



Historical Society of the Northern Territory

Patron: The Hon Austin Asche AC

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2017

PO Box 40544, Casuarina NT 0811

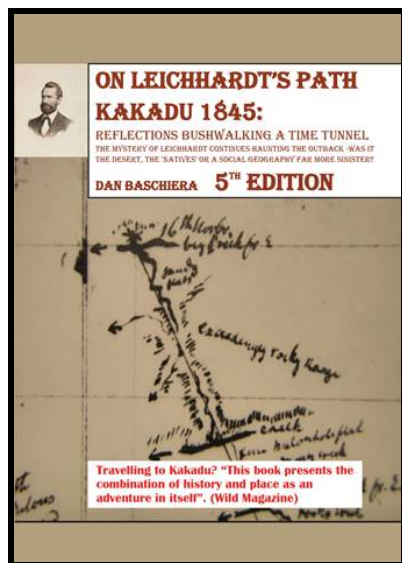
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Email: hsnt@iinet.net.au Newsletter Editor: Bev Phelts

HSNT Committee – President: Matthew James; Vice President: Bev Phelts; Secretary: Janie Mason; Treasurer: Rosemary Chalmers; others - Brian Reid; Alan Powell; Earl James; Judy Boland; Clayton Frederickson; Derek Pugh; Roger Davey.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 14 June – Talk by Dan Baschier on the Search for Ludwig Leichhardt's Path 1845 Northern Territory Library at 5.15pm



In 2008, Dan and his wife Annie Whybourne discovered a tree in Kakadu National Park which they believe was marked by the explorer Leichhardt in 1845. This discovery led Dan to begin untangling a complex web of historical distortions aimed at discrediting Leichhardt. Leichhardt and his party mysteriously disappeared and this discovery could help to find out what may have happened to him.

Now in its fifth edition, come along to the relaunch of Dan's controversial book

*On Leichhardt's Path Kakadu 1845: Reflections-
Bushwalking a Time Tunnel*

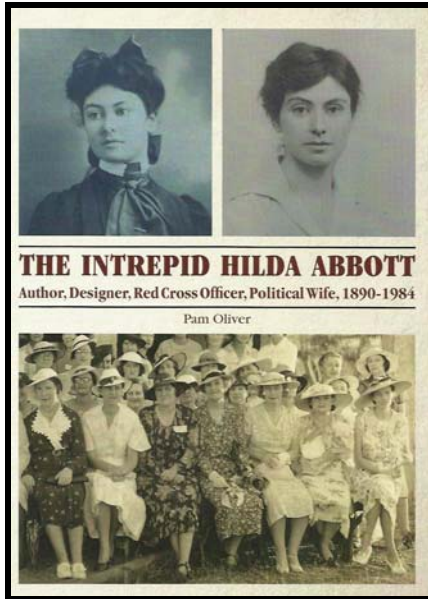
Thursday 15 June – TROVE - at Northern Territory Library – 8.30am-11.30am

Are you a Trove lover? Trove is more than a search engine. Trove brings together content from libraries, museums, archives, repositories and other research and collecting organisations big and small.

And the Trove team is coming to Darwin to talk to GLAM organisations of all sizes about making their collections content available in Trove, improving the discovery of collections, and options for digitisation. Collection managers, archivists, curators, librarians, individuals involved in digitisation, and data specialists are all encouraged to attend.

The event is free but bookings are essential.

**Friday 16 June at 5pm at History House -
The Launch of *The Intrepid Hilda Abbott* written by Pam Oliver**



Pam's book will be launched by Alan Powell and Steve Farram will act as the Master of Ceremonies.

Hilda Abbott was the wife of the Northern Territory Administrator, CLA Abbott. She was criticised for her actions during and immediately after the Japanese bombing of Darwin in February 1941. The book addresses these criticisms and also Hilda's life as an interior designer and a Red Cross volunteer.

The book will be on sale for \$35 (cash only).

History House is located at 1/16 Charlton Court, Woolner. (Turn into Charlton where "pink" Middis Lighting is and on your first right is Charlton Court).

For catering purposes: RSVP by Thursday 15 June to hsnt@inet.net.au or phone 0417868827

Friday 23 June - National Trust & Historical Society Talk at Burnett House, Burnett Place, Myilly Point – 5.30 for a 6pm start.

