

GLOBAL NEWS



The Australian Taxi Driver Who Went Mad For Eggs!

The Australian city of Geelong has much going for it. It recently hosted the 2010 UCI Road World Cycling Championships, has some amazing surfing beaches and natural bush in addition to being the home of Ford Australia. It also has the National Wool Museum – ok, four out of five ain't bad! But one thing Geelong isn't overly known for is its egg produce and there is one Geelong taxi driver who will not only agree with that, but also tell you that it took just one egg to turn him into a madman...!

The hapless cabbie lost his cool after four young hooligans threw an egg at his taxi from what they thought was the safety of their car before speeding away. But the cab driver chased the offenders in a mad scramble across the city, ramming their car and smashing its side with a tyre lever while also waving a knife. The jobs were forced to run red lights and give way signs as they tried to flee from the driver. Police said the cabbie caught them and continually rammed their Holden Astra as he tried to run them off the road by T-boning them and when they made a run for it, he slammed his cab into one of the young men as was running for his life.

Senior Police Constable Aaron Riches told Global News that the alleged speeds varied from between 60km to 80km/h throughout the chase and all the while the taxi driver was trying to run the car off the road. He added that the young men were scared and feared for their lives because of the way they were being pursued. At one stage, the taxi driver crashed his car into the front of the young men's car but they managed to escape and the chase continued. When they had reached North Geelong, things got even worse with the cabbie ramming the side of the car, shunting it sideways into a gutter and blowing one of their tyres.

SPC Riches said that at that point, four of the five youths fled the vehicle in fear for their safety, adding that the taxi driver had driven in an arc and was alleged to have driven straight at the fifth passenger who was also attempting to run for his life in a different direction to the other four. SPC Riches said: "The taxi driver scooped the boy up on the bonnet of his car and threw him forward several metres, but miraculously he escaped without injury. As the young men were fleeing, they turned to see that the taxi driver was armed with a wheel brace and knife and had returned to the Astra smashing every panel and window on it. It really was an absolute miracle that no one was killed or seriously injured. When you arm yourself with a vehicle, there is a very real propensity for someone to be very seriously injured."

The 17-year old boy who had thrown the egg received an official caution for discharging a missile and showed great remorse for his actions, Senior Police Constable Riches added. The taxi driver, who has been "helping police with their investigations," was likely to be charged with conduct endangering life, criminal damage, assault with a weapon, unlawful assault, dangerous driving, careless driving and a host of other traffic offences.

Of course, any London taxi driver who has been going along and suddenly found his TX4 hit with an egg that proved almost impossible to get off, could possibly understand the Geelong driver's frustration, however he may possibly have gone slightly over the top!

Costa Rican Cabbie "Shoots Bin Laden!"

Daft Costa Rican, Leonel Arias, thought he was being funny when donning an Osama bin Laden mask whilst looking for a cab and holding a pellet rifle. At first, driver Juan Pablo Sandoval didn't notice and it was only when Arias got into the cab that the driver realised who he thought the passenger was... so he shot him!

Arias told police he was just fooling around when wearing the bin Laden mask and toting the pellet rifle. The joke was that he would hide out and then suddenly dash out into the road to scare drivers on a narrow street in his hometown of Carrizal de Alajuela, about 20 miles north of capital city, San Jose.

He had already startled several taxi drivers that way, but when he tried it on Juan Pablo Sandoval, the cabbie reached for a gun and shot Arias twice in the stomach! Arias was rushed to hospital, but was in a stable condition and questioned by the police. Juan Pablo told Global News' South American correspondent: "For me and I think most people, at a time like that you fear the worst - so I fired my gun." Police declined to detain Sandoval, saying he had believed he was acting in self-defence against the real bin Laden. We asked the police why Juan Pablo had a gun in his cab and were told that most drivers had one with them whilst driving. "Costa Rica is a lovely place, but it can still be dangerous," they explained.

The Runaway Taxi Ran Over The Hill (And She Blew)!

Excusing the inappropriate use of that old children's favourite, The Runaway Train, Taxi Globe's African correspondent recently paid a brief visit to Johannesburg. The taxi situation there often involves proprietors murdering each other in the most brutal of ways. However, this taxi tale was slightly different.

Cabbie Solomon Morokolo was driving around his usual Jo'burg haunts when he stopped to pick up some passengers who wanted to go to Victory Park. Everything seemed normal to Solomon. He had done the trip many times before and could have driven it blindfold. On this occasion, his passengers must have thought he really had decided to try it with his eyes shut!

Solomon was close to the park and driving up the steep slope along the approach road. He reached the brow and was about to begin the equally steep downward section when he heard a clunk from beneath the vehicle! Suddenly the cab began to speed down the hill with Solomon unable to slow it down. He blew his hooter as a warning and said a quick prayer!

His passengers – now in a runaway taxi – sensed something was wrong as they sped down the slope at an ever-increasing speed, but had that confirmed when Solomon screamed out! They started to leap out in all directions as it careered down the slope, through a barrier, ending up in the Braamfontein Spruit River. Fortunately, no one died but six people were injured after jumping out of the fast-moving cab and one woman who was trapped inside the taxi, was said to be quite seriously injured.

Mr Morokolo told us that he jumped out just before the vehicle crashed into the riverbed. "I feel just so awful, but there was nothing I could do, so I said a prayer and at least no one died. But I do not like hills any more..."

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