

HOLDEN TOWN

By Brett Lovell

Episode 8: There's A New Kid In Town

Running time: 45 minutes

EXT. THE ROAD TO MALDON. DAY

A beautifully restored 1964 pale green EH Holden, with a white roof and a huge Holden decal plastered all the way across its front windscreen, is thundering its way along the open road. Its mag-wheels glisten in the sun as it goes zooming past the camera.

CUT TO:

EXT. MALDON BICYCLE STORE. DAY

Mack(14) comes happily walking along the footpath towards the Maldon bike store.

CUT TO:

EXT. OPEN ROAD TO MALDON. DAY

Wombat(33) is driving his Holden ute towards Maldon when the beautiful pale green EH with the white roof comes thundering past him and rockets off up the road, its rear louvered window hiding the identity of its driver.

CUT TO:

INT. MALDON BICYCLE STORE. DAY

Mack enters the bike store and starts looking over the brand new bikes to find one in his price range. He seems to have his eye on a ten speed racing bike. The man in the store, Jim(55), is always ready to help.

JIM

Can I help you at all, young man?

MACK

Yeah, I'm going to buy a bike!

JIM

You got some cash for your birthday, did you?

MACK

No, I worked for it. All I got for my birthday was fools gold.

JIM

You can't do much with that.

MACK

Yeah, tell me about it.

CUT TO:

EXT. OPEN ROAD TO MALDON. DAY

Dazza(22) and Rock(22) are in Dazza's amazing WB Holden ute, also making their way into town.

INT. DAZZA'S HOLDEN UTE

Rose Tattoo is playing on the stereo as usual and they both have their sunglasses on and their arms resting out the open windows.

DAZZA

Hey, Mate! Did you hear that we've got a hired gun coming to train with us!

ROCK

Oh, yeah? Where's he from?

DAZZA

Bendigo, but he's also played a few games for Carlton.

ROCK

He can't be too good if Carlton let him go.

DAZZA

Apparently he didn't want to play in the AFL.

ROCK

Pfft! Turn it up, Mate! Who doesn't want to play in the AFL?

DAZZA

I don't know. Ask him when you see him.

The pale green EH Holden goes thundering past Dazza's ute and Dazza and Rock look out in awe as it zooms off up the road.

DAZZA (CONT'D)

Did you see that?!

ROCK

Yeah, Mate! That was sick!

DAZZA  
An EH Special!

                  ROCK  
That was no ordinary EH!

                  ROCK (CONT'D)  
Nah, Mate! That was sick!!!

CUT TO:

INT. MALDON BICYCLE STORE. DAY

Mack has made up his mind and has decided on his new ten speed bike.

                  MACK  
Is this the cheapest ten speed  
you've got?

                  JIM  
Yeah, that's it. How much have  
you got?

                  MACK  
A hundred and eighty six dollars.

                  JIM  
You're only thirteen dollars  
short. That sounds like a deal to  
me.

                  MACK  
But I'll need a puncture kit as  
well.

                  JIM  
You can have one for your  
birthday present.

                  MACK  
Really?!

                  JIM  
Yep! Why not?

                  MACK  
Cool!

CUT TO:

EXT. OPEN ROAD TO MALDON. DAY

The pale green EH Holden begins to slow down as it reaches the Maldon town sign. It continues on towards the township.

CUT TO:

EXT. MALDON BICYCLE STORE. DAY

As Mack walks his new bike out of the store he farewells Jim.

MACK

Thanks a lot! See you!

JIM

OK! Enjoy your bike!

Mack gets on his bike and happily rides off down the street.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE SERVICE STATION WHERE WARRICK WORKS. DAY

Warrick(46) is wearing his usual work attire, a pair of overalls with one strap undone to expose his naked chest beneath. He is busy sweeping down the dusty cement driveway when he hears the rumble of the pale green EH Holden. It comes slowly into the service station and pulls up at a petrol bowser. The driver, Bradley(22), gets out of the driver's door and heads around to get the petrol nozzle as Warrick looks on.

WARRICK

Hi there!

BRADLEY

Hi.

WARRICK

That's a nice car you've got there!

BRADLEY

Thanks.

WARRICK

What year is it?

BRADLEY

It's a sixty four EH Holden Special.

WARRICK

Nice! I drive a seventy eight  
Mack.

BRADLEY

A Mack truck?!

WARRICK

Yeah, funny, ha! It's even got my  
name on it.

BRADLEY

That's different.

Bradley takes the petrol nozzle and starts filling up the  
tank as Mack appears coming into the servo on his new bike.

MACK

Hey, Dad! Check out my new bike!

Warrick looks Mack's way and sees that he is riding a new  
ten speed bike.

WARRICK

Nice one, Mate!

Mack comes riding up the driveway and stops in front of the  
EH Holden next to Warrick.

MACK

That's a cool car!

BRADLEY

Thanks! And that's a cool bike!

MACK

Thanks! I bought it with my own  
money!

BRADLEY

That makes it even cooler.

MACK

I know.

ROLL TITLES MONTAGE "HOLDEN TOWN: THERE'S A NEW KID IN  
TOWN"

CUT TO:

EXT. MALDON ROAD. DAY

Mack is riding his bike along the street when Bradley's  
pale green EH goes slowly driving past him. Bradley honks  
the horn and waves out through the window as he cruises by.

Make waves back and joyfully continues to ride his bike along the street.

CUT TO:

EXT. MALDON MAIN STREET SHOPPING AREA. DAY

Mack comes riding along the main street in Maldon. He sees Bradley's car parked with a group of locals inspecting the impressive car. He rides by and continues off towards his home.

CUT TO:

EXT. WARRICK'S HOUSE. DAY

Mack comes riding into his family home. He gets off his bike, carefully rests it up against the house and goes inside.

SHORTLY AFTER

He emerges from the house with a towel around his shoulders and zinc cream on his nose, it appears that he is going to the local pool for a swim. He gets on his bike and rides off back up the street.

CUT TO:

EXT. MALDON MAIN STREET SHOPPING AREA. DAY

Mack comes back down the main street in the opposite direction. Bradley's car is still there and there are even more curious locals inspecting it.

