

Historical Society of the Northern Territory

Patron: The Hon Austin Asche AC

NEWSLETTER September 2021

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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, Robyn Smith,

Clayton Frederickson & Libby Siebert

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 4 September - Seniors Expo

The expo will be held at the CDU Stadium Sitzler Netball Centre, 235 Abala Road, Marrara from 10am to 2pm. For more information www.cotant.org.au/seniors-expo-2021

Saturday 4 September - HSNT bookstall at Parap Markets

Drop in and say hello to Janie who will be running our book stall

Wednesday 8 September - Speaker Dr Jan Hills - 8.30-9.30am - Speaker's Corner, Parliament House

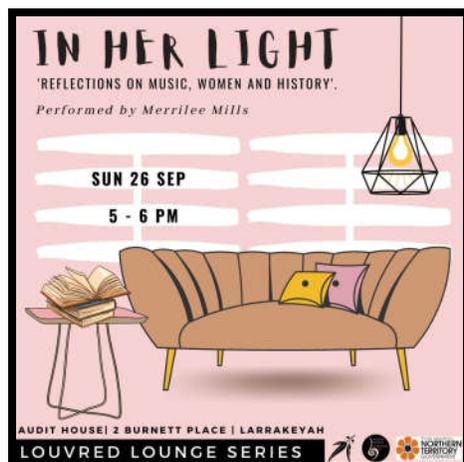
This is an Australian Museums and Galleries Association event. Jan is President & Curator Batchelor Museum and will be talking about the Museum

Wednesday 22 September - Curator's Cut: Chasing the Music - NT Library at 5.30pm

This is first *Curator's Cut* film screening for 2021/22. *Chasing the Music* is an unreleased documentary telling the story of rock and roll music's journey and evolution through Arnhem Land in the 1960s-80s. Cutting their teeth first in gospel and mission music, the pioneers of Yolngu rock tell the story in their own words. Making their own instruments, jiving to the sounds of Chuck Berry and Creedence Clearwater, The Copy Cats from Galiwin'ku and Black Wizard from Mililingimbi were just two of dozens of outfits that played hard, burned bright and disappeared... or did they?

A panel discussion featuring pioneers of Darwin's Indigenous 1970s-80s rock scene will take place after the screening. Members of Darwin bands The Mystics (NIMA Hall of Fame inductees, 2005) and Caso and the Axons will relive the days of their youth when rock gods walked the earth and everybody was 'chasing the music'.

Saturday 25 September - In Her Light - 5pm-6pm - National Trust



"In Her Light" 'Reflections on music, women and history' performed by Merrilee Mills. The last in the Louvred Lounge series of twilight performances will take place in the beautiful and evocative space of Audit House

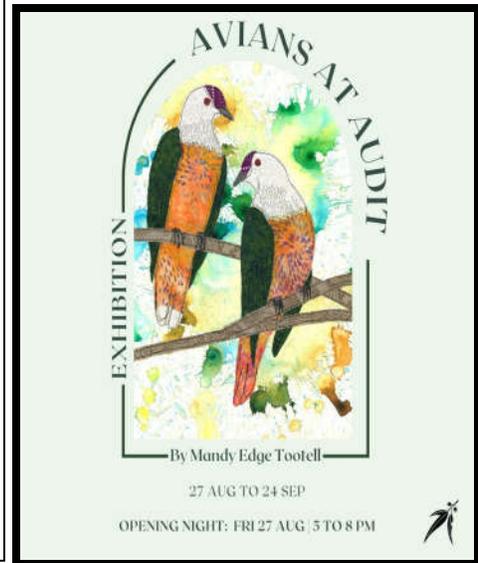
Exhibition - Avians until 24 September at National Trust

An exhibition showcasing the abundance of the Northern Territory's feathered friends will open at Audit House this month.

"Avians at Audit" by Mandy Edge Tootell will open on Friday, 27 August and run until Friday, 24 September. Monday to Friday 9am -1pm Saturday 10am - 1pm

Birds have long been a favourite subject for Mandy Tootell and the Northern Territory is blessed with an abundance of our avian friends. Her works in this solo exhibition focus on colour and form, working with fabrics and free motion stitching to construct the works on paper. Following on from a year as an Artist in Residence at the Territory Wildlife Park in 2019, Mandy focuses on bird species endemic to the Northern Territory. The works produced are limited edition original artworks and reference her previous work as a printmaker.

