



I SPY ON THE ROAD

Never judge

LOOKS can be deceiving, or so the old saying goes.

For one middle-aged truckie, it has taken on a much more serious meaning.

This true gentleman of the road suffers from a condition called attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (or ADHD).

ADHD is a problem of not being able to focus, being overactive, not being able to control behaviour, or a combination of these.

For these problems to be diagnosed as ADHD, they must be out of the normal range for a person's age and development.

The gentleman admits to being hyperactive and on numerous occasions he has been suspected by police of being a junkie.

"I seem to be singled out and get drug tested often and it really is depressing. They suspect I am a drug user," he told Spy in early May.

On every occasion, tests have proven negative and the driver just has to get on with life the best way he can as he travels around Australia delivering goods.

Spy was able to feel for him.

Loneliness often a problem

ONE of the joys of being a truckie according to many is the freedom of being on the highway.

That may well be the case, but on

the flipside, many of our champion drivers also suffer from loneliness when away from home.

One interstate driver told Spy that he blamed his divorce on being away so often working as a truckie.

"If I had known this is how it would end up, I would have got another job. Even when I was home and had time off for a few days, you would sleep for one and not get to spend that much time with family," he said.

Sadly his sentiments are echoed by many truckies around Oz.

Battery dilemma

IRONIC, one could suggest. A truckie in his first day on the job was standing beside his truck waiting for somebody to come with a new battery.

Those who have had a flat battery would know the angst it can cause.

He had been there some hours and there were numerous trucks nearby at a roadhouse parking area.

Then somebody came and told him that the two nearest trucks had full loads of - wait for it - batteries.

But he did feel little comfort when he discovered all of the batteries which were headed interstate were indeed all defunct.

Bin search mystery

CURIOSITY was at a peak when several mates of a road transport identity saw him searching through a bin twice in a week.

They may have thought he had fallen on hard times as they walked past his home and spotted him checking out bags in his wheelie bin.

Spy managed to get to the bottom of the mystery and on the first

occasion our mate had misplaced some Zan Extra blood pressure tablets.

He threw the box they were in into a plastic bag which ended up in the wheelie bin.

Then the wife cleaned the face mask and tube which connects to his sleep apnoea machine.

Somehow a small plastic piece from the mask, which is vital to ensure the silent operation, ended up in the bin with some other kitchen rubbish.

Anyway, the good news is he managed to find both items.

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Golf buggy update

A FEW columns back Spy reported on a female truckie who, while delivering in a large country town, saw a gent driving a golf buggy along a street.

Spy duly noted the buggy was unregistered to drive on roads and the fellow would have been breached if the cops had spotted him.

It was not far from a large golf course and the fellow parked the buggy in the car park at a small north Queensland shopping centre.

So it was with some considerable interest for Spy when he heard that a Nhulunbuy man in the NT had been allegedly caught driving a buggy while under the influence of alcohol.

The man allegedly had a blood alcohol content of 0.125% and his buggy was apprehended on Banyan Rd and 1km from Gove Golf Course.

NT police warned that driving a golf buggy on a street is an offence.

Amorous message

A HUSBAND who works in the industry, and his wife who doesn't, enjoy emailing each other rather sexy and amorous messages.

Fair enough as they are well and truly in love and romantics at heart.

However when the hubby sent one recently he accidentally hit the wrong address key.

Oops. The message went to everybody in his address book, including numerous married women.

So the rather embarrassed gent had some explaining to do and has been the subject of some humorous jokes.

Outback dangers

IN RECENT months Spy has information that a number of truckies have stopped to assist other road users who have broken down in the outback.

Mount Isa police warn all drivers that travelling in outback Queensland or remote and isolated areas comes with dangers.

Mount Isa District Office Inspector Trevor Kidd said driving in the outback was not like city or even rural driving due to the vast

distances motorists travel and the extreme isolation they will likely face during their journey.

"Breaking down or having even a minor traffic crash can have very serious consequences when they occur hundreds of kilometres from the nearest help," Insp Kidd said.

"Drivers need to be as self sufficient as possible and ensure they carry the correct equipment to communicate with emergency service providers."

Equipment that should be considered essential includes both a satellite phone and a personal locator beacon (PLB).

"Don't rely on mobile phones in the outback," he said.

"You are likely to be out of range for some or most of your trip, depending on where you are going."

"A satellite phone is a real lifeline."

"If something goes wrong, knowing what the situation is before we head out will enable us to better assist you."

Recently police had to travel nine hours (one way) across the desert to respond to an emergency of an unknown nature after the alarm was raised by the activation of an EPIRB.

Other essential equipment includes sufficient water, food and any medications to last beyond the expected duration of your journey.

If you become stuck due to even a simple breakdown, it can be a long wait for help to arrive.

In hot, dry conditions with insufficient water, this can become life-threatening very quickly.

If something does happen, remain with your vehicle.

Searchers are able to find a vehicle far easier than they can a person.



SMELLY JOB: Searching through a wheelie bin twice in one week landed a road transport identity in the spotlight recently.

PHOTO: KARI BOURNE

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