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"When anything can go wrong with a new model press launch, it will."

Dear Terry,

In the words of the late-Bill Tuckey, Australia's finest motoring writer, "When anything can go wrong with a new model press launch, it will."

Perhaps most famously, even for supposedly bullet-proof Toyota. Convinced the quality of the T140 Coronas (note: not the previous unfortunate Holden Starfire-powered model) from the Melbourne plant was so good they didn't need any additional dealer pre-delivery checks, Toyota decided the motor-noters should drive Coronas straight off the production line and not stop until they reach Uluru (Ayers Rock). So it came that in 1984, eight Coronas set off with planned overnight stops at Port Augusta and Coober Pedy.

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About Robbo

Peter Robinson 'Robbo' has the unique distinction of twice being banned for life by Ferrari!

Robbo has a 54-year career as a full-time motoring journalist including 16-years as Editor of *Wheels* magazine. He spent 16 years living in Italy, working as European editor of the UK's weekly *Autocar* and *Wheels*, while also writing for America's *Car & Driver* magazine and Japan's *Car Graphic*. Robbo returned to Australia in 2005, in part to write a book on the development of the all-new VE Holden Commodore. He continued to work as a freelance journalist for *Wheels*, and today still writes two or three major features a year.

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