



Historical Society of the Northern Territory

Patron: The Hon Austin Asche AC

NEWSLETTER JULY 2012 NO: 58

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President's Report by Dr Brian Reid

I happened to hear recently an ABC talk by a visiting Danish historian. He fell largely by chance into the world of the history of fishing, fisheries and ocean biology generally. Using 'old' records of fishing catches, times and places that have often been accurately recorded for centuries to enable, for example revisits to suitable fishing sites, he constructs changes that have been happening to catches and practices over surprisingly long periods of time.

But these records are vulnerable. He cited an example of a Russian monastery that had kept such records for over 400 years only to cease at the time of the Russian Revolution. We have our own revolution brewing that is capable of such destruction – the move to digital records. All over the country institutions are digitizing records deemed important and discarding those that are not. What is deemed important today shifts in time as do most values and therein lies the risk.

In the Northern Territory the Northern Territory Archives and the Northern Territory Library are vital in this regard and we must urge that they receive the highest support.

Thursday 28 June 2012 - National Trust Talk - 5:30pm for a 6:00pm start Burnett House, 4 Burnett Place, Myilly Point Heritage Precinct, Larrakeyah

Bev Phelts will speak on Felix Ernest Holmes: Racehorse owner, Pearler, Agriculturalist, Pastoralist, Butcher, Baker, Icemaker; and the first to switch on Darwin.
Her book on Felix Holmes will be on sale for \$30.

\$2 sausage sizzle – Bar available, Entry: \$2 for members, \$5 for non-members
Phone enquiries to Judy Boland: 8985 1983 (AH) 8999 1260 (Office)

John McDouall Stuart 150th Anniversary (1862) - 11 to 25 July 2012 Celebrating the arrival of Stuart and his party at the northern sea (south to north)

Federation of Australian Historical Societies (FAHS) Dinner – Sunday 22 July 6pm

The Federation will be holding its AGM in Darwin on Monday 23 to coincide with the Stuart celebrations. The FAHS Committee would like to meet local Historical Society members at a dinner being held at Seafood on Cullen. It is an all you can eat buffet dinner that includes soups of the day, prawns, oysters, crab, mussels, calamari, fish etc..., roasts of the day, Asian dishes, pastas, salads, roast vegetables and a variety of deserts/cakes.

Cost is \$38.50 p/p to be paid to the restaurant on the night. If members wish to join us, please RSVP by Thursday 19 July to Bev Phelts by mobile: 0487 413 709 or email: historicalsocietynt@yahoo.com.au

National Trust talk on the Stuart south to north expedition – Monday 23 July 5.30pm

The talk on the expedition will be by local historian, Robyn Smith. The event will be held in the National Trust Myilly Point houses. Bar will be open and a sausage sizzle will follow the talk. Entry will be \$10 which will include salad, bread, meat and a free drink.

Book launch – *Distant Settlements: Convicts in Remote Australia*

The book launch will follow Robyn's talk.

After many years of research, the late Ted Street has meticulously recorded and produced a wonderful publication which contains biographical details of convicts who served at the settlements of Melville Island (1824-1829), Raffles Bay (1827-1829), Western Port (1826-1827), and King George's Sound (1827-1830)

Ted Street's book will be launched by Professor Don Garden, President of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies.

The book will be on sale for \$80 at the launch.

For more information on John McDouall Stuart week, refer to the end of the newsletter.

Commemoration Edition of *Exploring the Stuart Highway Book – John McDouall Stuart 150 Years*

To mark 150 years since Stuart and his party reached the northern sea, publishers, Tourist Information Distributors Australia have produced a beautiful, glossy, souvenir book.



The book has 152 pages which include;

- 10 pages on Stuart's expedition including photographs and Stuart's 1862 historical map;
- a colourful 4 page mud map of the Adelaide to Darwin highway noting points of interest along the way;
- information on all the towns along the route;
- the history and stories of the areas;
- accommodation information; and
- 6 colourful tear-out postcards.

The book would be a lovely gift or a souvenir. It can be purchased from the Darwin Bookshop, the Galleria, for \$13. If you wish to buy wholesale, the cost is \$5.50 plus postage. For 10 books or more the Tourist Information Distributors Australia will pay the postage. Contact: Shirley McNamara, Phone: 08 83884844, Mobile: 0418 446 444, Email: tour@exploringaustralia.com.au www.exploringaustralia.com.au

What's Happening at the NT Library?



'Why Am I' by author Swami Durgananda Wednesday 11th July at 5.15pm

Swami Durgananda will talk about her extraordinary life, her search for her 'Truth' and what lead her to write 'Why Am I' .

Suffering health, genetic and stress related problems she explored yoga as a holistic approach to good health. Finding the lifestyle suited her temperament she made the modality of Yoga her life's work.

