



Mr Moffat ... Cannonball

# Cannonball court told of killer stop

Motoring celebrity Allan Moffat helped design a dangerous Cannonball Run across the NT which resulted in the deaths of four people, a court was told yesterday.

In the Federal Court sitting in Darwin, the widow of one of the men killed in the 1994 Cannonball Run, flag marshal Keith Pritchard, is suing Cannonball organisers Raceage, including Mr Moffat, for damages.

Susan Pritchard's husband died on the third day of the Run on May 24, 1994, when Japanese competitor Akhiro Kabe lost control of his Ferrari as it entered a checkpoint at Stuart Well off the Stuart Hwy, 100km south of Alice Springs.

Mr Pritchard, Mr Kabe, his co-driver, and another volunteer marshal were all killed instantly in the crash.

## Amateurish

Ms Pritchard's counsel Michael Maurice, QC, told the court Mr Kabe was driving at 270km/h at times.

He said the design of the checkpoint stop at Stuart Well as well as at Aileron, about 100km north of Alice Springs, was "worse than amateurish".

Yesterday, competitor Craig Brown told the court the day before the fatal crash the Maserati which he was navigating skidded on gravel through the Aileron checkpoint.

Mr Brown said he saw three cars try to stop at the checkpoint and all overran it.

He said when he complained, an official told him his team lost points for skidding.

The Federal Court hearing continues.



British-based actor Trevor Stuart (left) with a friend in the Darwin Mall yesterday. Picture: DANI GAWLIK

## They're a rough looking mob here, Mum

No you are not looking at aliens. But *Comeheads* movie star Trevor Stuart sure turned some heads in Darwin's Mall yesterday.

The Australian-born actor is in Darwin to present his one-man show *Past Laughter* this weekend.

Mr Stuart said *Past Laughter* is a compilation

of his works *Taboo* and *At Home With Ted Bunny* and warns the show may offend.

The British-based performer said: "It is black

humour. It can get pretty nasty, funny and a little bit offensive.

"It is unsuitable for children and don't bring your grandmother."

Mr Stuart said the show takes a look at humour and how it has changed.

*Past Laughter* will be on at Brown's Mart theatre on Sunday from 8pm.

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## Jail inmate wins \$4500 for bashing

A convicted Thai heroin importer was awarded \$4500 after his front teeth were smashed out by a fellow prisoner inside Darwin's Berrimah jail.

Magistrate John Lowndes awarded the money to Sanan Wangsaimas, 43, yesterday under the Crimes Victims Assistance Act.

Mr Lowndes said Lazarus Nabobbob, a convicted rapist, had caused the facial damage to Wangsaimas in an attack on August 10, 1996.

In 1995 Wangsaimas received a 25-year non parole period for his part in the largest known importation of pure heroin into Australia, 89.1kg.

And Nabobbob, 52, previously sentenced to 12 months jail for the assault, had denied he attacked Wangsaimas but punched him in self defence.

But the magistrate said he did not believe Nabobbob's evidence.

Mr Lowndes said Nabobbob, who conducted his own defence, told the court it was the practice of prisoners who "dobbed on others" to be bashed by other prisoners.

Mr Lowndes said: "What happened to Mr Wangsaimas was consistent with that practice which unfortunately exists in the prison system."

"I am satisfied he was assaulted by Nabobbob."

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