

# The Northern miner

Diabetes

Duo completes another trip

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## Wheel lost in chase

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A HIGH speed car chase ended in sparks and flames in Charters Towers on Wednesday.

The stolen car from Townsville had only three tyres left when it came to a halt on Gill Street outside the ANZ bank.

Police said a 28-year-old man and 27-year-old woman, allegedly stole the car and continued to travel at speeds of 100km/h after driving across a police spike between the Burdekin River and Mingela.

Charters Towers Police officer in charge Senior Sergeant Graham Lohmann said three police cars were involved in the pursuit after they were notified the pair were heading west at 4pm.

He said the driver caused a lot of damage to the vehicle after he continued past the tyre deflation device.

"The wheel completely disintegrated and he continued to drive on it," he said.

"On the front there was no wheel on one side, and he had been driving with no wheel for some time."

On the way to Charters Towers the woman fled the car and tried to hide from police before they caught her. The male driver continued on.

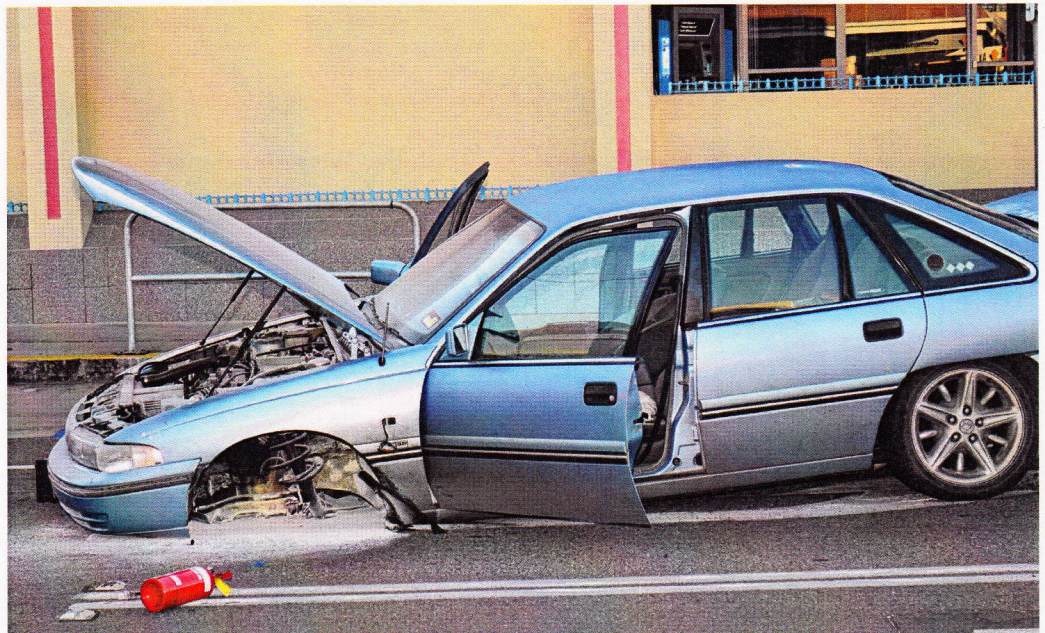
An eyewitness said she saw the car near Centenary Park on the wrong side of the road and feared for the safety of people walking nearby.

"Flames and sparks were coming from the vehicle and there was no tyre on the front passenger's side wheel," she said.

Snr-Sgt Lohmann said the car continued to travel along Hackett Terrace, turning into Deane Street and across the intersection at Gill Street, before it stopped at the bank.

It is alleged the male driver abandoned the vehicle and attempted to evade police on foot, but was arrested in a business premise in the CBD.

White Horse Tavern publican Noel Jesberg



A car chase from Townsville to Charters Towers ended in flames and sparks on Wednesday after a car was left with only three wheels.

Picture: SOPHIE KESTEVEN

said he watched the incident unfold before him.

"All of sudden it was like a movie and you could see a car pass with sparks coming out of the left hand side tyre. That side of the car was scraping on the bitumen," Mr Jesberg said.

"I saw two cop cars behind it chasing it. Luckily it got across the intersection with no one hitting the car.

"The car came to a halt and he couldn't go any further. Smoke was coming out of everything.

"He jumped across the gutter, ran behind the

ANZ and up the backstreet towards the Crown (Hotel).

"The detective came back around 10 minutes later high fiving the police, so I assumed they got him.

"Two old fellas in the tavern, said 'Wow! Charters Towers, it doesn't happen all the time but it happened today'."

Snr-Sgt Lohmann said by the time the car came to a halt there was no wheel on one side at the front and no tyre on the other. There was only part of a rim left.

"It was a very successful outcome to a high risk situation, considering the vehicle came right into the town," he said.

"It was quite a substantial distance from the time they ran over the deflation devices to the time the vehicle came to rest.

"The consequences will be all too clear to the driver in due course.

"We got the people that we wanted and no one was hurt out of it," he said.

The man and woman are expected to appear in the Townsville Magistrates Court today.

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