CUT TO:

EXT. MALDON LOCAL POOL. DAY

Mack pulls up at the local swimming pool. As he parks his bike in the bike racks the school bully Luke(14) arrives, standing on the foot pegs of his friend Glen's(14) BMX. Mack continues off to the pool entrance as Glen parks his bike and then he and Luke both go to inspect Mack's new ten speed.

CUT TO:

EXT. INSIDE THE LOCAL POOL. DAY

Mack has striped off his shirt and put his towel down. He comes running towards the diving blocks and springs off one and goes sailing into the air.

UNDER WATER SHOT OF MACK AS HE COMES BOMBING INTO THE WATER, LIFE IS GOOD.

EXT. INSIDE THE LOCAL POOL. DAY

Mack pops up from the water and wipes the water from his eyes, he has a huge smile.

END TITLE MONTAGE

EXT. MALDON LOCAL POOL. DAY

Mack comes out of the local pool and sees his bike resting up against the wall. He looks around suspiciously as to why it's been moved. When he goes to wheel it away from the wall he notices that the front tyre is completely flat. He shakes his head in disappointment and lifts up the front wheel as he begins to tow the bike home.

CUT TO:

EXT. MALDON STREET. DAY

Mack is walking his bike home, he is still lifting the front up off the ground to try and prevent any further damage to the tube.

CUT TO:

EXT. WARRICK'S HOUSE. DAY

In the front yard of Warrick's house Mack's bike is resting upside down on its seat and handle bars. The front wheel has been removed and Mack is busy pulling the tube out from the tyre to repair it. As he pulls the tube out he gradually rotates the wheel and he notices a dent in the brand new rim. The entire rim has been dented in, which would take a great deal of force and certainly wasn't an accident. He rubs his finger over the dented area and shakes his head in disappointment.

CUT TO:

EXT. MALDON MAIN STREET SHOPPING AREA. LATE AFTERNOON

As Mack walks his bike along the footpath of the main street he sees the crowd still lingering around Bradley's car.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE MALDON HOTEL. MALDON. LATE AFTERNOON

Bradley exits the hotel and sees the crowd gathered around his car. He looks across the street and he sees Mack walking his brand new bike along the footpath. He knows something must have happened for Mack's new bike to already need repair. He watches on with a concerned look on his face as Mack continues off down the street, and then he himself walks off along the footpath in the opposite direction, leaving the curious locals to talk about his car.

LOCAL 1 (V.O.)

What do you think it's got under the hood?

LOCAL 2 (V.O.)

Well, it's a one seven nine, so it's got to be the red engine. But who knows, it might have a Chevy in there?

LOCAL 1 (V.O.)

Turn it up, Mate! You wouldn't make something this beautiful and then tear it's heart out and replace it with a Chevy!

LOCAL 2 (V.O.)

I wonder if the engine bay has been detailed?

LOCAL1 (V.O.)

What do you think, boofhead?!

CUT TO:

EXT. THE SERVICE STATION WHERE WARRICK WORKS. LATE AFTERNOON

As Mack wheels the bike into the service station he is still lifting the front off the ground. Warrick is busy sweeping the cement driveway when he sees Mack walking his bike in.

WARRICK

Hey, Mate! Have you got a flat already?!

MACK

Yeah, it appears that way.

WARRICK

It's stinking hot, isn't it?

MACK

Yeah, it sure is.

Mack continues to wheel his bike to the service station's air compressor. He places his bike down and takes the cap off the valve and begins to pump up the tyre. As the tyre expands the area of tyre around the dented in section seems to be bulging out due to the dent. Mack stands the bike up and gets on it to ride. He starts to ride in circles around the service station driveway and as he does so the wheel bums up and down every time that the bulge touches the ground. He gets off the bike and inspects the damaged rim.

WARRICK

What's the matter, Mate?

MACK

There's a huge dent in my rim.

WARRICK

How did you do that?

MACK

I didn't do it. Someone else did it while I was at the pool.

WARRICK

I'm sure it was just an accident, Mate.

MACK

(disbelieving)

Yeah! I don't think so.

WARRICK

Why would someone deliberately damage your bike?

MACK

I don't know! You tell me?

CUT TO:

EXT. THE FOOTBALL GROUND. DUSK

The football player's cars are parked around the club house and some of the players are out on the ground kicking footballs to each other. Each player has a different jersey from the multitude of teams they have represented over their football careers. Bradley's car comes rumbling along the dirt road towards the club house. Out on the ground some of the players that were kicking to each other see the impressive car. They stop kicking and converse for a moment.

FOOTBALL PLAYER 1

What do you think, Mate? Is that him?

FOOTBALL PLAYER 2

It's got to be, Mate!

Bradley's car pulls into a car space and Bradley gets out. He goes to the rear door and opens it and takes out his football bag. He closes the car door and carries his bag off towards the club house.

PLAYER 1

He's not very tall!

PLAYER 2

He looks more like a hired cap-gun than a shotgun! The club needs some more big guys. Not another ball-hog mid-fielder.

PLAYER 1

Well, apparently he would have won the best and fairest in the VFL, if he wasn't reported three times and missed half the season through suspensions.

PLAYER 2

Pfft! Turn it up!

CUT TO:

INT. THE CLUB HOUSE

Bradley approaches the club house door, he opens it and enters. Rodney(54) immediately sees him and comes to greet him.

RODNEY

Hey! You must be Bradley?

BRADLEY

Yeah, Mate. That's me.

RODNEY

Pleased to meet you, Mate! Come on over and meet the coach. It's Warrick Capper himself. The Wizz! Do you remember The Wizz?

BRADLEY

Nah, Mate, sorry. Should I?

WARRICK

He was just the Space Pioneer of the late eighties, Mate! Kicked a hundred goals in a season for the Sydney Swans and bonked a billion beautiful Gold Coast Meter Maids.

BRADLEY

Sorry, Mate. I don't remember him. But I remember you! You're the guy that works at the servo! The guy that drives a truck.

Warrick approaches Bradley.

