

## Historical Society of the Northern Territory

**Patron:** The Hon Austin Asche AC

### NEWSLETTER April 2021

PO Box 40544, Casuarina NT 0811

Mobile: 0487 413 709      [www.historicalsocietynt.org.au](http://www.historicalsocietynt.org.au)

Email: [hsnt@inet.net.au](mailto:hsnt@inet.net.au) Newsletter Editor: Bev Phelts

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, Robyn Smith, Clayton

Frederickson & Libby Siebert

## FUTURE EVENTS

### Saturday 3 April - Parap Markets

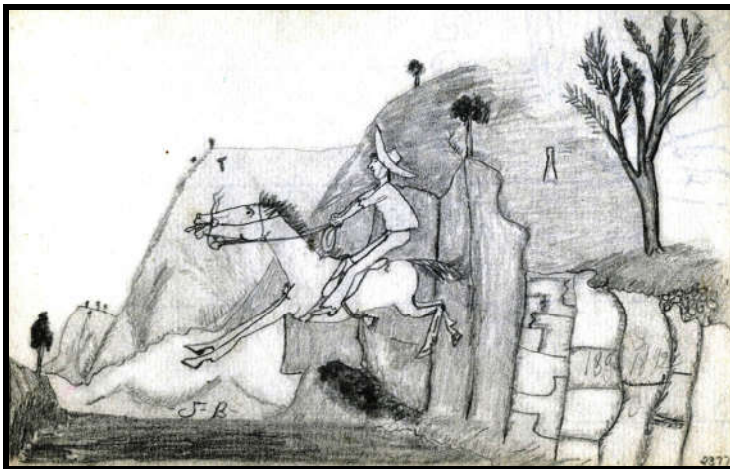
Janie Mason will be running a HSNT book stall at the markets. Drop in, say hello and pick up one of our discounted books.

### 3 Feb to 28 June - Exhibition - *Signed, Sealed & Delivered - When the Post Office was King* - NT Archives, Kelsey Crescent, Milner.

A free exhibition that can be viewed Wednesdays to Fridays - 9.30am to 4.30pm

Bookings essential - phone: 8999 6890

### 10 March – 27 June Exhibition - *A Little Bit of Justice – The Drawings of Charlie Flannigan* - Mezzanine floor, NT Library



*A Little Bit of Justice - The Drawings of Charlie Flannigan* highlights the story of an Aboriginal stockman who was incarcerated at Darwin's Fannie Bay Gaol between 1892 and 1893.

The exhibition features 22 of his drawings depicting local architecture and narrates the story of his transportation to the gaol and scenes from his days droving on pastoral properties, all carried out whilst in solitary confinement. The exhibition is the first time Charlie Flannigan's drawings have been shown together.

Presenting themes of racial conflict and the injustice of early Northern Territory history, the drawings provide a rare glimpse into the life of an Aboriginal stockman.

## **Territory History Book Awards nominations are now open**

Entries opened on 3 March for the annual Chief Minister's Northern Territory History Book Awards! All 2020 publications about Northern Territory history are eligible for submission. Nominations close on 7 April.

To apply for the Chief Minister's Northern Territory History Book Award your book must be all of the following:

- a work on Northern Territory history
- published in English
- offered for general sale published between 1 January and 31 December in the year prior to the current award year
- you must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident to enter

You may nominate yourself or enter on behalf of another author if you have their permission to do so.

For more information: <https://ntl.nt.gov.au/chief-ministers-northern-territory-history-book-award>

## **Saturday 1 May - Tropical Teas run by the NT National Trust**

The National Trust are running monthly tropical teas from May until September. The first one will be held on 1 May. Bookings are essential - cost \$59 per person.

Surrounded by the ambience of 1930s Darwin life, Tropical Teas are a very Territorian take on the traditional afternoon tea with an abundance of tropical-themed cakes, pastries, scones and savouries catered by Chantilly Kitchen. This all accompanied by a fine selection of loose leaf teas and a complementary glass of bubbles on arrival.

Sit back and enjoy the sea breeze in this architectural gem on the fringes of the city.

Time: 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Location: Louvred Lounge in Audit House, 2 Burnett Place Larrakeyah,  
Contact: Phone: 8981 2848

## **Saturday 15 May - Riding the Rails: Heritage Festival 2021 - National Trust Event**

Fancy a bike ride back in time? Organisers of the annual National Trust Heritage Festival are planning a 30km round trip rail trail bike ride along the old North Australia Railway from Yarrowonga to Wishart Siding.

Constructed in 1887, this section of track was used until the railway closed in 1976. Now organisers are proposing a rail trail bike ride as part of the festival from Saturday, 8 May to Sunday, 16 May 2021.

