

Historical Society of the Northern Territory

Patron: The Hon Austin Asche AC

NEWSLETTER November 2021

PO Box 40544, Casuarina NT 0811

Mobile: 0487 413 709

www.historicalsocietynt.org.au

Email: hsnt@iinet.net.au Newsletter Editor: Bev Phelts

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

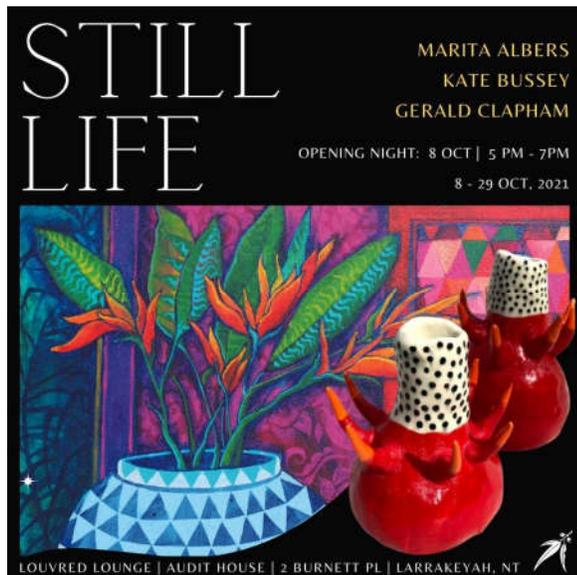
Secretary: Wendy Asche; Treasurer: Lyn Reid; others - Brian Reid, Judy

Boland, Ian Anderson, Derek Pugh, Rosemary Chalmers, Robyn Smith,

Clayton Frederickson & Libby Siebert

FUTURE EVENTS

Exhibition open until 29 October at National Trust



Saturday 30 October - History Colloquium - NT Library

The Society will also be holding a book stall at the Colloquium. We will have a large selection of our books on sale. (Cash only)

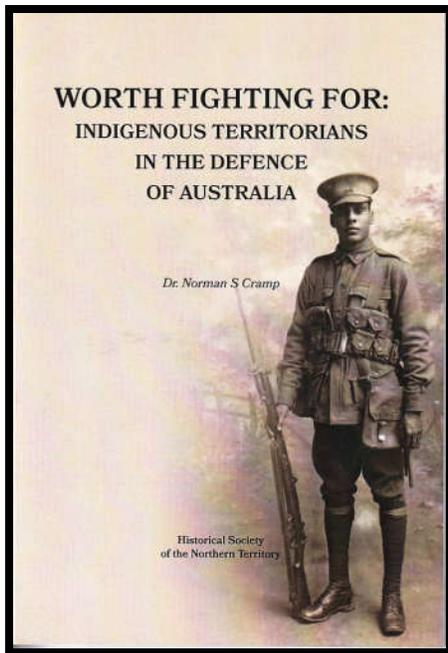
Wednesday 3 November-Directors Cut - *Below the Wind* - NT Library - 5.30-7.30pm

Below the Wind is a documentary produced by John Darling. It tells the story of the seafaring Sama-Bajo people who have fished the waters and reefs south of the Indonesian Island of Roti and along Australia's northern coast for at least two hundred years.

In 1974 the Australian and Indonesian governments signed an agreement that significantly restricts the Sama-Bajo from fishing their traditional waters. Roti's fishermen are now subject to time in Australian jails if they are caught fishing in our waters.

Below the Wind brought the plight of eastern Indonesia's Sama-Bajo to an Australian audience for the first time. Forty years on, what is the situation for Roti's fishing families and the maritime 'MOU Box' agreement between Indonesia and Australia? After the film we will be joined by a panel of experts who will explore the history, policy and impacts of Indonesian fishing in Australian waters and what they mean for us all.

Wednesday 3 November - Book Launch - East Point Military Museum - 4.30pm



Dr Norman Cramp, Director of the Darwin Military Museum, was recently awarded his PhD. His new book is a "spin off" from his thesis and is 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 and the Vietnam War 1963-1973. The book contains a mini biography on most of the men who served in those conflicts.

Mr. Bob Shewring, President Veterans Australia, NT is Master of Ceremony and The Hon. Luke Gosling OAM, MP, Member for Solomon, will launch Norm's book.

Refreshments will follow the launch of the book.

The book will be available for sale - \$35 cash only.

If you wish to attend, please RSVP by Friday 29 October to Bev.
Phone: 0417868827 (leave a message) or email: hsnt@iinet.net.au

Saturday 6 November & 4 December - HSNT bookstall at Parap Market

Our wonderful volunteer, Janie will be running our book stall

Wednesday 10 November - Eric Johnston Lecture - NT Library - 5.30-7.30pm

Donna Ah Chee, CEO of the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress will speak about 'Our Health in Our Hands Benefits All Territorians: Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in the Time of COVID-19'.

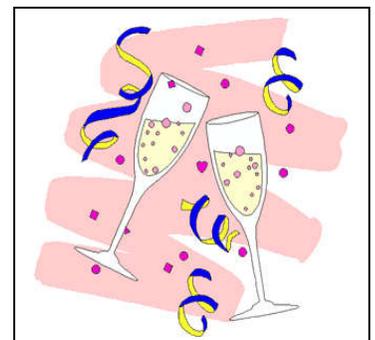
The first Aboriginal community controlled health service in the Northern Territory was set up almost 50 years ago. Since then, the sector has gone from a single service staffed by volunteers, to an essential part of the NT health system. Throughout this period it has sought to deliver both culturally responsive, high-quality health services and to be a vehicle for Aboriginal self-determination. While it retains its central focus on these aims, it has also brought significant advantages to all Territorians, particularly in the areas of early childhood development, alcohol reform, and most recently the Territory's continuing response to COVID-19.

