

SYNOPSIS: **THE GREAT SOUTHERN ROAD**

The concept of this book is influenced by the road history and rally events that took place along our southern borders. In particular the London to Sydney Marathons, with a special focus on the famous 1968 and 1993 events. However, you don't have to be a 'petrol head' to appreciate the wonders of our own uniquely Australian Great Southern Road.

Crossing of this vast continent has always been a challenge, especially so in the times of Francis Birtles when, in 1912, he attempted to map the start of a route. He was destined not to get too far on his bicycle when he attempted to do so accompanied only by his dog. He did, however, eventually get to Sydney.

Similarly in 1968 when the many vintage cars braved the somewhat sealed highway that existed at that time. Luxury you might well say when compared to the old and original dirt track that the serious rally entrants had to endure.

Nevertheless, the pioneering spirit lives on and, faced with a challenge, no matter how difficult, there will always be the brave and hardy amongst us who can't wait to get in harms way. Such is the human spirit.

It is this prevailing 'human spirit' and the desire for adventure that has led to a more sophisticated highway that now provides good surface and support infrastructure for many people to safely take the challenge of crossing the infamous Nullarbor Plains.

No doubt any future rally that may be considered will still choose the old unsealed dirt track. After all, there's no fun in it if you don't lose a wheel, break a crankshaft or blow a couple of pistons. It's all part of the fun and the challenge. See The Great Southern Road: Glen Redgate's Road Adventures DVD.

