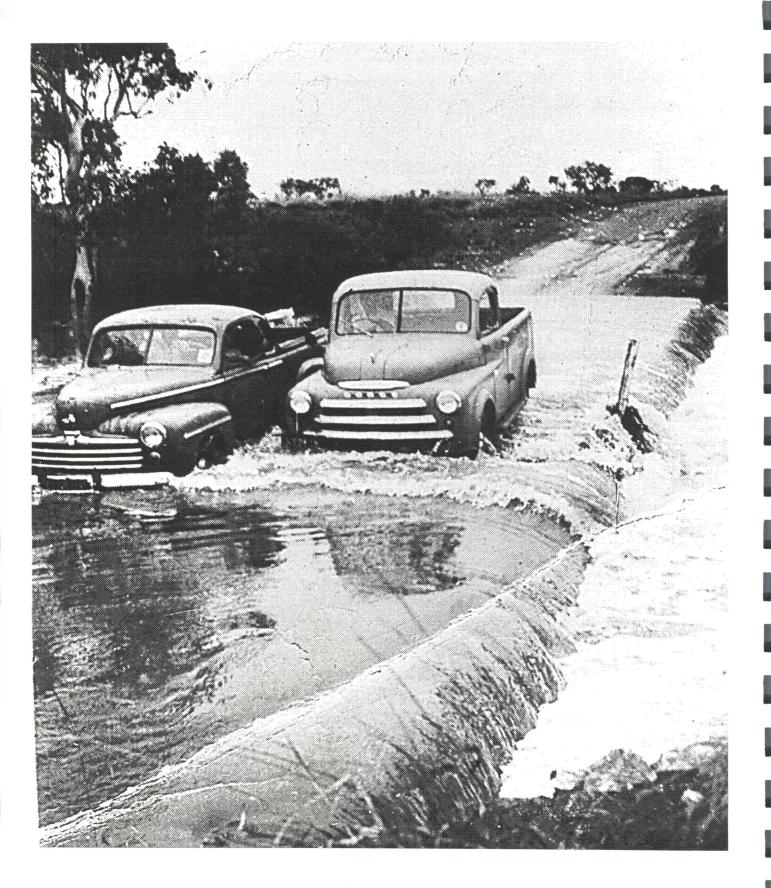


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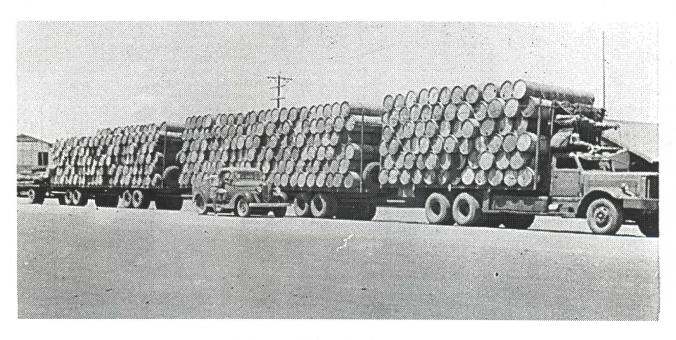


THE RUN

was on - at Tennant Creek 1955

# **CONTENTS**

Tennant Creek and the Cannonball	Page 1
Personality Profiles	Page 3
The Original Cannonball	Page 4
Tennant Creek "Golden Heart of the Territory"	Page 5
The Drivers and Their Wheels	Page 7
Tennant Creek Map and Attractions	Fold out



We've been preparing for **THE RUN** since 1948 - and not a detail has been overlooked

# TENNANT CREEK AND THE CANNONBALL

The aristocratic vehicles in the inaugural Northern Territory Cannonball Run will initially pass through Tennant Creek on day 2 of the event, during the afternoon of Monday May 23. They will be en route to Alice Springs, travelling in the two days some 1,500 kilometres.

The road that the Cannonball will run along, from Darwin to Uluru and back, is arguably the best long distance tarmac in the country. As a result of recent major upgrading, it is ideally suited for safe high 160 kilometres per hour, Mustangs and BMWs, Trans Ams and GT Falcons will rub shoulders with other elite vehicles as they vie for top honours.

The slower cars in Category Three, the 'Sports Touring' will need to have a 'safe conditions' guarantee. They'll be expected to keep up a solid 130 kilometres per hour average.



