

A Service of Thanksgiving & Celebration for the Life of

Robert Anthony Beer

8th March 1942 - 3rd July 2021



“Bob”

Piddington's Crematorium Chapel, Armidale

12pm Monday, 12th July 2021

ENTRANCE MUSIC

“The Runner”

INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

Peter Howe

JEHOVAH 'S SERVICE

Juan Carey

EULOGY

Read by Mary Graham

TRIBUTES

Doug Beer

Bill Bullock

Michael Beer

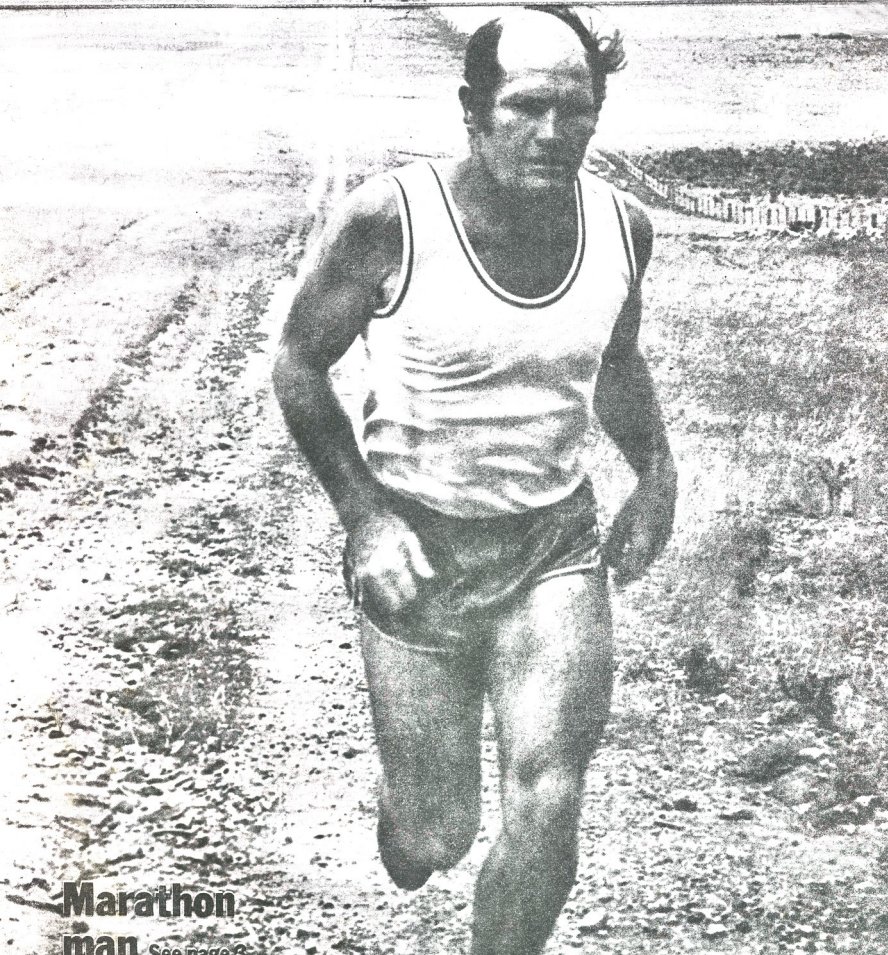
BOB'S LIFE IN PICTURES

POEM READING: WHY WHY WHY– WHY KAYAK DOWN A RIVER ?

Read by Judy Eckford

why do we..... strive to excel?
to continually need to upgrade our capacity to advance ?
to do something faster, better, bigger, longer, further ?
why do we... break the 4 minute mile ?
run the 100 metres in less and less time ?
run the Olympic marathon in 2 hours and 7 minutes ?
run the 100 mile in 11 hours and 30 minutes ?
swim the English Channel ?
learn to navigate learn to fly
become an astronaut
go to the moon
why did we ?
walk on our back legs instead of all four,
make knives out of stone
bury our dead
Use...fire...the spear...club...wheel...wing...jet...rocket...

WHY ?



Marathon man

DATE SET FOR BOB TO TACKLE THE SIMPSON

Walcha's marathon runner, Bob Beer, has set a date for the start of his gruelling run across the Simpson Desert.

Adventurer Hans Tholstrup will join Bob with a four-wheel drive support vehicle for the 600 kilometre trek, starting on July 20.

The run is likely to take up to two weeks, with Bob planning at this stage to run at least 60 kilometres a day, if possible.

Several sponsors have now come forward to assist Bob with his costs.

The cost of food and drink will be supported by manufacturing and distributing companies, and sports shoes are to be provided by a retail outlet in Walcha.

The rest of the costs are likely to be made up by Bob himself. At this stage, he expects to spend about \$2000 on the trip.

The only provision still outstanding is the vehicle.

Potential donors are being contacted in Sydney, and an answer is expected within the next few days.

Other sponsorships would still be welcomed — the cost of the fuel may not be covered by the vehicle donors, and spare parts will all add to the expense.

