

## Historical Society of the Northern Territory

**Patron:** The Hon Austin Asche AC

### NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2016

PO Box 40544, Casuarina NT 0811

Mobile: 0487 413 709

[www.historicalocietynt.org.au](http://www.historicalocietynt.org.au)

Email: [hsnt@inet.net.au](mailto:hsnt@inet.net.au) Newsletter Editor: Bev Phelts

HSNT Committee – President: Earl James; Vice President: Bev Phelts; Secretary: Janie Mason & Heather Sjoberg; Treasurer: Rosemary Chalmers; others - Brian Reid; Alan Powell; Judy Boland; Clayton Frederickson; Matthew James

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### **Wednesday 14 September at NT Library at 5.15pm - Voices from Daguragu**

Join Don Christophersen and Geoffrey Angeles from Flinders University, Darwin as they present a night of rare film, sound and photographs. They will bring to life the stories of the historic 1966 Walk-off from Wave Hill Station from the perspective of people from Daguragu.

Don Christophersen is a well-known Indigenous historian, filmmaker, cross-cultural consultant and academic. His family hails from north-west Arnhem Land. The evening will begin with an introduction by Kungarakana/Gurindji man, Geoffrey Angeles (McGinness) who is a local sporting identity, media personality and lecturer in Indigenous health

### **Saturday 17 September - Government House Open Day**

Parliament House and the Supreme Court will be open in the morning, with Government House following in the afternoon from 2pm to 6pm. The Historical Society will have a book stand there, so come over and say hello.



**17 September to 5 October in Alice Springs – The 2016 Spring Flower Show Art and Craft Exhibition at the Residency**

Contact Heritage Alice Springs for information on phone: 89536073 or email: [heritagealicesprings@telstra.com](mailto:heritagealicesprings@telstra.com)

**Wednesday 21 September at NT Library at 5.15pm - Mary Anne Butler and Clare Atkins in Conversation**

Meet the joint winners of this year's Chief Minister's Book of the Year Award, as they interview each other about their work and writing practice. Clare Atkins won the 2016 Book of the Year Award for her young adult novel *Nona & Me* that tells the story of a special friendship between two girls in a remote Northern Territory town. It was written in Yirrkala with Yolŋu community members. Clare shared the award with Darwin's much-loved playwright Mary Anne Butler for her work *Highway of Lost Hearts*, a play about a woman, a dog, a campervan and 4,500 kilometres of open road.

Join us for this special conversation about living and working as a writer in the Northern Territory. Presented by Northern Territory Library and the NT Writers' Centre.

**Wednesday 21 September - Patron's Dinner 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start**

There is still time to book !!!!!

The 3 course dinner will be held at the Atrium Novotel, on the corner of Peel Street and the Esplanade in the Brolga Room. Our speaker will be Jarrod Archibald, Museum and Art Gallery curator. Jarrod will talk on the history of vertebrate fossil collection in the Territory. It will be informative and entertaining.

Vegetarians and others with special dietary needs can be catered for.

Request any dietary needs when you RSVP. Tea and coffee are included. Other drinks can be purchased at the function room bar.

Cost is \$50 per person. RSVP by 16 September if you wish to attend.

Contact person is our treasurer, Rosemary Chalmers email: [rosechal@inet.net.au](mailto:rosechal@inet.net.au) or ring 89326080. Payment can be made via cheque/money order to the HSNT PO Box 40544 Casuarina. Alternatively, you can pay cash on the night or via bank transfer.

Bank transfer details:

Historical Society of the NT

BSB: 065 901 (Commonwealth Bank Darwin) Account No: 000901407

Remember to include your "SURNAME" and "DINNER" against your deposit.

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

The speaker is to be announced

**Friday 28 October - National Trust & Historical Society Talk at Burnett House, Burnett Place, Myilly Point – 5.30 for a 6pm start.**

Dr Brian Reid will talk about Fort Wellington (1827-1829) which was the second attempt at British colonisation.

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

**Saturday 15 October - History Colloquium**

The colloquium will be held at the NT Library, Parliament House, Corner of Mitchell and Bennett Streets, Darwin

The colloquium is supported by Northern Territory Library, the Professional Historians Association (NT), the Centre for Environmental History at The Australian National University and Charles Darwin University.

For any inquiries, contact Dr Steven Farram, Lecturer in North Australian and Regional Studies (History), Charles Darwin University, phone: 8946 6865 email: [steven.farram@cdu.edu.au](mailto:steven.farram@cdu.edu.au)

**Wednesday 31 May 2017 – Symposium: In Honour of Emeritus Professor Alan Powell**

The NT library will be hosting the symposium which is a tribute to Alan's contribution to Territory history. Speakers will present papers that have been influenced by Alan himself or his diverse publications. The event will be chaired by Emeritus Professor David Carment, past CDU lecturer and professor. The symposium is open to the public and details to be announced closer to the date.

**9-12 March 2018 – Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry – Bridging the Past and Future**

The Conference will be held at the International Convention centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney. It is the largest Australasian family history event which is held every three years. Offering a diverse and interesting program of national and international speakers.

