



Historical Society of the Northern Territory

Patron: The Hon Austin Asche AC

NEWSLETTER April 2022

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HSNT Committee – President: Matthew James; Vice President: Bev Phelts;

Secretary: Wendy Asche; Treasurer: Lyn Reid; others - Brian Reid, Judy

Boland, Ian Anderson, Derek Pugh, Rosemary Chalmers, Clayton

Frederickson, Penny Baird & Libby Siebert

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 2 April - HSNT bookstall at Parap Markets

Our wonderful volunteer, Janie will be running our book stall. Drop in and say hello and pick up a bargain.

Thursday 12 May - Book Launch at the NT Library - 3pm-5pm

Pride and Revelation: Stories from Charles Darwin University Nursing Museum by Janie Mason will be launched on International Nurses' Day. Celebrate nurses and nursing with Charles Darwin University Nursing Museum On Florence Nightingale's birthday. The welcome will be conducted by Professor Karen Francis, Dean Nursing & Midwifery, CDU and celebrating nurses will be addressed by Ms Mish Hill, Chief Nursing & Midwifery Officer, NT Health

The book is about pride in the local nursing story and a sense of revelation and wonder expressed as these nursing stories emerge from the Charles Darwin University Nursing Museum in this latest Historical Society NT publication. The stories are well illustrated with pictures of various artefacts held by the Museum. The Museum's collections are significant for the unique local story of nurses which is part of the Australian nursing heritage. The book will be launched by Jared Archibald, History Curator, Museum & Art Gallery NT.

The book will be on sale for \$25 at the launch. Payment in cash preferred.

Monday 22 August - Celebrating 150th Anniversary of the Joining of the Overland Telegraph Line

Among other organisations and volunteers, the Heritage Branch and Mates of the Murrarji are busy organising an event to celebrate the joining of the Line 150 years ago. It is planned to hold formalities at the OLT monument on the Stuart Highway (near Dunmarra) and a ceremony at the joining poles (Hayfield Station) approximately 1.7km from the Stuart Highway monument. Further information and an itinerary of the event will be available soon. If you wish to attend, accommodation is available at the Dunmarra Roadhouse.



Men who constructed the Line. from left: Little, Paterson, Todd & Mitchell
Photograph NT Library PH1089/0001/3

Friday 22 - Sunday 24 July (Darwin Showday weekend) - HSNT Field Trip to Gregory National Park

Base camp will be the Victoria River Roadhouse while we explore Gregory National Park. A 4WD/high clearance vehicle will be needed to explore the park. We will be meeting Friday show morning at the Roadhouse.

Accommodation and prices at the VR Roadhouse are -

camping ground

- power sites \$40.00 2 people single \$25.00
- unpowered site double \$25.00 single \$15.00

Motel rooms

- double & single ensuite \$170.00
- double room ensuite \$160.00
- Dongas single ensuite \$140.00
- Single rooms with air con outside shower and toilet

The itinerary will be available closer to the date.

If you are interested in joining the trip and/or if you have a spare seat in your 4WD for a passenger willing to share costs, please let me know. Ring Bev on 0417868827 (leave message) or email hsnt@iinet.net.au

The boab tree inscribed by Augustus Gregory located in Gregory National Park



Chief Minister's Northern Territory History Book Award - now open

Submissions are now open for this year's Chief Minister's Northern Territory History Book Award. Authors who have published a book on NT history in English or in an Aboriginal language during 2021 can enter.

To find out more, check the website to read the full terms and conditions and submit your nomination - <https://bit.ly/3GPILep>

Submission close on 11 April 2022.

2022 Northern Territory Literary Awards

The NT Literary Awards are open. Emerging or established writers from the Territory are encouraged to submit their unpublished works. Categories range from short stories, essays, poetry, theatre scripts, and a separate category for youth entrants.

Winners will be awarded a cash prize, one year of free membership to the NT Writers' Centre and a free masterclass.

