



# Wireless Institute of Australia

*AGM Weekend  
Broken Hill NSW  
23rd to 25th May 2008*

## Wireless Institute Of Australia

Program And Information  
Guide For The 2008  
AGM Weekend Events



# Broken Hill

This is Broken Hill, where the vibrant earthy colours and magical light of this landscape have drawn filmmakers and artists here to capture its special quality. The dark red soil contrasting with clear blue skies where the wedge-tailed eagle soars, appealing to something deep in our human souls. There's definitely a spiritual element in this country, as the Aboriginal ancestors knew. And at sunset, when the wide horizon glows red and orange, one is often lost for words. The distances are huge and the big red kangaroos can cover 200 kilometers in a night chasing a thunderstorm. And yet there's a smaller scale - the petals of a Sturt's desert pea, the eyes of a lizard, ancient rock etchings. The city of Broken Hill is its own graphic testimony to the struggles of the mining pioneers. The 'tower mullocks' and headframes silhouetted at sunset tell the story of a treasure beyond the wildest dreams, a treasure that filled the coffers of a young nation. The explorers were on their way to the inland sea in the 1840s and the graziers were already there. The Darling River was home to the paddle-steamers, and indigenous Australians looked on, as they had been here for thousands of years.



## How To Get There

Broken Hill is accessible by road from Wentworth, Mildura, Sydney and Adelaide and is located on the Barrier Highway. Coaches are available from Adelaide, Port Augusta and Mildura. You can travel by train from Sydney and Adelaide with Countrylink and Great Southern Railways (Indian Pacific or Laser/XPT Sydney-Dubbo-Broken Hill) or you can fly from Sydney and Adelaide with REX. We suggest you bring a 4WD if you plan driving into Broken Hill's remote areas.



## Weather

The weather in Broken Hill is generally mild, the winter can get quite cold but generally the city experiences a mild winter about 15-16C. The town is hot in summer with temperatures climbing to 38C and over about 10 days a year, the average high for summer months is about 32C.



## Rainfall

Rainfall averages around 20mm a month. From the rainfall data gathered the mean annual rainfall is 137-257mm, minimum average monthly rainfall 6-19mm and maximum average monthly rainfall is 16-39mm.



## Timezone

Broken Hill and Silverton operate on Central Standard time, all other towns in the region operate on Eastern Standard time. Therefore there will be no change for those traveling from Adelaide, however those traveling from Melbourne, Sydney or Brisbane will need to set their watches back by half an hour.



## Visitor Information Centre

The Broken Hill visitor information centre is located on the corner of Blende & Bromide Streets, opposite Lions Park.

Mailing address is PO Box: 448, Broken Hill, NSW 2880

Phone: 08 8080 3560

Fax: 08 8080 3578

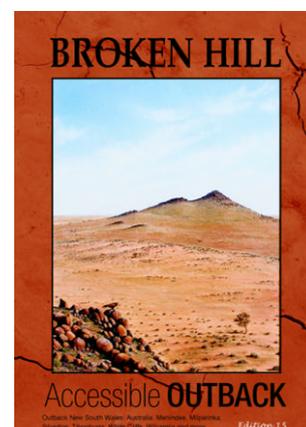
Email: [tourist@brokenhill.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tourist@brokenhill.nsw.gov.au)

Website: [www.visitbrokenhill.com.au](http://www.visitbrokenhill.com.au)



## Tourist Information Brochure

A copy of “Accessible Outback” the Broken Hill tourist brochure has been included with your registration pack. Further copies of the brochure are available from the visitors center at no charge.





# Tour Operators

Broken Hill offers a wide selection of tours from a range of well established tour companies, the following are contact details for the major tour operators in the Broken Hill area..