Sunday 5 December at 3pm - Christmas afternoon tea at History House

Our Christmas get together will be held at History House from 3pm-5pm

For catering purposes, RSVP by Wednesday 1 December to Bev 0417868827 or email: hsnt@iinet.net.au .

History House is located at 1/16 Charlton Court, Woolner. Charlton St is off Bishop Street (look for pink Middis Lighting). Turn into Charlton Street then first right into Charlton Court. History House is at the bottom of the court.



Wanted - books for our next Booksale

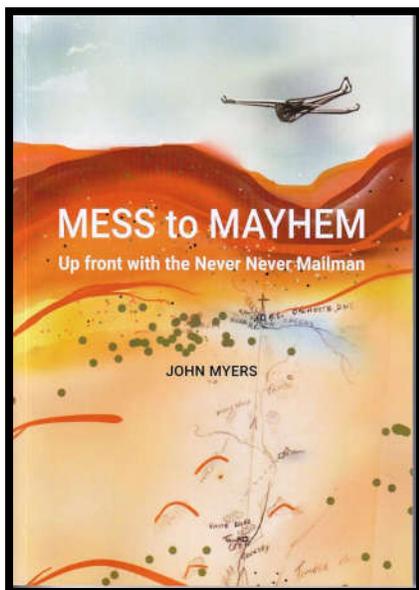
If you have any unwanted books in reasonable condition, the Historical Society is happy to take them from off your hands to sell at our next booksale. The books can be on any topic - history, archaeology, cooking, fiction, non fiction etc.

So if you are thinking of having a clean up at your house, now is the time to do it.

We are happy to collect the books from your house or they can be dropped off by prior arrangement at our premises in Woolner.

Contact Bev on 0417868827 or email: hsnt@iinet.net.au

HSNT New Publication - *Mess to Mayhem* by John Myers



Mess to Mayhem was launched at the Alice Springs "First Flight into Alice Centenary" on 6 October. The book is about John's life as a young pilot in 1965 when he worked for Connellan Airways. He soon advanced to bush pilot and flew to various stations in the Territory and WA delivering supplies. He later became a pilot for the Royal Flying Doctor Service and flew the first evacuation flight out of Darwin on Christmas Day 1974. The book also contains funny and sad stories about the people he met and events that shaped his life.

See the attached flyer for more information about the launch.

The book can be obtained from the Historical Society for \$35 plus \$10 postage.

Christmas Presents

Are you in a dither trying to figure what to give your family and friends for Christmas presents? Why not a book published by the Historical Society? We have lots of historical topics to choose from. Our current Booklist is attached.

Dr Cecil Evelyn Aufrere Cook (1897-1985)

Dr Cook was an Australian physician and medical administrator, who specialised in tropical diseases and public health. He was appointed as Chief Medical Officer and Protector of Aborigines for the Northern Territory in 1927. He established much of the infrastructure of the public health system in the Territory including four hospitals, a tuberculosis clinic, a nursing school and the Nurses' Board of North Australia. He started the Territory's Aerial Medical Service together with Dr Clyde Fenton who was our first flying doctor. Cook also founded the Northern Territory Medical Board. When he left the Territory he went on to do other great things in other parts of Australia.

If you want further information on Cook and his life, check out the web page <https://cecilcook.com>

Membership for 2022 (January to December 2022) is now due

Individual membership: \$60.00

Concession membership
student/pensioner: \$35.00

Family membership: two adults
at one address: \$70.00

Institutional membership \$70.00

We only accept cash, cheque, money order or bank transfer (no credit card).

Bank transfer details: Historical Society of the NT BSB:015 896 (ANZ) Account No: 228391976

Remember to include your "SURNAME & MEMBERSHIP" against your deposit and email your details to hsnt@iinet.net.au if your personal details have changed.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PAST EVENTS

Litchfield History Group's recent walk around Virginia



HSNT members Peter Siebert & Rosemary Chalmers joined the walk



The group is looking at the land block markers from when Goyder did the survey for the Virginia townsite in 1969. Stones were used by surveyors when the ground was unsuitable to dig a small trench.

Photographs courtesy Libby Siebert
Information supplied by Rosemary Chalmers

HSNT 3rd Oration held at History House

Michael Wells, Director of the NT Government's Heritage Branch, spoke about a WW2 crashed Spitfire fighter located in Litchfield National Park. The wreck of the Spitfire fighter had virtually remained untouched until it was discovered in 2016. The pilot of the aircraft, Flight Sergeant Colin Duncan, managed to parachute to safety but had to wait 5 days to be rescued. A short film depicting the pilot's own words on his escape was shown. A very touching story that brought tears to our eyes and cheers from the audience.



Ian Anderson, Michael Wells & Peter Siebert



Libby Siebert & Lyn Reid



Wendy Asche & Andrew Bell



From left: Derek Pugh, Penny Baird, Col Beard, Ann Groves, Jill Finch & Alby Foreman



Rosemary Chalmers & Earl James



Eddie Webber, Stuart Lane & Janet Leather