For more information, go to - <https://bit.ly/3s7hU8p>

Entries close on 16 May 2022

Congratulations to Jared Archibald OAM



Congratulations to Jared who was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for his service to the history and museums sector over the past 30 years. Curator Jared is our guru on fishes, fossils, taxidermy and Territory history and is certainly well deserving of this honour.

Congratulations to members who received a 2022 History Grant

Maisie Austin - History of Parap Camp

Steve Farram - Ding Glee club 1895-1905

Fannie Bay History & Heritage Society - to publish a history tourist brochure on Fannie Bay/Parap areas

Australasian Mining History Association

The Australasian Mining History Association publishes an annual Journal and invites historians with an interest in Australian mining history to submit papers for publication. If you would like to see the results of your mining history research published in the Australasian Mining History Journal please access the Association's website, <https://www.mininghistory.asn.au/> and the section on the Journal specifically including the Style Guide. Contact Journal Editor Jason Nitz at email: amhajournaleditor@gmail.com

Over the past few months, sadly, we have lost two very long term Society members.

Vale Teresa Lugg 1930-2022 by Janie Mason

Teresa Lugg was 92 years old when she died 17th March 2022. She was a long-time member of the Historical Society NT with a vital interest in the telling and keeping Territory stories. She was also a life member of the University of the Third Age [U3A Darwin]. As a determined and active member of U3A, she was well known for her decided and constructive opinions and for her walking stick of ironwood.

Teresa and her husband John played an important pioneering role in Top End agriculture. In her 2010 book Larabalara, she told of the purchase of Larabalara Station in the Darwin River area [Hundred of Cavenagh] in 1967, its development and station life, until sold after the death of her husband in 1999. John Lugg had been Principal of the Batchelor Area School in the 1980s. Chris Lugg, her son was well known as an engineer, Member of the NT Legislature and Minister for Education, then engineering lecturer at Charles Darwin University.

Teresa's funeral was held on 25 March at St Paul's Church, Rapid Creek.

Vale Lucy Cooper 1928-2022 by Janie Mason

Lucy was aged 94 when she died in January 2022. She worked over several decades as a nurse in Territory rural and urban communities of the Top End. Always easy to talk to and wanting to welcome you, a co-worker of that time said of Lucy, "She was a unique". When few nurses had access to tertiary education, she was an early graduate with a post-registration nursing diploma in 1974 from the WA Branch of the College of Nursing Australia [Melbourne]. In her long retirement, Lucy was active in several community organisations and was known to varied community groups in Darwin.

Well known for her love of dogs, she was regularly seen in the early morning, out in Rapid Creek, walking her mob, mostly Shelties [Shetland Sheep dogs]. Only last year she got a new dog. Lucy was a member of the Darwin Obedience Dog Club over many years. She and her dogs trained regularly at the Winnellie dog ground. She entered obedience trials with some successes. Dog lovers will be happy to know that her dogs have been successfully rehomed.

An early member of the University of the Third Age [U3A] Darwin Branch, Lucy was a regular at the Thursday meetings and talks. She was known by many for her greeting at the door and organising the teas. She also served for several years on the Board of U3A.

Lucy was also a member of the Historical Society of the Northern Territory over many years. She must have read the annual Journal from cover to cover and was in occasional contact for points to clarify.

Farewell Lucy! We will miss you and your Shelties at dog obedience on Monday nights!

Janie Mason AM, DLitt
Registered Nursing & Midwife
Curator: Charles Darwin University Nursing Museum
Member: Darwin Obedience Dog Club, Historical Society NT, U3A [Darwin]

Adelaide River Railway Station Heritage Precinct

Its sad to report that after the many years of hard effort by Trevor Horman, Judy Richardson and their team the precinct is looking a very sorry site.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PAST EVENTS

HSNT Booksale on 23 January 2022

About 35 people came to our booksale and the results were \$340. We were very pleased with the turnout as many people were trying to dodge covid. The afternoon tea and especially Judy Boland's curried egg sandwiches were a hit. A big thanks to those members who donated books.