Silver City Tours	08 8087 6956 <a href="mailto:sctbhq@iinet.net.au">sctbhq@iinet.net.au</a>
Broken Hill City Sight's Tours	08 8087 2484 squimp40@hotmail.com
Broken Hill Corner Country Adventure Tours	08 8087 5142 outback4@iinet.net.au <a href="http://www.cornercountryadventure.com.au">www.cornercountryadventure.com.au</a>
Wettenhall Air	08 8088 5702 wetairbhi@bigpond.com
Broken Hill Outback Tours	08 8087 7800 <a href="http://www.outbacktours.net">www.outbacktours.net</a>
Tri State Safaris	08 8088 2389 <a href="mailto:tours@tristate.com.au">tours@tristate.com.au</a> <a href="http://www.tristate.com.au">www.tristate.com.au</a>
Broken Hill Sightseeing Co. (Buses R Us)	08 8088 6900
John Arnold's Outback & Safari Tours	08 8087 7701
Broken Hill & Outback Personal Tour Guides	08 8087 2584 tourguides@iinet.net.au
Menindee Birdwatching & Fishing Guide	08 8091 4437
Burke & Wills Boat Expeditions	08 8091 4383
River Lady Tours	08 8087 8577
Aus-Air	03 54803100 <a href="mailto:ausair@ausair.com">ausair@ausair.com</a>
Makin Tracks	0448 872 257
Meanders Cobb & Co Coach Rides	08 8087 4820 <a href="mailto:Info@meanders.biz">Info@meanders.biz</a> <a href="http://www.meanders.biz">www.meanders.biz</a>



# Broken Hill History

The earliest known human inhabitants of the area are said to be the Willyama Aborigines, although, with no permanent water supply in the area their presence was only intermittent. With the arrival of Europeans they were decimated by disease and forcibly driven from the lands. More recently the Paarkinji people have moved up from the lower Darling.

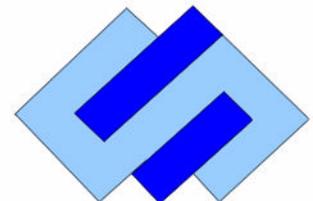
The first Europeans to see the Barrier Range were Charles Sturt and party in 1844. Sturt was trying to determine the existence of an inland sea. Sturt referred to a 'broken hill' in his diary. He also named the Barrier Range as a result of the difficulties it presented to his progress. Sturt described the land as some of the most barren and desolate he had seen.

During their trek of 1860-61 Burke and Wills passed through the area. They formed a base camp at Menindee to the south-east and stopped at Mootwingie to the north-east.

Pastoralists, who had followed in the wake of Sturt in the 1850s, moved further west in the 1860s. Much local land was taken up in 1864. Goods were shipped up the Darling via river steamer and then hauled overland by bullock teams.

Mount Gipps station was taken up around 1863. By 1867 there were gold prospectors in the area. However, it wasn't until 1883, after the discovery of silver in the area, that Charles Rasp, a watchful boundary rider at the Mt Gipps station, discovered what he thought were tin deposits at the 'broken hill'. The samples he took contained silver chloride and he claimed 16 hectares.

A syndicate of seven was set up with the object of purchasing the surrounding land to prevent a rush from other miners. In January 1885 they hit a rich vein of silver in what turned out to be one of the world's largest known silver-lead-zinc lodes. They made vast fortunes, although two members of the syndicate were unfortunate enough to sell their shares for a pittance before the scale of the find was apparent. The ore body was a continuous arch 7 km long and 220 m wide. Later that year they decided to form and float shares in The Broken Hill Proprietary Company (BHP), now Australia's largest company.



# Parks Museums and Galleries

Sturt Park is an attractive place to stop for lunch. The reserve features The Titanic Memorial, in memory of the bandmen of the Titanic who kept playing in the hope of maintaining calm while the ship went down in 1912. The broken column is not an unrepaired accident but an ancient Greek symbol of being cut down in youth.

Riddiford Arboretum in Galena St between Pell and Mercury Sts features Broken Hill's (and South Australia's) floral emblem, the stunning Sturt's Desert Pea. It was named after Charles Sturt who gathered specimens around present-day Broken Hill in 1844.



The Albert Kersten Geocentre, located in the old Bond Store building (1893) on the corner of Crystal and Bromide Sts, has displays on the geological history of the earth, the history of the town and its mines, a large mineral collection, treasure maps and treasure trails for the children and souvenirs. It is open from 1-5 daily.

White's Mineral Art and Mining Museum is located at 1 Allendale St, west of town off Silverton Rd. It features a walk-in mining stope (an excavation site), collages made of crushed minerals depicting mining equipment, local historical buildings and landscapes, and the legend of Sturt's desert pea. There is also a mining video, guided tours, salvaged machinery, scaled models of mine structures and displays of mineral specimens, jewellery, dolls, opals and pottery. It is open 9-6 daily, tel: (08) 8087 2878.