The speaker will be Brian Reid on "The Journey of James Stokes Millner". Brian's talk will be based on his recent published book "*To Mend My Situation*"; *The Journey of James Stokes Millner 1830-1875*.

Entry: \$2 for members, \$5 for non-members. Food and drinks will be available to purchase.

Telephone enquiries to Julie: 8946 6835 BH, 8927 9459 AH

Members and guests are reminded that food and drink cannot be taken inside Burnett House

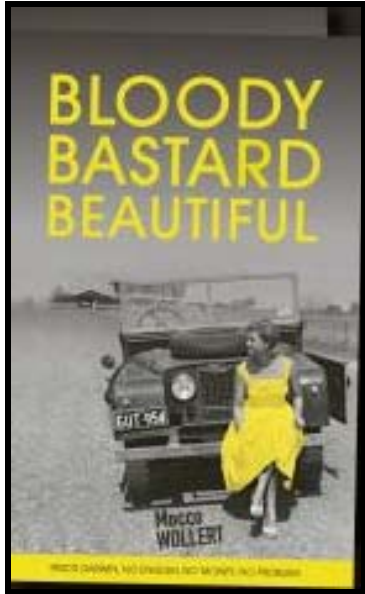
Wednesday 28 June, Chief Minister's NT History Book Awards - at the NT Library – 12 noon – 1pm

The Historical Society is pleased to announce that one of its publications, *Remember Me Kindly: A History of the Holtze Family in the Northern Territory* by Deborah Bisa, has been short listed for the Award. Congratulations to Deborah.

Other books that have been short listed are:

- ✚ *Masters and Servants: Cultures of Empire in the Tropics* by Claire Lowrie;
- ✚ *Alice Springs: From Singing Wire to Iconic Outback Town* by Stuart Traynor; and
- ✚ *A Handful of Sand: The Gurindji Struggle, After the Walk-Off* by Charlie Ward

Wednesday 5 July at 7pm – Launch of *Bloody Bastard Beautiful* written by Mocco Wollert



The launch will be held at Spice Garden Eating House & Outdoor Bar, 2 Pavonia Place, Nightcliff.

The book is about Mocco and her partner, who as a young German couple, came to Darwin as migrants during the 1960s and made a life for themselves. It is very entertaining and has interesting descriptions of Darwin and its people at that time., The book will be on sale for \$30 (cash only) and Mocco will be available to autograph your book.

For queries, contact Mocco on 07 3354 2808

For catering purposes: RSVP by 20 June, phone: 0417868827 or email: hsnt@inet.net.au

September - Darwin RSL Centenary Celebrations

You are invited to join us to celebrate the 100 years that the Darwin RSL has served the ex-service Defence Force members and their families of Darwin at a series of special events. The Darwin RSL began with a "Concert and Dance" to raise funds to form a branch of The Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia in Darwin. This was held in the Town Hall, Smith Street on 13 September 1917.

Events Schedule

Church Service:

3:30pm, Wednesday 13 September at Christ Church Cathedral, 2 Smith Street, Darwin

Cocktail Party:

5:00pm-7:00pm, Wednesday 13 September at Darwin RSL, for current and past members.

Formal Dinner:

Pre-dinner drinks from 6:30pm; Seating at 7:00pm, Saturday 16 September, SKYCITY Darwin, 3 course dinner, five-hours drinks package, entertainment, guest speakers including Ted Egan. \$185.00 per person

To book tickets, phone the RSL on 8981 5437

28–30 July - Field Trip – MurrANJI Track – A Brief Journey Along the Buchanan Highway By Earl James

This year's field trip during the Darwin Show weekend will be a journey to look at heritage-listed sites along the old MurrANJI Track and a few that are not heritage listed. This will be achieved by a leisurely journey along the Buchanan Highway from the Stuart Highway to Top Springs (180kms) with short trips to left and right to each of the places of interest along the way.



It will also include a trip to the remains of the Old Top Springs to see what remains there.

You may recall in last month's newsletter my story about the MurrANJI stock route and what my son Matthew and I found along the track. On the track we will see Scobies Rockhole (an old aboriginal well); White's grave on the Buntine Highway; and search for marked trees at the MurrANJI Waterhole.

