

North coast cyclone watch: P3

Cannonball Run mania warning



Allen Marshall is working hard on his 1967 Ford Mercury Cougar GT for the Cannonball Run

Police fear road danger

By NICOLE CRIDLAND

Police fear "open slather" on Territory roads in the lead-up to the Cannonball Run high-speed race.

And they have warned that people trying to reach the same speeds as the sports cars taking part could be charged.

Superintendent Terry Ey warned that publicly could fuel the ambitions of would-be racers to drive at dangerous speeds.

"I've been listening to talk and it seems people have the perception the Cannonball Run is just going to be 'open slather' on the roads," Supt Ey said.

"The other thing concerning me is that people may be thinking of trying to race up and down the track and doing incredible speeds.

Perron's old Cougar runs again

Allen Marshall is convinced his 1967 Ford Mercury Cougar GT will win the super classics category in the inaugural Cannonball Run in May.

The run — from Darwin

to Ayers Rock and back (3700 km) — will be held between May 23 and 27.

It has attracted several international entrants.

The Cougar "muscle car" — with a history to top most — is hardly a sight for

sore eyes now, but Mr Marshall said it would be "rolling and ready for a shakedown" next month.

Mr Marshall was not sure whether he bought the Cougar in 1980 or 1981.

He sold it to Chief Minis-

ter Marshall Perron — a known car buff — in '87.

But he bought it back after Mr Perron's son Bryce drove it into a ditch in June, 1992.

Although looking a former shadow of itself, when

the Cougar is completed with the necessary modifications, Mr Marshall said it would be a real purler.

"It'll be painted a deep blue-black," he said.

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Timor oil flows at 6000 barrels a day



Mr Stone ... good signals

By JASON SCOTT

The first oil discovery in the Timor Gap has produced a flow of almost 6000 barrels a day.

The oil was discovered this week at Elang No 1, about 500 km north-west of Darwin in the eastern Timor Sea.

A joint venture of Santos, BHP Petroleum, Inpex Sahul Ltd and Petroz recorded the flow yesterday through a 21mm choke.

Santos' general manager for exploration Dr Lloyd Taylor said the discovery was good news for other explorers in the area.

And NT Mines and Energy Minister Shane Stone said the discovery would mean about 100 jobs for the Territory.

Dr Taylor said the flow at Elang confirmed the zone's potential.

"Elang has confirmed the potential of the western portion of the Timor Gap Zone of Co-operation," Dr Taylor said.

Encouraging

Mr Stone said yesterday the discovery was "extremely encouraging".

"It appears to be a good commercial flow," Mr Stone said.

"And it sends out good signals for other companies in the region."

The region, known as the "Zone of Co-operation", is an area in the Timor Sea between Darwin and Timor. It was established as part of a December, 1989, treaty between Australia and Indonesia where the benefits of oil discoveries would be shared between the two countries.

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'Low-lives' steal from cancer kids

A cancer support group for children was one of three Stokes Hill offices found burgled yesterday morning.

Thieves targeted Camp Quality, Wharf Precinct and HeliNorth offices in a heritage house near the Stokes Hill Wharf entrance, taking a total of \$11.18.

Camp Quality runs annual camps in the NT for children suffering cancer.

A Wharf Precinct employee described the thieves as "low-lives", an impression reinforced by the discovery of human faeces on the back veranda.

Another employee, who asked not to be named, said some dam-

age was done in most rooms during a search for cash, but the theft was limited to a Camp Quality money box.

"The break-in was discovered about 8am when we came to work, but the only thing that seems to have been stolen is the Camp Quality petty cash tin," she said.

"It looks like someone's broken in a back window and gone from one office to the next looking for money, but nothing's kept here."

Disappointing

Camp Quality NT director Mac Mather said: "It's very disappointing ... especially considering what Camp Quality is all about."



Worse for wear ... Flashback to June 1992 after Mr Perron's son Bryce had driven the Cougar into a ditch at Doctor's Gully

Perron's old Cougar on the road again

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"A black cat. Instead of purring it's going to roar."

The car will be fitted with an 8L engine enabling it to travel at a maximum of 200 km/h.

"The only things we didn't pull to bits were the door handles and dashboard."

"We started work on it a year ago and now the momentum's really building."

fitted with a full chassis for added strength and new brakes.

"These big old girls, you can get 'em to go but you can't get 'em to stop," Mr Marshall said. "So we've put a disc brake

Police fear road race mania

• From P1

"What I'm trying to get across is there's a difference between driving at a speed in a controlled atmosphere, against taking chances out on the open road with all the other hazards."

Supt Ey said drivers could even be booked in areas where there were no set speed limits.

It is an offence to drive at a dangerous speed.

"I want to warn people it is unsafe," Supt Ey said.

"It doesn't mean you can drive at any speed you like just because there is no speed limit."

Cannonball Run director Allan Moffat said would-be racers trying to set a Cannonball Run record were wasting their time because there would be no such record.

Stop

"You'll never stop anyone from thinking they can have individual records between two points like Darwin and Alice Springs," Mr Moffat said.

"I'm sure it's the source of a bet every weekend."

"All I can assure is the Cannonballers themselves will be well and truly bridled."

"They will unleash their full potential only in the 'flying mile' segments every day where we will have maximum official presence and safety precautions in place."

The "flying mile" is designed for class