



**NORTHERN
TERRITORY**

NEWS

**REAL
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INSIDE**

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DARWIN: Saturday, May 28, 1994

80c* (COUNTRY 90 cents)

NT News sales soar again

Sales of the Northern Territory News are hitting new records, figures issued yesterday by the Audit Bureau of Circulations show.

Monday to Friday sales rose by 5.5 per cent compared with the same October to March period last year. Sales of the Saturday paper rose by 8.1 per cent.

They are the highest increases Monday to Saturday of all Australian metropolitan dailies.

They give an average rise for the six days of 5.9 per cent.

The Northern Territory News has now increased its circulation in every audited period for the past eight years.

Audited

The paper's circulation is audited every six months by the Audit Bureau of Circulations, an independent accounting body which monitors the sales of all paid newspapers in Australia.

The Sunday Territorian increased its circulation by 4.8 per cent compared with the same period the previous year, increasing its average Sunday sales to 23 406.

• Circulation figures for our newspapers are independently audited by the ABC so our advertisers can be guaranteed of their accuracy and our strength in the market.

Surveys in the NT have shown that every paper sold is read by an average of 2.9 people. This means the NT News is reaching about 73 per cent of Territorians over the age of 14.



It's over ... Cannonball Run organiser Allan Moffat in Darwin yesterday with the winner's trophy. Picture: PETER GANDOLFI

Moffat cries as Run ends

Cannonball Run organiser Allan Moffat was in tears yesterday as the tragedy-hit run ended in Darwin.

The future of the run was in doubt as Mr Moffat de-

clined to speak about plans to stage the event again next year.

Mr Moffat, a former touring car racing champion, said he would hold a media conference in the future to discuss his plans.

"Please, my thoughts are private," Mr Moffat said with tears in his eyes and his voice trembling.

"In due course we will have a conference and tell everyone our plans."

Japanese driver Akihiro

Kabe, his co-driver Takeshi Okano and race officials Keith Pritchard and Timothy Linklater were killed in a Cannonball crash 96 km south of Alice Springs on Tuesday.

The men died when

Kabe's Ferrari F40 slid out of control and slammed into a checkpoint manned by the Darwin officials.

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Sydney Porsche grabs Run honors

Sydney builder Ron Conrad is the official winner of the Cannonball Run.

Conrad, who drove a 911 Porsche turbo, was consistently the fastest driver over the six-day event.

He clocked a top speed of 243 km/h yesterday. Second placegetter Justin Trivett clocked 240 km/h.

Trivett drove an NSX R Honda, while Dennis Carroll driving a Chevrolet came in third.

Chief Minister Marshall Perron presented trophies to the winners at last night's gala ball at the Diamond Beach Casino.

Cannonball Run spokesman Grahame Ward said the final run day went extremely well.

Incident

"There was not one incident apart from the Ferrari crash earlier in the week. Not one car was involved in an incident resulting in panel damage," he said.

Robert Mulholland in his Dodge Viper ran the fastest speed yesterday, clocking up 249 km/h in the Flying Mile section, while Maserati Barchetta driver Alex Danilo ran second with 247 km/h.

Mr Ward said the race was run under the strictest safety conditions and every morning race entrants were breath-tested by Cannonball Run staff.



Simon Linklater waves the cars in at the end of the Cannonball Run yesterday

Moffat cries at finish of tragic Run

From Pi

For the past two days Mr Moffat has been in Alice Springs with the widows of the two Japanese drivers.

The women came to the Territory to collect the bodies of their husbands.

Yesterday's Cannonball finishing procession was led by two HQ Holdens owned by Mr Pritchard and Mr Linklater.

The officials were well-known in Territory motor racing circles, and many Darwin car enthusiasts were at yesterday's finish at the Diamond Beach Casino to pay their respects.

Race organisers wore black ribbons as they flagged in 105 cars of the original 118 vehicles which began the race on Sunday.

Tim Linklater's brother Simon, who also worked as an official in the Cannonball Run, was the first driver across the finishing line.

He later helped officials wave in the 105 cars to finish the race.

