

## **Historical Society of the Northern Territory**

**Patron:** The Hon Austin Asche AC

### **NEWSLETTER September 2022**

PO Box 40544, Casuarina NT 0811

Mobile: 0473446201 <https://www.lynhistory.net/>

Email: [hsnt@iinet.net.au](mailto:hsnt@iinet.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, Clayton Frederickson, Penny Baird & Libby Siebert

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

### **Display - Overland Telegraph Line at the NT Library - on display until 27 November**

To commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the joining of the Overland Telegraph Line, Library & Archives NT has developed a small display, 'Along the Wire'.

Showcasing some of the objects used to construct and operate the line, together with key photographs and documents this display provides a glimpse into the technological feat which connected the Australian colonies with the rest of the world, changing communication forever.

### **Exhibition - Shifting Tides at the NT Library - on display until 30 October**

Shifting Tides brings together woodblock prints of Darwin Harbour by Northern Territory artist Jacqueline F Gribbin.

Referencing maritime charts from the collection of Library & Archives NT, the exhibition considers the navigational challenges faced by vessels moving within the harbour, the ebbs and flows of tides and the ambience generated by the harbour's changing weather.

Curator floor talks will be held at 11.30am on Friday 26 August and Friday 21 October. These talks have been made possible by the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund, which supports the arts in regional and remote Australia.

### **Thursday 1 September - Talk on Cyclone Tracy - Museum & Art Gallery at 11am**

Cyclone Tracy struck Darwin on Christmas Eve 1974 leaving behind 66 dead, hundreds wounded, and a city destroyed. Join Jared Archibald, Curator of Territory History for a guided tour of the Cyclone Tracy exhibition and gain insights into one of Australia's worst natural disasters, stories of the people that were affected by it, and how the museum has attempted to interpret this historic event.

Register at the Information Desk in the Foyer from 10:45am.

Meet in the foyer at 11:00am then proceed to the exhibition with the curator.

Participants should be aware this tour will move through the exhibition space with little opportunity to sit or rest. Food and beverage, including bottled water, is not permitted inside our galleries.

Please stow your snacks and drink bottles in a locker behind the Information Desk.

### **Saturday 3 September - HSNT bookstall at Parap Markets**

Drop in to see Janie who will be running our bookstall and have some specials on offer

### **Tuesday 6 September - talk by Derek Pugh at the NT Archives, Millner at 5.30-6.30pm 'A Journey on the Overland Telegraph Line'.**

On the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Overland Telegraph Line, Derek has written a book, and is working on a film to promote the history of this most important infrastructure event of the nineteenth century. Both are titled 'Twenty to the Mile'.

In 1872, communication between London and Australia went from seven months to seven hours. Morse code changed the lives of Britain's far-flung colonists, and the Overland Telegraph Line – built by Charles Todd and hundreds of men in just over two years – was integral to Australia's international success and the establishment of the Territory.

Stretching 3,000 km between Port Augusta and Port Darwin it used 36,000 poles, 11 repeater stations and a host of pioneering telegraph station masters and support teams.

The OTL was built just 10 years after the explorer John McDouall Stuart's successful south to north crossing of the continent.

### **Wednesday 7 September -Speaker Petrit Abazi - Speaker's Corner Cafe 8.30-9.30am**

Petrit Abazi is the Director of the Northern Centre for Contemporary Art. This is an Australian Museums and Galleries Association event.

### **Wednesday 14 September - NT Literary Awards at the NT Library - 5.30pm to 7.30pm**

The Awards acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding literary talents of established and aspiring NT writers.

Held annually, the Awards honour works of exceptional literary merit across seven categories including: Non Fiction, Flash Fiction, Essay, Theatre, Poetry, Short Story and Youth.

Winners will be announced and presented their awards at the Ceremony

### **Friday 23 September - National Trust talk at Burnett House 6.30pm for 7pm start**

The speaker is Raine Caldwell who is a secondary school history teacher with a passion for travel. Raine participated in a field study at Masada, which is the great archaeological site in Israel.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM PAST EVENTS

### Launch of *Protection at a Price: Protection of the Aborigines in the Commonwealth's Northern Territory 1911-1978*

About 30 people attended the launch of Brian Reid's new book *Protection at a Price*. The book was launched by Dr Steve Farram and refreshments followed.



Dr Steve Farram & Brian Reid



The audience



Ian Anderson & Jared Archibald



Mark Ames, Heather Boulden & Merry Cooper





Janet Leather & Bev Phelts



John Lamb & Libby Siebert



Marion Farram & Jan Moore



Eddie Webber

## 150th Anniversary of the Overland Telegraph Line - 22 August 2022

Over 200 people converged on the Charles Todd on the Stuart Highway monument near Dunmarra. Dignitaries included our Administrator, Vicki O'Halloran AO and Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, the Governor of South Australia. After the formalities ended, we walked 1.7km into Hayfield Station to celebrate at the point the wires were joined.



HSNT members Stuart Lane, Bev Phelts, Mark Ames, Merry Cooper & Alan Mitchell at one of the displays



Unknown, Steve Edgington MLA Member for Barkly. Ken Davis, CE Department of Territory Families, Housing & Communities, Craig O'Halloran & NT Administrator Vicki O'Halloran AO



Derek Pugh, Nerys Evans & Ted Egan AO



Frances Adamson AC, Governor of SA & Vicki O'Halloran AO cutting the ribbon at the entry of Hayfield Station





HSNT members Stuart Lane & Janet Leather



The walk into Hayfield Station to the joining pole.



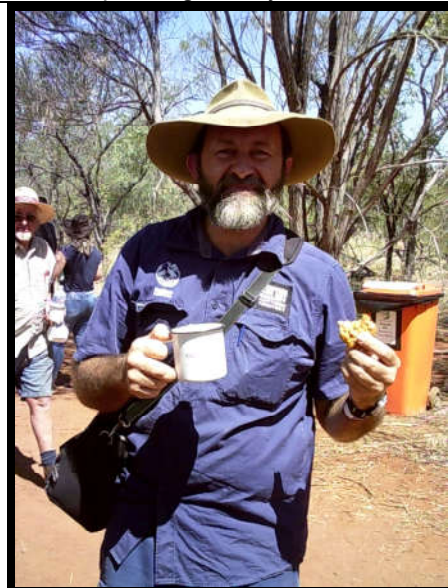
HSNT members, Merry Cooper & Mark Ames with their commemorative mugs



Frances Adamson AC, Governor of SA & Vicki O'Halloran AO speaking to Hayfield Station children



Michael Wells at the joining pole



HSNT member Jared Archibald with his commemorative mug