

Historical Society of the Northern Territory

Patron: The Hon Austin Asche AC

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2018

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HSNT Committee – President: Matthew James; Vice President: Bev Phelts;
Secretary: Janie Mason; Treasurer: Helen Spiers; others - Brian Reid; Alan Powell;
Judy Boland and Clayton Frederickson

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday 3 August 2018 - Friday 28 September 2018- Curator Floor Talks: 'A Territory Story' exhibition at the NT Library

Join Library curators as they reveal how *A Territory Story* came to be. Discover collections that were drawn upon to create the exhibition and gain an insight into elements of the exhibition that especially resonate with our curators.

A Territory Story explores Northern Territory history through ten themes: *Larrakia Country, Courage, Tracks and Mapping, All Aboard, Territory Made, Home, Check it out!, Territorians, Darwin and Territory Classics*. A unique pictorial timeline complements the stories.

Floor talks take place every Friday at 10:30am during the Dry Season. No bookings required.

Date	Time
Friday 3 August	10:30am - 11:30am
Friday 10 August	10:30am - 11:30am
Friday 17 August	10:30am - 11:30am
Friday 24 August	10:30am - 11:30am

Saturday 4 August at Parap Markets

The Historical Society will be holding a book stall at the markets. Books will be sold at discounted prices. Come along and say hello to our Secretary, Janie Mason who will be manning the stall.

Wednesday 8 August - 5:30pm -7:30pm - Book launch - *Black Pearls: The Aboriginal and Islander Sports Hall of Fame* at the NT Library

Join the Honorable Michael Gunner MLA Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, sporting legend Mr. Bennie Lew Fatt and sporting commentator Mr. Charlie King at the Darwin launch of *Black Pearls* by Colin and Paul Tatz.

The Aboriginal and Islander Sports Hall of Fame was introduced in 1994 and has since grown to feature 267 sporting heroes across 36 sports. Celebrating more than their sporting achievements, *Black Pearls* presents Olympic heroes, superb sportswomen, football giants, boxing legends, lightning sprinters and more.

More than a sports book *Black Pearls* reveals a history of inclusion and of Aboriginal determination in the face of enormous obstacles, and resilience in overcoming remoteness, discriminatory laws, incarceration on isolated reserves and opponents in a variety of sports arenas.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing. Official speeches at 5:45pm followed by refreshments

Wednesday 15 August - Saturday 25 August - Behind the Scenes: Performing Arts and the NT at the NT Library

The Northern Territory has produced some legendary musicians such as Dr. G, Sunrize Band, Yothu Yindi and Jessica Mauboy. The Grey Panthers are the longest-running performing dance group for people over 60 in Australia. Award-winning playwrights and productions from our backyard have received Australia's highest accolades.

As Northern Territory Library launches its new exhibition, *A Territory Story*, you're invited to join us for a special curator talk on how the Territory performing arts sector has evolved.

Four sessions are being presented during the Festival -

Wednesday 15 August, 4:00 - 5:00pm, Saturday 18 August, 4:00 - 5:00pm

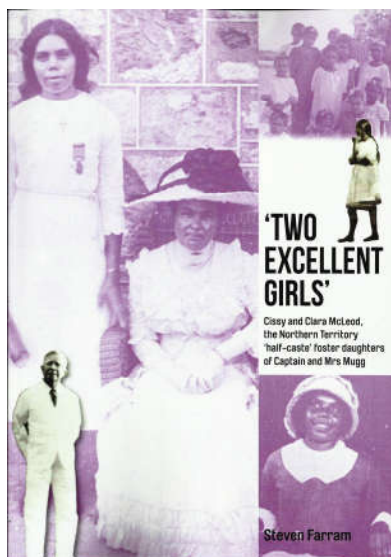
Wednesday 22 August, 4:00 - 5:00pm, Saturday 25 August, 4:00 - 5:00pm

Saturday 25 August – Urban Archaeology Tour: Vestiges of Vestey's – 10am-11.30am

Tour the ruins and sites of the iconic Vestey's Meatworks. Prior to the tour, visually meet the players who invested in the Territory's industries and infrastructure through photographs in the exhibition and the reconstructed model of the meatworks.

Cost: Adult \$10: Concession \$8 – Bookings essential Book via magnt.net.au (a booking fee applies)

Thursday 30 August – Launch of *Two Excellent Girls': Cissy and Clara McLeod, the Northern Territory 'half-caste' foster daughters of Captain and Mrs Mugg* by Steve Farram



The book concerns Cissy and Clara McLeod, two sisters of Aboriginal descent who lived in Darwin in the early decades of the twentieth century. In a society almost obsessed with notions of European superiority and racial purity, the McLeod sisters achieved a remarkable level of acceptance from the European community. In mid-1922, they left Darwin for Singapore and never lived in the Northern Territory again, but were remembered favourably by old Darwin residents for years after their departure. Cissy's and Clara's achievements were totally reliant on their own abilities, yet they would never have been given a chance if they had not had the support of their foster parents, Captain and Mrs Mugg. This couple are also considered in the book, as is their father, who lived for over twenty years in the remote town of Borroloola where the sisters were born. The ultimate fates of Cissy and Clara McLeod were tragic, but their lives in Darwin were marked with success. It was a notable achievement against considerable odds and remains worthy of recognition today.