Road conditions are expected to be excellent

speed travel.

Considering the type of super-performance vehicles which have entered, it is not hard to appreciate that it will need to be just that.

The Cannonball has three categories of entry. Category one is designed for 'Exotic Super Cars' required to maintain a minimum cruising speed of 190 kilometres per hour. Given the expense and even rarity of these high-tech, super-performance jobs (Ferraris, Lotus' and Lamborghinis) drivers need to be certain that they aren't going to smear their cars across the landscape and write off their vehicle because of poor road conditions.

Category Two, 'Super Classics' will include classic vehicles that were designed and built to stand out above the ordinary. Maintaining cruising speeds of

As recently as five or six years ago, the Stuart Highway could be a nightmare, for even the most experienced drivers. There were roll-overs aplenty and lots of stories of cars going bush without their drivers really wanting them to. Drivers had to contend with narrow, poorly surfaced roads that treacherous gravel edges - and the road trains roared along the bitumen as if they alone owned it, scattering gravel and smaller vehicles like confetti behind them.

It's all changed now, both north and south of Tennant Creek, with wide well surfaced roadways making driving as safe

and pleasurable as possible. With proper vehicle maintenance, due care, plus consideration from other drivers, the Stuart Highway should represent one of the safest driving propositions in them country.

Obviously, kangaroos and stray cattle still pose a problem at dusk and during the night, but sensible driving strategies can avoid problems posed by them. All in all, the drive either way from Tennant Creek should be completely uneventful. Going north to Darwin it's fast and open road - you can sometimes see cattle on the side of the road with windburn from passing cars.

To drive the 500 odd kilometres from Tennant Creek to Alice Springs, some extra care will be needed on a few sections of the road.

# **Concentration required**

Either side of the Devil's Marbles, around one kilometre down the track, there are short sections which require some concentration It is important that the driver lines up into the curves properly, particularly at high speed. The

greatest risk develops for a car if there is something coming from the other direction - and you happen to be on their side of the road.

Similarly, a section only a few kilometres south of Barrow Creek can put a driver's self confidence back just a tad, if they are not aware of what's coming. There are three little humps, all in a row, on a part of the road where a driver could reasonably expect to be up around perhaps 150km/hr. And just as everyone has finished yahooing and yodelling at the roller-coaster ride effect from them, a tricky little right hander bounces right up at the drivers where the camber is far from excellent and that is definitely not the place to say 'gidday' to a road train!

After that, apart from a couple of short sections of rough road (which are clearly marked), the road to Alice is pretty uneventful. And it's interesting to note that a number of drivers who do the run to Alice on a regular basis can manage it quite safely in three and a half hours - that's an average of 146 km/hr.

To maintain, say, an average speed of 190 km/hr, the driver is looking at doing the distance in about 2 hours 40 minutes. Now, That is quick! To maintain 160 km/hr, try 3 hours 12 minutes and the dawdlers at 130 km/hr will need 3 hours 52 minutes. That's about the time it takes to get through the check-outs in some of the big supermarkets in Alice!

During the race itself, there are two competitive sections to test the skills of all drivers.

## **Cannonball sections**

In the Cannonball Special Sections, which drivers encounter more than twice a day, a competitive time travel, a distance ranging from 50 to 200 km has been set by Alan Moffatt - and competitors need to cover the distance 'on time'. Arriving early or late will result in the loss of points, as will any unsafe or irresponsible driving. The road section will be on open public highway carrying general traffic so considerable open road driving skills are required.

The second competitive section is the Cannonball Flying Mile Challenge, and this one promises to be a beauty. Over a measured mile of closed road, drivers will be able to put the pedal to the metal and set free the raw power of their machines. The cars will be radar clocked at their



# Cars going bush

maximum speed, earning a competition point for every kilometre per hour they are able to register.

It is not hard to see the long straight heading south from Wycliff Well would be an ideal section for these events. It is 42 kilometres of excellent road, so flat that passengers waiting for the bus at the Ali Curung turn - off can see the headlights at least 20 minutes before it passes by them!

# Top gun

The daily top points scorer in each category of entry will be awarded Top Gun status and will be positioned first off the start on the following day. This is a little like the procedure in the famous Tour de France bicycle event, where the leader wears the Yellow guernsey and leads the pack off every day.