Durga Swami has taught yoga, meditation and philosophy around the world for over 40yrs. Her approach gently guides us to go within to find inner peace and bring harmony into our lives.

Swami Durgananda is a Realised Master who explores the question 'What is beyond this body, my thoughts, my mind, is there more to life than what I can see, hear and touch'?



National Family History Week 27 July - 5 August 2012

The NT Library is seeking any family historians/researchers who would be willing to showcase items or historical photographs that have a special meaning to them.

The item doesn't have to be an heirloom or even valuable in monetary terms, just something that holds a special meaning to you or your family.

The Library is looking for volunteers to provide brief talk as to what the item is and why it has a special meaning. You only need to speak for around 10 minutes. If you are interested, please contact Margret Curry, NT Library GPO Box 42 Darwin NT 0801 Phone: 89 998916 (Mon-Wed) W (08) 89220740 (Thu-Fri) Fax: 89996920 (Mon-Wed) W (08) 89426443 (Thu-Fri) Email: margret.curry@nt.gov.au

2012 Museums Australia National Conference, Adelaide, 24-28 September 2012

“Research and collections in a connected world” will be held in the University of Adelaide.

The Museums Australia SA branch would like to invite you to join them for the sixteenth Museums Australia National Conference to be held at the University of Adelaide. The University lies at the heart of South Australia's cultural precinct and will be the ideal venue to explore the conference theme. For further information contact: Conference Logistics, PO Box 6150, Kingston ACT 2604 phone: 02 6281 6624 fax: 02 6285 1336 email: conference@conlog.com.au

Northern Territory History Grants 2012

The Northern Territory History Grants Program is designed to encourage research about the Territory's history. A total of \$54,000 is available with single grants ranging up to \$7,000. Northern Territory based individuals or groups are invited to apply. Applications for the Northern Territory History Grants close COB Tuesday 31 July 2012. For more information, including guidelines and an application form go to the web site:

<http://www.nretas.nt.gov.au/knowledge-and-history/ntas/grants> Or contact: NT Archives Service, GPO Box 874 Darwin NT 0801 phone: 08 8924 7677 fax: 08 8924 7660 email: nt.archives@nt.gov.au

Celebrating 140 Years of the Overland Telegraph Line – 21-23 August 2012

Friends of the North Australian Railway and Engineers Heritage Australia will be holding a plaquing ceremony at the exact time, 140 years ago when the line was joined.

It is planned to leave Darwin for Dunmarra on Tuesday 21st.

Wednesday 22nd visit Todd Memorial in the morning and erect an interpretation sign and plaque. Visit Frew Ponds where Patterson and the OLT crew camped at the time. Return to the Memorial after lunch and unveil the plaque and sign at 3.15pm at the same time as the joining. Hold a celebratory dinner at Dunmarra Roadhouse.

Thursday 23rd return to Darwin via the Telegraph Office site at Daly Waters. For non campers, accommodation is available at the Dunmarra Roadhouse - twin, double and triple rooms with en-suites cost \$75-\$90 per room per night.

If you are interested in attending, contact Trevor Horman on email: t.horman@bigpond.com or mobile: 0417 838 578

Government House 2012 Open Days

Friday 20 July 2012, 3.00 to 7.00 pm and Saturday 21 July 2012, 3.00 to 7.00 pm

The Historical Society needs volunteers to sell the Society's books on the opening days. It is easy work, you can choose the day and hours you wish to help out. A float will be provided and all the books will have price tags on them.

Please contact Bev Phelts on mobile: 0487 413 709 email: historicalsocietynt@yahoo.com.au

Remembering Territory Families Exhibition

The exhibition was launched in Parliament House on 22 June by the Chief Minister, Hon Paul Henderson MLA. The project undertaken by the NT Library has documented up to fifty families who have made a social and economic impact on the Territory since its foundation.

The exhibition highlighted the life journeys of six Territory families – Afianos, Fong Lim, Haritos, Liddle, Muir and the Williams. Family members were invited to tell a story on one of their amazing ancestors. James Muir spoke about his mother, Hilda Muir who was a member of the stolen generation. Hilda would secretly rendezvous with her future husband through the fence of the Kahlin Compound. While Hilda survived Cyclone Tracy she lost her husband Billy Muir. Katrina Fong Lim, Helen Haritos and Jasmine Afianos had the audience in fits of laughter over the antics of their ancestors. To view their histories and that of other pioneering families, go to www.ntl.nt.gov.au



The exhibition



Chief Minister,
Hon Paul
Henderson
launching the
exhibition



Left: Barb Hickey, Casuarina Library, Dianna Richards, NT Library, Chief Minister Paul Henderson & Bev Phelts