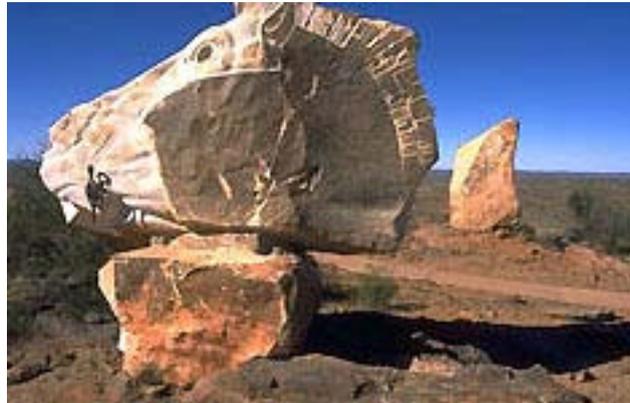
The Conservation Centre in Crystal St is a museum of antiquated machinery run by volunteers. It is only open on Sunday afternoons, tel: (08) 8087 4559.

Broken Hill has also become an important regional art centre. It is home to the so-called 'Brushmen of the Bush', a group consisting of Pro Hart, Eric Minchin, Hugh Schulz, John W. Pickup and Jack Absalom. Although diverse of style they are all self-taught and are all noted for their distinctly Australian subject matter and the inspiration they draw from the town and its surrounds.

There are numerous galleries in town featuring local, national and international works. A complete list can be found at the visitor's centre or in the telephone book. The City Art Gallery, in the civic centre at the corner of Blende and Chloride Sts, is the second oldest art gallery in Australia after the State Gallery of NSW in Sydney. It started in 1904 when George McCulloch donated some paintings. The display features traditional, modern and Aboriginal works and includes the 'Silver Tree', commissioned by Charles Rasp. It is open seven days a week (08-8088 5491).

## Parks Museums & Galleries (cont.)

The City Gallery has a pamphlet (also available from the visitor's centre) relating to the Living Desert Art Trail which takes you on a walk through the Living Desert Reserve, located on the northern outskirts of town along Nine Mile Road. Its 2400 hectares contain aboriginal sites, a regeneration reserve, panoramic views, a four-wheel drive track, a permaculture site, a range of flora and fauna and there are currently plans to set up an animal reserve for endangered species. In 1993 twelve international sculptors each worked on a huge Wilcannia sandstone boulder of their own without power tools for 14 hours a day, every day for 8 weeks. The results are still there for all to see. A book about the sculptures is available at the visitors' centre.



Wilcannia stone sculpture on the edge of the desert

16 artists from around the world were also invited to the site to paint the landscape as they saw it from a given position. The results hang in the City Gallery but poles now mark the spots where each artist stood and the pamphlet allows you to compare the painted image with your own perspective from that spot.

The Pro Hart Gallery features a collection of Australian and European works and one of the largest pipe organs in Australia. At 108 Wyman St it is open 9-5 weekdays and Sunday afternoons, tel: (08) 8087 2441.

Jack Absalom's Gallery is at 638 Chapple St (08) 8087 5881, Hugh Schulz's can be found at 51 Morgan St (08) 8087 6624, and Eric and Roxanne Minchin's is located at 105 Morgan St (08) 8087 5853.



Pro Hart's giant ant sculpture in Rotary Park

The largest commercial gallery in town is the Ant Hill Gallery at 24 Bromide St, opposite the visitor's centre (08) 8087 2441. Also worth a look is D'Art De Main Galleries at 233 Rowe St (08) 8087 6308. The latter is situated in a heritage building surrounded by beautifully landscaped gardens.

## Radio 2BH

Studio & office, 25 Garnet Street Broken Hill.

2BH commenced broadcasting on the 30th June 1934. HILL FM commenced broadcasting on the 18th January 1993. In 1990 it moved to a new building, which was custom built to house both stations and is quite unique in its construction.



## School Of The Air

Lane Street near McCulloch Street

From the early 1900's, the education of isolated children across Australia was catered for by the Correspondence Schools in the capital cities of their respective states. Lessons took days and sometimes weeks to reach their destinations and by the time the completed lessons were dispatched to their teachers, marked and returned to the children, months could have elapsed. As these children rarely had an opportunity to visit their teachers at the Correspondence School, the children inevitably completed their entire schooling without ever meeting their teacher or schoolmates.