Another section, The 'Grand Tourer' is where drivers can put their feet up, break out the cameras and snap the beautiful scenery as it flicks by. These sections are untimed and competitors are invited to enjoy the spectacular scenery of the Northern Territory and the fascinating places of interest in the outback.

The sublime setting of the Devil's Marbles and the rugged grandeur either side of Barrow Creek are obvious examples of this sort of section in the event.

# PERSONALITY PROFILES

# Sir Jack Brabham

Probably the best known figure in Australian motor racing history, Sir Jack Brabham will set a standard of driving in the Cannonball Run that many others will only be able to dream of.



Brabham won the 1966 World Drivers' Championship in a car he designed and built himself. He will dig deep into his vast driving experience in this race, as he steers his elite Jaguar XJ220 along the unequalled straight roads of the Northern Territory. Brabham will no doubt follow his old driving principle: To never hurt a car he's in control of.



Peter **Brock** has been virtually unparalleled in Australian touring car racing since the early 1970s. Always Holden man, Brock gathered huge following of Holden fans who rode armchair with him in his great struggles against the best Ford could put up. He has

Peter Brock

carried off multiple trophies in the Australian touring car titles, but is best known for his spectacular success at the annual Mt Panorama endurance races.

# Alan Moffatt

Another legend in Australian motor racing, Moffatt's success has given major respectability to Ford vehicles. He has won in numerous high quality events in Lotus Cortinas and Ford Falcons and Capris.



Despite successful flirtations with other vehicles (notably Mazda RX7s and MX5s and Holden Commodores) he has enjoyed perhaps his greatest success in the Ford Sierra RS500. Fired by the English designed and built Cosworth motor, this 4 cylinder, turbo - charged speed machine brought up the power of 600 horses as it carried Moffatt to victory in the 1989 Fugi 500 in Japan.

# John Farnham

Farnham's talents have carried him a long way from his first tentative touch at stardom with 'Sadie' in the early 1960s. Now an international megastar in his own right, his success has enabled him to indulge his passion for motor vehicles, with enthusiastic participation in many events.



No, this is not a picture of John Farnham travelling through Tennant on a Variety Club Bash. But a 1949 Mt Isa - Tennant Creek bus.

No stranger to the Northern Territory, Farnham has travelled some of the Cannonball roads already, most notably in a recent Variety Club Charity Bash.

# THE ORIGINAL CANNONBALL

Who was actually in the original Cannonball Run? When was it held? How fast did the cars go? And what were the cars involved? And how long did it take? And who won it? Were there

added to the overall mystique surrounding it - and this has been helped no end by the release of the Cannonball Run movies, which have since achieved cult status in some circles.

Starring a host of big Hollywood names, the first of the movies, The Cannonball Run is a 1981



The Cannonball run is expected to draw a large contingent of spectators

accidents? Did the police actually catch anyone? Was there more than one Cannonball Run? Questions, questions, lots of questions - but it's very hard to find any answers. Information on the American Cannonball Run is extremely scanty - largly because it was a completely illegal exercise.

Apparently it ran from the east coast of Americas across the continent to California. Apparently some very famous people took part. Apparently there were some fabulous struggles as prestige cars vied for supremacy. Apparently, apparently, apparently.

The mystery that veiled the original run has

'yahoo' comedy which some people claim was produced simply to give Burt Reynolds and every Hollywood friend he had, a chance to pal around. They all seemed to have fun - Roger Moore, Farrah Fawcett, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis jnr, Dom de Louise - it's hard to see them not having fun.

The second movie, The Cannonball Run II (1984) was described as an "endless parade of cameos by third rate celebrities". A very harsh judgement indeed on what was basically a fun family movie. The third sequel Speedzone (1989) was however so awful that even Reynolds didn't participate. Oh well, how far can you stretch a good idea?

# TENNANT CREEK

"The Golden Heart Of The Territory"

Tennant Creek, in the 'Golden Heart' of the Northern Territory, has a reputation for the unusual, the impossible and the spectacular.

Sometimes knows as "The Best Kept Secret in the Territory", it has enough tours and attractions to keep

visitors entertained for at least two or three days.

