



## 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 2014*

#### Ride 2014 was Stage 3: Adelaide to Sydney

The team set out from *Armadale Mower World* at 9.00 am on Monday 5th of May trucking all our gear to our starting line at the Adelaide oval in Adelaide.

Rain and more rain, a great way to start our adventure with WA not seeing rain since October 2013 and it did not stop till Norseman and did not really stop till Friday night.

**DAY 1:** After a great send off from Adelaide oval we headed SE to our first stopover Murray Bridge. A short 81 km and a stay in the change rooms of the Murray Bridge football club.

All our accommodation for the trip was again 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:** A cold start 202km trip to Bordertown at a temperature starting at 5 degrees and not getting above 22 degrees for much of the day.

**DAY 3:** Our first frost before our 226km to Horsham were we had the pleasure of being home hosted with RC of Horsham members. We had to stop a few times to warm the fingers on the exhaust through the day with the temp not getting over 15 degrees and a wild chill factor of about 1 Degree.

Home hosting gave us a good chance to dry everything out and prepare for things to come. Also a nice cooked meal and a warm comfy bed.

**DAY 4:** Another icy early start as we head off for Arrarat 95 km, a stop off at Michael Unwin wines was a good way to spend some time pity not everyone could sample anything. Arrarat Rotary and the SES put us up in the SES branch as well as putting on a great night with the community.

**DAY 5:** We headed off on a 130 km shorter day to Ballarat and a Police escort through town. The Win news did an exhalant news story on our arrival as well as the local papers. RC of Ballarat put us all up in the Ballarat Goldfields Holiday Park for the night; this was the time we repacked for the Ferry trip to Tasmania. As we could not take the truck we had to really condense everything.

**DAY 6:** The RC of Melton put on lunch for us all and many from the local community including the council came to say hi. We then set sail for Melbourne and the Spirt of Tasmania. Only 114 Km for the day but the Melbourne traffic was a bit to handle on a mower. Overnight cabin luxury before a very early start again.

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 7:** After arrive and disembarking before 6am RC of Devonport put on a splendid community BBQ breakfast.

Our first day in Tasmania and it was raining. Could this be a sign of things to come? A cold and wet 50km to Burnie for an overnight at the Burnie High School and the James Morrison concert.

**Day 8:** An early start's are a very big part of the trip and today was very early as we had to transport everything back to Devonport to recommence our 149 km trip to Oatlands.

Today was our wettest day on the trip so far, so wet it stopped the mower for a time.

Thing to remember if the place you stay at has an alarm make sure it does not set by its self in the night. A 30min 3 am alarm in your ear is very hard to sleep through.

A good night spent with the local rotary club in an old church now used as a community hall. We were blessed with a great meal and the sweets, well everyone had two helpings.

**Day 9:** Hobart and only 133 km a display at Parliament Square Lawns before being home hosted by Local Rotary members again.

A short stop in Bagdad for fuel and about 300 old and vintage cars passed us all heading to Peth for car show.

This is so well thought of and appreciated by the team as it gives us all time to do some washing a great meal, great company and a warm bed.

**Day 10:** Heading back to the mainland after driving to Launceston only 120 km on the mower but all our gear had to be on the doc in Burnie for the Toll ship back. The rest of the team flew back and spent the night with friends.

**Day 11:** This was to be a rest day for most of the team but started with picking up the rest of the team and the vehicles at Toll's yard.

A service for the mower and a visit to a dealer or two, before Chanel Seven news filming with Ted Whitten Junior at the Footscray oval.

Sunbury is where we stayed in Rupertswood Cricket sports club dining room and had a night out with the RC of Sunbury. Rupertswood Mansion is the birthplace of the Ashes back in 1882.

**Day 12:** 150 odd km to Bendigo and again the local Rotary clubs put us up in Chalets at Central City Caravan Park.

Another great night sharing our adventure with the club members and the community

**Day 13:** Started like most days early a bit of drizzle, a 6.30AM and 7.30 AM radio interviews, a drive through Coffee or three (don't get to do that very often) topped off with Win news interview.

All this before 9am and our 160 km days ride to Seymour via Shepparton.

Seymour's Major Mitchells Car Club met us out of town and escorted us in to my good friends pad or the **SHED**. Before putting on a fantastic night of fun and a meal.

**Day 14:** Rain again for most of the day not as heavy as Tasmania but did not stop for almost the entire 200 km to Wodonga.

Stopping off in Wangaratta to visit a dealer and to meet with Federal Minister Cathy McGowan for a coffee and news interview. Our accommodation was in the local School, warm and dry.

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**Day 15:** Wagga Wagga and 160 km no rain today but a lot of fog early and the roads were very wet. Coming from WA and such a very long dry spell it is good to find some rain and see green grass. We stayed the night under the Old show grounds grandstand.

**Day 16:** A visit to the Junee Licorice and Chocolate Factory before a visit to a local person that restored old lawn mowers and Victa ones at that. That we could not say no to. Then off to Yass and sleep over in a shearing shed.

**Day 17:** A very cold night -3 Degrees and it was so foggy we could not drive for some part of the day.

When we could it was off to Canberra and Parliament House, Federal police scrutiny and all.

Fifteen people with their push mowers escorted me in, covered by Win News.

The project reported on our trip that night as I did an interview outside with Don Randel Federal minister for Canning WA.

Later that afternoon we travelled back to Yass to drive the part we could not due to fog in the morning. This also gave us a chance to visit the local radio station and do an interview.

**Day 18:** Rest Day- Dealer visits and time to clean up before we start the home stretch.

**Day 19:** Mittagong 175 km via Goulburn.

Police and lawn mower escorts were the order of the day, before a photo shoot on the hallowed turf of the Bradman Oval.

To my surprise the groundsman was up for a drag on his Toro, one lap of the oval.

Well Hustler one Toro nil as I had finished before he was past halfway.

**Day 20:** Rest day come planning day for the last two days for this year.

A trip into Parramatta and Rotary HQ before heading out to Olympic Park to iron out our arrival into Rotary World Convention.

**Day 21:** 100 km into Parramatta via several dealer visits.

Before settling down for the night in another school.

**Day 22:** The Final day only 10 km but we arrived at Rotary World Convention at Olympic Park.

We had achieved our goal for this year! Twenty two days on the mower and 2,300km across land and sea not so much heat this year but cold and rain, on a *Hustler Super Z* mower. What an effort!

Again we need to applaud our hardworking mower. Over a gruelling journey of nearly 5,400km to this point, in extreme heat, cold and wet stormy weather, our *Hustler Super Z* has continued to perform flawlessly. Apart from the regular servicing and a small problem in Melbourne. When you consider the extreme in temperatures of high Forty, low tens degrees and so much rain for many of the days, to have almost no breakdowns or need any repairs whilst averaging 200 Kilometres a day. That is really impressive.

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This would not have been possible without the great support of so many.  
We thank you all.

### Here are the 2014 stats:

Total distance	2,300km
Total driving time	95.5 hours
Average speed	25km/h
Top Speed	36km/h
Funds raised to date	\$80,000 approx.
Funds raised since leaving Armadale	\$200,000 approx.

All funds raised are from donations and sponsorship!

June 2015 will see the team and our Hustler Super Z cover some 5300km over 35 days from Sydney to Darwin via Brisbane, Townsville and Mount Isa.

This time it will be wet or cold with Cane Toads and Quad Doubles whilst sitting in the seat for around 200 to 250 Hrs.

Regards

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