

1/16 Charlton Court, Woolner NT 0820  
PO box 40544, Casuarina NT 0811

[www.historicalocietynt.org.au](http://www.historicalocietynt.org.au)  
ABN 88 971 560 498

## Newsletter – April 2018

### Welcome to our **NEW** Council

From the Annual General Meeting 25/3/18 with later offers to fill the Treasurer position and another for the Council, the incoming Council is :

President – Matt James  
Vice President – Bev Phelts  
Hon. Treasurer – Helen Spiers  
Hon. Secretary – Janie Mason  
Members – Judy Boland  
Clayton Fredericksen  
Earl James  
Alan Powell  
Brian Reid

### Thanks to outgoing Council Members

Thank you to our outgoing Council Members, Roger Davey and Dave Pugh, and an especial thanks to Rosemary Chalmers who has served as our Treasurer for the past six years.

### Call for new interstate representative

We are calling for nominations for a representative for the Territory to the Federation of Australian Historical Societies. There is one trip away per year with funding for travel and accommodation plus occasional teleconferences.



### Monthly Talk: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May

The next joint Historical Society NT / Larrakeyah Branch National Trust talk is 5.30pm Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May at Burnett House.

Note: There is no talk for April as the National Trust has its Heritage Week and no talk for July as the Historical Society NT has its Darwin Show Day Weekend field trip.

### Latest Publications

**\$25** Earl & Wendy James  
*Rediscovering  
the Overland Telegraph Line*  
**\$10** Alan Mitchell  
*Cyprus: A Policeman's Story*

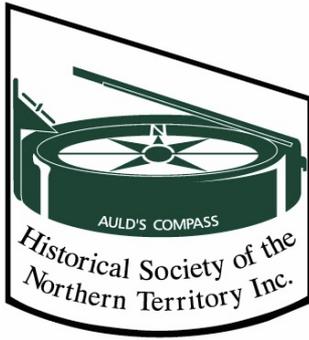
### Parap Market Book Stalls

Overall there have been good sales at special prices at the Historical Society's regular book stalls at the Parap Markets. Since November 2017, The next book stall will be Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2018

### Darwin Show Day Weekend Field Trip 26<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July to Gove Peninsula

Join the July field trip to Gove Peninsula with its rich Aboriginal, Macassan and European history. Drive in over two days or fly in and camp in the Walkabout Hotel grounds or stay in the hotel. For driving, this is a 6 day trip from 26<sup>th</sup> July. Permits are necessary. If interested, notify [hsnt@inet.net.au](mailto:hsnt@inet.net.au) NOW.

*Janie Mason*  
Honorary Secretary  
Public Officer



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## President's Report - 2018

I hope you all enjoyed your Easter break. The Society successfully conducted its AGM on Sunday 25 March. There was a small turnout of members attending, although all business was formally carried out.

Our 2017/18 elected committee consist of: President: Matthew James, Vice President: Bev Phelts, Treasurer: Unfilled, Secretary: Janie Mason and Councillors: Judy Boland, Clayton Fredericksen, Alan Powell, Brian Reid, Helen Spiers. Outgoing are Rosemary Chalmers, Roger Davey, Earl James and Derek Pugh. Earl has kindly offered to remain as our Membership coordinator. I thank the outgoing committee for its support this past year.

### Publications

The main focus of this Historical Society is the finding and keeping of the history of northern and central Australia and bringing that history to public access. This year 2017/18 has been another productive year of publishing. As well as the annual Journal, there were 8 books and 1 occasional paper published in 2017 and already a first book and occasional paper are out for 2018 and most were associated with book launches in a variety of venues and with various speakers and VIPs.

After three years of working to return our out-of-print books to public access, the first 5 of over 81 books published by this Society are now available on-line through the NT Library's *Territory Stories*. At least 4 books published by the Society and another self-published by a Council member are submissions for this year's Chief Minister's History Book Prize. Due to our tireless Secretary, Janie Mason, the Society has had book stalls at Parap Markets since November 2017 and now monthly in 2018 with 'specials' sale prices and with good sales.

Your outgoing Council recommends that there should be greater encouragement for more Aboriginal and central Australian history and amateur historian publications by the Society.

### Field Trips

- 2017: This field trip was along part of the Murrniji Track for 13 people in 7 vehicles on the Darwin Show Day weekend. It was well researched by Earl James with a good information booklet for participants.
- 2018: Gove Peninsula with its rich Aboriginal, Macassan and European history is the destination in July with drive in over two days or fly in and camp in the Walkabout Hotel grounds or stay in the hotel. For driving, this is a 6 day trip from 26<sup>th</sup> July. Permits are necessary and if interested, notify now.

### Membership

Membership over recent years has stood at over 120 financial members. If family membership is calculated at 2 people per membership and with reciprocal organisational memberships plus life members, this Society can claim to have almost 200 members. Earl James has been responsible over recent years for maintenance of our membership and the small number of new members recruited each year. Like most organisations dependent on

volunteers today, the major issue is generational change and how to recruit the next generation to work for the Society. We urgently need more people to step up to work for their Society.

### **Financial status**

The Society's active and increased publishing over recent years is shown in our increased income but there is always the continuing balancing act with printing costs and book sales. In taking on our own accommodation rather than renting, there has been an annual accommodation increase of almost \$2000 per year. Please note that the bulk of the furnishing of History House has been funded by a Community Benefit Fund Grant and donations from Members. As you are aware, the Society's Council has been investigating and is in an application process for more than 18 months to become a Deductible Gift Recipient. This would enable the Society to recruit donations with the encourage donors being able to claim tax deductions. We hope that you will support the recommended constitutional amendments to enable our application to go forward to the federal minister.

### **In Conclusion**

It has been good to see current interest and support from the NT Government for Territory heritage and culture. Small volunteer and community heritage organisations however still struggle and could be better supported if an integrated support program were developed which is more than a annual competitive process for grants as is typical for all other Australian jurisdictions. The coming year is shaping up to be an exciting period for this great organisation. As President, I need to thank the dedicated members of the Council for their support and guidance for my first year at the helm.

Best wishes for the coming year,  
Matthew James (President)

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*Advertisement:*

**GENEALOGICAL**



**SOCIETY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY INC**

*The Family History Place*



***LIBRARY HOURS***

**Monday and Tuesday 9.30am to  
5.15pm**

**Saturday 1.00pm to 5.30pm**

***ADDRESS***

**Unit 4, 84 Smith Street, Darwin NT  
Opposite the Chinatown Carpark**

**The Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory Incorporated provides members and visitors with an extensive range of research aides to assist finding families past and present both in Australia and overseas. For example, Books, CDs, Microfiche, Microfilm, Diaries etc. Visitors are welcome to use the library for \$20 per visit. Membership Single \$48, Pensioner and Interstate Memberships \$33.**

**Volunteers are very happy to show you how to research and record your family history. Our Library is closed for the Christmas/New Year from 9 December 2017. The first Library day for 2018 is 27 January. Contact Secretary 0412 018 015**

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