The people are known for their friendliness and community spirit. This is not surprising. The town was born out of hardship and survived through determination, self reliance and a large dose of larrikinism.

Early characters such as blind William Weaber and his one-eyed friend Malachy 'Jack' Noble who pegged out the richest mines in the field, are typical of the colourful characters that made the town.

Was this the original beer wagon?

When the gold-rush occurred in the 1930's, the only building in the district was the Overland Telegraph Station beside the creek. This building is today one of the four remaining 120 year old stone buildings which housed the telegraphers and linesmen for the telegraph line: a vital link between Australia and the outside world.

Legend has it that the town of Tennant Creek sprang up seven miles south of the creek because that's where the beer wagon broke down.

# Share the hardships

The population quickly grew to 600 as gold was gouged out of the McDouall Ranges. The hills were

named after John McDouall Stuart, but affectionately known as the 'Honeymoon Ranges' because two miners brought their new wives back to share the hardships with them.

Evidence of the miner's struggle against the elements can still be seen in mines with colourful names such as 'Burnt Shirt', 'Lone Star', 'Weaber's Find', Noble's Nob' and 'Golden Forty'. Tours can be taken by coaster bus to some of these sites.

# **Bush Yarns**

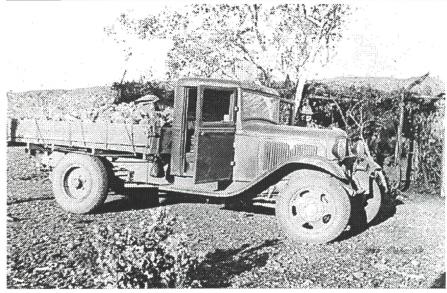
'The Dot', a 1930's gold mine, can still be seen in its original form. A tour with owner Col Bremner is like a step back in time. Col relates fascinating stories of the early days and explains how the shafts were sunk with hammer and tap. Solar panels allow him to light up the shaft for the nightly tours, and the brilliant starlit sky makes a perfect backdrop for the campfire, bush yarns and billy tea.

In the early days the miners crushed ore by a laborious using a 'Dolly Pot', but it was not long before mechanisation occurred in the form of 'stamp batteries'.

One of the Government's Stamp Batteries is still being used to crush gold ore. 'Battery Hill' which overlooks the town, is the site of one of two operating batteries in Australia. Tours are conducted daily at 9.30am and 4.00pm and include a demonstration of the treatment process, historic tales, flora and geology, a small museum, and a cup of tea or coffee.

## Peko

A statue of early miner Joe Kaczinsky and his dog Peko after whom the 'Peko Mine' was named, can be seen, as well as a huge candle which burns 'in the spirit and memory of all miners'.



Gold bullion on its way to the bank?

# **Bush Tucker Tours**

The rich cultural heritage of the district can be experienced through 'Bush Tucker' tours. The Mungar Mungar Aboriginal ladies escort visitors on a genuine hunt for traditional food and medicine. There is nothing like the excitement of digging up a witchety grub or bush potato, and the ladies are happy to share their knowledge.

Events of a unique nature are a speciality in Tennant Creek. Apart from annual events such as the weeklong 'Desert Harmony' arts and cultural festival, and the 'Goldrush Festival', there are one-off events with a difference.

# Celebrity walk footpath

Some celebrities who have come to the town with these events have left their mark by placing their hands in concrete in Tennant's Celebrity Walk footpath. Some examples are TV personality Daryl Somers, Ironmen Guy Andrews and Trevor Hendy, singers John Farnham and James Reyne and car racing hero Peter Brock.

Tennant Creek, the regional centre for the Barkly Tablelands, is a comfortable day's drive from Alice Springs or Katherine, and Mount Isa to the east. Situated in the third richest goldfield in Australia, and with a population of 3,500 the town hall has all the amenities and services required. Accommodation ranges well-appointed motels and caravan parks to the youth hostel, backpackers and camping sites. A wide variety of eating houses supply all types of food from take-

aways to international standard fine dining.

Between Tennant Creek and Alice Springs to the south are rich and varied attractions such as the famous 'Devil's Marbles' huge rounded granite boulders, precariously balanced and thought by the Aboriginal people to be eggs of the Rainbow Serpent. Interpretive walks have been created by the Conservation Commission. Near the Marbles are the historic Wauchope, Wycliffe Well and Barrow Creek, while north of Tennant is the World War II town of Elliott and the historic cattle droving township of Newcastle Waters with its bronze statue of 'The Drover'.

