



ISLANDS
OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

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Island Caretaker Ben Southall goes Outback

Tourism Queensland's Island Caretaker Ben Southall will venture inland to Queensland's Outback this week for dinosaurs, charity and adventure, Tourism Queensland acting CEO Steve McRoberts announced today.

Mr McRoberts said the spirit of Queensland's Outback had beckoned Ben, whose trip would coincide with the Angel Flight Outback Trailblazer, a new bush charity event.

"Ben will fly directly from his Islands of the Great Barrier Reef base, Hamilton Island, to the rugged Queensland Outback, touching down in Longreach for three days of Outback magic," Mr McRoberts said.

"During his visit to Queensland's Outback Ben will stop in to Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and the Qantas Founders Outback Museum before participating in the Great Outback river boat race and a session of night golf.

"Other highlights of the trip include a dinosaur themed dinner in Muttaburra, home to the second most complete dinosaur skeleton in Australia, discovered by a local farmer who was mustering along the Thomson River.

"During his visit to the region Ben will also conduct a lesson about the Islands of the Great Barrier Reef through the Longreach 'School of the Air' which educates more than 200 students spread throughout Central West Queensland."

Mr McRoberts said it was a wonderful opportunity for Ben to showcase Queensland's most contrasting landscapes of the World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef to the vastness of Queensland's Outback, drawing attention to a popular international drive route - the Reef to Outback.

"We want to show the world how easy it is to travel between the two regions and see two of the state's natural beauties," he said.

"Ben's visit to Queensland's Outback for the Trailblazer event is a wonderful opportunity for him to enjoy some far dinkum Aussie fun.





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"The Outback Trailblazer is not only a wonderful new bush charity event which sees teams explore bush trails and discover amazing wildlife while competing in a 4WD adventure challenge, it is also a great tourism initiative that will be held in a different district each year."

Ben said before he was announced as the Caretaker for the Islands of the Great Barrier Reef he was busy organising charity events in and around his hometown of Petersfield in the UK and was thrilled to be participating in the Angel Flight Outback Trailblazer.

"It will be an action-packed couple of days where I'll be tasked with not only raising money for a wonderful charity but also reporting back about the best experiences and characters of Queensland's Outback," Ben said.

For more information about Ben's Queensland adventures, log on to Ben's blog at - www.islandreefjob.com or for information about the Angel Flight Outback Trailblazer visit - www.outbacktrailblazer.com.au

For images of his experiences, go to Tourism Queensland's [image gallery](#).

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