From left: Carmel Sellwood, Ann Groves, Kate Gunson, Earl James, Judy Boland, Ian Anderson & Penny Baird

Sunday 27 March - Historical Society's AGM

Twenty-four members attended our AGM. The President's 2021 report is at the end of the newsletter.

Our new committee members are -

President: Matt James
Vice President: Bev Phelts
Secretary: Wendy Asche
Treasurer: Lyn Reid

Committee members:
Brian Reid, Judy Boland, Ian Anderson, Derek Pugh, Rosemary Chalmers, Clayton Frederickson, Penny Baird & Libby Siebert

Robyn Smith stood down as Committee member due to her heavy work load. We thank Robyn for her years on the Committee and getting the "History in a Box" up and running.

We welcome new Committee member, Penny Baird

Sunday 27 March - Historical Society's AGM



Matt James & Penny Baird



Clayton Fredericksen, Mark Ames & Merry Cooper



Wendy James & Wendy Asche



Judy Boland, Ian Anderson & Ann Groves



Fiona Scott & Janie Mason



Earl James & Roger Davey

2021 HSNT President's Report

Dear Members and Supporters,

The past year has been somewhat of a steady year for the Society. The exceptional support from its council members and their dedication to the Society is ensuring the Society continues to deliver its core values, and as President, I sincerely thank them.

The Society's programme continued strongly in 2021. Our book-publishing group has had a busy year, again, assisting a range of authors in publishing a mix of scholarly works. The focus of the Historical Society is the finding and keeping of the history of northern and central Australia and bringing that history to public access. We have assisted authors in publishing a number of books this year.

The books published by the Society in 2021 are:

PAM OLIVER, *The Resolute CLA Abbott*. Pam passed away last year and the family have given us permission to enter her book in the 2022 NT CM's History Book Award.

JOHN MYERS, *Mess to Mayhem: Up front with the Never Never Mailman*.

NORMAN CRAMP, *Worth Fighting For: Indigenous Territorians in the defence of Australia*.

Due to the tireless efforts of member, Janie Mason, the Society has had book stalls at Parap Markets since November 2017 and now monthly with 'specials' sale prices and with very good sales. In addition, we held History House book sales with great attendance and outcomes. Thank you Janie.

Council member Clayton Fredericksen advises that the flagship of the Society, the HSNT Journal of Northern Territory History is well on track with a number of outstanding articles, short reports and reviews to be published.

We thank Clayton for his tireless efforts in managing this process on our behalf.

The format of our 2021 field trip continued as a day trip rather than the usual 3-day 4WD trip. The trip started at the Southport landing and followed, where possible, the original "NORTH SOUTH TRACK", visiting the Territory's abandoned old gold mining towns - Southport, Tumbling Waters, Rum Jungle, White Hawk Jungle, and Stapleton Creek ending up at Snake Creek. We criss crossed the 1880s & 1970s railway line, visited WW2 sites and the remains of gold mining pubs, cemeteries and camps. For 2022, this year, we are reverting to a 3-day trip and will be exploring the Victoria River and Gregory National Park region on the Darwin Show long weekend.

On behalf of the HSNT and its members, I would like to thank committee member Ian Anderson, for representing the Society in our duties with the Federation of Australian Historical Societies, very much appreciated, thank you to Ian.

COUNCIL MEMBER retiring from HSNT

Council member Robyn Smith has indicated she will not be standing on the committee. Her commitments to a project she has been collaborating on over several years is now very time consuming, including now lecturing in Colonisation History at CDU. Robyn will be missed, as she was integral part of the Council in many ways.

AUDIT

Our Treasurer, Lyn Reid, has successfully facilitated the annual audit for presentation at the annual general meeting. Lyn will expand on this and other financial matters in the Treasurers Report.