The ride on Saturday, 15 May, will start and finish at the café in the Yarrowonga Village with the first 9.5km on the sealed bike path to Coolalinga, which was constructed on the old rail track formation (pictured).

The remaining 5.5km to Wishart Siding is along a dirt and gravel track close to the Stuart Highway. As the grades are gentle the route is fine for bike riders of reasonable fitness and a bicycle suitable for gravel and dirt tracks.

Stopovers will be made at points of historical interest along the way, including the Mitchell Creek Bridge, McMinns Lagoon Siding, the original Fred's Pass Road crossing, the fettlers huts at Wishart and some rail history information boards.

The event will be held early on Saturday morning, with the 30km round trip expected to take about 3.5 hours. For more information, email: [menzies2@bigpond.net.au](mailto:menzies2@bigpond.net.au).

## June and July - HSNT Field Trips

The Historical Society is considering field trip/s to Southport taking the old road, and a visit to Hope Inlet where there are salt pans and unusual shell middens (built high and flattened on salt pans). Details will be sent out at a later date.

## Change of Name - Vestey's Beach to Bundilla Beach and Creek

Barbara Mills-Raymond and son Kootji Raymond applied to the Place Names Committee to change the name. Apparently Vestey's Beach was not an official name but had been referred by that name for decades by locals. Place Names Committee announced the name change on 20 March 2021. Consultation was undertaken with the Larrakia Nation, Larrakia Development Corporation and Darwin Council. Bundilla means "young girl" in Larrakia language. An interpretative sign to that effect will be erected at Vestey's Beach.

## Vale Dr William Richard (Bill) Wilson by David Carment



photograph courtesy Charles Darwin University & David Carment

Bill Wilson, a former President and Council member of the Historical Society of the Northern Territory, died in Victoria in February 2021.

Born in England, Bill was a British Army soldier before becoming a Northern Territory Police Force officer. After receiving the Australian Police Medal in 1994 and retiring from the police as an Assistant Commissioner in 1996, he graduated with a first class honours degree and a doctorate in History from Northern Territory University (now Charles Darwin University). He was subsequently a Lecturer in History and Politics at the university before retiring for a second time in 2007 as its Senior Adviser in Support and Equity. His theses and some of his publications were on Territory police history but he also published on other topics, including the history of the Territory's Red Cross and Territory politics. Following his move to Beechworth in Victoria he remained active as a professional historian. His historical work was highly regarded.

Bill was an energetic and most effective contributor to Territory community organisations. In addition to the Historical Society, these included other historical associations, the Red Cross and volunteer fire fighting. In 2002 he received the Order of Australia Medal for his service to the community.

I am sure Historical Society members will want to join me in extending sincere sympathy to Bill's wife Pat.

## Looking at Old Photos: Palmerston Archery Club by Derek Pugh



Photograph: Palmerston Archery Club, 1888. (Foelsche SLISA B-24245)

In the late 1880s, the Palmerston Archery Club held regular matches and was particularly popular with the ladies of Palmerston society, who competed for a trophy presented by the minister's wife, Mrs Johnson. The wives and daughters of the town leaders are often listed among the prize winners, particularly Mary Jane Foelsche, (daughter of Inspector Paul and Charlotte Foelsche) and Edith Little (daughter of John Little, Postmaster and Senior Telegrapher).

From comparisons with of a number of other photographs which include Mary Jane Foelsche, I believe she is the woman in white, sitting on the right side of this photograph. She was in her late 20s in 1888. Edith Little is probably one of the other young women. Others in the photograph probably include F.C. Ward and J.C. Hillson.

This is a glass-plate photograph by Paul Foelsche, 1888. Glass plates have extraordinary resolution, and lots can be seen in them. Note the 'standard' style of long bows (of two sizes), the fashions, the wicker chairs, folding table, and the delicate tea set.

The club's meeting place was the bamboo walled structure in the photo. It was on the Esplanade, on the edge of the cricket oval, not far from where the cenotaph is now.

### Historical Society AGM

It was wonderful to see such a great turnout to our AGM. The formalities were swiftly dealt with and then everyone enjoyed a good chat accompanied with nibbles and drinks.

Our new Committee Members are -

President	Matthew James
Vice President	Bev Phelts
Honorary Secretary	Wendy Asche
Honorary Treasurer	Lyn Reid
Council Members	Brian Reid, Judy Boland, Ian Anderson, Derek Pugh, Rosemary Chalmers, Robyn Smith, Clayton Frederickson & Libby Siebert
Public Officer	Lyn Reid

# Photos from our AGM



Brian Reid & Earl James



Derek Pugh, Austin Asche & Judy Boland



Freida Evans, Lyn Reid & Wendy Asche



Roger Davey & Ann Groves



Robyn Smith & Brian Reid