



Words & Pics Doc

ELECTRA BETTY GETS A FACELIFT FOR ...

# DOC'S CHARITY RIDE

Regular readers of this mag may remember me reporting on the first leg of my ride to raise funds for the Lifeline charity, a project spawned by the suicide death of my son Scott several years ago.

The night he graduated in medicine he told me that when he turned 40 he was going to buy a Harley and ride around Australia. He never made it and this ride – on a 1970 Shovelhead that I have named the Southern Cross Ride – is a tribute to him as well as me trying, even if in a small way, to reduce this scourge that takes so many of our fine young people.

Well, after completing the Adelaide/Darwin/Adelaide leg it was time to take stock and fix a few of the problems that

surfaced on that trip. While I was thinking about what approach I would take to this, Erika Armstrong (the director of Black Widow Tattoo and Kustom in Singleton, NSW) contacted me. Now we had never met, but Erika had read about the ride in HEAVY DUTY and most kindly and generously offered to completely repaint Betty. Wow, it was certainly an offer I could not refuse, especially after she sent me some samples of her custom paint jobs.

On the mechanical side, Andy from Hyperformance Cycles/SA Choppers had virtually rebuilt the bike before the Darwin leg, installing a new S&S motor and Baker gearbox and doing much other work, however, he'd recently had an employee leave and was totally snowed under with

stacks of work so I did not want to overload him anymore.

Therefore I called on the services of Blair and the boys at his brand new dealership, Adelaide Harley-Davidson Bike Works, and Blair agreed to help out with some mechanical issues that had arisen on the Darwin leg. Blair has a commercial arrangement with Oliver Dunkel, Dealer Principal of Perth Harley-Davidson and they jointly and generously have agreed to come on board as sponsors.

Now, I'd had petrol leaking from around the left tank filler cap on the Darwin trip and replacing the rubber sealant ring did not fix the problem, which was caused by wear. Despite having it built up with weld and reshaped, and fitting a new cap, we



*"... he told me that when he turned 40 he was going to buy a Harley and ride around Australia."*



still couldn't get it to seal properly. So I bought a pair of aftermarket tanks and sent them, along with the tins, off to Erika in Singleton.

The tins were not in good shape with a significant number of dents, a few cracks and were in a general state of disrepair. So Erika got to work, welding, grinding and eventually achieved a smooth surface on both guards. She then went through the process of priming, painting and applying photographic images of both Scott and Lisa, my friend Carla's daughter, who was also a victim of depression. And what a job Erika and her team did as you can see by these pics. Erika thanks her team as she wouldn't have been able to step away from her tattooing duties if they hadn't picked up her work flow and stepped in and co-ordinated the shop. She also thanks Clayton Curnow for his help with the panel side. All in all it was a collaborated effort by the crew from Black Widow Tattoo and Kustom.

While the tins were interstate, my brand



new seat arrived, courtesy of Mike Corbin, seat maker extraordinaire. Not only will it be mega comfortable for the long haul but Mike also included heating! Which probably makes it the only Shovel down under offering such a degree of comfort. Thanks Mike!

Now various events and circumstances beyond my control have gotten in the way of this ride, which will take me from Adelaide to Sydney, then across to Perth and back again to Adelaide, for a total distance of 8010km. Which is not a lot on a modern bike but becomes somewhat more significant on a 46-year-old bike with a solid mounted engine.

I had planned to leave in March but it looks like it will now be April, probably late April but as soon as the date is set I will put it up on the HEAVY DUTY Facebook page at facebook.com/heavyduty magazine, my charity ride at southerncrossridefordepression.com and my own Facebook page at facebook.com/docrob69.

A number of people have offered to ride along with me on various stages of the ride and they, and any HEAVY DUTY readers who would like to also join are most welcome.

Meanwhile Shunter Dan and Jaci, the founders and drivers of FOB (Friends On Bikes) have organised the printing of t-shirts to carry the logo shown on this page, with shirts available in white for ladies and black for men. Please support this worthy cause and order through my Facebook page or my email docrob69@hotmail.com. They are only \$30 each and all proceeds go to charity.

One final thank you goes to Geoff and Peter from Rocky Harley-Davidson who contributed to the Darwin leg and have generously offered to do so again. **HD**



Email docrob69@hotmail.com to order your t-shirt (above) for just \$30. Ladies shirts are white, mens are black. All proceeds go to the charity!



# FIVE SIGNS OF SUFFERING



## PERSONALITY CHANGES

They behave in ways that don't seem to fit their values, or they may just seem different.



## EXTREME MOOD SWINGS

They show problems controlling their temper and seem irritable or unable to calm down.



## SOCIAL WITHDRAWAL

They pull away from family and friends and stop taking part in activities they used to enjoy.



## RISKY & CARELESS BEHAVIOUR

They start engaging in substance abuse and self-destructive behaviour that alienate loved ones.



## SUFFERING HOPELESSNESS

They suffer from extreme or prolonged grief, or feelings of worthlessness or guilt.

**Nearly one in every five people have a diagnosable mental health condition.** Half of all lifetime cases of mental disorders begin by age 14. Often our friends, co-workers and even family members are suffering emotionally and don't recognise the symptoms or won't ask for help. Honesty and openness about mental health can help prevent pain and suffering, and those in need will get the help they deserve. **You can learn more at [www.changedirection.org](http://www.changedirection.org)**