This trip does not require a 4x4 vehicle but it does require a vehicle with reasonably high clearance. The Buchanan is not bitumised and is not particularly rough at the moment but by the time of

our field-trip it could be corrugated. Also, some of the side trips are a little rough but all are manageable without a 4 wheel drive, AND, if you don't want to tough it at night, you can get a room at Dunmarra on the first day (Friday Show Day) and accommodation at Top Springs on the second & last day (Saturday).



The itinerary is as follows:

Friday 28 July – Travel down the Stuart Highway to Dunmarra Roadhouse (640 kms). Spend the night at Dunmarra camping area. If you prefer a cabin at Dunmarra Roadhouse, book now.

Saturday 29 July – All meet at the turnoff to Top Springs 10km north of Dunmarra at 8.00am. Drive along the Buchanan Highway looking at places of historic and heritage interest. Spend the night at the Top Springs camp ground (though some hardies may want to camp on the Illawarra Creek). If you prefer a cabin at Top Springs book now.

Sunday 30 July – Drive to the site of the Old Top Springs. Return home (600 kms).

If you intend to come along – We need to know now!

Singles/doubles looking for a ride and willing to share costs - we can try and find you a seat. If you have a spare seat or need a seat, please let Bev know. Email: hsnt@iinet.net.au, mobile: 0417868827

For any queries about the trip, contact Earl James on Phone: 89812715 or email: ebmjames@bigpond.com

**Wednesday 12 July – The Father Angelo Confalonieri Symposium at the NT Library
9am to 4.30pm**

Hosted by the Consulate of Italy in Queensland and the NT and the Diocese of Darwin. The Ministry of Father Confalonieri among the Aboriginal people of the Cobourg Peninsula: religion, language and culture.

Father Angelo Confalonieri (1813-1848) was the pioneer Catholic missionary of the Aboriginal people of Port Essington in the nineteenth century. The several presentations during the symposium will highlight his contribution in the documentation of the languages and understanding indigenous culture and customs which left an important legacy. RSVP to email: italcon.nt@randazzoproperties.com.au

Letter from the Editor of the Journal - Clayton Frederickson

I have received much positive feedback on articles and short reports published in recent issues of *Northern Territory Historical Studies*. I would like to thank all those authors who have made the journal such a success. The first issue was published nearly 30 years ago(!) and I hope it will continue for at least another 30. Keep those contributions rolling in.

I am especially keen to receive offers of articles on themes relating to central Australia and on Aboriginal history and heritage. These areas have been underrepresented in the journal. The history, heritage and archaeology of the Northern Territory is not limited to white settlement of the north. There are many stories to tell from the centre and from the perspective of Aboriginal history, including the time before the establishment of white settlements. Please contact me if you have any ideas for stories or research you might like to share.

In the editorial to the 2017 issue I observed that all authors in that issue held post-graduate qualifications in history or a related field. This has since been commented on by others. There is a simple explanation for this. Over the past two years most offers of articles have come from academics and other professional historians. Too few have landed in my email in-box from general members of the HSNT, who after all are the backbone of the Society, or from other 'avocational' researchers. Yet I know from talking with people in Darwin (and I'm sure this also holds for Alice Springs and elsewhere) there are fascinating life stories and personal research projects that have yet to be written down. The tragedy is that many of these stories will ultimately be lost. I am not worried if someone offers an article that contains less than perfect spelling and grammar. The point of the journal is to share stories of the Northern Territory, not to publish textbook perfect articles solely for an academic audience. So my plea to you is to contact me if you have a paper, or even an idea for a paper, that you would like to see in print and recorded for the benefit of future generations of Territorians.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM PAST EVENTS

Symposium: Beyond the Far Country –In Honour of Emeritus Professor Alan Powell

The NT library hosted the symposium which turned out to be a very wonderful and successful afternoon.



Emeritus Professor Alan Powell, Jan Moore & Professor Martin Jarvis



Professor Ann McGrath,
Emeritus Professor David Carment & Craig Bellamy



Left: Dr Kathy De la Rue, Janie Mason, Julie Mastin,
Dr Steve Farram & Dr Brian Reid



Kathy Flint (ex NT Archives) & Janie Mason



Dr Steve Farram, Dr Brian Reid & Dr Bev Phelts



Earl James, Eddie Weaber & Roger Davey



Ruth Quinn (CDU Library), Baiba Berzins & Emeritus Professor David Carment



Alan Powell responding at the end of the Symposium