

INSIDE  
TODAY

COMPLETE WEEKEND  
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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LIFTOUT

# Cannonball Run widows are here



Mrs Okano and Mrs Kabe yesterday. With them are Mr Okano's brother, Yuri, and Mr Kabe's brother, Ikeda

## Cars will parade in Darwin today

By CHRISTINE TONDORF

The widows of the Japanese car drivers who died in Tuesday's Cannonball Run crash arrived in the Territory yesterday.

Sumiko Kabe and Mikaki Okano were met by Cannonball Run organiser Allan Moffat at Alice Springs Airport.

The Run ends in Darwin today (Full report, Page 2).

### Leading

Mrs Kabe's husband, Akihiro Kabe, was leading the Cannonball Run in his high-powered Ferrari on Tuesday when he lost control and skidded into a checkpoint.

The crash killed Kabe, his co-driver Takeshi Okano and two Darwin officials.

Witnesses to the accident estimate the car was travelling at more than 200 km/h at the time of impact.

Mrs Kabe and Mrs Okano broke down and cried when they arrived

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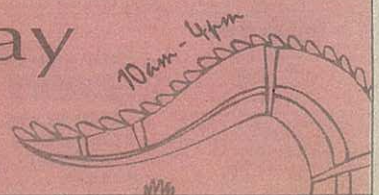
## Ray Martin replies to Perron: P4

### Museum Open Day

### Sunday 29 May

Conacher Street, Bullocky Point, Fannie Bay

Come and see...  
admission free!



# Cannonball Run widows fly to NT



Roger Linklater ... no blame

**From P1**  
at Cairns Airport, en route to Alice Springs, earlier yesterday.

They said through an interpreter that their husbands died doing what they loved.

Mrs Kabe said: "Our husbands told us it wouldn't be dangerous because Australia is a very big country and they would be driving on wide roads - it wouldn't be dangerous at all."

"I was relieved at that. It was the sort of race where they wanted to see

the scenery as well as a slow speed.

"Racing was one of the most important parts of his life - they both loved racing."

"I hope the people participating in the race are competing because they enjoy racing, not because it is a life or death thing."

Mr Kabe had two sons, aged 12 and 11. Mrs Okano has no children.

Ikeda Tamotsu, Akihiro Kabe's brother-in-law, said there was little information in Japan about the Cannon-

ball Run. Mr Tamotsu, also speaking through an interpreter, said both families were devastated and in shock over the accident.

He said Mr Kabe and Mr Okano had decided to enter the run after reading about it in Japanese motoring magazines.

"We don't blame anyone - it's not like we suddenly hate Australia," Mr Tamotsu said.

"They (Kabe and Okano) said it was just an average race. It was nothing out of the ordinary and their wives

were reassured by that."

Families of the two Darwin officials killed in the crash yesterday said they shared the grief of the two widows and would like to meet with them while in Australia.

Roger Linklater, whose 22-year-old son Timothy died in the accident, said no one was interested in apportioning blame.

Mr Linklater said: "I think it would be good thing to meet their families because they have losses and we have losses which have

arisen out of the same tragedy."

"We are in the process of dealing with our grief. We do not blame anyone."

Gerry Pritchard, whose son Keith also died, said the Darwin families felt no bitterness.

He said: "I guess we all share a common love for motor sports and I feel it would be helpful to everyone if we met."

Cannonball Run spokesman Graham Ward said the race organisers would try to arrange a meeting.

# Cars lead in tribute to

# race dead



Simon Linklater ... will drive his brother's car in a tribute to him today

# Porsche sets pace

Sydney driver Ron Conrad looks set to finish the Cannonball Run first.

The Sydney driver in his 911 turbo-charged Porsche clocked 240 km/h in the Flying Mile section of the world's first legal Cannonball Run yesterday.

The 105 remaining entrants head for Darwin and the finish line today.

Race officials set a speed limit of 180 km/h on Wednesday for the remainder of the race, but the "Flying Mile" is exempt from the speed limit.

Cannonball Run spokesman Graham Ward said the drivers were travelling at much slower speeds.

The fastest cars' top speeds were averaging less than 160 km/h when the Cannonballers shared the open road with commuters.

The flying mile section of the road is closed to traffic.

## Slower

Mr Ward said: "They are running a lot slower."

"We calculate they are running about 45 minutes behind the original schedule."

Victorian driver Robert Mulholland equalled the time of race leader Conrad, clocking 240 km/h yesterday.

But these speeds are much lower than those clocked by

Japanese dentist Akihiro Kabe.

Kabe was one of four killed after his Ferrari spun out of control on a bend south of Alice Springs and crashed into a check point.

Kabe clocked 284 km/h in his F40 Ferrari on Monday's leg of the race.

The entrants stayed at Tennant Creek last night and are expected to complete today's 960 km leg by 3.30 pm.

Today's flying mile section of the race will take place just north of Renner Springs.

The cars will gather at Livingston Airfield just outside Palmerston then drive in convoy to the Diamond Beach Casino after the race finish.



Kabe ... clocked fastest speed

Two speedway cars owned by the Territory officials killed in the Cannonball Run will lead a procession of Cannonball Run cars through the streets of Darwin today.

Darwin man Keith Pritchard, 31, and Timothy Linklater, 22, were killed when a Ferrari driven by Japanese dentist Akihiro Kabe slammed into a checkpoint they were manning.

Kabe's co-driver Takeshi Okano was also killed in the crash 95 km south of Alice Springs on Tuesday.

More than 100 high-powered vehicles of the original 118 entrants are due to finish the world's first legal Cannonball Run in Darwin this afternoon.

At 3.30 pm a procession of vehicles led by the speedway cars of Mr Linklater and Mr Pritchard will leave the Livingstone airstrip.

The procession will head to Stokes Hill Wharf then along the Esplanade to the Diamond Beach Casino.

The speedway cars were used by the two officials who regularly raced with the Northern Australian Motor Sports Club.

Darwin Motor Sport Council general manager Reef Van Dermolen arranged for

the speedway cars to lead the procession as a tribute to the two men who died in Tuesday's accident 95 km south of Alice Springs.

Mr Van Dermolen will drive Mr Pritchard's HQ Holden.

"Those two guys just lived for the sport of motor racing and I know they would want the race to continue," Mr Van Dermolen said.

He said Cannonball Run organisers had tried to make the event as safe as possible, but he agreed with comments made by Keith Pritchard's parents that drivers should have undergone an advanced driving course.

## Procession

The brother of Timothy Linklater, Simon, will drive his brother's HQ Holden in today's procession.

Simon Linklater was also an official in the Cannonball run, based at the next checkpoint just kilometres away from the accident.

"We know that Tim would have wanted the race to go and in his memory I would like to see the race go on next year, but maybe there should be changes to the rules," Mr Pritchard said.

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# Brabham suit to help families

The driving suit of racing legend Jack Brabham will be auctioned at the Cannonballers Gala Ball tonight.

Money raised by the auction will go to the Territory families of the two Cannonball Run offic-

ials killed in the crash south of Alice Springs on Tuesday.

The auction will be held at the Diamond Beach Casino.

Brabham was a late withdrawal from the Cannonball.

Tonight's presentation cere-

mony at the casino is mostly for Cannonball drivers and officials.

A couple of hundred Gala Ball tickets were offered to the public for \$150.

They have since sold out.

MIDWEEK  
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Melbourne

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Supplementary N=

26 4

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