The book will be launched by Dr Sam Wells at the NT Archives Centre on Kelsey Cr, Millner at 5.30 pm . The launch will be followed by a talk by the author and the book will be available for purchase for \$25 (cash only)

Bookings are required. For more information, contact Telephone 8999 6890 or email ntac@nt.gov.au

Wednesday 12 September - 5:30pm-7:00pm - The Eric Johnston Lecture at the NT Library

As the Northern Territory celebrates 40 years of self-government so does the Multicultural Council of the Northern Territory.

Immigration lawyer and advocate Kevin Kadirgamar, 2018's NT Young Australian of the Year, will present this year's Eric Johnston Lecture. Entitled *Multiculturalism and forty years of self-government: Why cities need cultural diversity to thrive*, Kevin's lecture will reflect on the Northern Territory's multicultural past and his vision for its future.

The Eric Johnston Lecture is an annual lecture hosted by the Northern Territory Library that addresses a theme relating to the Territory's culture, history and development. It was first delivered in 1986 by then Administrator Commodore Eric Johnston

Vale Anita Angel (1963-2018) by David Carment



Anita Angel. (Photograph courtesy Charles Darwin University)

HSNT members were shocked and saddened to learn of Anita Angel's untimely recent death in Melbourne following a battle with breast cancer. She had belonged to the Society since 1998 and served on its Council between 1998 and 2002. She moved to Darwin during 1990 to work as a lawyer, later becoming prominent as an art curator and historian as well as chairing the Museum and Art Galleries Board of the Northern Territory in 2008-2009

Between 2005 and 2015 Anita was Curator of the Charles Darwin University Art Collection. After 2009 this included responsibility for the university's first purpose-built gallery. She curated some of the most successful exhibitions. Anita and David, who shared her passion for art, acquired their own impressive collection of Territory Indigenous art works. From 2002 they generously gifted over 100 of these to the National Gallery of Victoria.

As a historian, Anita authored numerous carefully researched and well-written publications about the Northern Territory. They included articles on landscape, memory and history, museums, artists' camps, and 'gaol art'. She also wrote a book on the Australian artist John Firth-Smith.

In 2017 she and her husband David Angel, a retired judge, left Darwin to live in Melbourne.

Sincere sympathy is extended to David Angel and other members of Anita's family.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PAST EVENTS

Historical Society's 4WD trip to Gove – Nhulunbuy 26-31 July

Our drive to Gove via the Central Arnhem Highway (turn off near Maranboy) took two comfortable days return journey with a camp overnight at Mainoru. We arrived Friday afternoon and set up camp at the Walkabout Lodge. On Saturday we visited the Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Art Centre and was shown around Yirrkala by senior traditional elder, Witiyana Marika. We visited the Arnhemland Historical Society headquarters at the Gove control tower site. In the evening Phil Herdman of the Historical Society gave an interesting talk on the history of the area and Rio Tinto. Sunday was just as busy visiting the area around the Rio Tinto Mine site, Mt Saunders, Woody Point and the Drimmie Head Catalina site. The afternoon ended with dinner at the Gove Boat Club. A full report of our trip will be available on our internet site mid August.



A group photo at Lookout Site.

From left: Kevin Coonan, Earl James, Laurie DeFrenne, Ruth Kerr, Alan Mitchell, Matthew James, Lyn Reid, Janie Mason, Fiona Scott & Brian Reid



Lyn Reid deciding what to buy at the Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Yirrkala Arts Centre & Museum



Our group at the Arnhemland Historical Society headquarters, Gove control tower site



Matthew James, Alan Mitchell & Laurie DeFrenne. The Rio Tinto Mine conveyor belt in the background is the longest in the southern hemisphere

*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.
Contact Secretary 0412 018 015

The Australasian Mining History Association

The Australasian Mining History Association is a not for profit organisation formed in 1995 to foster the exchange of information about our extensive and fascinating mining past. Membership is open to anyone who has an interest in mining history and its various related aspects. Currently the AMHA has 210 members, who meet regularly at the annual Australasian Mining History Conference, generally in an historic or current mining centre, complete with field trips. The very successful 2017 conference was held in Traralgon, Victoria and other conferences have been held in most of Australia's well known mining districts and in New Zealand. The Association has also held joint meetings with other organisations, including the International Mining History Association and the Australian Historical Association. The AMHA publishes the Journal of Australasian Mining History and a quarterly newsletter. Membership rates are very reasonable at \$35 p.a., including the Journal.

2018 Conference will be at Cromwell, Otago region, South Island of New Zealand 7-13 October.

For details see Website: <http://www.mininghistory.asn.au/next-conference/>



**AUSTRALASIAN
MINING
HISTORY
ASSOCIATION**

Are you interested in the history of: mining, mining engineering, metallurgy, mineral economics, mineral deposits or mining heritage? Why not join the

Australasian Mining History Association.

See our website: <http://www.mininghistory.asn.au/>
Special offer to new members who join before the end of 2018 of free digital access to the 2017 issue of the Journal of Australasian Mining History as well as the upcoming 2018 issue.

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