WARRICK

Yeah, Mate! That's me! I'm also The Wizz!

BRADLEY

Really?! And you played for the Swans? So, what are you doing out here?

WARRICK

I'm coaching, Mate! And playing full-forward!

RODNEY

Do you want a beer, Mate?

BRADLEY

No thanks. Aren't we training?

RODNEY

Yeah! Of course we are! One beer won't kill ya!

BRADLEY

Nah, I'm OK. Thanks. I think I'll go and get ready.

WARRICK

That's what I like to see! A true professional.

BRADLEY

I'll see you guys out there.

WARRICK

Yeah, Mate! Off you go! I'll be out there in ten.

Bradley takes his bag and leaves for the changing rooms. As he exits the door Rodney wants to know Warrick's opinion.

RODNEY

So, what do you think, Mate? Is he any good? He certainly looks like a footballer, he's got a good strong jaw.

WARRICK

I don't know, Mate. We'll play a practice match to see if he's any good or not.

RODNEY

I might play on you, Mate!

WARRICK

Turn it up, Mate! You're too small to be a decent stepladder. I'll get Wombat to play on me. He's the stairway to heaven for The Wizz. But make sure you do accidentally bomb a few up in the air.

RODNEY

Will do, Mate. You want another beer?

WARRICK

Sure, Mate! Why not?

CUT TO:

LATER

EXT. THE MALDON HOTEL. MALDON. NIGHT

Rodney pulls up next to Warrick's truck on his rusty old motorbike with the sidecar as Bradley pulls in next to him in his pale green EH Holden. Rodney takes off his helmet and throws it in the sidecar as Bradley gets out of his car and locks it.

RODNEY

So, here we are, Mate. This is where you're staying. I got you Danny Richards' room. It's the best room in the house!

BRADLEY

Thanks, Rodney.

RODNEY

Come on, Mate. I'll show you your room so you can settle in before the meet and greet.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY RICHARDS' ROOM AT THE MALDON HOTEL. MALDON

The door to the room opens and Rodney and Bradley can be seen outside.

RODNEY

There you go, Mate! Go on in and make yourself at home.

BRADLEY

It looks like someone lives here?

RODNEY

They do! This is Danny Richards' room, but he's off fruit picking. He won't be back for at least another two months. In ya go! And here's your key. I'll see you downstairs.

Bradley takes the key from Rodney and enters the room as Rodney closes the door. He goes and looks at some of the framed photos sitting about the room. There are photos of Danny(30, Aboriginal) with his prize winning bull at the local show, photos of Danny with his friends out mustering, and a photo of Danny with his close knit Aboriginal family. Bradley sits on the bed and contemplates his future.

BRADLEY

What on the Earth am I doing here?! Chasing my tail for peanuts.

INT. THE MALDON HOTEL. MALDON

Rodney approaches Warrick who is sitting at the bar drinking a nice fresh beer.

RODNEY

Mate! He tore us to shreds,  
didn't he?! I'm glad he's going  
to be playing for us and not  
against us.

WARRICK

Yeah, Mate. He's a wrecking ball  
alright. You wouldn't want to get  
in his way or you'd end up in a  
body bag.

RODNEY

So, is he going to play for us?

WARRICK

Don't know yet, Mate. He hasn't  
made up his mind. But just  
imagine me and him playing in the  
same team! We'd be unstoppable.  
The Wizz at full-forward and  
Bradley the Destroyer destroying  
anything that gets in his path.

RODNEY

And Rodney the back-pocket pick  
pocket, rocketing out of the back-  
pocket like Davy Crockett!

WARRICK

So, when's he coming downstairs?  
Did you tell him that Happy Hour  
finishes in ten minutes? That  
would have given him a hurry on.

INT. DANNY RICHARDS' ROOM AT THE MALDON HOTEL. MALDON

Bradley is laying on the bed in the unfamiliar room  
thinking about what could have been. He shakes his head in  
disbelieve at what his life has become. He closes his eyes  
and reminisces about the disaster his life has become.

FADE TO:

EXT. PACIFIC TEXTILES SPINNING MILL. BENDIGO. DAY

An outside shot of the spinning mill where Bradley works.

INT. PACIFIC TEXTILES SPINNING MILL. BENDIGO. DAY

Bradley is working with Dave(22), they are working in the  
part of the factory that has the two biggest spinning  
machines side by side.

Each of the machines is twenty meters long and both have about fifty bobbins being spun at a time. One of the machines has finished filling its current crop of bobbins and Danny and Dave are busy working from opposing ends as they take the full bobbins off and replace them with the fresh bobbins that are all on their stands at the front of the machine. As they work tirelessly to get the machine re-started as quickly as possible the other machine is churning out what will become the next set of full bobbins. The noise is unbearable and both Bradley and Dave have ear-plugs in their ears.

SHORTLY AFTER

The machine has been cleared of its last crop of bobbins and is ready to be re-started. Bradley and Dave stand at opposing ends ready to tackle the mass of broken yarn that will surely come their way.

DAVE

Are you ready, Mate?!

BRADLEY

Yeah, Mate!

Dave hits the start button and the tremendous loom starts spinning. Immediately, a portion of the fifty bobbin's threads break and start spewing un-spun yarn out onto the floor. Bradley and Dave race from their opposing ends to get all of the broken threads spinning back onto their bobbins. It's hard and stressful work for Bradley.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE BUILDING. BENDIGO. DAY

Bradley's girlfriend Tina(21) is relaxing at her desk in her nice and relaxed office job. She is busy flicking through a women's magazine when her boss, Rodger(30), approaches her desk.

RODGER

Hey, are you ready for lunch?

TINA

Yeah. Where do you want to go today?

RODGER

I was thinking we could go to Quills at the Lakeview.

TINA

OK. It'll probably be busy though?

RODGER

That's alright, we're not in any  
rush, are we?

TINA

You're the boss.

CUT TO:

INT. PACIFIC TEXTILES SPINNING MILL. BENDIGO. DAY

Bradley and Dave are still slaving away in the spinning mill as huge looms continue to spin their next crop of bobbins. One of the machines all of a sudden breaks every thread being spun on it and streams of unwound threads start flowing onto the ground.

