

The Adventures of Red Dog & Bat Devil



23. Road To Gundagai

"We'll stop for breakfast in Gundagai" said Red as he packed up his tent in the pre dawn light. "What's the rush?" asked Devil. Red didn't answer. "Can I at least have a coffee and a bowel movement before we hit the road" said Devil. "Make it quick" said Bat, "we'll be ready to leave in ten minutes." Devil yawned deeply and wandered over to the toilet block with a motorcycle magazine under his arm. The boys rode out of Wagga Wagga long before the mist had cleared along the little back road to Gundagai. Red amused himself singing the only lines he could remember from the famous folk song:

Along the Road to Gundagai
(written by Jack O'Hagan)
*There's a track winding back
To an old-fashioned shack
Along the road to Gundagai.
Where the blue gums are growing
And the Murrumbidgee's flowing ...*

"I've never dodged so many peacocks, dogs, roos and utes" mumbled Devil when they arrived in Gundagai. "You can add cow pats, pigs and possums to that list too" said Dog. Red was just about to add his take on the road just travelled when the town copper tapped him on the shoulder and said "good morning, sir,

your trailer lights aren't working!" Dog lent over to Red and whispered "I'll handle this one," and then, without saying a word, Dog gave the trailer a good slap on the backside before turning the ignition on. "Looks like they're working to me" said Dog. The copper stood for a moment, scratching his chin and contemplating the boys smiling faces. Then he walked away, shaking his head.

The boys rode long and hard for the rest of the day and by midafternoon they had set up camp in Bathurst. "What now?" asked Dog, wondering what to do with himself. "Better go and check out the Mount Panorama race track" said Devil. "I don't think I can be bothered" said Bat. "Think about it" said Devil, "do you want to be the one that didn't ride Skyline or The Dipper or give it some curry down Conrod Straight?" "I didn't know you were such a petrol head" said Bat, and then with some enthusiasm, "the last one at the track buys the muffins!"

Red did one lap and then he became chief time keeper while Devil rode his V-Rod around and around, trying to improve with each passing lap. Unfortunately, a local dude turned up on another V-Rod



and demoralised Devil when he lapped him in a five lap race. To add insult to injury, when the race was over, Devil tried to get off his bike without putting the side stand down. "Quick, Red, give us a hand" shouted Devil, bracing himself for the pending disaster. "That was close" said Red when the disaster had been averted. Bat waddled over to help but he wasn't much use as he was holding a muffin in his right hand!

Devil was quiet at dinner. "Get over it" said Dog, "that guy knows the track; he's been around hundreds of times." Bat couldn't help himself and he said "It'll take time; Devil's bike is part of his manhood!" Devil looked up and went to say something but Red changed the subject and said "They sure have some strange sounding place names around

here, what was that one we passed through this morning?" Before anyone had chance to think, Dog piped up "Wantabadgery," and then he added, "no doubt we'll find Gonetabuggery somewhere down the track." Everyone laughed.

While Bat was preparing for bed he said "Dog, did you really see a pig along the road to Gundagai?" Before Dog could answer, Red butted in and said "the only pigs I saw were driving highway patrol cars and harassing innocent bikers!"

Stay Cool
The Skink



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