

## A SMALL TOWN CALLED MONTO

Hello my name is Rohan and I am 25 years old. I live in a small town called MONTO which is situated 230 kilometres southwest of Rockhampton.

I was involved in a single vehicle motor accident on 5th February 2005. I fell asleep at the wheel while trying to drive to town to catch up with my mates late on Saturday night. My injuries I sustained while not wearing a seatbelt is something I am still trying to come to terms with.

I had severe head injuries as well as internal injuries and a very badly broken upper right leg. My first two weeks in intensive care I was in an induced coma and then I remained unconscious for another thirteen weeks. During this time, it was "touch and go" if I would make it through or if I would remain in a "veggie" state and unable to move or talk for the rest of my life.

I very slowly woke up after fifteen weeks and my struggle began with relearning to eat, swallow, talk and do things for myself. It has been a very very slow and long road to recovery. I had to relearn the simplest task of everyday living and how frustrating it can get.

I have since been an inpatient in several hospitals while my head and body is repairing itself over the last 18 months... I began full rehabilitation in May 2006 at Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit at Royal Brisbane Hospital. I receive daily physio so I can walk again, speech therapy so I can communicate again and occupational therapy to help me write and carry out everyday tasks. We have monthly family meetings to talk about my progress and the small goals I would like to achieve.



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My big goal in years to come is to be able to walk and live on the land again independently. I will probably be at BIRU for some time yet, as I am improving each week and still have a long way to go to reach the 'big goal'. The biggest thing I have learnt from the experience is "never give up", despite the negativity of the people around me and to be patient, as a two minute accident will take many years to recover.

By  
Rohan Anger

For the Monto Football Club

