Bonet the write place to record road trip

TOYAH SHAKESPEARE MY WHEELS

A BATTERED silver Holden has been transformed into a diary documenting the trip of a lifetime for two adventurers.

Steven Starky took off from Karijini on New South Wales’ Central Coast soon after meeting Heidi Tuchscherr at Tamboine Mountain in Queensland, and the pair said “the rest is history.”

Mr Starky said they were enjoying a drink one night in rural Queensland when they decided to document the trip in permanent marker. The Cunnamulla Hotel publican was the first to christen the Holden.

“We write all the places we go and all the people we meet,” he said.

“It tells the story of the trip, it’s better than looking back at photos,” Ms Tuchscherr said.

From Broken Hill to Port Augusta, the pair made tracks across New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia before coming to the Northern Territory – the car notes Ellery Creek Big Hole as a “sensational point”.

Mr Starky said his favourite message read “don’t drive as fast as your guardian angel can fly.”

Ms Tuchscherr said a highlight of the trip was when they stopped at Coober Pedy and were disappointed they did not have time to visit mines.

Instead, they made a friend who took them in a 4WD at 2am to the site.

Mr Starky has decided to make Alice Springs home for now and has got a job as a tour guide. He said he would run the vehicle into the ground and then mount the paneling on the wall.

Tours and travel upgrades

HELP OUT AT FESTIVAL

VOLUNTEERS are sought to help with the Desert Song Festival in September.

Not to be confused with the Alice Desert Festival, the song festival will be staged from September 4 to 13.

It will mark the return of favourite acts the remote indigenous choirs at Araluen and Flynn Church lawns, and Asante Sana performing A Cappella in the Gorge.

The song festival will also include a range of choral and instrumental concerts in heritage locations around Alice Springs.

Moreover, there will be an evening Festival Club at the Star of Alice serving food, beverages and entertainment over both weekends of the festival.

There are various volunteering opportunities available. For more information, or to register your interest in volunteering during the Desert Song Festival, contact festival administrator Liz Archer on 0409 073 765 or email her at la504@bigpond.com.

Volunteers will be provided with support. The program will be launched August 7 at the Olive Pink Botanical Gardens.

TOOL TO BATTLE SCAMS

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is urging the community not to send money or personal details to scammers.

Rickard said scams succeed because they look like the real thing and catch you off guard when you’re not expecting it.” Ms Rickard said.

“Our new Scamwatch website, which is being launched today, has all the latest news and tips to help you identify and avoid scams. By following the advice on this site, you can help to protect yourself against scammers.

“The first time, the ACCC has published data on common scams that are causing harm in Australia, which will be updated every month on Scamwatch. This tool will help you keep one step ahead of the scammers.”

Scams target everyone, the ACCC warned.

TOURISTS can now drive regular vehicles to experience the rock art and dot painting tours offered in the Wallace Rockhole community, 120km from Alice Springs.

This is now possible following the completion of the MacDonnell Regional Council’s upgrade of the access road linking Wallace Rockhole to Larapinta Drive.

THE council announced in April it would invest $400,000 to upgrade the road. Wallace Rockhole has been running its own tourism operations for several decades.

As well as such tours, the community runs an art centre featuring a pottery studio and a small general store offering souvenirs, food and refreshments.

Michael Gorey

THE instigator of a new NT-based centre party visited Alice Springs last week to hear about local issues and encourage membership.

Former CLP president and PLP member Brendan Earley believes Territorians are disillusioned with both major parties and want a third force in politics.

He’s on a mission to recruit 550 members and register a yet-to-be-named political party with the Australian Electoral Commission.

Mr Earley said the high level of interest was “putting the wind up both major parties.”

He said he did not meet CLP defector Robyn Lambley during his visit but hopes to talk to her soon.

“I caught up with a fair few people and was very grateful for the response in Alice Springs,” he said.

The numbers (of members) are climbing and the more people we speak to the better ideas we get regarding solutions and policies.

“It’s a Territory party, we’re not just taking people from Darwin. I’m very encouraged by it all.

Regarding the electoral redistribution and its impact on Alice Springs, Mr Earley said: “You can change the goalposts as many times as you want prior to running on. At the end of the day it’s how you play the game when you take the field.”

Mr Earley said the new party had a policy to support a moratorium on fracking in the Northern Territory.

“We don’t believe there’s enough science to support fracking with regard to the safety of the Northern Territory environment,” he said.

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BOJANGLES

ICONIC AUSTRALIAN PUB FOR LEASE

Operate a piece of Alice Springs history!

This large restaurant/bar is a Territory icon. Fully fitted out and ready to go, it features an extensive collection of Aussie heritage memorabilia, outdoor undercover area, parking and a high profile location in the heart of Alice Springs. A flexible licence is available.

Contact Andrew Doyle on 0418 897 010 or Anthony Murphy on 0429 951 876 to find out more.

Early on mission for party

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