The aim of School of the Air was to bring isolated children out of the silence and give them a sense of belonging. The first "School of the Air" in Australia was established at Alice Springs on 8th June 1951. The radio network, maintained by the Royal Flying Doctor Service, was used by the school to make two-way broadcasts to the children in that area via HF Radio.

Following a visit to Central Australia, the Hon. R.J. Heffron, M.L.A, former Premier of NSW, and at the time, Minister for Education, decided that the far west of NSW should be served by a "School of the Air" similar to that operating at Alice Springs. Since many children in the distant parts of NSW were pupils of the Correspondence School at Sydney and within broadcast area of the Royal Flying Doctor Service at Broken Hill, there was a unique opportunity for the development of a "School of the Air".

On the 23rd February 1956, School of the Air at Broken Hill was officially opened on behalf of the Premier, by the then Director-General of Education Dr Harold Wyndham. The school serviced isolated children in Southern Queensland, South Australia and over half of NSW and in the late 1980's had an enrolment of over two hundred. In 1991, decentralisation of Distance Education in NSW occurred with other "radio schools" or Distance Education Centres being established at Tibooburra, Cobar, Bourke, Hay, Walgett and Dubbo. Families now enrol at their closest Distance Education Centre. Today, School of the Air Broken Hill services an area of approximately 0.8 million square kilometres and has an enrolment of eighty four students.

# Royal Flying Doctor Service

Follow the signs to the Broken Hill airport.

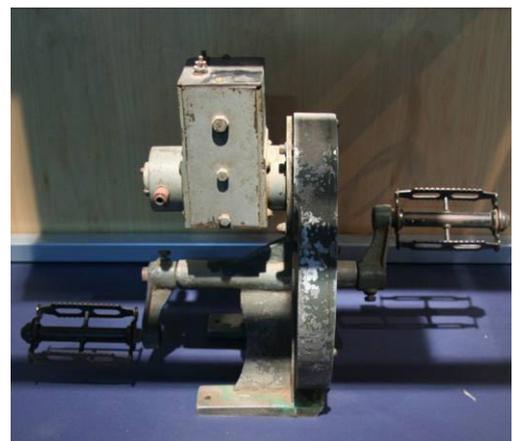
The RFDS began as the dream of the Rev John Flynn, a minister with the Presbyterian Church. He witnessed the daily struggle of pioneers living in remote areas where just two doctors provided the only medical care for an area of almost 2 million square kilometres. Flynn's vision was to provide a 'mantle of safety' for these people and by 1928, his dream had become a reality with the opening of the Aerial Medical Service (later renamed the Royal Flying Doctor Service) in Cloncurry this made possible, through the use of light aircraft and a HF radio network built by a gentleman by the name of Alfred Traeger.



Alf's outback HF radios were manufactured in his Adelaide factory and he would personally travel to the many outpost stations to take care of the installation, teach the users Morse code and show them how to use the radios. Alf went on to invent what was to become one of the most famous icons in outback radio history, the pedal generator. This low cost pedal generator was capable of producing about 20 watts of DC power and able to run a HF transceiver, a setup that could be installed at remote stations right around Australia. This was truly the future of emergency response in Australia with the vision of the Reverend John Flynn and the remarkable ingenuity of Alf Traeger.



Over the years, the RFDS expanded its operation across the country and in 1936, the NSW Section was opened at Broken Hill. By the 1950s, the RFDS was acknowledged by former Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies as "perhaps the single greatest contribution to the effective settlement of the far distant country that we have witnessed in our time." Until the 1960s, the RFDS rarely owned its own aircraft. The service used contractors to provide aircraft, pilots and maintenance. However the RFDS progressively began to purchase its own aircraft and to employ its own pilots and engineers. Today the RFDS owns a fleet of 47 fully instrumented aircraft with the very latest in navigation technology. The organisation now operates 21 bases across Australia and their pilots annually fly the equivalent of 25 round trips to the moon, with RFDS doctors and flight nurses being responsible for the care of nearly 240,000 patients..





# Local Amateur Repeater Information

## Broken Hill VK2RBH - 2meter

147.000 output 146.400 input

VK2RBH is located at Mt Darling 20km east of Broken Hill

Coverage of this repeater in and around Broken Hill township is good.