The 'Golden Heart' of the Territory has much to offer Australians and International visitors alike. Its combination of culture, history, soft adventure and vibrant environment will provide visitors with memories that will linger long after their return home.



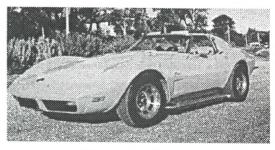
Tennant's Goldfields hotel - much improved since 1937

# THE DRIVERS AND THEIR WHEELS

Surname	1st Name	Make	Model
Carrol	Denis	Chevrolet	Corvette
Davidson	Alex	Pontiac	Trans Am
Fill	Graham	BMW	750 IL
McManemin	Terry	Ford	Mustang Coupe
McDowall	Donald	Mazda	RX7
Downes	Terry	Holden	Group A Walker
Hearse	Tim	Porsche	930 Turbo
Dempsey	Bill	Ford	XD 5.8
Johnston	Stuart	Ford	XB GT
Bakaric	Peter	Porsche	930 Turbo
Kirby	John	Chavrolet	RS SS Com
McCafferty	Tony	Jaguar	XJS
Armstrong	Greame	Lexus	LS400
Duce	Keith	Ford	GT Falcon
Church	Jeffrey	Ford	XR6
Groves	Mary	Toyota	Supra
Zacaropoulos	John	BMW	M6
Landan	Peter	Porsche	930 Turbo
Purdey	Frank	Porsche	944 Turbo
Slattery	John	Ford	XA GT
Inada	Daisirc	Toyota	Celica GT4
Hutchinson	William	Ford	XY
Thompson	Stephen	Honda	NSX
Conrad	Ron	Porsche	911 Turbo
Isarasena	Tony	Pontiac	Trans Am
Ross	Paul	Alfa Romeo	75 2.51
Bambach	Brian	Lotus	Esprit Turbo
Marshall	Allen	Ford	Cougar GT
Harbrow	Tony	Toyota	GT4
Hollier	Butch	Jaguar	XKE
Lindau	Ronald	Porsche	944 Turbo
Walsh	Larry	Ford	GT
Broso	Tony	Cherolet	1500 Pickup
Hiscock	Simon	BMW	M3
Cooper	Lawrence	Lamborghini	
Vos	Hans	Porsche	Carrara 4
Frerichs	Charles	Mitsibishi	3000 GT
O'Neil	Collin	BMW	M3
O'Neil	Garry	Porsche	3.6 Turbo
Duregon	Cairo	Lamboghini	Espanda



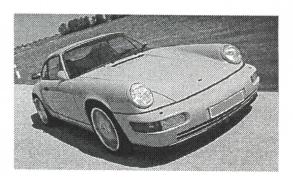
Ford Mustang



Chevrolet Corvette



Honda NSX



Porsche 911

Surname	1st Name	Make	Model
Pheeny	Ken	Audi	Quattro
Mulholland	Robert	Dodge	Viper
Alcock	Murray	Ford	XY GT
McGreevy	David	Chevrolet	Corvette
Whitfield	Greg	Chevrolet	Corvette
McCarthy	Allen	Falcon	Foot
Grange	Alf	Chevrolet	Corvett Stingray
Mathieson	Greame	Nissan	GTR
Manunta	Peppy	Chevrolet	Camaro
Koetaler	Jack	Lotus	Esprit Turbo
Fernandez	Jose	Ford	XA GT
Wardill	Jon	Mazda	RX7 Turbo
Williams	Mark	Holden	HG
Jordan	Edward	Porsche	928 GT
Keeping	Wayne	Ford	Mustang
McAlister	Ian	Ford	EB GT
Brown	Steve	Holden	Statesman
Vaupel	John	Pontiac	Trans Am
Oppenheimer	Des	Porsche	911
Celi	Ted	Mercedes	560 SEL
Kleeman	Ian	Mazda	MX6 Turbo
Draper	Wayne	Ford	ED
Dick	Greg	Holden	VRS Ute
Rouse	Darren	Ford	Landua
Leach	Roger	Ferrari	427 574
Long	Gordon	Subaru	RS Turbo
Kilgariff	Kay	Jaguar	E Type V12
Melagamuwa	Dilantha	Nissan	GTR
Benedetto	Benny	Ford	EA
Wren	Greg	Porsche	928 S4
Barbera	Guy	Mercades	450 SEL
Miller	Phillip	Chevrolet	Capri Coupe
Hammond	Bill	Ford	Mustang
Gover	Paul	Toyota	Landcruiser
Pilkington	Peter	Lexus	LS400
Dahl	David	BMW	840
Goryan	Bruno	Ford	ASC McL
Simpson	Peter	Jaguar	XJ6
Kahlbetzer	Johnny	Porsche	911 Turbo
Glalouris	Jim	BMW	850i V12
Feather	Rod	Ford	XW GT
Hooper	Kenneth	Ford	Cougar