He said: "I think it is just wonderful the support the crowd has given."

A crowd of about 2000 welcomed the Cannonballers into Darwin.

Although a jazz band greeted the competitors, the mood was sober.

Sydney driver Peter Pilkington was critical of the organisation of the race.

Mr Pilkington said he was also unhappy about the 180 km/h speed limit imposed on the drivers for the last leg of the race.

He said: "I enjoyed the run, but it was marred by the tragic accident that put us down for a couple of days."

Ridiculous

"Then we had the ridiculous situation where the public was going faster than us for most of the day."

Mr Pilkington said Tuesday's accident did not reflect badly on the safety standards of the run.

Driver Greg Dick of Alice Springs also resented the speed limit.

At one stage he was overtaken by a woman towing a caravan.

"Territorians just don't travel that slow," he said.

"It's pretty embarrassing when you are in the Cannonball Run and people are overtaking you blowing their horns."

Run widows say sorry for crash

The widows of two Japanese drivers killed in the Cannonball Run publicly apologised for their husbands' accident yesterday.

Sumiko Kabe, whose husband Akihiro Kabe was the driver in the accident which claimed four lives on Tuesday, sent condolences to the families of the two Darwin officials killed.

"I would like to express my deep sadness for the trouble caused by my husband's accident," Mrs Kabe said in an open letter yesterday.

In the letter Mrs Kabe spoke of her husband's love for racing cars.

"Had it (the Cannonball Run) gone to schedule he would have safely completed the race today and would have wanted to express his heartfelt gratitude," she said.

Mrs Kabe said her husband had deeply loved her and their two sons and had a great passion for Ferraris.



Mrs Kabe ... deep sadness



Mr Kabe ... Ferrari passion



Mrs Okano ... condolences

since arriving in Australia.

"He has spoken to me in a happy voice about his enjoyable experiences," she said.

Mr Kabe died in the wreckage of his Ferrari F40 just minutes after losing control of the vehicle and crashing into a checkpoint.

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

Also killed in the accident were Darwin race officials Keith Pritchard and Timothy Linklater and Mr Kabe's co-driver Takeshi Okano.

In a separate letter, Mr Okano's widow, Miyuki Okano, thanked Australians for the friendliness shown to her husband.

Welcome

"He called me several times and excitedly told me about his very warm welcome from the local people," she said.

"He didn't expect this to be his last race."

Mrs Okano said her husband was a keen car enthusiast.

"The memory of the Cannonball Run would have been the best memory of his life," she said.

"I would like to express on my husband's behalf his sincere appreciation for the best times of his life.

"Last but not least I would like to express my sincere condolences

to the families of the two officials who tragically died in the accident."

The families of the dead Darwin officials had invited the Japanese widows to meet them while in Australia.

Roger Linklater, whose 22-year-old son was killed in the accident, said on Thursday: "I think it would be a good thing for the families to meet because they have losses which have arisen out of the same tragedy."

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

Love

Mr Pritchard said: "I guess we all have a common love for motor sports and I believe it would be helpful to everyone if we met."

Cannonball Run organiser Allan Moffat said a meeting between the Australian and Japanese families could not be arranged because the widows were already en route to Japan and were due to arrive in Sydney last night.

DARWIN CITY COUNCIL

NEW DOG FEES AND CHARGES FROM 1 JULY 1994

As from 1 July 1994 the following Dog Fees and Charges will apply:

DOG REGISTRATION

Entire Dog	\$35.00
Desexed Dog	\$10.00
Guide Dog	\$2.00
Replacement Tags	\$2.00
Licence (3 or more Dogs)	\$50.00

CONCESSIONS

For Pensioner (Aged/Invalid Only), DCC Obedience Certificate, Racing and Gaming and NACA Members.

Entire Dog	\$20.00
Desexed Dog	\$10.00

Only One Concession to apply to Registration of a Dog.

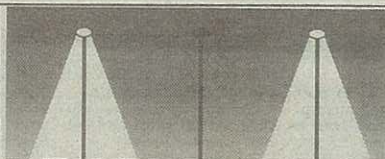
IMPOUNDING FEES

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