



**Brockway and Brunt = 150 years of transport experience on the road...**

Driving to Alice Springs in a 75 year old vintage truck at the age of 75 is a challenge most individuals would find overwhelming, but truck enthusiast Merv Brunt is very excited about his latest adventure. Indeed, overcoming obstacles and meeting challenges is very much part of Merv's character and his latest enterprise promises to benefit the community of Colac for years to come.

As a fundraiser for palliative care hostel, Anam Cara House, Merv will drive to Alice Springs in a fully restored 1935 Brockway truck. This trip is a celebration of Merv's love of the transport industry and his passion for restoring vintage trucks.

He currently has a collection of 30 fully restored vintage trucks, one of which, the 1922 AEC, is already on display at

the Alice Springs National Transport Hall of Fame.

Merv has been actively involved in the transport industry since the age of 17, first driving log trucks through the Otways, and then moving on to a small general carrying company based at the Colac train station.

Merv's company grew, eventually moving to a larger depot with a fleet of 25 trucks transporting everything from timber to butter, milk powder, furniture and groceries, both locally and interstate. Brunt's Transport was one of the biggest carriers in country Victoria and was awarded the Victorian Transport Association Country Operator of the Year award in 1994. Merv is a lifetime member of the Victorian Transport Association and the VTA is a proud sponsor of his latest project.

As a self-made man from humble beginnings, Merv has shown wisdom

and determination throughout his life, overcoming obstacles along the way and enjoying the opportunities his hard work has given him to meet fantastic people and achieve great satisfaction by helping others. Indeed, his strength was put to test in 1999, when he suffered a stroke. Merv showed an amazing spirit as he rebuilt his life and learnt to walk, talk and even drive again.

The VTA is proud to be a supporter of this event (and will be joining in on the trip) being held in August 2010.

The VTA is sponsoring a Launch Breakfast for this special event. The breakfast will be held in Colac, with VTA CEO Philip Lovel, head of Linfox Mr Lindsay Fox and the Mayor of Colac all in attendance to officially launch the trip.

For further information or sponsorship enquiries please M&F Brunt on 03 5231 5782 or Philip Lovel at the VTA.