## 2 Meter Liaison/Net Frequency

The 2m frequency of 146.550mhz will be used for regular nets and liaison throughout the AGM weekend. Nets will be conducted Friday night, Saturday Morning and Sunday morning from the WIA information table at the Southern Cross Hotel. The nets will provide the opportunity for a quick check in and to provide updated news and information on the weekend events. Members are encouraged to bring with them their 2m hand helds.



## HF Travelers Net

A HF travelers net has been suggested by a number of people participating in the AGM weekend who will be traveling by road to Broken Hill. Therefore the 40m call frequency of 7070 +/- QRM is recommended for anyone with HF capabilities who would like to establish contact with other travelers during the days leading up to and after the event. The 7070 call frequency will also be monitored from the WIA information table at the Southern Cross Hotel.



## Event Registration Card

Participants for the various AGM weekend events will have received their registration card and lanyard in this registration pack. The various activities registered or paid for will be indicated on the Event Registration Card by way of a tick in the corresponding box. You will be required to show your card for entry to the various events. Please wear your card during the course of the weekend so others can greet you by name and callsign.





# Information and Contact Numbers

An information table will be set up at the Southern Cross Hotel manned by WIA representatives to answer any enquiries you may have regarding the weekend activities.

## Events

- Broken Hill Visitors Information Centre – (08) 8088 9700
- Southern Cross Hotel/Motel – (08) 8088 3085
- Broken Hill Entertainment Centre – (08) 8080 3480
- Radio 2BH – (08) 8088 1888
- Royal Flying Doctor Service - (08) 8080 3777



## For All Emergencies – Call 000

- Police – 252 Argent Street - (08) 8087 0299
- Fire - 248 Blende Street - (08) 8087 2233
- Ambulance – 243 Willis Street - 13 1233

## WIA Director Mobile Phone Numbers

- Michael Owen - 0419 320 822
- Ewan McLeod - 0427 226 776
- Phil Wait - 0418 161 733
- Trevor Quick - 0421 918 099
- Robert Broomhead - 0403 066 686
- Geoff Atkinson (Secretary) - 0438 070 947



# Weekend Programme Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> of May

## 5:00 pm – Check in net and announcements on 146.550mhz

The 2m frequency of 146.550mhz will to be used for nets and liaison throughout the AGM weekend. The nets will be conducted from the WIA information and enquiries table at the Southern Cross Hotel. Friday nights net will provide registration and check quick to acknowledge your arrival as well as news and information about the weekends events. You are encouraged to collect your copy of the Open Forum Reports book from enquiries table at the Southern Cross Hotel when you arrive so that you can read the reports before the Open Forum on Saturday afternoon.



## 6:30 pm Dinner at the Southern Cross Hotel

For those checking in Friday night Dunes bistro/restaurant at the Southern Cross Hotel will be serving a selection of freshly prepared, popular cuisines that will appeal to a variety of tastes and budgets. The meal will be followed by a talk on the history of Broken Hill by well known local identity Mr Peter Black OAM.



## 7:30 pm – The History Of Broken Hill Presented by Mr Peter Black OAM

Peter Black was born on June 14 1943 and educated at Sydney Boys Technical high School, Sydney University. Obtaining a Bachelor of Science from the University of NSW, he was posted as a teacher to Broken Hill High School teaching Science and in 1969 and appointed Science Master of Willyama High School in 1984. He was also Secretary, President and Patron of the Barrier Teachers Federation from 1969 - 1980



Peters interest in Rugby League Group saw him take on the position as President of the Broken Hill & District Rugby League from 1971 – 1980. He became an Alderman 1977 - 1980, he was Mayor of Broken Hill from 1980 - 1999 and Executive member of LGA NSW. He was awarded the OAM in 1995 for services to Local Government & the Community and was voted in as the parliamentary member for Murray Darling (Western NSW) 1999 - 2007. Today, Peters hobby and passion includes all things Geological.



# Weekend Programme Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> of May

## 8:00 am – Informal Breakfast at the Southern Cross Hotel

Enjoy an informal start to the day, for those interested there will be a breakfast gathering at the Southern Cross Hotel. A buffet breakfast with a selection of continental and hot food will be available for \$15 per head.



## 8:55 am - Check in net and announcements on 146.550mhz

A brief check in net will be conducted on the 2m liaison frequency to acknowledge those who have arrived as well as providing updated news and information on the weekends events.