Subaru RS Turbo



Porsche 928



BMW 840



Jaguar XJ6

Surname	1st Name	Make	Model
Allsop Charles	Jaguar X.	JRS	
Williams	Peter	Rolls Royce	Silver Shadow
Trude	David	Porsche	911 Carrera
Douglas-Smith	Eoin	Ford	Falcon 5.8
Kalogeropoulos	Theo	Ford	GT
Kerr	Warwick	Datsun	280Z
Schernbri	Neil	Ford	Siera Cosworth
Hanna	Nadi	Nissan	GTR
McTaggart	John	Chevrolet	Corvette
Trivett	Justin	Honda	NSX-R
Mock	Jim	Ford	GT
Trivett	John	BMW	M3
Rohozinski	Janet	Peugeot	Mi18
Brosnan	Danny	Ford	GT
Carrall	Nigel	Dodge	Challenger
Mcleod	peter	Mazda	RX7
Malouf	Thomas	Holden	Group A Com
Danllo	Alex	Maserati	Spyder
Foden	Reginal	Jaguar	Soveriegn
Hedges	Brent	Nissan	GTR
Leong	Darryl	Toyota	MR2 Turbo
Skalvos	Angelo	Porsche	928S
Finocchiaro	Terry	Ferrari	308 GTS
Pingel	Derek	Mercedes	500SL
Mamalis	Christos	Ford	Cobra
Whitehead	Dennis	Pontiac	Trans Am
Alchin	Warren	Mazda	RX2
Ryder	Charles	Morris	Cooper S
Kabe	Akhiro	Ferrari	F40
Green	Leslie	Jaguar	XK 150
Partridge	Wayne	Chevrolet	Camaro Z28
Altmonte	John	Toyota	MR2
Hicks	Gregory	Porsche	928 S4
Pooley	John	Jansen	FF SC
Boult	James	Allard	J2
Bez	Bernard	Holden	VR
Mertens	Keith	Jaguar	XJ6
Smith	Dennis	Holden	VN GroupA
McDonald	Craig	Toyota	MR2
Brabham	Jack	Jaguar	XJ220
Bryant	Mark	Arntz	Cobra
Hansford	Greg	Holden	VN



