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## Lukas Baumann drives 36,000km to Melbourne Cup

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- **Man drives from Zurich for Melbourne Cup**
- **Travelled 36,000km**
- **Dreams of crossing Cup finishing line**

HE has dodged bullets and bombs, slept in searing deserts and deep snow.

But, after seven months on the road and 36,000km travelled, it's neck and neck whether Swiss Lukas Baumann and his trusty, old Volvo get to cross the finish line at the Melbourne Cup - having driven to the event from home in Zurich, [the Herald Sun reports](#).

The crazy businessman and passionate horse lover decided early this year he wanted to be at the race that stops the nation.

But there was a twist. He wanted to drive here.

He quit his job, sold his apartment and hit the road in the 15-year-old, four-cylinder vehicle he bought second-hand from his father.

Everyone who knew him told him he was mad. His mechanic said the car would never make it.

Having celebrated his 39th birthday last week, he and his left-hand drive Volvo have arrived just in time for Tuesday's race. The car's had a wash and Mr Baumann has borrowed a suit for the special event.

Now comes the crunch. "Having come so far, I want them to let me drive over the finish line to make the trip complete," he said yesterday.

He knows it will be hard, well, probably impossible, to get the go-ahead.

"Lexus is a major sponsor of the Melbourne Cup and they might not like a Volvo there. But they can cover all the badges, just to let us finish our dream after our very long journey."

There are many layers to Mr Baumann's obsessed odyssey.

He is a successful horseman who has travelled the world competing in three-day events.

He is an intrepid traveller who back-packed around Australia on a working visa in 1996 when he attended his first Melbourne Cup.

"I remember standing in a path where all the roses are and thinking this is so good, I will be back."

The dream of being at the 2009 Melbourne Cup took him on a journey which has since become the dream.

"All the wonderful people I have met, the things I have seen, the fact that I have eaten street food and not even been sick."

