



Rotary's epic mower ride around Australia.

An initiative of the Rotary Club of Armadale
PO Box 61 Armadale WA 6992

The Story of *Ride 2013*

Ride 2013 was Stage 2: Kalgoorlie to Adelaide

We left from *Armadale Mower World* at 10.15am on February 15. Around 80 people saw us off as we started trucking the team and all our gear to our starting line in Kalgoorlie.

DAY 1 was 188km to our first stopover at Norseman. We started our adventure from the Kalgoorlie Golf Club at 9am on the Saturday. The temperature reached 44.5 degrees and stayed around 30 degrees overnight. Thankfully we'd fitted a homemade water-mist aircon system to the Hustler – it was so effective we needed to switch it off occasionally to warm up! With that, and 4+ litres of drinking water, all went very well.

All our accommodations for the trip were donated, which helped to keep our costs down. Of course, when we say 'accommodation', we swagged it, staying anywhere we could get power and a shower.

DAY 2 was an epic 302km trip at a temperature of 49.5 degrees for much of the day. We had planned to stay the night at the Balladonia Roadhouse, but after arriving there around 2.30pm with the mercury still at 49.5 degrees we pushed on for Baxter Park Truck Stop at the 305km peg.

As it turned out, due to the changing temperature, rain, wind and rapidly closing darkness we only made it to the 302km mark. The temperature dropped to around 25 degrees with rain and very strong winds in a short two-hour period. Because of the high winds our chef, Garry Smith, could only muster up packaged food for the night, so we all looked forward to a hearty cooked breakfast of bacon and eggs the next morning.

DAY 3 took in 226km to Madura Pass Caravan Park and one of my favourite locations: Madura Pass itself. What an amazing sight.

DAY 4 was 196km from the pass to the state border. We arrived around 4pm WA time and set up camp in the caravan park. We had a very rewarding night with a great meal in the pub and time to look back on what we had just achieved: 690km from Kalgoorlie to the border in only three days.

DAY 5: took us 225km to Sharkies truck bay. Adelaide was just down the road! With the time change we couldn't hit the road until sun up around 7.30am, so I had time to do a couple of radio interviews by phone before we left.

It was great to stop at all the ocean view locations along the bight. After around 13 trips across the Nullabor by car this was the first time I and many on the team had seen the cliffs. Sharkies truck bay was our stopover, nearly a full day ahead off the plan.

THE ROTARY 4-WAY TEST: 1. Is it the Truth? 2. Is it Fair to all concerned? 3. Will it build Goodwill & Better Friendships? 4. Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?



Ride to the Other Side



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DAY 6 was to take us to Ceduna 261km away. At 4.30am we awoke to a massive display of thunder and lightning in the distance. It was heading our way in a hurry. We got packed up in a very quick 30 minutes and down came the rain. It was short but very heavy and the powdery soil soon turned to slush.

We hit the road as soon as it was light, heading for the sea. Around 4pm, over a day early, we crossed the Ceduna checkpoint and headed off to our caravan park for a full day of rest.

Day 7: REST DAY. We had covered nearly 1400km in only six days, and the big stretches and big heat were now behind us. The day off allowed the team to do our washing, restock the cool room, service the mighty *Hustler Super Z* and do some interviews with the local papers. Cookie even had time to whip up a birthday cake for team member Shane Rothnie.

Day 8 was 215km to Wudinna, and a night staying at the local footy club. It was another hot day and a very hot night. A few of the people from the local community dropped in to say hi. It was great to chat and explain why we were on our trek across to Adelaide.

Day 9 was a relatively easy day of only 101km to Kimba. We had a late start and arrived around 2pm. We had reached the halfway point across Australia. It was a very hot afternoon so the team headed to the pub for a drink and some admin work in the air conditioning.

Day 10 was to get us to Port Augusta 156km away. We again woke with a start around 3.30am with a big thunderstorm, and we jumped out of bed and packed the best we could. We then had to wait around till the sun was up before we could hit the road again. Off to Port Augusta and a proper bed! We arrived mid-afternoon and met with the Mayor at the council chambers. Rotary Club of Port Augusta members put us up and provided a great dinner and meeting.

Day 11 was about 145km. We had the press come along to our departure, with both TV and newspaper covering the story. We headed off to Redhill at the 145km mark, then trucked the mower back to Port Pirie where we were to stay with the Rotary Club of Port Pirie. It was another great night catching up and sharing the word about the *Ride*.

Day 12 began with only 176km to our destination. We left Redhill about 8.30am and soon struck wet weather. The temperature was down to about 20 degrees and it rained all day till we hit the suburbs of Adelaide. The mower and team arrived at the Clipsal 500 race track at 3.45pm.

We had achieved our goal for this year! Twelve days and 2,190km across the Nullabor in the middle of summer on a *Hustler Super Z* mower. What an effort!

Again we need to applaud our hardworking mower. Over a gruelling journey of nearly 2,900km to this point, in extreme heat and stormy weather, our *Hustler Super Z* has continued to perform flawlessly. We are still yet to require any maintenance on the road.

In 2013, we raised around \$5,000 along the way, contributing to this year's fundraising total of around \$60,000 so far.

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Here are the 2013 stats:

Total distance	2,190km
Total driving time	88.5 hours
Average speed	25km/h
Fuel consumption	4.5km/litre
Funds raised to date	\$60,000 approx.
Funds raised since leaving Armadale	\$125,000 approx.

Regards

Craig Alford
District 9465 Assistant Governor
Handicamp Chair 2010-2011-2012
Rotary Club of Armadale
craig@mowerworld.com.au
0417172651

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