Mandy has a BVA (Fine Art) and BEd, having worked as a high school art teacher before having children. She now coordinates a remote, mobile playgroup in the Big Rivers Region, and continues to teach adult workshops and pursue an arts practice based in Katherine.



Tuesday 28 September - Colonial Frontier Massacres Project by Dr Robyn Smith - NT Archives - 5.30-7pm

The events relating to Colonial Frontier Massacres are not well known in Australia's mainstream history.

The active resistance towards colonisation by First Nations people was encountered from the moment the British invaded Australia in 1788. This conflict characterised the frontier violence which spanned over 150 years and resulted in the massacres of many Aboriginal people, affecting their populations.

In an attempt to uncover the true extent of the massacres, an initiative led by the University of Newcastle has engaged six researchers from each state and territory of Australia to create an interactive map that places markers at the locations where the massacres took place. The map also includes information on the deaths of white settlers at the hands of Aboriginal people beginning from 1794 when the first massacre was recorded.

Dr Robyn Smith, Conjoint Professor at the University of Newcastle, will present her findings about massacre sites in the Northern Territory. She will also relate the specific items sourced from the Library & Archives NT collection that have aided her research.

This mapping project has been developed to aid researchers and the broader public in the effort to improve historical literacy and facilitate the pathway for truth telling that recognises Australia's violent past.

Tuesday 19 October - Droving Days by Roger Steele, NT Archives at 5.30pm

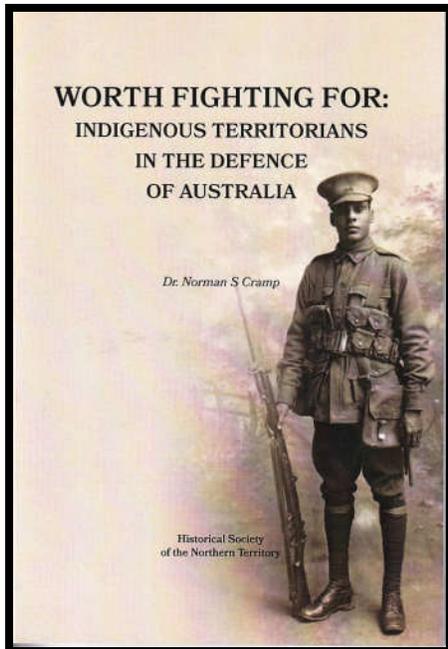
For almost a century, droving large mobs of cattle overland on horseback was essential to move herds from the Territory's inland to far-distant markets. However by the late 1960s, droving was almost entirely displaced by road train transport. Not long after, mythology gave rise to yarns about droving and the drovers themselves. Droving trips became legendary because of the size of the herds and the unpredictable challenges of keeping cattle alive on the road.

Drawing on his own droving experience between Wyndham, Western Australia and Dajarra in Queensland, Roger will describe his encounters with well-known outback identities and a way of life that will never be repeated.

Saturday 30 October - History Colloquium, NT Library

Note this date in your diaries. The annual History Colloquium organised by the Professional Historians Association will be held at the NT Library. More information including the program will be provided closer to the date.