DAVE

Damn it!

Bradley shakes his head with disappointment as Dave goes and turns off the machine.

DAVE (CONT'D)

That's the third time today!

BRADLEY

Don't worry about it! Let's just  
get it going before Peter sees  
it.

From opposite ends Bradley and Dave make their way along the bobbins, clearing the messy un-spun yarn and pushing the brake pedals that stop each bobbin spinning. Meanwhile, the other huge spinning mill continues to churn out its next crop of full bobbins.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE LAKEVIEW RESORT. BENDIGO. DAY

Rodger's BMW pulls up outside of Lakeview Resort. Both he and Tina exit the car and make their way to the restaurant's entrance. Rodger opens the door for Tina and holds it open as she enters, before entering himself.

CUT TO:

INT. PACIFIC TEXTILES SPINNING MILL. BENDIGO. DAY

Bradley and Dave are ready to re-start the loom.

DAVE

Are you ready?

BRADLEY

Yeah, Mate!

Dave hits the start button and the loom starts spinning. Above each bobbin the un-spun yarn spews out onto the floor. It's a race against time as Dave and Bradley go about re-stringing every single broken thread. It's hard and stressful work.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE LAKEVIEW RESORT. BENDIGO. DAY

Tina and Rodger are sitting in the restaurant enjoying a glass of wine each.

RODGER

So, how's life with the yarn spinner? Is he still spinning yarns?

TINA

Yeah, he's going to do this and he's going to do that. It never stops.

RODGER

He's never going to amount to much, you know that. Do you want to spend the rest of your life renting that little hovel you call a house?

TINA

We should be living it up in Carlton. Not Creek Street Bendigo.

RODGER

Maybe it's time to cut your losses. You don't have any kids. And you could do much better than a yarn spinner.

CUT TO:

INT. PACIFIC TEXTILES SPINNING MILL. BENDIGO. DAY

The two huge spinning machines are churning away as Bradley and Dave watch over them for any broken strings. Dave looks at his watch and then approaches Bradley.

DAVE

It's lunch time, Mate. Are you ready to shut these things down?

BRADLEY

Am I ever.

DAVE

Me too.

Dave and Bradley take a machine each and turn them off. The noise slowly comes to a halt as the bobbins stop spinning. Bradley and Dave take their earplugs out now that the noise has finally ceased.

DAVE (CONT'D)

I'm heading up to the fish and chip shop for lunch. Do you want to come?

BRADLEY

Nah, I need to hit the can.

DAVE

Do you want me to pick you up something?

BRADLEY

Yeah, Mate. Can you grab me a sausage roll and a banana Big M.

DAVE

Sure thing. Take your time, Mate. I'm having a smoke before I go anywhere.

Bradley reaches into his pocket and pulls out a five dollar note and hands it to Dave.

BRADLEY

OK. Thanks, Mate. I'll see you when you get back.

Bradley heads off to the toilet block that resides out the back of the factory.

VARIOUS SHOTS OF BRADLEY AS HE MAKES HIS WAY THROUGH THE VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE FACTORY TO THE TOILET BLOCK.

CUT TO:

EXT. PACIFIC TEXTILES SPINNING MILL. BENDIGO. DAY

Dave is outside the door having a cigarette when his boss, Peter(50), comes out to see him.

PETER

There you are! I've been looking everywhere for you.

DAVE  
Why? What's up?

PETER  
Are you going in the footy  
tipping this year?

DAVE  
Yeah, I guess so.

PETER  
Here's your fixture then. And  
I'll put you down as a definite  
starter.

Peter hands Dave a little card that has the fixture for the  
entire football season.

DAVE  
Thanks.

PETER  
Make sure you get me your ten  
bucks before the start of round  
one.

DAVE  
Will do.

PETER  
And have you seen Bradley around?  
I need to give him his as well.

DAVE  
He's in the can.

CUT TO:

INT. THE SPINNING MILL TOILETS CUBICLE. DAY

Bradley is sitting in the toilet cubicle reading all of the  
graffiti that's written over its painted walls. As he reads  
he hears the sound of approaching footsteps.

PETER (V.O.)  
Bradley! Are you in here?

INT. THE SPINNING MILL TOILETS CUBICLE. DAY

There are three cubicles but only one cubicle has its door  
closed. Peter crouches down and looks under the closed  
toilet door.

PETER  
Bradley?! Is that you in there?

INT. THE SPINNING MILL TOILETS CUBICLE. DAY

Bradley shakes his head in disbelief and begrudgingly answers.

BRADLEY  
Yeah, it's me.

PETER (V.O.)  
Are you going in the footy  
tipping this year?

BRADLEY  
Yeah, I guess so.

PETER (V.O.)  
Here's your fixture.

The football fixture comes sliding under the closed toilet door. Bradley picks it up.

BRADLEY  
OK, thanks.

PETER (V.O.)  
Make sure you get me your ten  
bucks before round one!

BRADLEY  
OK.

Bradley hears the sounds of Peter leaving the toilet block.

CUT TO:

EXT. PACIFIC TEXTILES SPINNING MILL. BENDIGO. DAY

Bradley exits the spinning mill after another exhausting day's work. He goes to his ten speed bike that's resting up against the brick exterior. He gets on it and rides off through the exit. Across the road the Bendigo sale yards is filled with bellowing cattle that are awaiting sale the following day.

CUT TO:

BRIEF MONTAGE OF BEAUTIFUL BENDIGO AS BRADLEY MAKES HIS WAY TO HIS MECHANIC'S WORK SHOP ON HIS TEN SPEED BIKE.

EXT. THE MECHANIC'S GARAGE. DAY

Bradley pulls up out front of the garage, he can see his EH Holden up on the hoist.

He parks his bike and enters the garage and sees his mechanic, John(50), working on another car.

BRADLEY

Hey, John.

JOHN

Hey, Mate. How's it going?

BRADLEY

Good. How's the EH going?

JOHN

Good, Mate. It just came back from the upholsterers today. Take a look, they did a nice job with the roof lining.

