

# The Adventures of Red Dog Devil & Bat



## 17. The Rabbits

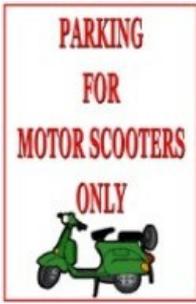
"Let's not hurry" said Devil while he savoured a large mug of coffee. "Let's not hurry what?" asked Bat. "I mean, let's not hurry our Tassie tour. This place is really starting to feel like home." "No worries" said Red, "we can stay as long as you like. Let's ride the roads around Mt Roland today." So on a cool, calm, Tasmanian morning, the boys set off for the hills. The Burn-Out Bakery appeared right on morning tea time so the boys stopped for some light refreshments.

As soon as they were off their bikes a local gang, The Rabbits, came screaming into the car park. It was as if someone had created a dozen clones of the mean Energizer bunny and set them loose on a fleet of Vespa scooters. As soon as the lesson in synchronised precision parking was complete, the chief bunny marched over with his hands on his hips and a dozen of his companions in tow. He looked up at Red. It took a lot of will power for Red to keep a straight face when he saw the size of the little guy. "What are you staring at, dude?" asked the rabbit. Dog kept clearing his throat

in an attempt to stop laughing. Devil just looked away each time he needed to compose himself. Bat wasn't paying any attention at all, he was busy with a polishing rag, wiping away a few rain drops which were spoiling the appearance of his Harley Fat Boy.

Red wanted to say "we're not staring, just looking" but he thought better of it and said "G'day, I'm Red and this is Dog, Devil and Bat." You could see the chief rabbit was wondering how to play this one, and after some time he relaxed his shoulders and said "I'm Winston" but he didn't offer his paw for a hand shake. At around this time, Bat, who hadn't a clue what was going on, wandered over with a packet of Fantales. He offered the packet to Winston. Winston looked at Bat, then at the others. You could see him thinking "are these dudes trying to make fun of me?" Then he remembered he liked Fantales, sunk his paw into the packet and smiled. The ice was





broken. "Join us for some Welsh Warebit" said Winston, "this joint makes the best in the land."

"Check it out" whispered Bat, "Winston can't pronounce the letter R." "That's a feature of all rabbits" said Red, "none of them can pronounce the letter R."

Winston led everyone inside the cafe. The Rabbits sat in their pecking order. "Let me introduce you" said Winston, "This is Wally, Walnut, Wiggo, Wiggin, Warren, Warlock, Wagtail, Willy, Westie, Woolly, Worm, Weevil, Weasel and Wendy. We're attending a wabbit wally down the woad."

"Why are your number plates called WABBIT1; WABBIT2.....?" asked Bat. "I asked for wabbit, but the dumb blonde behind the counter couldn't spell" said Winston indignantly. Dog excused himself from the table but his hysterical laughter could still be heard back in the dining room.

The cafe fell silent when cousins Wiggo and Wiggin pulled out a couple of miniature banjos and performed a very good rendition of Dueling Banjos. When their party piece was complete, Wiggo was about to play another tune, but before he played the first note Winston called out "loose it, dude." Red knew what Bat was thinking and he shook his head, "No Bat, this is not the place for the Tennessee Wig Walk!" "We're going to have to leave it here" said Red, "more roads to ride, more places to see." "Wide easy" said Winston, which was enough to get Dog nearly hysterical again.

As the boys rode out of the car park they knew they would never see The Rabbits again. Red mused as his Road King glided down the narrow country lane, "It doesn't matter where you are, it's all about the dudes you meet along the way."

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The Skink



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