

WORLD ON WHEELS

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Working the club circuit

An Adelaide man is setting out on an around-Australia big music road, but he's not putting himself in the lap of luxury. Ryan Holmes, a 37-year-old car enthusiast, is planning a solo drive around the country, covering almost 25,000km in a Clemente Chalmers over the next four months.

Mr Holmes says the car is ready to go after recent differential trouble and he is looking forward to the big adventure. "I did a 6000km trip of Easter last year and finally enjoyed that, so I'm using long service for a devoted drive," he says. "In his type of car, it's not quite the normal drive-around-Australia - I'm certainly getting it on wheels."

The route will take him across to Western Australia,

south and then east across the Northern Territory and into Queensland, before heading south through New South Wales and into Victoria.

Mr Holmes is planning to make it to Bright, Victoria, for a national Chalmers event in November, before taking the long way home via Tasmania and the Great Ocean Road, the Holmes will be flagged away from the Sir Samuel Way Supreme Court building by Lord Mayor Michael Harkin on next Monday morning at 8am, escorted by a few other Chalmers enthusiasts.

Mr Holmes plans to return to the same location on December 8.

Shaun Martin

The Advertiser, 6 August 2005, Motoring Section page 3 (used by permission).

Last-minute preparations

In the meantime I was busy packing and unpacking the car and the small trailer with all my luggage to see what fitted and what was really necessary for the trip. I finally sorted out how many clothes I needed and how much cooking equipment should be taken. Of course there was a spare tyre for the trailer and enough tools to rebuild the car should it become necessary.

On the day before I headed off, my sister organised a going-away party for me. This was a good day and helped pass the time fairly quickly. Otherwise, I would probably have spent the day moping around, worrying about what I had forgotten to do. I was given two teddy bears to take along as companions on the trip as well as a Saint Christopher

medallion on a chain. I named the bears 'Trim' (after Matthew Flinders' cat) and 'Not Trim'. I thought these were appropriate names because I was going to be doing a lot of coastal exploring, as Flinders had done over 200 years before.



'The Boyz': Trim and Not Trim.