

IN BRIEF**Cannonball may soon run again**

DARWIN: The Northern Territory Government has welcomed the prospect of another Cannonball Run, the high-speed car race on public roads in which four people died last year.

Chief Minister Shane Stone said yesterday he had no objection to the race and requested expressions of interest from motoring organisations.

Coulter's heir

ADELAIDE: The South Australian Democrats have voted to replace retiring Senator John Coulter with a former left-wing student activist who, at 26, is set to become the youngest woman to gain a seat in federal Parliament. Party members have elected Natasha Stott Despoja to replace Senator Coulter.

Murder charges

PERTH: Two men and a youth have been charged with the murder of a 14-year-old boy and the attempted murder of his 17-year-old friend in a Perth park last week. Brian Wood, 19, and Jeremy George Edward McLaughlin, 18, were to appear in the East Perth Magistrates Court yesterday.

Koala regulations

SYDNEY: The welfare of koalas in NSW wildlife parks was being jeopardised by Opposition attempts to reverse regulations banning the cuddling of the marsupials, the state Government said yesterday.

In August, NSW Agriculture Minister Richard Amery announced changes to the Exhibited Animals Protection Act which would ban handling koalas from 1997.