Bradley wanders over towards the EH.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Just a second, Mate. I'll lower it down for you. It's lucky I checked under there, your rear axle was close to falling off.

BRADLEY

I don't know why that would be the case. No-one should have even been messing with it.

JOHN

Beats me, Mate.

John lowers the hoist and Bradley promptly goes and opens a door to look inside at his new roof lining.

BRADLEY

Yeah, Mate. They've done a good job, haven't they? It almost looks original.

CUT TO:

EXT. BRADLEY'S HOUSE IN BENDIGO. LATE AFTERNOON

Bradley arrives home on his ten speed bicycle. He's carrying a bunch of shopping bags filled with groceries for the evening's dinner. As he approaches he sees Tina talking through the car window of Rodger's BMW. As she notices him coming up the street on his bicycle she farewells Rodger and the BMW promptly leaves as Bradley pulls up next to Tina.

BRADLEY

Who was that?

TINA

Just my boss.

BRADLEY

What does he want?

TINA

Nothing, he was just giving me a lift home.

BRADLEY

It's not like you work that far away?

TINA

Well, if we had a car I wouldn't need a lift, would I?

BRADLEY

The EH is nearly finished. I checked it out today, it's looking good.

TINA

Yeah, after how many years! And how much money?

BRADLEY

It hasn't cost that much. Probably a fifth of the price of that BMW.

TINA

That says it all, doesn't it?! We could have had a BMW if you didn't quit playing for Carlton.

BRADLEY

But I don't want to be a career footballer. I want to do something meaningful with my life.

TINA

So, what's this meaningful thing you've got planned?

BRADLEY

I was thinking of trying to get into Uni to study Medicine.

TINA

We already don't have any money, and now you're talking about going to Uni. As if you're ever going to become a doctor.

BRADLEY

I suppose it's a bad time to tell you that I was also thinking of joining the Salvation Army?

CUT TO:

PRESENT DAY

INT. THE MALDON HOTEL. MALDON

Bradley makes his way into the bar of the pub where Wombat(33) has joined Warrick and Rodney for a beer.

WARRICK

Here he is! Somebody get this man a beer!

WOMBAT

I guess that means me?!  
(to Gary the bartender)  
One Wombat's please, Gary!

RODNEY

So, Mate. Have you given it some more thought about signing up?

BRADLEY

It seems like a lot of travelling for a game of footy.

RODNEY

It's only thirty minutes, Mate.

WARRICK

Don't even bother training, Mate. Just show up on game day?

BRADLEY

Yeah, I don't know.

As Bradley ponders the question Wombat interjects with the nice fresh beer for Bradley.

WOMBAT

Here you go, Mate.

Wombat hands Bradley the glass of beer.

BRADLEY

Thanks, Wombat. How's your back? Rodney set you up a few times today, didn't he?

WOMBAT

Hospital bombs, Mate! I'd swear  
he did it on purpose.

RODNEY

Turn it up, Mate!

WARRICK

Oh, oh! Here comes trouble.

Mack has just entered through the pub door and is making  
his way towards Warrick.

WARRICK (CONT'D)

(to Bradley)

This is my youngest one, Mack.

BRADLEY

Yeah, I remember him from the  
servo.

WARRICK

He'll be wanting to be fed, no  
doubt.

Mack approaches Warrick as he drinks with his friends.

WARRICK (CONT'D)

Hey, Mate. What's up?

MACK

Are you coming home for dinner?

WARRICK

Yeah, Mate. After this beer. Go  
and have a bash on the pool table  
or something. And they've got  
some peanuts over there at the  
bar.

MACK

I'm sick of playing pool against  
myself.

BRADLEY

I'll give you a game.

MACK

Cool! Can I have a dollar, Dad?

Warrick reaches into his wallet.

WARRICK

Yeah, Mate. Here you go. But make  
it last.

Mack takes the coin and heads off.

MACK

I'll go and set up the balls!

WOMBAT

Like Rodney!

RODNEY

Turn it up, Mate!

BRADLEY

Alright, it looks like I'm going for a game of pool then.

Bradley places his beer on the counter and follows Mack off towards the pool table.

WARRICK

What about your beer, Mate?!

BRADLEY

It's OK, it's not going anywhere.

WARRICK

Yeah, but it'll get hot!

BRADLEY

That's OK. No problems.

Bradley continues off towards the pool table.

WARRICK

Mates, this guy is as tough as nails. He even drinks warm beer. We need to throw out the welcome mat for him.

RODNEY

Let's have a barbi for him tomorrow? I'll bring along some snags!

WARRICK

That's a great idea! And Wombat can bring the beer!

WOMBAT

Turn it up!

CUT TO:

INT. THE MALDON HOTEL. POOL ROOM. MALDON. NIGHT

Bradley enters the pool room where Mack is busy setting up the balls.

MACK  
My name's Mack! What's yours?

BRADLEY  
Bradley.

MACK  
Cool, nice to meet you again,  
Bradley.

BRADLEY  
Yeah, likewise, Mack. How's your  
new bike going?

MACK  
Not so good. Somebody wrecked my  
front wheel.

BRADLEY  
I'm sorry to hear that.

MACK  
Yeah, it sucks.

Mack lifts the triangle up away from the balls and puts it  
away.

MACK (CONT'D)  
Do you want to break?

BRADLEY  
No, it's OK. After you.

MACK  
OK.

Mack takes a pool cue, chalks it up, and then goes to the  
front of the table, preparing to take his shot.

BRADLEY  
Where are you aiming?

MACK  
At the front, where I always do.

BRADLEY  
Hold up a second there, Mack.  
I'll show you a few secrets.

MACK  
OK?

Bradley goes to where Mack has positioned the white ball in  
the middle of the table. He moves the white ball slightly  
to the left.

BRADLEY

You want to have your white ball here. And I'll show you where to aim.

Bradley goes down the other end of the table and points to a spot just off center.

BRADLEY (CONT'D)

Aim at this spot and give it a smash.

MACK

OK.

Mack takes aim at the spot Bradley told him to. He pulls the stick back and smashes the white ball into the pack of balls. The balls go bouncing around the table and one goes in.