New Publication by the Historical Society



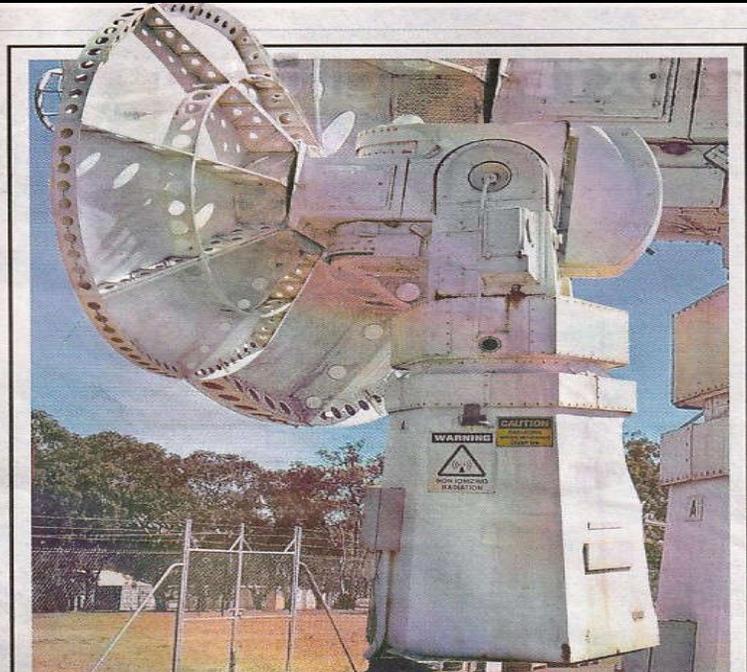
Dr Norm Cramp is the Director of the Darwin Military Museum and was recently awarded his PhD. His new book is a "spin off" from his thesis titled *Worth Fighting For : Indigenous Territorians in the Defence of Australia*.

The book discusses the Territory's Indigenous men who served in Australia's defence forces during World War 1 1914-1928, World War 2 to the Vietnam War 1963-1973. The book contains a mini biography on most of the men who signed up.

The book is available from the Historical Society for \$35 plus \$10 postage

Congratulations to the Arnhemland Historical Society on having the satellite tracking antenna heritage listed.

Article from the *Sunday Territorian*, 22 August 2021



A historic satellite-tracking antenna has been given heritage status. Picture: Supplied

ANTENNA GETS HERITAGE STATUS

A HISTORIC satellite-tracking antenna that symbolises the Northern Territory's role in the global space exploration era has been officially listed as a heritage object by the NT government.

Built in Belgium in 1966, the satellite tracking antenna was one of three parabolic dish antennae with an 'XY' tracking axis mount that were originally installed at the Gove Down Range Guidance and Telemetry Station at Gulkula on the Gove Peninsula, under a

program led by the European Launcher Development Organisation (ELDO).

The antennae used state-of-the-art technology to help track the downrange path of rockets launched from Woomera in South Australia as they passed over the Northern Territory.

At the conclusion of the project in the early 1970s, the antennae were relocated to a defence facility near Adelaide until the Arnhem Land Historical Society began lobbying for the

machinery to be returned to its original site.

Arts, Culture and Heritage Minister Chansey Paech said the ELDO's satellite launch program was considered a spectacular and technically complex activity in Australia and particularly at the Gove Down Range Guidance and Telemetry Station. "This is a unique and fascinating part of our history which shows that the Northern Territory is, and has always been, a strategic location for space exploration," he said.

Membership of the Australasian Mining History Association (AMHA)

Are you interested in Australian and New Zealand mining history?

If so, this is a fabulous organisation to join. <https://www.mininghistory.asn.au>

The objectives of the AMHA is to:

- promote and co-ordinate national activities and programmes related to mining history;
- encourage the study, discussion, writing and publication of mining history;
- encourage the identification and preservation of records, sites, relics and materials relevant to Australasian mining;
- act as a focus for correspondence between those persons within Australasia and elsewhere interested in mining history; and
- disseminate information of interest to members through a website, newsletter and/or journal.

Membership Application 2021 (July to June)

Membership Fees:

Full memberships \$35; Joint Family Membership \$45; Unwaged Student \$15; Institutions: \$50

Title (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Dr., Prof. etc.)

Surname.....First Name.....

Address for correspondence.....

Post Code..... Telephone Email:

Signed date

New Members – For our records, please advise how you learned of the AMHA: (a) through the AMHA webpage; (b) through a member of the AMHA; (c) through attending an AMHA conference; d) through other source (please provide detail) [please circle answer]

Return membership form to:

Mel Davies, Treasurer, AMHA, Business School, Economics MBDP M251, University of Western Australia, Crawley 6009, Western Australia or email: mel.davies@uwa.edu.au

Payment by Cheque: Cheques should be made payable to AMHA.

Electronic Payment: You can pay for membership at :
<https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=41906>