



Air care: An injured Malcolm waits to be taken on board by the Royal Flying Doctor at Williams Creek.

Motorcycle Diaries part 2: Royal Flying Doctor comes to the rescue in the Outback

Ruth Anders continues the story started in our last edition of solo round-the-world motorcyclist Malcolm Dunkeld, of Leslie Road, N2. And there's a shock ending!

During his eight-month round the world journey, Malcolm Dunkeld and his Triumph Tiger 800 XCX Adventure motorcycle had many experiences that he summarised as "magnificent, dangerous and challenging". He planned to travel overland from Europe across Central Asia and the Far East to Australia, followed by New Zealand, South America, Mexico and finishing in New York.

The Siberian part of the journey had many delights: millions of butterflies, vast forests containing bears, inland lakes the size of seas and interesting provincial towns few westerners have ever visited. Sections of the Trans-Siberian Highway were also dangerous, with three motorcyclists recently murdered on the section between Ulan Ude and Chita.

Meeting an Aussie pothole

Leaving Asia, he was held up for six weeks waiting for his motorcycle to arrive in Perth, Western Australia. "There are lies, damned lies and shipping agents!" said Malcolm.

After tasting his first full English breakfast for months, Malcolm continued into the Australian interior until disaster struck on the Oodnadatta Track, a treacherous Outback road.

A hidden pothole sent him over the handlebars causing him extensive injuries and



Nullarbor Plain, longest straight road in Australia. Photo Malcolm Dunkeld

severely damaging the bike. Miraculously on such a deserted track, rescue arrived quickly. A couple in a 4x4 took him to the tiny outpost of William Creek, where the Royal Flying Doctor was contacted. Malcolm's brave journey finally ended

with several weeks in an Adelaide hospital and his wife Gillian flying out from the UK to nurse him.

New horizons

Motivation for the trip was partly generated by Malcolm's determination to conquer his fear of being alone. Every day brought new roads, towns, landscapes, people, sights and smells. The extraordinary became the new norm and, almost a year later, he is hoping his injuries will heal sufficiently to allow him to complete the Americas part of the journey.

He is happy to advise anyone contemplating such a trip, and can be reached via malcolm.dunkeld@btinternet.com.

Can we win the war on single-use plastics in stores?

By Chris Stavrou

The theme of June's N2United meeting was plastics, and how everyone can use them more responsibly. Could East Finchley be the first community in London where people shop without using throwaway plastics?

After we reported on local resident Ann Inglis's call for the community to cut out the use of throwaway plastics (*The Archer*, May 2018), she and Compton School teacher Joanne Westgate were invited as guest speakers.

Joanne, in agreement with Ann that wasteful use of plastics needs to be dramatically reduced, has started an initiative in her school to change the culture of how we see throwaway plastics, such as single-use plastic bags and packaging.

Both sides of the argument for and against plastics were discussed by local businesses. While some agreed that they could cut out the use of single-use plastics completely and encourage their customers to follow suit, others noted that the difficulty starts a lot higher up in the chain with their own

suppliers.

N2United are hoping, with help, to start a project that will change the mindset by which local businesses and residents alike use such plastics. Whilst it is indeed a global issue, as Peter Barnett of A Scott & Son fishmongers said, "It's not plastic's fault," and a large change can start somewhere small. Maybe that place will be East Finchley!

Involvement

N2United act as an opportunity for businesses, residents and other local groups to work together. If you'd like to join in the efforts to decrease the use of plastics in our community, email: community@n2united.co.uk

The next N2United meeting will be on Thursday 12 July at the Clissold Arms in Fortis Green. They are also looking for speakers for future meetings.

Madden's lives on

Madden's in the High Road, N2, is to stay as a pub following the retirement of its previous owners Kieran and Margaret Madden. The property was put on the market earlier this year and last month a new lease agreement was signed for Enda and Ronan Murray to take over. There had been concerns that the pub was in danger of being swallowed up by the development of the two vacant properties next door, where work has started on the long-awaited Sainsbury's Local store.

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