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MEDIA RELEASE

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UTES, MOTORHOMES AND RVS FLOCK TO BEDOURIE FOR ANNUAL OUTBACK MUSTER

Vehicles of all descriptions are making their way to the Bedourie Ute and Travellers' Muster this week. The road north from Birdsville is a stream of traffic as the legendary Birdsville Races crowds move on to the final event on the Simpson Desert Racing Carnival calendar; the Bedourie Races and Rodeo.

Held in conjunction with the races and rodeo, the Bedourie Ute and Travellers' muster is now in its fifth year and is arguably Australia's only true outback ute and travellers' muster. The range of activities and entertainment throughout the weekend ensures that there's something to suit everyone, and the event's growth in recent years indicates that organisers are continuing to provide a great experience to travellers and outback locals alike.

Attracting competitors from all over Australia, prizes in categories such as 'Best Street Ute', 'Best Chick's Ute', 'Best Mongrel Ute', 'Best Work Ute' and 'Best Wagon', ensure that the show 'n' shine is full of a range of types of utes and 4WD wagons, all of which are entrants' pride and joy. Motorhome and traveller categories were introduced to pay homage to the huge amount of travellers that visit Bedourie with impressive motorhomes and Winnebago setups. There's even a category for 'Competitor Furthest From Home', which is often won by visiting Tasmanians or Western Australians.

Diamantina Shire Council CEO, Leon Love, says that the muster is a unique event that the council is proud to support. "The Bedourie Ute and Travellers' Muster adds an extra element to the Bedourie Races and Rodeo," he says. "People travel such a long way to Bedourie so it's important to offer them a memorable experience, and a large and varied event program is one thing that we can do to work towards achieving that."

Now in its fifth year, the Bedourie Ute & Travellers' Muster was first envisaged in early 2009 when the then Tourism and Development Manager of the Diamantina Shire Council, Mr Brian Mooney, and the Funding Manager, Mr Richard Cooley, were reviewing tourism events in the Shire with the possibility of establishing other events that would attract travellers, enrich their experience and boost the Shire's economy.

FOR ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE:

YOUR REFERENCE:

All correspondence addressed to: The Chief Executive Officer

17 Herbert Street

BEDOURIE QLD 4829

Telephone: (07) 4746 1202 **Facsimile:** (07) 4746 1272

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With this limited outline, the tourism staff held a mini strategy meeting to put as many ideas on the table as they could to identify an event that would suit the above outcomes. The Bedourie Ute Muster was born and later became the Bedourie Ute and Travellers' Muster. Since its inception, the event has grown to become a key event in the Diamantina Shire and, specifically, Bedourie. The event is proudly supported by the Diamantina Shire Council.

Entered by fiercely competitive locals and fun-loving travellers, the event provides something for all motorists and is a talking point of the Bedourie Races. There are plenty of cash prizes to win, not to mention bragging rights. This weekend, polish your bull bar, fill the tanks and head to Bedourie to kick up some dust at the Bedourie Ute and Travellers' Muster.

For more information on the event, see www.bedourieuteandtravellersmuster.com.

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Media inquiries:

Cr Geoff Morton, Mayor E: geoff.morton@diamantina.qld.gov.au) Ph: (07) 4746 1202

Mr Leon Love, Chief Executive Officer E: leon.love@diamantina.qld.gov.au)

Ph: (07) 4746 1202