

**Steve Crombie,  
Geoff Thomas  
and  
Mark Beveridge**



# Lost on Earth

by **Peter Kenny**

Every now and then whilst chasing a story, another creeps up and bites you on the notebook. Recently I was in Sydney for Motorcycle Awareness Week to meet people with a shared interest in all things motorcycle. Amongst the converted and born again bikers stood three guys on a quest.

Their mission is to be the youngest to circumnavigate the planet by motorcycle, and to be the first people to visit the seven natural and man-made wonders of the world on a motorcycle travelling over land and sea.

Stephen Crombie, at twenty-four years old, is the "dreamer, schemer, and team leader." Stephen, who grew up in Sydney, spent a couple of years "finding himself" after driving the final nail into school studies. Although young in years he's crammed pure adventure into his life so far from driving trucks for a circus, dangling off high wires as a trapeze artist to travelling through South East

Asia, New Zealand and South America. During all this he managed to obtain a Masters of Business and spent a couple of years as an international marketing manager for a finance/IT company.

The "sanity-check master" and details man is Mark Beveridge, 25 also of Sydney. Mark is charged with being the wisest member of the team. He too has travelled widely through South East Asia, New Zealand and the US. Mark, who has a degree in commerce, is a senior analyst and accountant. Not only can he make calculators purr he's quite handy wrenching his own bikes.

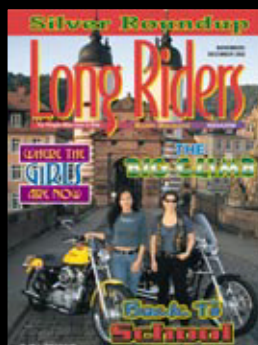
The third member of the "Lost on Earth" team is Geoff "Schwarzenegger Junior" Thomas who at 25 is the fittest member of the trio. Currently living in the UK, Geoff is also a well-seasoned traveller through Europe, South East Asia, USA and Canada. As a matter of local interest, Geoff spent some four months in Pennsylvania and has fond memories of Harrisburg, which is the home of Long Riders Magazine. His background is in marketing, finan-

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cial planning and film production.

It's a rarity to discover three guys who hail from a comfortable 9 to 5 background that find inspiration to get down and dirty and set off on an adventure of a lifetime. This one's been in the planning stages for two years.

Travelling more than 100,000 kilometers and visiting many countries along the way, they intend turning their dreams into reality. They plan to document their journey by utilizing multi-media outlets. Film festivals will be an added attraction where they plan to show off their video achievements.

The "Lost on Earth" crew has been exploring Australia over the last few years riding both on and off-road bikes, a mere training exercise for the real thing. They departed Australia in an easterly direction on December 28, 2003 to begin their adventure on the western coast of South America. Their trek will take them through the south, east and central Americas before heading north through Mexico and into the United States.

On completion of their US jaunt, they'll motor through Canada and Alaska, crossing the Bering Strait into Russia before touring Mongolia, Northern China and Kazakhstan and then on to Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia arriving back in Australia some two years later at Darwin in the Northern Territory.

Of course when planning any trip of this magnitude they considered political and security agendas, particularly in the Middle East and some African countries. At the time of writing, riding a motorcycle may be hazardous to their health, and they'll make appropriate detours around trouble spots.

Steve, Mark and Geoff plan to keep in touch as they forward updates on their Lost on Earth adventures. They have their own web address for the curious at [www.loston.com](http://www.loston.com). For the duration of the trip they have committed themselves to raise awareness about youth suicide and prevention, in association with the Here for Life Organization.

According to the Here for Life—[www.hereforlife.org.au](http://www.hereforlife.org.au) on average, one young Australian takes his or her life every day. For every person that commits suicide, a further 30-40 will make an attempt. Most people considering suicide display signs of their intent. Here for Life's challenge is to help people recognize warning signs. The organization runs a number of school-based programs that aim to empower young people with positive life skills and essential help-seeking behaviors.

If the word these guys are spreading saves lives and instills positive thought into the world's youth the outcome will be most rewarding as they continue with their own zest for life and adventure. 