The audience

Remembering Territory Families Exhibition.... continued



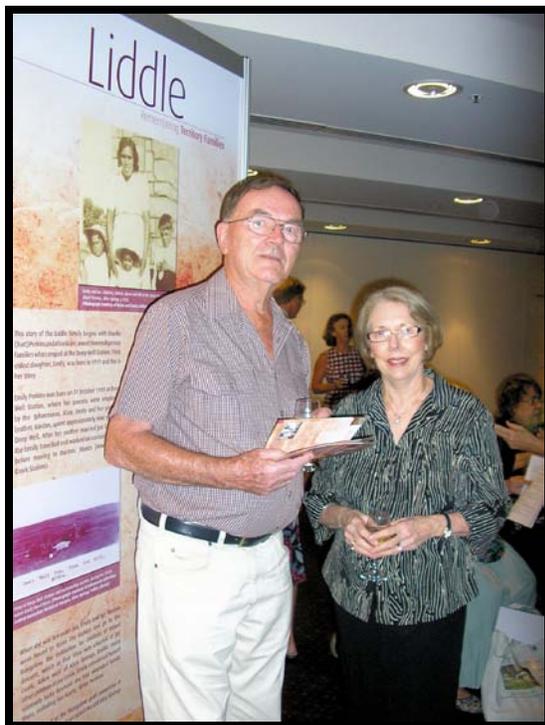
Left: Yvonne Forrest, Kathy Mills and Kathy's sister, Sissy



The band, Darwin Rondalla played during the Exhibition. Marie-Louise Pearson (nee Quong) centre



HSNT member, Sandra Lenz and Barb Hickey, Casuarina Library



HSNT Committee member, Emeritus Professor Alan Powell and Jan Moore

Unveiling of plaque at Newcastle Waters

Approximately 200 people travelled to the remote location of Newcastle Waters on Sunday May 6, 2012 to witness the unveiling of the latest plaque to honor John McDouall Stuart. The bronze plaque commemorates 150 years since John McDouall Stuart passed through the region, and acknowledges the Aboriginal tribes indigenous to the area who met from time to time, for ceremonies around Newcastle Creek and Lake Woods.



Left: Stuart Traynor and Peter Jones.

Stuart is the Chairman of the National Trust, Northern Territory, McDouall Stuart Branch and was MC for the event.

Barb Shaw, Barkley Shire Council President was assisted with the unveiling of the plaque by Bob Bagnell, Deputy President. The plaque was partly financed by the Barkly Shire Council and the John McDouall Stuart Society. It will be mounted on the rock seen in the background of the photo below, in the Drover's Memorial Park, by the Council at a later date.



Left: Bob Bagnall and Barb Shaw unveiling the plaque which is in the form of an open book



Aboriginal Elder, Bessie Bathern initiating the plaque watched by her daughter Mona Rennie

Elliot's oldest resident, Bessie Bathern accompanied by her daughter Mona Rennie, along with Pompey Raymond, were invited up to pour sand over the plaque in a symbolic gesture of reconciliation and goodwill. After the two Elders initiated the plaque, the local school children did the same, followed by many of those present.



Aboriginal Elder Pompey Raymond (Mudburra Elder) initiating the plaque with red desert sand.

Ted Egan a well known Territory identity was one of the special guests at the event. A past teacher at Newcastle Waters, he entertained the gathering with his yarns, music played on a VB beer carton and songs, including the one he wrote about John McDouall Stuart, *Riders in the Mirage*.



Ted Egan AO.

Unveiling of plaque at Newcastle Waters continued

Included in the celebrations at Newcastle Waters was the launch by Ted Egan of the new book *In the Middle of Everywhere* written by Peter and Sheila Forrest for the Barkly Shire Council. It is an historical account of Elliot and nearby areas such as Newcastle Waters, Beetaloo, Powell Creek and various cattle stations. The book is available from the Barkly Shire Council for \$29.95.

Also a guided tour of the township was led by Peter Jones, a past Newcastle Waters resident 1940 – 1948, and whose family connections with the area reach back to 1872. The tour began at the local school which is still open, along the road to the Junction Hotel, to Jones' Store, both built in the 1930s, onto the church, where the altar still remains, but the pews, minister and congregation are long gone.



