



On the 12th September a bunch of adventurous men and women will leave Brisbane on 20 of the great little Sym Crox 50cc scooters and head north via the outback roads for the main gate at the RAAF Base at Townsville.

The journey, which will cover 2,100 kms, will take 13 days and those who dare to be a part will have a helluva lot of fun and a holiday to remember for a long long time.



The journey will take us through Kingaroy, Mundubbera, Biloela, Emerald, Barcaldine, Longeach, Winton, Hughenden, Charters Towers and finally into Townsville. We're recently driven the route, checking accommodation, meal supplies, toilet/showers, breaks in the journey etc and found the generosity from people and firms along the way to be outstanding. I approached IGA and Woolworths in the towns in which we'll overnight to ask for assistance in obtaining food for breakfasts and on-road "snacks" and their responses were outstanding. IGA stores are owned by individuals and Woolies have store managers in each store and on all occasions I found them most generous – all offered to provide sufficient food for our trusty cook(s) to provide breakfast for all of us and also enough "snacks" for our long hauls up the road.



Many of the RSL Sub-Branches along the way have, where practicable, agreed to provide facilities and morning and afternoon teas, likewise, the various Councils and Show-ground



managers have also been generous and very considerate and have offered to waive the hire costs of their Show-ground pavilions and allow us to overnight in their facilities FOC.

The reason for the trip?

Most people agree that the best way to help a person understand and overcome a problem they might be experiencing is to get together with a group of their peers and discuss it. To find that you are not alone in dealing with past experiences can be a wonderful help in overcoming some of your fears, your worries and in some cases, your sleepless nights. As Scootaville is meant for the ex-ADF person it will be an ideal opportunity for some to meet and discuss any problem with men and women who have similar experiences. Some years previously, "Jake" Jacobsen organised a [similar event](#) where a number of people rode these little 50cc scooters across the Nullarbor. We approached Jake to get his knowledge of that event and after he'd passed on all he knew, we knew it could be done again so we went ahead and planned it.



Reason 1 – for ex-ADF people to get together.

In 1923 Legacy made a promise to help veterans' families carry on with their lives after the loss or injury of their loved one. It was a simple promise that Legacy keeps today; providing the same stability, guidance and assistance that a partner would normally provide to his or her family. Today, Legacy supports 43,000 partners and children of veterans who gave their lives or health serving our country. Their work can mean a child gets an education and a fair go, a widow is not disadvantaged and alone and a family is not torn apart by the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress or other physiological injuries. Since the Legacy promise was made by a soldier to his dying mate in the trenches of WW1 to "look after the missus and the kids", Legacy has supported Australian Defence Force families in times of great need.

Reason 2 – to raise funds for Legacy.

Most of us are now approaching 4 score years, some of us are already there, yet for most of us, that is only on the outside. On the inside we're much younger and we still know how to and can still enjoy having a good time with a bunch of other great people. Some of us only served the minimum period while others stayed in for many years, yet all remember those years in uniform as some of the greatest years of their lives. For most people, their oldest (long time) friends are people they met while serving. Some of us have had friends for 50 or so years – it happens, these are people you lived with, worked with, borrowed from and in some cases fought with. That's why there are hundreds of squadron/unit/base reunions held every year – for people to get together again and to continue old friendships – and to feel good.

Reason 3 – to get together and enjoy each other's company.



Kedron Wavell RSL Sub-Branch have agreed to also join us and a couple of them will bung on the helmet, hop on a bike and be a part of the event. They have also generously agreed to provide a small bus, a ute and also a mobile kitchen as well as a cook who will look after our breakfasts and smokos along the way. Two of the days will be long, unfortunately there is no way we can avoid that, but the kitchen will head off ahead and set up along the way to provide a bit of relief.

This is what's planned.

Day 1.

We leave Brisbane early on the morning of the 14th June 2021 and will travel north up Old Gympie Road to Caboolture, then head west to Woodford where we'll enjoy the hospitality of the Woodford RSL Sub-Branch who has offered to provide morning tea. After Woodford it's onto Kilcoy where we'll stop for a while, meet the people from Kilcoy and where the Sub-Branch has offered to provide lunch at our cost. Then it's up the hill to Yarraman where we'll meet Leigh Norgaard, who is ex-2Sqn and with the RSL. It's then onto Nanango for afternoon tea at the RSL, once again provided by the Sub-Branch.



From there it's onto Kingaroy to stay at the Showgrounds. Craig Lucas, the boss of the showgrounds has offered us the two pavilions below on the left in which to stay. Showers and toilets are just a short walk across the grass. Run your mouse over the overnight pavilions to see the interiors. Our support people will have gone ahead and made everything ready for our arrival.



Dinner and a bar that night have yet to be arranged (we're talking with a couple of providers) but it will be at our cost in one of the pavilions that we will be allowed to use as our Mess (below).



The idea is it will be catered for, you pay for what you want and we'll invite the other campers (there are lots) at the showground to meet and to get to know us – as we'll do each night. Run your mouse over the pic below to see the ablution block.



