



MEDIA RELEASE

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Tom Kruse is back on ABC TV Landline at noon on Sunday

Part of a new television documentary *The Mailmen Back of Beyond* produced to coincide with the centenary year of legendary outback mailman Tom Kruse and the 60th anniversary of the release of the film that made him famous *The Back of Beyond* will be aired on ABC TV Landline on Sunday (Nov 16th) at 12 noon.

Outback mailman Tom Kruse MBE was a film star before his *Top Gun* Hollywood namesake Tom Cruise was born. The 1954 Australian film classic *The Back of Beyond* introduced Tom Kruse and his 1936 Leyland Badger mail truck to a generation of Australians. Most never forgot the extraordinary images of the man and his battered trucks doing battle each fortnight with the sand and isolation along the Birdsville Track - outback Australia's toughest mail run.

The Mailmen Back of Beyond is a result of twenty-eight years of research by producer Ian Doyle. Ian and co-producer Keith Webb gained unprecedented access to the significant photographic collections of the Kruse, Heyer, Ding, Crombie and Teague families. In addition to the stills collections (available online at www.tomkruse.com.au), the documentary airs for the first time elements of movie footage filmed by filmmaker and adventurer Colin Wagener.

Colin is 96 years old and lives in the Adelaide Hills. He filmed in colour a trip he took on the Marree to Birdsville mail run with driver Monty Scobie in 1953 and again when the Cooper Creek flooded in 1956 and 1963.

Tom Kruse was the key figure in the classic Australian docudrama *The Back of Beyond* directed by the Shell Film Unit's John Heyer. It was shot in black and white and it remains one of the most critically acclaimed and awarded films ever produced in Australia. The Heyer Family Trust generously supported the project by allowing material from *The Back of Beyond* (www.umbrellaent.com.au) to be used in the documentary.

The Mailmen Back of Beyond is one of two discs in *The Tom Kruse Collection* available from the RFDS (1 800 813 318 or the website) for \$39.95. Proceeds from the sale of the double DVD set are in support of the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

More information:

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