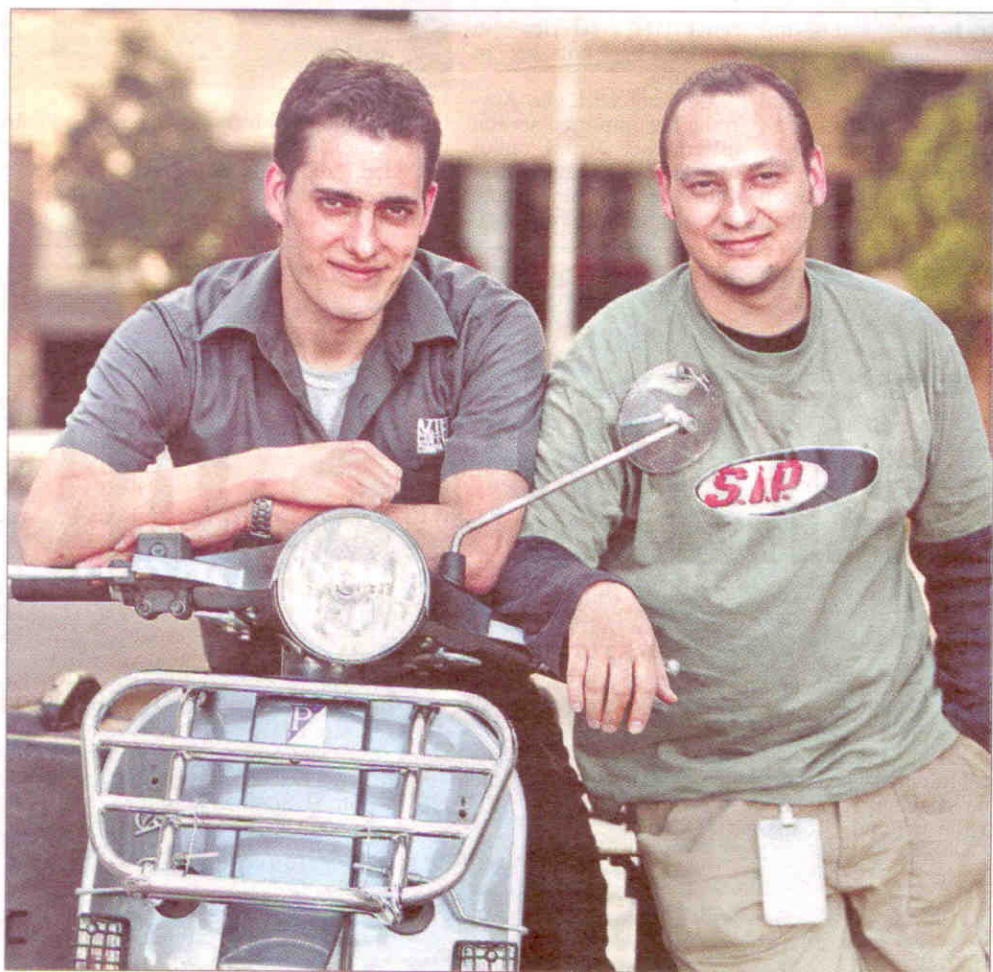


Few coffee shops on this trip



ULICK (on the Vespa) and Torsten Baumann who will ride their scooters around Australia.

Mark Hinchliffe

WHEN two Brisbane brothers opted for scooters because public transport was "a nightmare for shift workers", they never dreamed they would be embarking on a 25,000km journey.

But inspired by their mother's ongoing battle with cancer, Torsten and Ulick Baumann will next month attempt to ride their Vespas around Australia to raise money for the Cure Cancer Australia Foundation.

"Anyone can do it on a motorbike; this is a bit more of a challenge," says Ulick.

And not content with only riding around the mainland on Highway One, they are also tackling hundreds of

kilometres of dirt roads, diverting to Cape York and Uluru, and will lap Tasmania.

"I was going to Germany for the World Cup but then thought, I haven't seen much of Australia yet," the 27-year-old says.

His older brother, Torsten, 30, believes their trip will not only raise money for cancer research but also highlight the capabilities of scooters.

"The image of scooters is that they are for parking next to a trendy coffee shop," says Torsten with some irony as his brother works at trendy Aztec Coffee Company in the city.

"Scooters are capable of doing a lot more than that," adds Ulick.

"These Vespas have a very simple two-stroke engine and

not much goes wrong with them."

The Baumanns have fitted out their 12 horsepower, four-speed manual Vespa PX200 scooters with panniers, an extra seven-litre fuel tank, knobby tyres and aftermarket mufflers for "more oomph".

The brothers have had no off-road experience except for a few gravel roads.

"We will have to learn pretty quick," says Torsten.

"We have knobby tyres and the scooters are light enough to lift if we drop them or get bogged."

The brothers leave Brisbane on June 13 and hope to complete their epic journey in about 90 days, camping out or staying with friends. Visit: rightaroundaustralia.com