## 9:00 am to 12:00pm - Visit The Broken Hill School Of The Air

The Broken Hill School Of The Air is located in Lane Street near McCulloch Street. By special arrangement for WIA AGM weekend participants, the school will be open on Saturday morning between 9:00 am and 12:00pm with tours of the facility. Relive history as you look through the many photographs of remote learning in it's early days using RFDS radio network, see some of the equipment that was used, then to step forward in history to see the schools current state of the art satellite based remote learning system.



## 9:00 am to 12:00pm – Visit Radio 2BH

No doubt you will find this one easily, quite unique in its construction and designed to replicate an antique Phillips Radio complete with brass logo, the 2BH studio is located at 25 Garnet Street. It is believed to be the only building of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere and for that matter the world. You can tour the studios, see the station in operation, then have look through the stations radio museum. Some souvenirs and postcards are available for purchase from the station.



## 9:00 am to 12:00pm – Visit Broken Hill's Many Tourist Attractions

You may also choose to use this time to visit the local shops, the tourist information center, checkout some of the local tourist attractions, galleries or museums, or simply relax with others and have a natter over a cappuccino. Simply do as you please. Pictured right is the Broken Earth Café overlooking the Broken Hill township.





# Weekend Programme

## Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> of May (cont)

### 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm - BBQ lunch At Lions/Rotary Park

A barbeque lunch will be held at Lions/Rotary park opposite the visitors centre on the corner of Blende and Bromide Streets. This will be an ideal opportunity for a chat and perhaps catch up with those folk who may have just arrived. The WIA will be providing catering for those who have registered for the BBQ lunch, or you can choose to bring your own. The park has some limited seating available, we would encourage you to consider bringing folding chairs or a picnic rug to sit on the ground.



### 2:00 pm to 5:00pm - WIA AGM and Open Forum At the Broken Hill Entertainment Centre

The formal part of the weekend is the WIA AGM it commences at 2:00pm at the Broken Hill Entertainment Centre on the corner of Blende and Chloride Streets. The venue will be open for registrations from 1:30pm and the AGM will commence at 2.00pm. Please make sure you have collected your copy of the Open Forum Reports book before the meeting. The AGM will be immediately followed by the Open Forum, where the reports on all WIA activities over the year will be discussed. The Open Forum is expected to conclude no later than 5:00pm.



### 6:30 pm to 10:00pm - Annual Dinner At the Broken Hill Entertainment Centre

The WIA Annual Dinner commences at 6.30 pm Saturday evening at the Broken Hill Entertainment Centre. The evening meal will be a buffet and drinks will be available for purchase at the bar, dress for the evening is smart casual. Please advise the WIA office if you have any particular dietary requirements. The dinner will feature a guest speaker with a short presentation a topic of particular interest.



### 10:00 pm till Late - After Dinner Drinks At the Southern Cross Hotel

As we did last year, you may choose to join us for a night cap or two with us back at the Southern Cross Hotel.





# Weekend Programme Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> of May

## 8:00 am – Informal Breakfast at the Southern Cross Hotel

Enjoy an informal start to the day, for those who would like to meet for a breakfast gathering at the Southern Cross Hotel, a buffet breakfast with a selection of continental and hot food will be available for \$15 per head. We will be joined during the breakfast by guest speaker the “Flying Padre” John Blair.



## 8:10 am – 8:30 The “Flying Padre” John Blair

Around the city of Broken Hill the Reverend John Blair is known as the 'Flying Padre'. With the help of his trusty Cessna 182, he's delivering hope to the remotest parts of the State. Born in the USA but now living in Broken Hill, each week John sees more of the outback and its people than many born and bred in Australia will see in a lifetime. We look forward to John sharing his story with us over breakfast.



## 8:55 am - Check in net and announcements on 146.550mhz

A brief check in net will be conducted on the liaison frequency to providing updated news and information on the weekends events.



## 9:00 am to 12:00pm - Visit The Royal Flying Doctor Service

Make your way to the RFDS Base located at the Broken Hill Airport for a series of guided tours of the facility and technical presentations on the early RFDS radio systems by Gary Oldman RFDS Telecommunications and IT manager.



## 9:00 am to End of Day – Visit Broken Hill’s Many Tourist Attractions

You can use the remaining time to visit the local shops, the tourist information center, checkout some of the local tourist attractions, galleries or museums, or simply relax with others and have a natter over a cappuccino. Again the time is yours to do as you please.

