

Seniors cross the Nullarbor 2014



Expressions of Interest

Expressions of Interest are invited from older persons who would like to participate, on a volunteer only basis, in a unique charity event known as “Scootarbtor Challenge”. This event is to be conducted over a three-week period during September 2014. It is unique because it is not about the young, muscular, overpaid and beautiful superstars. Nor is it about movie stars walking the red carpet. It is about slowing down, wrinkled, partially stooped, not so wealthy people with a different style of beauty. These people are not attempting to break records; they just want to capture a little adventure and feel as though they actively belong in society and contribute something back by proudly supporting *beyondblue*, whose key message for older people is “*depression and anxiety - it’s not a normal part of getting older*”.

The concept is for a group of Australian older persons, aged 65 years and over, to ride 50cc motor scooters east to west across the Nullarbor via the Eyre Highway, from Port Augusta to Norseman, and then continue on to Perth. The event will be financed through sponsorship and donations, and marketed, with media support, to promote awareness and government acceptance that older persons are a national asset, not a liability, in today’s complex society.

Australians are now retiring from the workforce earlier and living longer. Increasing longevity is one of humanity’s greatest achievements. People live longer because of improved nutrition, sanitation, medical advances, health care, education and economic wellbeing. Some sources suggest that the world needs to take urgent action to cope with the impact of a rapidly ageing population. It is estimated that the number of people over 60 will surpass one billion within a decade. These growing numbers of the elderly presents significant challenges to welfare, pension and health care systems. This bemoans the fact that the skills and knowledge that older people have acquired are going to waste in society rather than being used to their full. Many of them are under employed, underactive and become a drain on a nation’s resources. Successive governments tend to indulge in hand wringing about the cost of caring for the elderly, rather than exploiting what they have to offer.

It is planned to operate 20 scooters in formation. The riders will be escorted by a lead and trailing vehicle. The lead vehicle will be a bus, transporting relief riders, rest stop refreshments and personal luggage. The trail vehicle will be an enclosed van with a mechanic and paramedic and all their equipment. Two advance party vehicles will travel ahead to prepare overnight accommodation.

The Eyre Highway is a 1668 km long linking Port Augusta in South Australia and Norseman in Western Australia via the Nullarbor Plains. The additional distance from Norseman to Perth is 723 km increasing the total distance for the scooter ride to 2391 km. It is planned the entire journey will take thirteen days including ten days of travel, averaging approximately 250 km per day, and three rest days.

The same riders will not be riding a scooter for the entire day. There will be a rotation of riders. Each rider will be limited to around 90 minutes in the saddle (approximately 60 km) two times a day, once in the morning and once in the afternoon. A normal car licence is all that is needed to ride 50cc motor scooters on the road in South Australia and West Australia.

To make this event a success, it needs to capture the attention of all levels of government, the media, the aged and the public at large. More importantly, it needs the voluntary expertise, and commitment, of many people with the desire to make the event succeed.

If you are interested in being part of this event, please complete and forward the attached Expression of Interest form.

SCOOTARBOR CHALLENGE

VOLUNTEER EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

MOBILE PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

FAX: _____

MALE/FEMALE: _____

AGE:

Less than 60	
60 to 65	
65 plus	

EVENT AREA OF INTEREST

Sponsoring

Donating

Pre-Event Planning

Event Participation (Scooter Rider)

Event Participation (Support)

Celebrity/Ambassador/Patron

SKILLS

Indicate those areas in which you have recent skills, which could be used during the pre-planning and conduct of the Scootarbtor Challenge event.

Finance Administration

Legal

Insurance

Media

Marketing

Camp Catering

Medical/Paramedic

Mechanical

Entertainer/Performer

Website Design & Development

Government Liaison

Civic Community Liaison

Charity Fundraising

Communications

AMPLIFYING COMMENTS

Notes:

1. It must be appreciated that there may well be many more Expressions of Interest than can be accommodated.
2. All Expressions of Interest will be answered.
3. It is anticipated that all active participants in the event will be required to pay an entrant/participant fee to help defray some of the camping and catering expenses.

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

Please mail or email to:

Scootabor Challenge
P.O. Box 139
Burrum Heads QLD 4659

Website under development

Temporary email: scootaborchallenge@gmail.com