MACK (CONT'D)

Cool!

BRADLEY

Now that's how you break! Next I'll teach you how to put spin on the ball.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE ROAD FROM MALDON TO BENDIGO. NIGHT

It's dark as the solitary EH makes its way along the winding road.

CUT TO:

EXT. BENDIGO OUTSKIRTS. NIGHT

The street lights gradually get brighter and more frequent as Bradley makes his way towards the center of Bendigo.

CUT TO:

EXT. BRADLEY'S HOME IN BENDIGO. NIGHT

Bradley parks his EH in the driveway. He gets out and enters the dark house, lights go on from inside.

INT. BRADLEY'S HOME IN BENDIGO

Bradley sits down and begins to unpack the sweaty clothes from his football bag.

He hears a car pull up out front and opens the front window curtain a little to see. He can see Tina getting out of Rodger's BMW. She seems very joyous as she says goodbye.

TINA

OK, I'll see you soon!

Rodger's BMW drives away as Tina stands there waving. Bradley releases the curtain and sits down as the sound of Tina's high heel shoes can be heard approaching the door. Tina enters through the door looking more glamorous than he has seen her for a long time. She seems surprised to see him there.

TINA (CONT'D)

What are you doing home?! I thought you were staying in Maldon overnight?

BRADLEY

I thought I'd come home and be with you, but I see you had your own plans.

TINA

What do you expect me to do, sit around and twiddle my thumbs?

BRADLEY

I didn't expect you to be out on a date.

TINA

Well, you might as well know, I'm leaving you. I'm sorry if that hurts you.

BRADLEY

So, I guess the engagement's off then?

TINA

Obviously!

BRADLEY

I bet you it would have been a different story if I was still playing for Carlton.

TINA

Maybe, but we'll never know. You made your bed, now you'll have to sleep in it. But without me. I'm moving in with Rodger.

BRADLEY

Let me guess, the guy with the  
BMW?

CUT TO:

INT. WARRICK'S HOUSE. NIGHT

As Warrick lays across the living room sofa watching replays of himself in action on the TV, Mack is in the kitchen washing up the day's dishes. The phone rings and Warrick reaches over and picks it up.

WARRICK

Hello, Warrick Capper's  
secretary, can I help you?

Bradley! This is me, Mate! I just  
use the secretary to screen my  
calls!

What can I do for you, Mate?

You're going to make it to the  
barbi! That's great news!

Yeah, Mate, we'll be kicking off  
at about twelve. So, we'll see  
you there!

OK, see you, Mate!

Warrick hangs up the phone.

WARRICK (CONT'D)

Hey, Mack! Are you alright out  
there? Do you need a hand?

MACK (V.O.)

Yes, please!

WARRICK

(yelling out to  
Kenworth)

Hey, Kenny! Can you come out here  
and give Mack a hand with the  
dishes, Mate?! I've got to make  
some calls.

KENWORTH (V.O.)

(reluctantly from his  
bedroom)

Coming!

Warrick picks up the phone and dials Rodney.

WARRICK

Rodney! The barbi's back on,  
Mate!

CUT TO:

EXT. MALDON PARK. DAY

The barbecue is all set up and the Eskys are full of beer. Rodney's motorbike is parked next to Dazza's ute, Kenworth's Kingswood Monaro with its L plate on the boot, and Wombat's Holden work ute, are also there. Warrick, Rodney, Wombat, Dazza(22), Rock(22) and Kenworth(17) are all sitting around in fold-out chairs as Mack kicks a football to himself in the park. Rodney looks at his watch as they all listen to pre-match AFL commentary on Rodney's transistor radio.

RODNEY

What time did he say he was  
coming, Mate?

WARRICK

Well, I told him we were starting  
at twelve.

RODNEY

It's twenty past now, Mate!

WARRICK

He'll be here, but maybe we  
should fire up the barbecue? We  
don't want to look too desperate.

RODNEY

But we are, Mate. We need Bradley  
the Destroyer playing for the  
Marsupials!

WARRICK

Yeah, I know, Mate. But we can't  
make him. It's up to him to  
decide.

The sound of a rumbling car engine can be heard.

WARRICK (CONT'D)

Quick! That'll be him! Fire up  
the barbi and everyone look  
natural.

Rodney goes to the barbecue and lights it as Bradley's EH appears, pulling up in the carpark. Bradley gets out and sees Mack kicking a football to himself.

BRADLEY

Hey, Mack! Come over here for a second!

MACK

OK!

Mack jogs over towards Bradley's car as Bradley goes around to the boot and opens it.

EXT. BRADLEY'S EH HOLDEN BOOT. DAY

Mack arrives at the open boot.

MACK

What's up?!

BRADLEY

Here you go, I've got a present for you.

MACK

What is it?

BRADLEY

It's in there.

Mack looks in the boot and sees a nice quick release wheel.

MACK

Is that for me?

BRADLEY

Yep. Go on, take it out of there. It's yours.

MACK

Cool! A quick release! They're expensive! Don't you want it?

BRADLEY

Nah, I don't need it anymore.

MACK

Thanks!

Mack takes it out of the boot and Bradley closes it only to see Dazza, Rock and Kenworth heading his way.

MACK (CONT'D)

I'm going to go and show my dad!

BRADLEY

Yeah, off you go.

Mack races off as Dazza, Rock and Kenworth approach the car.

DAZZA

So, what did this cost you, Mate?

BRADLEY

More than you could ever imagine.

DAZZA

Pop the bonnet, Mate, and give us a look at what it's got!

Bradley opens the driver's door and pops the bonnet open. He returns to the front of the car and lifts the bonnet up.

DAZZA (CONT'D)

Is that the original red engine?

BRADLEY

Yeah, but it's been bored out to a one eight nine, and it's got a Heat-Seeker cam shaft.

ROCK

Just like me!

DAZZA

Turn it up, Mate!

BRADLEY

It's got triple carbies, as you can see. And it's got an HR front end, so it's got disk brakes instead of drums. That Holden decal on the windscreen I picked up from a guy in Sydney. You won't see too many of those around.

