May 2011, Robert launched his own foundation, the Pennicott Foundation, which allows his business to directly contribute to its own nature conservation projects.

Contact

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A world apart, not a world away.



Draft Itinerary

- KEY** a leg with auction winners on-board
 a rest day (D) or long leg (L) with only PWJ staff/friends on-board

	Day	Route	Miles	Category
MAY	Mon 30 th	Launch event in Darling Harbour, Sydney		
	Tues 31 st	Sydney – Newcastle	70 miles	1
JUNE	Wed 1 st	Newcastle – Port Macquarie	110 miles	2
	Thurs 2 nd	Port Macquarie – Coffs Harbour	70 miles	3
	Fri 3 rd	Coffs Harbour – Ballina	87 miles	4
	Sat 4 th	Ballina – Brisbane	95 miles	5
	Sun 5 th	Brisbane – Hervey Bay	200 miles	6
	Mon 6 th	Day off		D1
	Tues 7 th	Hervey Bay – Gladstone	120 miles	7
	Wed 8 th	Gladstone – Yeppoon	65 miles	8
	Thurs 9 th	Yeppoon – Mackay	180 miles	9
	Fri 10 th	Mackay – Airlie Beach	105 miles	10
	Sat 11 th	Airlie Beach – Townsville	130 miles	11
	Sun 12 th	Day off		D2
	Mon 13 th	Townsville – Mission Beach	100 miles	12
	Tues 14 th	Mission Beach – Cairns	70 miles	13
	Wed 15 th	Cairns – Cooktown	110 miles	14
	Thu 16 th	Cooktown – Portland Roads	240 miles	L1
	Fri 17 th	Portland Roads – Thursday Island	200 miles	15
	Sat 18 th	Day off		D3
	Sun 19 th	Thursday Island – Weipa	200 miles	16
	Mon 20 th	Weipa – Gove	320 miles	L2
	Tues 21 st	Day off		D4
	Wed 22 nd	Gove – Milingimbi	150 miles	17
	Thurs 23 rd	Milingimbi – Maningrida	90 miles	18
	Fri 24 th	Maningrida – Waruwi (Goulburn Island)	75 miles	19
	Sat 25 th	Waruwi (Goulburn Island) – Darwin	190 miles	20
	Sun 26 th	Day off		D5
	Mon 27 th	Day off		D6
	Tues 28 th	Darwin – Anson Bay	90 miles	21
	Wed 29 th	Anson Bay – McGowan Island Camping Ground	250 miles	L3
	Thurs 30 th	Travelling to Broome (exact stops TBA by local expert)		L4

JULY	Fri 1 st	Travelling to Broome (exact stops TBA by local expert)		L5
	Sat 2 nd	Travelling to Broome (exact stops TBA by local expert)		L6
	Sun 3 rd	Travelling to Broome (exact stops TBA by local expert)		L7
	Mon 4 th	Travelling to Broome (exact stops TBA by local expert)		L8
	Tues 5 th	Broome – Port Hedland	220 miles	L9
	Wed 6 th	Port Hedland – Dampier	120 miles	22
	Thurs 7 th	Dampier – Exmouth	230 miles	L10
	Fri 8 th	Exmouth – Carnarvon	220 miles	L11
	Sat 9 th	Day off		D7
	Sun 10 th	Carnarvon – Denham	75 miles	23
	Mon 11 th	Denham – Port Gregory Caravan Park	140 miles	24
	Tues 12 th	Port Gregory Caravan Park – Geraldton	110 miles	25
	Wed 13 th	Geraldton – Lancelin	140 miles	26
	Thurs 14 th	Lancelin – Perth	90 miles	27
	Fri 15 th	Day off		D8
	Sat 16 th	Perth – Busselton	125 miles	28
	Sun 17 th	Busselton – Augusta	90 miles	29
	Mon 18 th	Augusta – Albany	180 miles	30
	Tues 19 th	Albany – Esperance	230 miles	L12
	Wed 20 th	Day off		D9
	Thurs 21 st	Esperance – Eucla	420 miles	L13
	Fri 22 nd	Day off		D10
	Sat 23 rd	Eucla – Fowlers Bay	230 miles	L14
	Sun 24 th	Fowlers Bay – Ceduna	60 miles	31
	Mon 25 th	Ceduna – Elliston	120 miles	32
	Tue 26 th	Elliston – Port Lincoln	120 miles	33
	Wed 27 th	Port Lincoln – Adelaide	160 miles	34
	Thur 28 th	Adelaide – Kangaroo Island	80 miles	35
	Fri 29 th	Day off		D11
	Sat 30 th	Kangaroo Island – Robe	130 miles	36
	Sun 31 st	Robe – Portland	125 miles	37
AUGUST	Mon 1 st	Portland – Apollo Bay	110 miles	38
	Tues 2 nd	Apollo Bay – Melbourne	100 miles	39
	Wed 3 rd	Day off		D12
	Thurs 4 th	Melbourne – King Island	150 miles	40
	Fri 5 th	King Island – Strahan	160 miles	41
	Sat 6 th	Strahan – Hobart	190 miles	42
	Sun 7 th	Day off		D13
	Mon 8 th	Day off (speaking in Kingston)		D14
	Tues 9 th	Hobart – St Helens	180 miles	43
	Wed 10 th	St Helens – Flinders Island	80 miles	44
	Thurs 11 th	Flinders Island – Lakes Entrance	120 miles	45
	Fri 12 th	Lakes Entrance – Eden	120 miles	46
	Sat 13 th	Eden – Ulladulla	110 miles	47
	Sun 14 th	Day off		D15
	Mon 15 th	Ulladulla – Sydney	100 miles	48

The dates mentioned in this itinerary are likely to change as the trip progresses, due to weather.