ANNUAL ORATION

As an alternative to the monthly talks at Burnett House, the Society has organised and introduced an annual HSNT Oration. The third Annual HSNT Oration was held on 24 October at History House with the Director of the NT Government's Heritage Branch Michael Wells delivering an informative and entertaining talk on the plight of the crashed Spitfire A58-2 and its pilot.

MEMBERSHIP

Vice President and Membership manager Bev Pelts reports a total membership for the Society of 120 members. 44 are currently un-financial of whom she has sent reminders to them personally and will be following up.

FINANCIAL STATUS

The Society's active and increased publishing over recent years is shown in our increased income but there is always the continuing balancing act with

DONATIONS

Deductible Gift Recipient with the ATO

As a reminder, the HSNT has Donor Gift Recipient (DGR) status. All donations to the Society of more than \$2.00 is now tax deductible. Donations to the Historical Society NT are for the "principle purpose of promotion of literature and movable cultural heritage" as accepted by the Australian Tax Office under our constitutional objectives.

In Conclusion

The coming year is shaping up to be another exciting period for the Society. As President, I need to thank the dedicated members of the Council for their support and guidance for my sixth year at the helm.

Best wishes to all members for the coming year,

Matthew James, President HSNT

Information from member Carl Cossill

Talc Head

Those of you who were at last years AGM may recall my suggestion that we could involve ourselves in a project to place the words 'Port Darwin' on the cliff face at Talc Head, at the western end of the harbour. The name would be able to be clearly seen from the water, and the sign would have been the completion of the memorial to those who first inspected the harbour, and gave the name 'Port Darwin' to what is now Darwin Harbour.

What is there now on Talc Head as a ship's anchor which was placed on a plinth on 9 September 1989, to commemorate 150 years from the naming of the harbour. Nobody really knows it is there, as it is buried beneath the bamboo which grows in the area. The original idea was to have the memorial as another tourist feature. But as so often happens here, things 'die' with those who initiate good ideas.

My suggestion was based on the assumption that nothing would ever happen on Talc head, as the land behind the beach was privately-owned freehold land and nothing had really happened on it. So, my suggestion would have at least, showed everyone on the water, that someone cared a bit about historical things.

However, earlier this year, the owners of the freehold land published a notice in the NT News, and have stated they now intend to subdivide the land. How and why are unknown to me. But what I am thinking, is that my proposed 'Port Darwin' sign could well muck up whatever it is the developers wish to do. Of course, once it is known what is intended, perhaps the sign could be incorporated in whatever is ultimately developed.

So, all this is to say, that considering the situation, I think my idea should not be scrubbed, but just put on hold, until more information is available.

For the sake of the exercise, I have coined the name 'Westharbour' to the privately –owned freehold land lying between Woods Inlet and West Arm.

Virginia original 1869 Survey Pegs

Laurie Palfy has approached Margaret Clinch and former Surveyor-General Trevor Menzies with respect to protecting the original 1869 survey pegs which are still in place marking the corners of the allotments of the original Virginia Townsite at the southern end of Virginia Road at Virginia.

Laurie would probably not be aware the proposal to declare the whole of the 1869 Virginia Townsite as a heritage site was considered many years ago by the Conservation Department, and the public was invited to comment on the proposal. I was aware that it was planned to have a main arterial road pass through the Townsite, and I advised the Department that this should be taken into account before the declaration is made.

What went on with the deliberations I do not know. But, in *NT Gazette G40* of 4 October 2006, the declaration was made that only the north-western corner of the surveyed Townsite would be declared a heritage place. And that is the situation today. How the boundaries of the heritage place were determined I do not know.

Of more recent time, the Lands Department has reviewed the Planning concepts in the Virginia area. The latest proposals now indicate the arterial road has an amended alignment. So, if the roads people are in agreement, the proclaimed heritage area boundaries at Virginia could well be amended, and could possibly save a few more of the original 1869 survey pegs which concern Ms Palfy.

I will be discussing the matter further with Trevor Menzies at Roadmasters House (Stella Maris House). I am in agreement that as many of the original Virginia Townsite survey pegs should be preserved for as long as possible.