DAZZA

I want one of those for the WB!

BRADLEY

Well, good luck finding one.

DAZZA

So, are you going to take us for a spin?!

BRADLEY

Yeah, if you want.

DAZZA

For sure!

ROCK  
I bags the front!

Bradley closes the bonnet and Dazza, Rock and Kenworth go to the doors and wait for Bradley to unlock them. Bradley makes his way to the driver's side door and as he's about to get in he spots Mack admiring his new bicycle wheel near the barbecue.

BRADLEY  
(to Mack in the  
distance)  
Hey, Mack! I'm taking the EH for  
a spin, do you want to come?

MACK  
Cool!

CUT TO:

EXT. THE BARBECUE. DAY

Mack runs over towards the car as Warrick, Wombat and Rodney look at each other.

WARRICK  
Shut off the barbi, Mate.

CUT TO:

EXT. BRADLEY'S EH HOLDEN

BRADLEY  
(to Kenworth, Rock and  
Dazza)  
You guys jump in the back, Mack's  
riding shotgun.

INT. BRADLEY'S EH HOLDEN

Mack comes running over towards the EH as Bradley gets in the driver's side door. Bradley reaches over and unlocks all of the doors and winds down the front passenger window. Dazza, Kenworth and Rock all climb into the backseat as Bradley puts the key in the ignition and turns on the accessories. "Bad Boy For Love" by Rose Tattoo starts thumping through the speakers.

BRADLEY  
You like that! I've got the  
original AM radio, but I've got  
an MP3 player hooked up to the  
speakers.

ROCK  
That's sick!

Mack arrives at the car and Bradley speaks out to him through the open passenger's window.

BRADLEY  
Jump in, Mate! You're up front with me.

MACK  
Cool! It's about time!

Mack jumps into the passenger seat. Bradley starts the engine and gives it a few revs to warm it up.

ROCK  
Siiiick!

Bradley puts it in reverse and looks over his shoulder as he begins to reverse the EH out of its parking space.

BRADLEY  
You guys had better hold on tight back there.

KENWORTH  
There are no seat belts!

BRADLEY  
I know. You didn't need them back in nineteen sixty four.

EXT. BRADLEY'S EH HOLDEN. DAY

Bradley throttles it and the car goes roaring off up the road.

CUT TO:

EXT. BRADLEY'S HOME IN BENDIGO. DAY

As Rodger helps Tina carry her bags from the house that she shared with Bradley, he notices Bradley's bike resting against the house with its front wheel missing.

RODGER  
What happened to his front wheel?

TINA  
Who knows! And who cares! Not me, that's for sure. He's probably given it to charity.

Tina closes the door behind her.

RODGER

What about all of your furniture?

TINA

That's his problem now. And I made sure I cleaned out our bank account as well, so you and me can go away for Easter. Come on, let's get out of here!

CUT TO:

EXT. MALDON STREETS. DAY

Bradley's EH comes towards a corner.

INT. BRADLEY'S EH

DAZZA

Watch out! Here we go again.

The car goes around the corner and Kenworth and Rock go sliding across the seat, jamming Dazza up against the door.

MOMENTS LATER

The car turns the next corner and they all go sliding back the other way and this time jam Rock up against the door.

ROCK

Siiick!

The car straightens up and they all resume their positions on the seat again.

DAZZA

Here comes another one!

The car goes around the corner and they all jam up against Dazza again.

CUT TO:

EXT. MALDON PARK. LATE AFTERNOON

Dazza, Rock and Kenworth are kicking the football to Mack and Wombat, as Warrick and Rodney talk to Bradley.

WARRICK

If you're after a job, Mate, I'm sure Rodney can help you out. He got me my gig at the servo. You saw how cruisy that was?

Warrick looks over towards the others as they kick the football to each other.

WARRICK (CONT'D)  
 Hang on, Mate. I'll be back in a second, I can feel a specky coming on.

Dazza kicks the football down towards Wombat who has no idea that Warrick is preparing to jump on his back. The ball comes spinning down towards Wombat when out of nowhere Warrick grabs hold of Wombat's shoulders and lifts his knees up onto Wombat's shoulders. He catches the ball and everyone, including Warrick himself, shout out "CAPPAAA!!!" Wombat crashes to the ground as Warrick runs off and kicks the ball back down to Rock, Dazza and Kenworth who have their own marking contest. Warrick turns to head back.

WARRICK (CONT'D)  
 You like that one, Wombat?!

Wombat is busy brushing the dirt off himself.

WOMBAT  
 Yeah, Mate. Vintage Capper. You watch out for those brittle old bones of yours.

WARRICK  
 Turn it up, Mate! I'm still in my prime.

WOMBAT  
 Turn it up!

Rodney returns his attention to Bradley after witnessing Warrick's tremendous aerial feat.

RODNEY  
 If you are interested in leaving Bendigo, Mate, we could set you up with a job here in Maldon.

BRADLEY  
 Yeah, I think my Bendigo days might be over. There's nothing left for me there.

RODNEY  
 What is it you want to do, Mate?

BRADLEY  
 I want to do something that helps others.

RODNEY

What about if we get you a lifesaving gig at the pool? That's the ultimate way to help others. Save their lives, Mate!

BRADLEY

That sounds pretty good, actually. And I'd still have time to study.

RODNEY

What do you want to study for, Mate?

BRADLEY

I want to go to Uni to become a doctor.

RODNEY

A doctor, Mate! Next thing you'll be heading off to Ethiopia to help the starving kids.

BRADLEY

Maybe. Or I might join the Sea Sheppard to try and save the whales.

RODNEY

Wow, you're going to be a busy boy, aren't you?

BRADLEY

Yeah, apparently I'm a dreamer.

RODNEY

What have we got if we don't have dreams, Mate?

BRADLEY

Nothing.

RODNEY

That's right, Mate. Like me.

The scream of "Cappaaa!" comes from the kick-to-kick game. Wombat starts to pick himself up off the ground as Warrick kicks the ball back down to Rock and Dazza.

