



MEDIA RELEASE

A Century of Cars Celebrated in Alice Springs

A photographic exhibition and film night celebrating 100 years of cars in Alice Springs is set to be a major feature of this year's Heritage Week celebrations in Alice Springs.

Strehlow Research Centre (SRC) director Dr Scott Mitchell today invited the public to participate in the planned exhibition, at the Alice Springs Public Library, by contributing photographs of motor vehicles or road trips with a central Australian link.

"This year marks the 100 year anniversary since Harry Dutton and Murray Aunger drove the first motor vehicle through Alice Springs as the pair made their first attempt at driving a car from Adelaide to Darwin," Dr Mitchell said.

"The 20 horsepower English Clement-Talbot, known as the 'Angelina' struggled for much of the journey, before breaking down just short of Tennant Creek.

"But the pair was determined to make the first continental crossing by motor vehicle, and successfully completed the challenge a year later."

Motor vehicles, and Alice Springs, have come a long way since then. The Heritage Week event will focus not only on the changes to motoring technology over the past century, but the impact of the car on Alice Springs itself.

"Heritage Week is a celebrated community event that aims to engage with our past and motor vehicles have been a significant part of our history and heritage," Dr Mitchell said.

"By inviting the public to participate, the community can share a drive through history together and hear each other's stories, whether it be about the first time you learned to drive, or about the various road trips you might have enjoyed in the past."

Dr Mitchell said the planned film and photographic exhibition would include footage of Ted Strehlow's journey from Alice Springs to Uluru in 1933, the first time the journey was made by car.

Anyone who would like to loan images for the exhibition is asked to contact Anneke Rose at the Alice Springs Public Library on 8950 0515.

Heritage Week is being celebrated this year from 23-29 April.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Dr Scott Mitchell at SRC on 8951 1101 or Fionn Muster at Alice Springs Public Library on 8950 0546

Issued: 2pm Monday, 29 January 2007