Holden Commodore



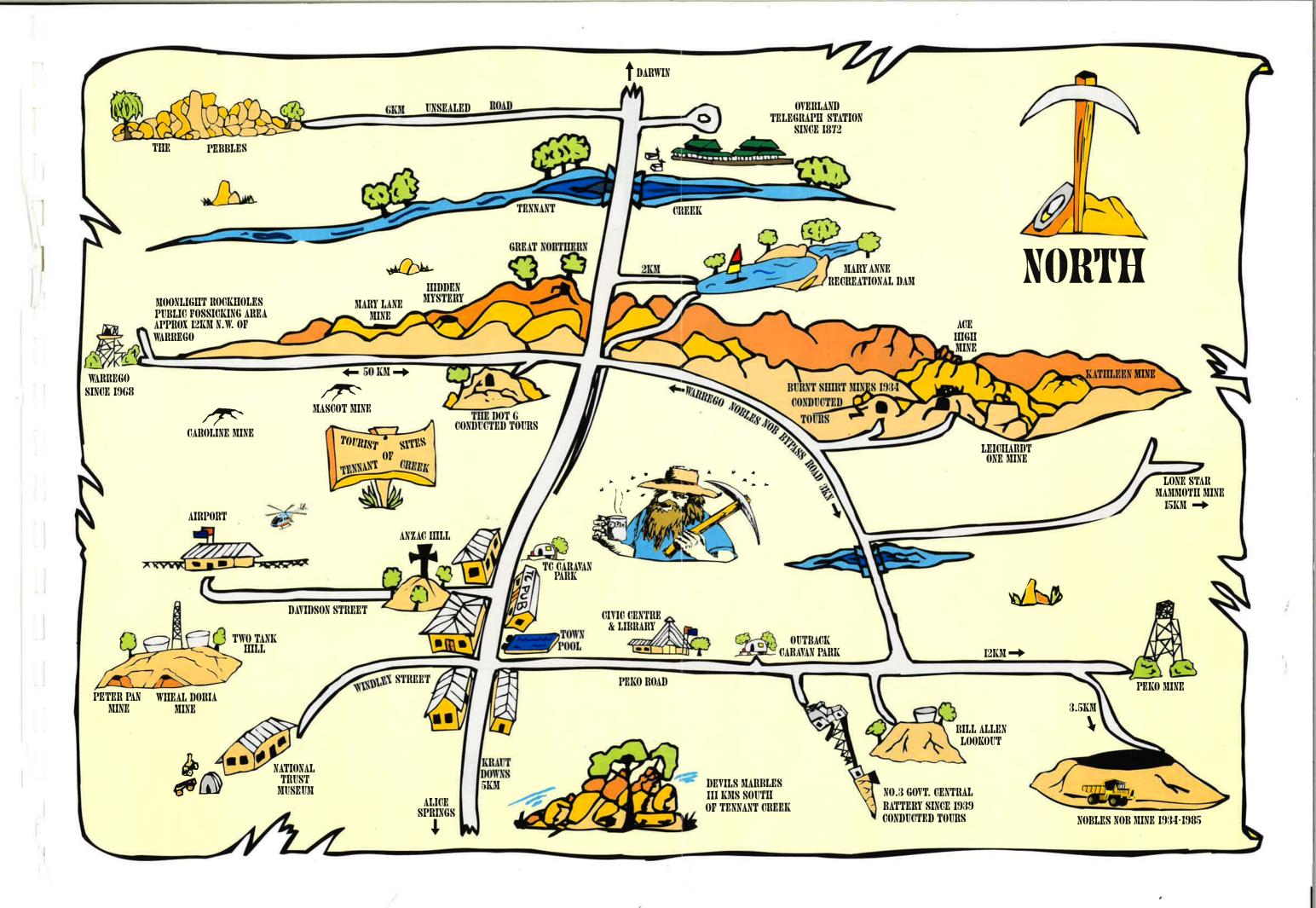
Pontiac Trans Am



Mercedes 500 SL



Ferrari



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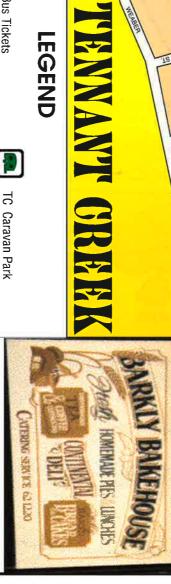


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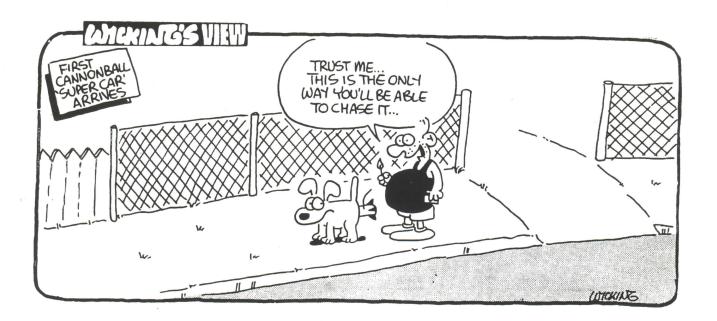
TENNANT CREEK REGIONAL TOURIST ASSOCIATION

RICHARD BAKER AND TEN ANT TOURS

MIKE WILSON OF THE NT NEWS

COLIN WICKING OF THE NT NEWS

THE NT NEWS





"Going Out Gathering Bush Tucker" Courtesy: Artist Patricia Sutton - Aljirra

