

# Harbutt's Australian classic set to ride again

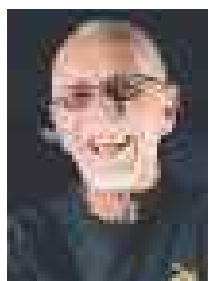
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With that tick of approval and the warm reception of a documentary celebrating the 25th anniversary of the release, in which 35,000 riders replicate the F3 ride, it's no surprise someone considered disobeying Tarantino's edict.

"It was quite funny, because the guy who made this happen was my agent," Harbutt said. "I said, 'There's this great bloke named Tarantino, he said it's too good for a remake.'"

"And being a literary agent, he goes, 'Too good for a remake? How about a remake?'"

Harbutt's initial response was to give the idea short shrift. He turned down offers for a sequel even before



Sandy Harbutt: "It's not me repeating myself, it's someone else, looking at the theme with a fresh idea, 35 years on."

it's someone else, looking at the theme with a fresh idea, 35 years on," he said.

Enter Cartwright.

After securing Harbutt's blessing – and the film rights – he set about wooing other fish. Having read that Tarantino was looking for an original print of the film, Cartwright wrangled a copy through Harbutt and presented it to the American at the 2009 Cannes Film Festival.

The gift, covered in delivery receipts and postage marks from cinemas across the nation, was apparently well received. Cartwright is still hoping to get Tarantino onboard in some role or another.

He is also sounding out Jack Thompson, and Steve Bastoni has been

approached to play the leader of the Grave Diggers, the role last performed by Harbutt himself. "I initially asked Sandy to reprise his role," Cartwright said. "And Sandy politely and genuinely said, 'I decline.'"

Cartwright hopes to start preliminary shooting towards the end of the year. To get the project off the ground he's embarking on an unusual funding push. Eschewing government dollars, he intends to get the film off the ground like a traded company. Individuals and "mum and dad investors" will be able to inject their money, like shares, and ultimately claim a chunk of the profits.

It's an ambitious move, but Cartwright has limitless faith in the *Stone* brand and the legacy of Harbutt.

The pair have thrashed out an understanding. If, during a joint interview, Cartwright gets talking about the plot of his re-imagining, Harbutt walks off.

"It is a unique honour and privilege to be handed the baton, but Sandy and I have this understanding," the younger man said. "He made his film and I'm going to make my film."

But Harbutt does have one demand.

"What I said to Richard was, what I would like with [the new movie]. . . is that it's a hit. That's all.

"I don't care if it's got seven Oscars and nobody sees it. I want the Australian and world audience to come out in enough numbers to pay for it."

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**CENSORSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS**

TBC This film has advertising approval. Check the classification closer to the release date.

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 MA 15+ Not suitable for people under 15. Under 15's must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian  
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