Bob plans to start his east-west run from Wall Creek, on the railway line from Marree to Alice Springs — the line which will become redundant within the next 12 months after the new link from Tarcoola is brought into service.

Wall Creek is set on the South Australian-Northern Territory border — in the true red centre of Australia.

He will run for between five and eight hours each running day across the hard sand and stone of the gibber desert.

Most of the run will be during daylight hours, as the night temperatures can plummet to minus seven degrees Celsius and the restricted light would create risk of injury.

BEER KEEPS GOING

NEW South Welshman Bob Beer plans to be the first man to run across the tortuous 560 km trail of the Simpson Desert.

Marathon runs and outback excursions are nothing out of the ordinary for Beer, 38 of Walcha.

"I have already walked across Australia from the Gulf of Carpentaria to Spencers Gulf," he said.

"And once I rode a pushbike from Perth to Port Macquarie.



Walcha News Photo

Walcha has its share of characters
Some are funny, others queer
But none of them as famous
As our adventurous Bob Beer
He's done a lot of traveling
By foot and by canoe
But when he took up cycling, we thought
he bit off more than he could chew
We were sure that he wrote his book
It was his last Hoorah!
We thought that he might settle down
And not venture very far
Most men his age are winding down
Planning to retire
They usually grace the bowling greens
While waiting to expire
He set the gossips talking
"A man his age should have more sense
Fancy cycling 'round Australia
With just his 'phone and swag and tents"
Bob said he would do the pedalling
And others could cough up the loot
'Cause he planned to raise some money
For the Garvan Institute
His plan was quite ambitious
At sixteen thousand K's
I thought he'd lose his marbles
From solitude and desert haze
He figured out the route to take
And all the prevailing winds
But he hasn't found a solution
To those flamin' mossie stings
He came across ex-Walcha-ites
The Townsends Butch and Rummy
Who in Darwin town have found
Their fabled land of milk and honey

And when he and Danny Goodwin
Were accosted by a lout
Our brace Bob just casually
Knocked the fellow out

Then they just stood and stared at him
As he lay there on the ground
But that cowardly interloper
Didn't ask to go another round

Bob's days and their up's and down
Some incidents were funny
But when he lost his mobile phone
I'm sure he spat the dummy

He's has his share of punctures
And several dozen falls
But these are only minor
Compared to the greatest risk of all

When he hears those big trucks coming
He knows that he's in strife
All he can do is close his eyes
And hang on for dear life

Can't you jut imagine him
Pedaling through the dust
His little legs going 'round and 'round
And a sign saying "Walcha or Bust"

In Walcha on Wednesdays evenings
We all rush for the Advocate
To read the latest tales about
Our adventurous little mate

We flick the boring politics
Of "My Say" and the Rambling Housewife
To read the recent exploits
From Bob who has a REAL life

Let's help this benevolent friends of ours
This hero from our town
Give to his cause whatever you can
And don't let Bob Beer down

Donations to the Institute
Are coming in rather slow
So open up your wallets and show your support
To someone who's having a go

REFLECTION MUSIC & PERSONAL FAREWELL

“Rally Round the Drum” Archie Roach with Paul Kelly

COMMITTAL

Peter Howe

During these last moments we pay our final respects to
Bob and wish him the fulfilment of everlasting peace.

There are times when we must remind ourselves that only nature itself is
permanent. All that has life - has a beginning and an end. Life exists in the time span
between the birth and death of individuals, who in turn pass on the process of life
through their children and their children's children.

Life's significance lies in the experiences and achievements within that period.

The final parting, signified by death, is bound to bring shock and sorrow.

Whenever the ties of love and friendship are severed, it is natural for those who feel
deeply to grieve deeply - as no philosophy or religion can prevent the great sense of
loss we feel when a loved one is taken from us.

We are grateful that Bob was and shall remain a part of your lives.

We shall remember him as a living vital presence, and this will bring peace to your
hearts and strengthen you in times of trouble.

We brought nothing into the world and we can take nothing out of the world.

We here commit the body of Bob back to its natural place in the universe and in
so doing, we recognise and revere it as the vessel throughout life,
of the personality of our dearly departed.

With much love and respect we bid Bob farewell. Thus in thinking of Bob let us
leave this sacred place in quietness of spirit and live with
compassion and love for each other.

RECESSIONAL MUSIC

“Somewhere Over The Rainbow” Israel Kamakawi'ole

Runner not a mirage

If you happen to be out on the Simpson Desert next month, you may see Australia's Lawrence of Arabia.

The latter-day Lawrence is 38-year-old Bob Beer who plans to be the first man on earth to run the 560km torture trail across the great wasteland.

Beer is burning with confidence, even though the scorched desert sand has swallowed up other marathon men before him.

The last runner to be tamed by the Simpson was acclaimed French ironman Bernard Faton,



Sunset sea walk ends long trek



Trans-Australia walker
Bob Beer took a few steps into the salty shallows of the Arafura Sea at Karumba Point at Sunset last night thus completing his 2300-kilometre trek across the continent.

