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New series *Back Roads* brings heart-warming regional stories to the fore

Premieres on Monday, 30 November at 8pm on ABC TV

Back Roads transports audiences to some of the nation's most remote and inspiring communities that highlight rural Australia's trademark grit, generosity, humour and innovation.

Each week award-winning ABC journalist, Heather Ewart, who grew up on a sheep and wheat farm in Victoria, uncovers corners of Australia where misfortune has brought some to their knees, but imagination, faith and fun has lifted them back up.

"They're proud communities like my hometown, full of surprises, fight and spirit," says Heather.

Back Roads sees Heather Ewart return to the bush after last year's highly-acclaimed series on the National Party.

She's a witty and warm companion skilled at allowing the rural stars – the people she meets and places she visits – to shine.

Defined by their strength and humility, the characters of *Back Roads* are as awe-inspiring as the wild landscape that surrounds them.

Fiona Reynolds, Director of the ABC's Regional division, says, "The ABC is committed to sharing regional stories and conversations, not only locally but with audiences right across the country. *Back Roads* will give national audiences an insight into some of our smallest communities".

Heather's first stop is Ceduna in South Australia, before the eight-part series traverses the country from Derby in West Australia; Birchip and Yackandandah in Victoria; Winton and Karumba in Queensland; the Clarence River region in New South Wales to Queenstown in Tasmania.

Executive Producer, Brigid Donovan. Supervising Producer, Kerri Ritchie. Field Producers, Karen Micheltmore and Louise Turley.

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