



Beyond 'That's So Gay' Summary Series 2011

The Beyond 'That's So Gay' Tour left Geelong late February 2010. The 38-week national challenging homophobia tour of regional, rural and remote Australia has now come to its conclusion, again in Geelong in November 2010.

When Daniel Witthaus and his gay truck, Bruce Ford, reached the conclusion of the self-funded tour, they had driven 38,000kms around the country through all sorts of landscapes and climates.

Daniel chose to stay one-week, or close to it, in most locations so that he could make the most of "referrals" for interviews (i.e. whilst interviewing one person, they might recommend someone else in town who Daniel might have a 'cuppa' with).

The Beyond 'That's So Gay' Tour aimed to repeat and expand on the Australian Human Rights Commission's Outlink project (1999-2000) and originally asked:

Just what is modern day life like for everyday lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in rural, regional and remote Australia?

Is life outside metropolitan Australia really difficult, impossible and/or non-existent?

What are the good, bad and ugly stories of regional Australia for LGBT people?

What happens when you give teachers, health professionals and homophobia-curious others strategies and resources to challenge homophobia?

What do we need to do better to ensure that all Australians feel able to live safe and supported wherever they choose to call home?

The Beyond 'That's So Gay' Summary Series will answer these questions.

Clearly producing one single, definitive report that could only hope to reflect 266 consecutive days and 100s of interviews with



Daniel prepares to launch a 266-day drive

teachers, health professionals, homophobia-curious others and LGBT people was going to be a challenge. Instead some smaller themed summaries of some 175,000 blog words (e.g. Modern Day Snapshot, Schools, Exciting Ideas and Challenges) will be released over the next few months for everyday teachers, health professionals and homophobia-curious others to give them the highlights, major findings and useful bits from almost a year on the road. It is hoped that they can be easily absorbed over a cuppa or two.

Each will be divided into three sections:

**For The Head (i.e. information);
For The Heart (i.e. stories) and
For The Hand (i.e. practice).**

It is suspected that experienced practitioners and health professionals will not find too much surprising in the pages that will trickle out in the coming months. But we'll see...



Geelong's Mayor was excited to launch the tour