Day 2

The IGA at Kingaroy has agreed to provide us with food for our breakfasts and also a few snack items for our trip north. Breakfast will be served here (above), prepared by our bait-layer (BL).

From Kingaroy we head to Wondai. Shaz Birkett, the lovely drive-time announcer from Crow FM will meet us a few km out of Wondai and will ride one of the scooters into town. The BL will have gone ahead and set up a brief smoko in the car park at the information centre coming into town. Then it's onto Murgon for more smoko at the Services club (right) – provided by the Sub-Branch.



We've offered the Police at Murgon the opportunity to meet us a few Km out of town and ride one of the scooters into town.



After Murgon it's a brief stop at the Grand Hotel in Goomeri to say hello to the people and to buy a cold drink.

After Goomeri, the BL will go ahead and set up a refreshment stop 58km from



Goomeri in a gravel area on the left side of the highway, 500m after the Welcome sign below.



From there it's onto Gayndah for lunch at the RSL Club, once again, provided by the Sub-Branch.



After Gayndah it's onto Mundubbera for the night where we'll stay at one of the pavilions in the show-ground. (right).

Dinner that night will be provided by the sub-branch, (at our cost) who will provide a meal and bar facilities at their club rooms, (wave your mouse over the pic at right to see the RSL Club), once again inviting the public to come along and meet us.

Day 3



Breakfast will be prepared by our BL with food provided by the Mundubbera IGA which has also offered to provide snacks for the trip north.



Morning Tea will be provided (at cost) at the Eidsvold Cafe, owned and run by Andrew Roth – ex Army.

Andrew is also the local RSL Sub-Branch president.

From Eidsvold it's onto Monto where the BL can pick up supplies for lunch and the trip further up from once again the very generous IGA store (below right).



Lunch can be set up in the Lions Park, on the right entering town.

From Monto it's 96 km to Biloela so the BL will scout ahead and set up a rest stop on the highway, after which it's onto Biloela for an overnight stop at the Biloela showgrounds.





Dinner for the night will be at the Biloela Anzac Memorial Club (below), at cost – you order what you want.



Day 4

The Woolworths Store at Biloela has offered us enough food to cover our Breakfasts and for the long day tomorrow.

The BL has only to see the store manager to pick up a gift card and can then select the food as required.





Breakfast will be served in the Mess area of the showground pavilion below. This is a long day so breakfast will need to be served early.

The BL would have gone ahead and set up morning tea at Dululu, food supplied by Woolworths



at Biloela. There are no toilets for the next 80kms.

Being a long leg, the BL will set up a brief stop at Dunphy Park – no toilet.

Lunch will be served in front of the Duaringa Police Station, the BL will have gone on ahead and set up – an invitation has been delivered to the station for the police to join us for lunch. There is the possibility that the local school kids will also join us and could be given rides up and down the street on the scooters.



Next break is at the Blackwater Country Club, below – at cost, after which it is a long ride until Emerald..



There is the possibility that Ken O'Dowd, the federal member for the area (Flynn) could join us a few kms out of town and ride one of the bikes into Emerald.

Following the long ride from Biloela, we stay 2 nights in Emerald, with overnight accommodation provided by the Council at the Emerald showgrounds (below).





Ablution block – Emerald.



Dinner first night to be held at the Emerald Bowls and RSL Club below (at cost).





Breakfasts to be prepared and served in the Mess area at the Showgrounds, (below) by the BL, with food supplied by the Emerald Woolworths.



We are discussing with the Emerald Lions Club for them to cater for dinner on the Friday night which would be provided in the building above – at cost. Lions would run a bar as well as a kitchen and the townspeople would be invited to join us.

Day 6

After an early breakfast held in the building above, and prepared by our BL, from food supplied by Woolworths at Emerald, it will be off for another long day to Barcaldine.

After breakfast, the BL will head off ahead and wait for us at Bogantungan where we will stop for morning tea and rider change. Bogantungan is just off the highway, to the left.



Kerri Johnson, ex-Army lady, will meet us and tell us some of the history of the area



Lunch will be held in Alpha, which is just off the highway to the right. The BL will set up for lunch next to the railway station below, opposite the hotel.



From Alpha we continue north until Jericho where we'll stop for afternoon tea. The BL will set up on the northern side of town, beside the Jericho monument.





Jericho afternoon site.



From Jericho, it's onto Barcaldine where we've been allowed the use one of the pavilions in the showground (below).



Dinner that night will be provided by an elderly citizens group – at the showgrounds, at cost.



Barcaldine ablutions block.



While in Barcaldine we can look at the “Tree of Knowledge” monument.



Breakfast will be prepared and served up by the BL. We’ve asked the Barcaldine IGA whether they would sponsor us sufficient food for breakfast and for the trip to Longreach.





After breakfast, we'll have a look over the Barcaldine Workers Heritage centre – where we'll be treated to an early brunch before heading off to Longreach.





Longreach sleeping donga - run your mouse over the pic to see the interior.



**I found \$20 in a
parking lot and
thought to myself,
What Would Jesus
Do?**

**So, I turned it into
wine.**

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