



1/16 Charlton Court, Woolner NT 0820
PO box 40544, Casuarina NT 0811
www.historicalsocietynt.org.au
ABN 88 971 560 498

Newsletter – January 2019

New Council members

Our urgent call for a new Treasurer has resulted in three new Council members, Wendy Asche, Lyn Reid and Robyn Smith, and all have stepped up now instead of waiting till the March AGM. The Historical Society is grateful to Michael Riley of Keeping Account for assisting since September 2018 with management of our finances. The Historical Society Council has found that cost in the short term has been manageable but in the long term, is not a realistic financial burden so is very grateful for Lyn Reid in agreeing to take on the Treasurer role from February. She is already organising the audit.

A reminder for the laggards:
2019 Membership renewal now due
\$30 Student/Pensioner
\$45 Individual
\$55 Family/Institutional/Affiliate

Christmas Party 8/12/18

The Christmas Party at History House 8/12/18 with only a small turnout [including 2 members from SA] was a pleasant afternoon. With a small entry fee and some book sales and donated drinks and lucky door prize, a couple of hundred dollars was made. The lucky door prize was won by Earl James.

Parap Market Book Stalls

There were good sales at Parap Markets over the Christmas period, despite the difficulties of the occasional rain sprinkle. The next book stall will be 8am to 2pm Saturday 2nd March. Remember: there are cut prices at the Parap Market book stalls.

Monthly Joint talks to cease

In a successful joint partnership for the past five years with the Larrakeyah Branch of the National Trust NT, the Historical Society NT has organised monthly talks at Burnett House on Myilly Point. We have organised from eight to eleven talks per year and for two years, the Society also ran a book stall. Topics have been lively and varied, sometimes current and others related to specific anniversaries.

It is with regret that the Society is retiring of this arrangement. It had become dependent on too few individuals. Unlike in the early years of the Society, there are also today other competing local lectures and talks. The Society hopes to organise an annual oration.

The Society extends special thanks to Anna Harris and Julie Mastin of the Larrakeyah Branch who have over the years so consistently ensured that Burnett House was ready and food, wine and equipment set up, that speakers were organised and talks publicised.

Place Names Committee

The NT Place Names Committee has accepted for future naming of places:

Pietro Baracchi who was an astronomer working in Darwin in the Wet Season of 19882-3 to determine true longitude of cities in the Australian colonies & New Zealand; and

Cissy McLeod who was the first Aboriginal recipient of a Humanitarian Award after saving her foster mother from drowning in Darwin Harbour in 1912; see our recent publication *Two excellent girls – Cissy and Clary McLeod, the half-cast foster daughters of Captain and Mrs Mugg* by Steve Farram.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 3RD week in March – See you there

Plan NOW: Kakadu/Pine Creek Field Trip – Darwin Show Day Weekend 26-28 July

Darwin Rebellion Centenary 2018

Liberty Square beside Parliament House in Darwin commemorates the civil unrest 17th December 1918 known as the Darwin Rebellion against the Administrator Gilruth, and was recently remembered in various events.



Jack Ellis, Pat McIntyre and Bruce Honeywell called a Liberty Square meeting 16/12/18 with speakers Pat McIntyre, Jack Ellis, Bruce Honeywell, Rob Wesley-Smith, former Lord Mayor Graeme Sawyer and past NT Administrators Austin Asche and John Hardy.



Austin Asche

On Monday 17th December, Unions NT also celebrated and the NT Legislative Assembly Speaker, Kezia Purick unveiled a plaque to be mounted in State Square.



Kezia Purick, NT Administrator Vicki O'Halloran & Lia Finocchiaro MLA with the plaque

NT Library – entry free

12md to 1pm Tuesday 19th February '19



Smoke rises from the Harbour 19/1/1942

Join a conversation with historians Drs Tom Lewis (OAM) and Dr Wendy Beresford-Manning and playwright Sandra Thibodeaux. Explore stories of Darwin's bombing to understand how a long ago event remains relevant today.

Special commemorations in 2019

Darwin - 150th year since the first landing 5th February 1869 by George Goyder's survey party to start a new settlement on Port Darwin in South Australia's Northern Territory, Palmerston on Darwin Harbour. This fifth attempt at a northern settlement was to be successful and was re-named Darwin with the Commonwealth takeover from Adelaide in 1911.

First flight from London – 100 years since Ross and Keith Smith and mechanics, WH Shiers and JM Bennett, completed their flight from London over 27 days, winning a prize of \$10 000 pounds. They landed in Darwin 10th December 1919 from London..



On Wednesday 30th January at 5.15 for 5.30pm, Julie Christensen is to launch Matthew Stephen's new book *Darwin: A photographic history* at NT archives Centre, Kelsey Crescent, Nightcliff

Bookings: <https://darwinphotographichistory.entbrite.com.au>

Janis Mason

Hon. Secretary & Public Officer

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