Bob stepped into the waters 30 days after leaving Port Augusta, South Australia. He completed the last stretch from Cloncurry in 13 days — "which was pretty slow," he

said today. "I didn't feel any great emotion, but I'm glad I finished what I set out to do."

"It looked good when I got there — just to see the sea and walk into the salt water and know that my walking trip had finished."

With no plans to do much more walking, Bob will leave for a relaxing weekend at the Normanston Rodeo tomorrow and then give himself a month's break.

When he is ready he will return to Mount Isa, where he hopes to find employment as a rigger.

Bob Beer prepares for Simpson Desert

By the time most readers have finished reading this column on Thursday night, Walcha's answer to Tony Rafferty and Bill Emerton, Bob Beer, should be nearing the end of what must be one of the toughest training runs ever undertaken.

Bob set out at midnight on Tuesday to run from Walcha to Point Lookout which is south-east of the Ebor Trout Hatchery and 5,249 feet above sea level. However, Bob's run will not be around the highway or main roads. Instead he will be virtually running as the crow flies across country.

He will leave the gravel road behind him when he leaves the

Winterbourne road and from there it will be fairly rough track and motor bike trail until he reaches Raspberry Road, which for those who haven't walked up it, is not all beer and skittles nor anything like a tartan track surface.

After leaving Walcha (3,500 ft a.s.l.) Bob will drop down in altitude during his run to 660 feet at the Kunderang Station and then rise another 4,500 feet to Point Lookout. There will be no time to look at the scenery, which is among the most beautiful in Australia, for he plans to cover the 80 miles in forty eight hours.

Bob will have food

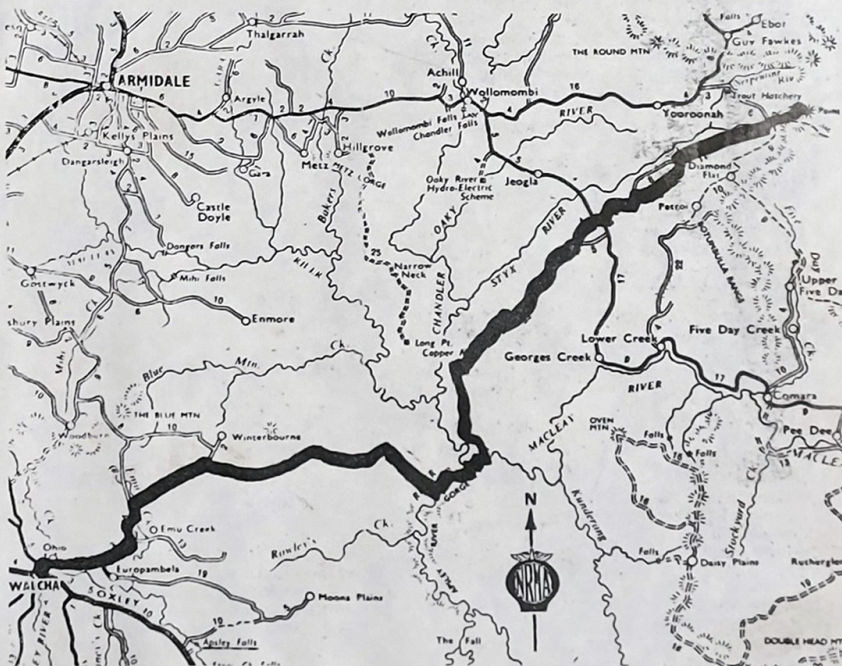
(which has been sponsored by Permewans of Walcha) and water buried along the way but he will be actually carrying a sleeping bag and some rations and water with him after he leaves 'Paradale'.

Local motorbike dealer, Mr Warren Brazel will be driving the support vehicle to that point, after which Bob is on his own.

The course he has chosen will take him north-east of Walcha to the Winterbourne State Forest where he will join the Apsley trail. After five miles of the trail Bob will turn left and run cross-country down Narrow-Neck Spur to Reedy Creek, then along the Apsley River Gorge to the Macleay River and onto the base of Raspberry Road.

If you've already knocked up just reading about this venture, then don't be shocked to learn that this is just a training run for a planned attack on a Simpson Desert crossing in May or June this year.

That may not sound so daunting for Bob when it is discovered that he has ridden a pushbike from



The heavy marking shows the "training run" Bob Beer is undertaking at present. Bob commenced running at midnight on Tuesday and expects to finish sometime tonight (Thursday)

Pert to Port Macquarie and once walked from Port Augusta (South Australia) to Karumba, in the Gulf of Carpen-

taria.
Bob's Simpson Desert stint is planned to take him 465 km from Wall Creek on the railway

line between Maree in South Australia and Alice Springs, to Birdsville in Queensland. He is still looking for a

sponsor with a strong 4WD vehicle with roll bars and plenty of protection underneath. Don't desert him!



The family would like to thank you for your presence here today, for your kind thoughts, prayers and for your expressions of sympathy and support. The family warmly invite you to share light refreshments at Walcha Bowling Club from 1.30pm.



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