



Historical Society of the Northern Territory

Patron: The Hon Austin Asche AC

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President's Report by Dr Brian Reid

The Year of the Snake for the Historical Society begins well. As a result of our membership renewal campaign we have nearly doubled our financial membership.

The HSNT and the Larrakeyah Branch of the Northern Territory National Trust have arranged a joint lecture programme commencing this year. We hope the joint lectures will better meet peoples' interests.

As a result of an agreement with the Northern Territory National Trust we now have a long term home in the Myilly Point Heritage Precinct.

Our rather hesitant venture into social media is proving very successful. It looks like being a busy and productive year.

There are however bleak issues about. The demise of the MAGNT research library is a real loss to scholarship. The empty history curator position at the Museum is also a loss to History in the Northern Territory, particularly in the rural area. The squeeze on staff in the Northern Territory Library and Archives is making it difficult for them to manage even their basic functions. The Society will pursue these issues.

Forthcoming Events

Northern Territory Library - Thursday 7 March 5.15pm - Mapping for the War in the North

Trevor Menzies, Heritage Program Manager, Mapping Sciences Institute, and retired Surveyor-General for the Northern Territory will deliver this floor talk on the 'Mapping for the War in the North' Exhibition.

On the eve of the Second World War there were no existing maps of northern Australia suitable for military purposes. Maps were essential for military leaders to plan and conduct operations on land; this exhibition commemorates the contribution that military mapmakers made to the defence of Australia's north. The Exhibition will be on display until 17 March.

Free event, open to the public. Bookings preferred phone 8999 7177 or email ntl.info@nt.gov.au

Most Important – our AGM – Friday 22 March at Burnett House 5.30-6pm

The venue and date has been changed for our AGM.

The Historical Society's AGM will be held at Burnett House at 5.30pm and a talk by CDU lecturer, Dan Baschiera will follow at 6pm. Dan will speak about the achievements of Ludwig Leichhardt "On Leichhardt's Path Kakadu 1845"



2013 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Leichhardt (1813-1848). Leichhardt was a Prussian explorer and naturalist who was notable for his expeditions in northern and central Australia. He collected and catalogued thousands of species of plant and animal life, and charted the landscape.

In January, Foreign Minister Bob Carr announced a joint celebration with Germany to commemorate Leichhardt's achievements. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation will be awarding Ludwig Leichhardt Bursaries to two Australian researchers for research in Germany. Also a commemorative coin and a postage stamp will be issued.

Leichhardt disappeared on an expedition in 1848 in northern Australia. His complete disappearance continues to remain a mystery today.

The talk will be held from 6-7pm. A \$2 a sausage sizzle will follow.

Entry: \$2 for members, \$5 for non-members – Everyone is welcome

2012 AGM minutes, 2013 AGM agenda and nomination form are attached.

The Ghan Tribute to the ANZAC's – April

In April, the Ghan will make a special journey from Darwin to Adelaide. The ANZAC Tribute will be a four day commemoration of the glories and sacrifices of the Australian Armed Forces during the Second World War. The trip will encompass special events which include a visit to the Adelaide River War Cemetery a traditional dawn service in Katherine and a journey aboard an original troop train through the picturesque Flinders Ranges. There will be guest speakers and performers. The cost includes platinum service or gold service cabin. For every ticket sold, Great Southern Rail will make a donation to the RSL. To inquire about the trip, ring 132147 or visit www.greatsouthernrail.com.au

Interstate Events –

Adelaide - "Crossing Country" :John McDouall Stuart Exhibition at the Migration Museum - Gallery 2, 82 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide. The exhibition organised by the History SA and the John McDouall Stuart Society was opened by the Hon John Hill MP, South Australian Minister for the Arts. The Exhibition will be on display until Sunday 27 October 2013.

Oral History Association of Australia Conference 21-14 September – Adelaide

The Oral History Association of Australia, History SA and the University of South Australia will jointly host this conference, which will bring together professional, academic, community and oral historians. The conference will feature a range of themes relating to contested histories; memory, technology and new developments in oral history; urban history, and Indigenous history. We hope the conference will also consider history and the future.

The conference will be held at the University of South Australia, City West Campus, Adelaide, South Australia.

Further details and enquiries: June Edwards, email: contact@ohaa-sa.com.au or (08) 8293 1314
Mandy Paul, Senior Curator, History SA, email: mpaul@history.sa.gov.au or (08) 8203 9808
Karen Blackwood, Administration Officer, History SA, email: kblackwood@history.sa.gov.au
Or (08) 8203 9807

Museums Australia National Conference 2013 – Canberra

How museums work: people, industry and nation 17 – 20 May 2013

The Conference Committee has been working hard to prepare for this year's Museums Australia National Conference and to ensure that it exceeds members' expectations. Hosted in Canberra's Centenary year, the Conference will explore, through a program of events, interactive sessions and workshops, the theme of *How museums work: people, industry and nation*. The Conference will also feature a number of high profile speakers from a range of arts and museum related fields. The committee is very pleased to welcome the following speakers to the Conference:

- Ms Robyn Archer AO, Creative Director of the Centenary of Canberra (2013), Artistic Director of The Light in Winter, and Deputy Chair of the Australia Council
- Dr Michael Brand, Director of the AGNSW
- Dr Tom Calma AO, social justice campaigner and national finalist for Australian of the Year 2013
- Dr Stefan Hajkowitz, principal scientist with CSIRO
- Michael Lynch, CEO of West Kowloon Cultural District Authority by the Hong Kong Government
- Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial

For further information - Web site www.ma2013.org.au

Seeking Tye, Bowman and Hong Kong Family Members

Margaret Fullwood of the Creswick Museum Hepburn Shire, Victoria is researching information for two forthcoming exhibitions – one in September "Born in Creswick but made their name elsewhere" and in 2014 "Spirit of China in Creswick" She has come across Jane Tye the daughter of Sarah Bowman and Lee Hong Kong. Jane will be featured in the September exhibition and a book on Creswick, yet to be published. Apparently Jane's family resided in Darwin. If any members have knowledge of Jane's family in Darwin or elsewhere, could you please contact Margaret direct on telephone 03 5345 2046 or email info@creswickmuseum.com.au

Looking for information on Chris Gower

My grandfather, Christopher Gower was a builder from Epping- Sydney NSW who went to Darwin after the War to help re build. He was away from his family for at least a year we believe.

I hope someone out there may have recollections of my grandfather or know of any information. If anyone does have information, could they please contact Carol Evans on 02 43886819 or email: cazziebanora@yahoo.com.au

February Talk at Burnett House

On Friday 22 February, Elizabeth Close, CEO of National Trust NT spoke on Myilly Point and The National Trust – “An Historical Memoir”



Burnett House



Elizabeth Close, guest speaker and Judy Boland, Larrakeyah National Trust Committee member.

A Commemoration of the Arrival of the Surveyor-General, GW Goyder in Darwin on 5th February 1869

Besides the Larrakeyah National Trust holding its annual commemoration, on Sunday 3 February, Trevor Horman ran "Following in the Footsteps of George Goyder". The day trip consisted of a convoy of cars to Virginia, Southport, Tumbling Waters, Daly Township, Auld's Lagoon with each stop including a commentary on Goyder's visit. The convoy ended at Darwin (previously named Palmerston). Fifty people and 22 cars took part in the event.



Trevor Horman talking to the group at Tumbling Waters



Daly Township

Photographs courtesy Judy Richardson