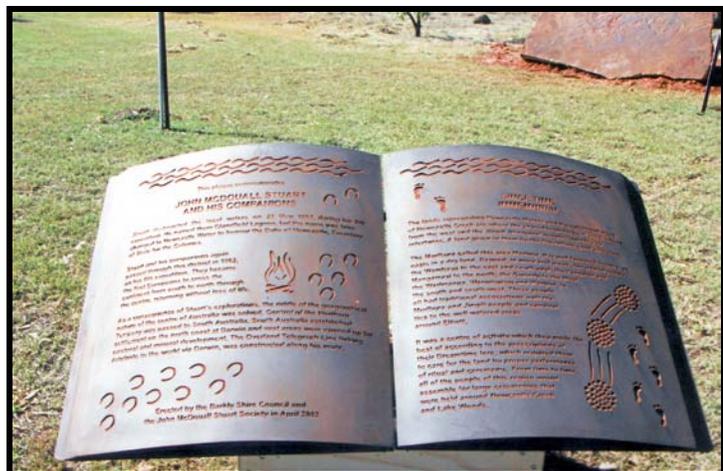
A sausage sizzle lunch was provided by the Member for Barkly, Gerry McArthur MLA.

The President and Committee of the John McDouall Stuart Society would like to thank Peter for all his effort as Project Manager, and to congratulate him for organising such a successful event. Peter also provided the photographs and details for this article.

Guided tour of the historic township of Newcastle Waters.

The Historical Society thanks the John McDouall Stuart Society for permission to use this article in our newsletter.

Big thanks to Peter Jones for the photos and information



The plaque, designed in the form of a story book

John McDouall Stuart 150th Anniversary (1862) - 11 to 25 July 2012
Celebrating the arrival of Stuart and his party
at the northern sea (south to north)

Date	time	Event
Wednesday 11 July	TBA Contact Trevor Horman on t.horman@bigpond.com or mobile: 0417 838 578	Plaque unveiling ceremony - Where the Mary River crosses the Kakadu Highway- Pine Creek end. (Mary River Roadhouse) – to mark the place where Stuart and his party passed on the exact same day 150 years ago. Organised by Trevor Horman, Friends of the Northern Australian Railway and the John McDouall Stuart Society
Wednesday 17 July	TBA Contact Trevor Horman on t.horman@bigpond.com or mobile: 0417 838 578	Plaque unveiling ceremony - Where the Mary River crosses the Arnhem Highway (near the Bark Hut) - to mark the place where Stuart and his party passed on the exact same day 150 years ago. Organised by Trevor Horman, Friends of the Northern Australian Railway and the John McDouall Stuart Society
Friday 20 July	7pm	Auguste Blackman Art Exhibition - John McDouall Stuart – An Unsung Hero. The exhibition will be opened by well known local historian, Peter Forrest. Open to the public. It will be held at Framed The Darwin Gallery, 55 Stuart Highway, Stuart Park.
Monday 23 July	9am-5pm	Federation of Australian Historical Societies AGM
Monday 23 July	5.30pm	National Trust talk on the south to north expedition undertaken by Stuart and his party. Speaker will be local historian, Robyn Smith. Event will be held in the National Trust Myilly Point houses. Bar will be open and a sausage sizzle will follow the talk. Entry will be \$10 which will include salad, bread, meat and a free drink. Professor Don Garden, President of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies will launch the Historical Society's latest publication - <i>Distant Settlements: Convicts in Remote Australia</i> by Ted Street

Date	time	Event
Tuesday 24 July	Full day Bus will depart 5.30am	Day trip to Pt Stuart to mark the day and time that Stuart arrived (11am). Reinactment of flag raising and speech will accompany champagne toasts. ALMOST BOOKED OUT
Wednesday 25 July	noon	Darwin City Council Commemorative Event in Raintree Park, The Mall, around the statue of Stuart The event will include a range of speakers and reenactments A "morning tea" will be held for the public
Wednesday 25 July	4.45pm	Sunset cruise on Darwin Harbour in an old pearling lugger. Cost p/p \$70 and includes nibbles and a complimentary bubbly/wine. BYO alcohol/drinks. The cruise is booking up fast.
Thursday 26 July	5.15pm	The Northern Territory Library Exhibition <i>Crossing the Continent with John McDouall Stuart and Charles Todd</i> . The exhibition will be launched by Gerry McCarthy, the Minister for Arts and Museums. The launch will include a talk by Philip Jones from the South Australian Museum, author of the prize winning book <i>Ochre and Rust</i> . The exhibition will include a section of the tree that Stuart engraved at Pt Stuart

The public are invited to all events. For information, contact Bev Phelts, Vice-President, Historical Society of the Northern Territory on email: historicalsocietynt@yahoo.com.au or mobile: 0417868827 or 0889818236 ah

Note: that events and times are subject to change

Sponsors for the Pt Stuart trip -The Historical Society thanks:

- the Heritage Branch, Department of Natural Resources, Environment, Sport and the Arts for a grant. The grant has enabled the public to participate in this event and keep our history alive.
- Ron Strachan, Flagman, Edmunds Street, Darwin for the loan of a Union Jack flag and a portable flag pole.

Updated 25 June 2012