

# SHOVEL PREPARATION

## PART TWO



SOUTHERN CROSS RIDE  
FOR DEPRESSION & SUICIDE AWARENESS



### WORDS & PICS DOC

In our last issue I outlined the ride I am preparing to do to raise awareness of the disease of depression and subsequent suicide. Clinical depression is a scourge that greatly affects many people in this country in one way or the other, whether suffering with it themselves or having loved ones suffer. Please see sidebar for more details on the ride.

The plan to prepare my

1970 FLH for the long miles it will undertake meant taking it down almost to the last nut and bolt and replacing many components. It was a massive project and took many hours of work by Andy, head honcho at Hyperformance Cycles/SA Choppers and his main man Adam Kalb, a fully trained Harley-Davidson technician. Let's look at some of the steps taken to ready the Electra.



1 The headstem bearings had certainly seen better days.



3 The cable operated front brake had a reasonable amount of brake shoe lining left so it was cleaned up but otherwise left alone.



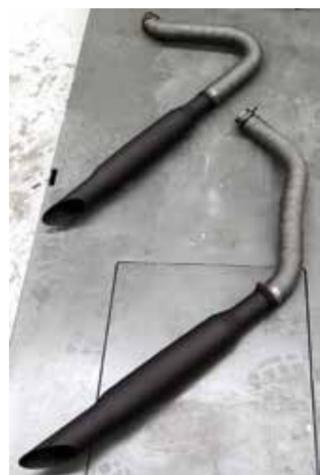
2 Kalby refits the lower triple clamp with new bearings.



4 Kalby fits a new Shinko tyre and tube to the front wheel.



6 After wrapping the highly modified pipes Kalby sprays the muffer sections with heat resistant black.



7 The finished exhaust ready for remounting.

5 The Shovel required a complete rewire and here Andy sorts out the headlight wiring. He also installed blinkers at my request. This was done for safety reasons rather than legal requirements.



8 Kalby threads some steel stock to make mounting bolts for the exhaust.



11 Before the first start up Kalby checks the jetting of the S&S carb.



9 And then turns up a couple of spacers on the lathe to suit. Yes, some of these are small steps but I feel it is important to give readers some idea where the many man-hours go on a project such as this.



12 The magic moment when the bike is first fired up into life and settles down into that potato-potato idle with a sound that only pre-Evo motors can make. Sweet!



10 After fitting the new chain Kalby shows me the required amount of slack to ensure proper function.



13 Kalby and Andy pose with the finished product after many hours of hard work and problem solving. A job extremely well done with absolute professionalism demonstrated every step of this rather long process.



14 The Shovel near Glenrowan on its shakedown cruise as part of the Electra Glide 50th Anniversary Commemorative ride. I rode it from Adelaide to Melbourne, up to Tooleybuc NSW, and then across to Albury before heading back home. The bike ran strongly the entire journey, giving me confidence for what's to come.



### ADELAIDE TO DARWIN

Depression and its associated scourge of suicide affect many Australians. And while there are well publicised group rides to support various charities I wanted to make a personal contribution to both fund raising for this cause and – in particular – in raising awareness of some of the many signs that all too often go unnoticed until it is too late. Losing my eldest son Scott, a young doctor working at Wollongong Hospital, to this disease some years ago, motivated me to take on this ride.

The reason for choosing to ride a bike built back in 1970 is because that was the year that Scott was born. My ride consists of two separate sections, the first being a ride from Adelaide to Darwin and return, a distance of some 6054 kays, taking some 11 days in all. I am setting off on this ride on May 11th this year.

### SYDNEY TO PERTH

The second leg of the ride will see me riding from home in Adelaide to Sydney, to then begin a ride across to Perth. This leg will total some 8000 kays and I intend

to do it in November of this year. Along the way on both legs I will be giving radio and television interviews in order to give this cause maximum publicity. If any readers have contacts in the media that may help please contact me at my personal email as shown below.

My wife Jane has set up a website ([www.southerncrossridefordepression.com](http://www.southerncrossridefordepression.com)) to provide more information on this ride and to acknowledge our kind hearted sponsors. Anyone wishing to donate to this ride and to raise funds for this important cause can find links on the site.

In the two decades that I have been a part of this magazine and involved in HOG I have met many wonderful guys and gals who, like me, truly love Harley-Davidsons. I know there will be many who will come on board with me on this event, either through the website or even riding sections of the route with me. If you wish to join in parts of the ride please email me at my personal email address [docrob@bigpond.com](mailto:docrob@bigpond.com).