WOMBAT

Mate, I'm done with that. My shoulders are getting too sore.

WARRICK

Let's hit up the pub then and check out Smithy and his band?

WOMBAT

Yeah, It'll be a lot less painful than this.

WARRICK

(to Dazza, Kenworth and Rock)

Hey guys! Let's head off to the pub to check out Smithy and his band!

Warrick turns and heads back towards Rodney and Bradley.

WARRICK (CONT'D)

Hey, Bradley! You want to come and hear some live music, Mate?

BRADLEY

Yeah, I might as well. I've got nothing else to do.

WARRICK

Nice one! Alright guys, let's pack up and head off to The Arms!

CUT TO:

EXT. MALDON PARK. DUSK

The park is clear of any evidence of the barbecue and they are all getting in their cars.

MACK

I'll go with Bradley, in case he gets lost!

WARRICK

OK, Mate. It looks like it's just you and me, Kenny. See you guys in five!

They all proceed to jump in their cars and start them as Rodney starts his motorbike and takes off.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE MALDON HOTEL. MALDON. DUSK

The cars pull up one after another at the Maldon Hotel in Maldon. Rodney's bike is already parked and there is no sign of him outside. They all get out of their cars and head for the front door of the pub.

WARRICK

This is our local, Mate.

BRADLEY

I called in here earlier to meet Gary.

WARRICK

How many clubs have a President that runs a pub, Mate? This place is Heaven.

Warrick and Bradley follow the others through the door into the pub.

INT. THE MALDON HOTEL. MALDON

Inside the pub it is relatively quiet but Sergeant Smith(69) is in his police uniform and is preparing his band equipment with his fellow band members.

WARRICK

Hey, Smithy! This is Bradley. Hopefully he's going to be our gun recruit!

Sergeant Smith comes over and introduces himself to Bradley.

SERGEANT SMITH

Hey, Mate! Nice to meet you. I'm Sergeant Smith.

He shakes Bradley's hand.

BRADLEY

It's nice to meet you too.

SERGEANT SMITH

Sorry, Mate. I don't have time to chat, we're about to start our first set. But if anyone gives you any trouble just let me know and I'll sort them out.

BRADLEY

OK, thanks.

RODNEY (V.O.)

Hey, Bradley! Over here, Mate! I saved you a seat.

Bradley makes his way to Rodney's group as Sergeant Smith prepares his band to play their first song.

SERGEANT SMITH

A one, a two. A one, two, three, four.

The band starts to play "Calling," a song about whales by Rose Tattoo. Everyone sits and listens intently to the song. There is no conversation as everyone is deep in thought. The song has special significance to Bradley as he remembers the time he went whale watching with Tina.

FADE IN:

EXT. OPEN OCEAN WHALE WATCHING. DAY

Bradley and Tina are on a whale watching boat on the look out for whales. They see a whale surface and the couple are both elated. Bradley puts his arm around Tina and they smile happily at each other, they seem very much in love. They look out over the pristine ocean as the whale surfaces again.

CUT TO:

INT. THE MALDON HOTEL. MALDON. DUSK

Bradley watches on solemnly as the touching song brings back the painful memory. Sergeant Smith and his band continue to belt out the song as everyone watches on intently.

LATER

EXT. THE MALDON HOTEL MALDON. NIGHT

A different song is belting out from inside the pub as Rodney and Warrick lead Bradley to his car.

WARRICK

Thanks for coming back out, Mate.

RODNEY

Yeah, Mate. Thanks.

BRADLEY

You're welcome. I had a good day for a change.

WARRICK

Hopefully we'll be seeing a bit more of you then?

BRADLEY

I'm thinking it looks that way.

WARRICK

Can you imagine you, me and  
Rodney in the same team? We'd be  
unstoppable!

BRADLEY

(laughs)  
Yeah, maybe.

Well, I'd better get back to  
Bendigo for now.

WARRICK

OK, Mate. Have a safe drive.

Warrick shakes his hand.

RODNEY

We'll talk to you soon, hey,  
Mate?

Rodney shakes Bradley's hand also and Bradley jumps in his  
car, starts the ignition and turns on the headlights.

INT. BRADLEY'S EH

Bradley reverses out as Warrick and Rodney remain outside,  
waving to him. He changes into first gear and takes off up  
the street.

MOMENTS LATER

As Bradley drives along the street he looks at his petrol  
gauge and notices how low it is.

CUT TO:

EXT. MALDON MAIN STREET. NIGHT

Bradley pulls up at the bank. He gets out of the car and  
goes to the cash machine. He pulls out his wallet, gets his  
card out and inserts it into the machine. He enters his PIN  
and then enters one hundred dollars to withdraw. The  
machine goes through its processes and finally a message  
comes up on the screen, "Insufficient Funds." The card  
comes back out. Bradley puts it back into the machine, goes  
through the same routine as before, and again he gets the  
out of funds message. He puts away his card, then gets back  
into his car. He starts the engine and drives off along the  
main road.

CUT TO:

EXT. MALDON CITY LIMITS. NIGHT

Bradley's car comes roaring past the town sign and drives off into the darkness.

ROLL END TITLES

CUT TO:

EXT. THE SIDE OFF THE ROAD IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE. NIGHT

As Bradley's car sits by the side of the road, in the dark and out of petrol, its flashing left indicator is the only light emanating from anywhere along the dark road.

INT. BRADLEY'S EH

Bradley sits in the darkness with his eyes closed as he ponders his life. "Calling" by Rose Tattoo is playing on his car stereo. In the far distance a set of car headlights appear. The lights get closer and closer and then appear to slow down as they get even closer to Bradley's car.

EXT. THE SIDE OFF THE ROAD IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE. NIGHT

As the car approaches it pulls over behind Bradley's car. It's Wombat on his way home. Wombat gets out of his ute and walks alongside Bradley's car. He taps on the driver's window. Bradley turns and sees Wombat smiling at him.

WOMBAT

What are you doing, Mate?

Bradley sadly smiles in relief that someone actually cares.

FADE OUT:

THE END OF HOLDEN TOWN "THERE'S A NEW KID IN TOWN"