For information – [www.congress2018.org.au](http://www.congress2018.org.au) Email: [info@congress2018.org.au](mailto:info@congress2018.org.au)

**Road Masters House Museum now Open (previously Stella Maris)**

The National Trust Northern Territory has been granted a Crown Lease over the heritage listed building located on the former *Stella Maris Hostel* site at 1 McMinn Street, Darwin.

The date of construction of the building is not known but was most likely in the 1920s or 1930s. It was built to accommodate staff of the North Australia Railway (NAR) and was known as *Road Masters House*. The road master was the officer responsible for track maintenance. It was occupied by NAR staff until damaged by Cyclone Tracy in 1974.

After the railway closed in 1976 the building was leased to the Roman Catholic Stella Maris organisation where it was used as a seafarers centre. Originally the house provided for an office, bar, meals, and recreational facilities up until 1991 when a new building was completed and the house became an annexe.

The building was declared a heritage place in 2005 and subsequently restored by the Northern Territory Government to its present condition. It is one of only three pre-war houses remaining which were enclosed by a slatted or latticed verandah, the typical design at that time and now very rare.

The lease provides for the building to be used as a museum. It is proposed that the exhibits will cover three themes:

1. The History of the Building
2. The North Australia Railway
3. The History of Darwin

Given the short time frame prescribed in the lease to open the museum, the opening exhibition will focus on the history of Darwin theme because of the immediate availability of suitable exhibits to fill the display area.

The inaugural exhibition is titled *Mapping Darwin's History*. The theme is land development. It comprises 23 maps and 37 photos relating to the maps. They cover the period from European discovery and settlement of Port Darwin through to the present day. The map and photo exhibits are complemented with a collection of survey, drafting and mapping equipment that have been used over time to survey, map and construct Darwin. The exhibits have been sourced largely from the Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment; the Northern Territory Library; the National Library of Australia and private collections.

A feature of the display is the collection of instruments used by pioneering surveyor Gilbert McMinn that were donated some years ago by the descendants of McMinn to the NT Surveyor-General. McMinn was a senior surveyor with the 1869 Goyder Survey Expedition and was involved with the survey and construction of the Overland Telegraph Line. He later carried out the first investigation of a route for the Palmerston to Pine Creek Railway.

It is intended that future exhibitons will cover the history of the house and its association with the North Australia Railway. This will include material on Darwin's social history to complement the land development theme.

The museum is open to the public on every day except Monday and Saturday from 10.00am to 1.00pm until further notice. Volunteer museum attendants are being sought from persons able to spend 3 hours a week at the museum on a weekly or fortnightly roster. Interested persons can contact Trevor Menzies on 0418 892 897 or email: [menzies2@bigpond.net.au](mailto:menzies2@bigpond.net.au) for details. Offers to assist will be most welcome.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM PAST EVENTS

### Launch of *Remember Me Kindly*, Botanical Gardens (Eva's Café)

Over seventy people attended this event with many descendents coming up from south. Deb gave a lovely speech on how she came to write up the history of the Holtze family while descendents launched the book.



Author, Deb Bisa with Brian Reid



Wendy & Earl James and Jackie Dibbs



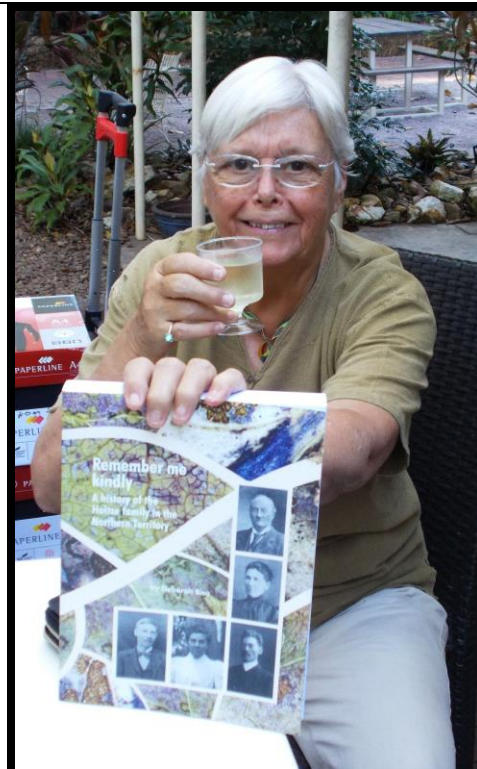
Lyn Reid, Francois Barr & David Bridgman



Brian Reid speaking to the audience



Eve's Café named after Evlampia Holtze. The Cafe is located in the beautiful botanical gardens setting. The building was once the Wesleyan Methodist Church. The "prefab" building arrived by ship from Adelaide to Darwin in 1897. It was erected on the corner of Mitchell and Knuckey Streets but during the late 1990s it became unused and unkempt. In 2000, it was moved to its present site and refurbished.



Lyn Reid with a much needed drink after selling a lot of books