



Historical Society of the Northern Territory

Patron: The Hon Austin Asche AC

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President's Report by Dr Brian Reid

Last night the Honourable Sally Thomas AM, Administrator of the Northern Territory, at our invitation, gave the fifth lecture in the joint series we are running this year with the Larrakeyah Branch of the National Trust. We asked her to speak on the Letters Patent, signed 150 years ago, transferring responsibility for the Northern Territory to the South Australian colonial government. It was an interesting and enjoyable evening, based on a subject not many of us knew much about.

A month ago Darwin's Lord Mayor, Katrina Fong Lim, launched Dr Ella Stack's book detailing some interviews she conducted in the first few weeks after Cyclone Tracy. In a couple of weeks time the Anglican Bishop of the Northern Territory, Greg Thompson, will launch the Reverend Jim Taylor's account of his days on Groote Eylandt in the 1960s and 1970s. And in about six weeks time, Clare Martin, previous Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, will launch Val Fletcher's scholarly account of the saga of the North-South railway. These books have all been published by the Society.

Despite its relative youth, the Northern Territory has a rich history that only recently has been receiving detailed attention. As this detail and context become better understood, it seems more are seeing a place for their stories and work. This is a heartening trend and one in which the Society has a significant part to play.

Forthcoming Events

20 July - Engineering Heritage WA Jubilee Celebrations of the Ord River Stage 1 – Kununurra

The commemorative ceremony and unveiling of the new interpretive panel will take place at the Swim Beach and has been set down for 10.30 am to 11.15am for the commemorative ceremony. From 11.15am to 12 noon will be a conducted walk across the Ord River Diversion Dam. From 12 noon to 1.15 pm will be a light lunch for invited guests. At 2pm the Kununurra Museum will be opened to the public.

Finalisation of the HSNT Field Trip 26-28 July (Darwin Show Day Weekend)

Due to difficulties with permits and permissions, there has been a slight deviation of plan.

A flyer with more detailed information will be sent out soon.

July 26 Friday (Darwin Show Day) – Evening –

Meet at the Timber Creek Roadhouse/camping ground. The Roadhouse offers both camping and cabin accommodation. Meals can be obtained in the dining room

For those early birds, there will be a mini Timber Creek tour starting around 1pm. The tour will take in the Parks & Wildlife little museum, the pioneer cemetery where Matt Wilson (storekeeper for many years) and Charlie Schultz (who formed Bullita Station) are buried. There is the lonely stockman's grave who committed suicide, Augustus Gregory's initialed boob tree and the old police station.

July 27 Saturday morning -

Visit Reg & Enid Durack's old place at Stewart's Yard and Burt Drew's (donkey teamster of the bygone days) stone huts on Kildurk Station.

Camp at Timothy Kinivan's Yard, near the boundaries of Rosewood and Kildurk Stations

July 28 Sunday morning –

Drive west to Rosewood Station, then down the Duncan to the old Argyle Police Station.

Camp at Kim & Ruth Walker's, Zebra Rock Mine at the north end of the Duncan Highway.
Cost \$10 per site

July 29 Monday

Intrepidors could either return to Darwin or take the optional extra of a boat trip on Lake Argyle with Kim Walker to see the old Lissadell Station which has been uncovered due to the lack of the usual rainfall over the last two wet seasons. The boat will depart around 8-9am (boat people can agree on a departure time) from our camp site. Allow up to 7 hours for the boat trip. Cost p/p has been reduced to \$120 for our group.

The HSNT thanks the Kununurra Historical Society, Wendy "Wonderwoman" Carter for all the work and reccie runs that she and Andrew Barker have done to organise this great trip.

Janie Mason and Ruth Kerr are seeking a third person to join them. If you wish to come along and are prepared to share 4WD rental & petrol costs etc.. contact Janie on phone: 89450691 ah or mobile: 0408894588 email: Janie.Mason@cdu.edu.au

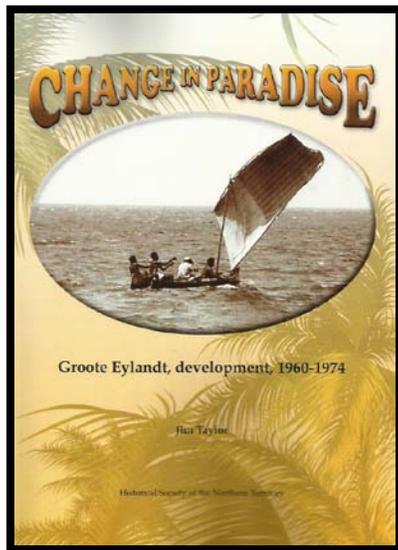


Tim Kinivan's grave.
Photograph provided by Wendy Carter



Augustus Gregory's Tree inscribed
2 July 1856. Gregory established a camp
on the Victoria River in 1855

**Sunday 21 July at Christ Church Cathedral at 11am –
Book Launch of *Change in Paradise: Groote Eylandt Development, 1960-1974***



Anglican Priest, Jim Taylor moved to the Territory in 1960 with his family to work for the Church Missionary Society. He served as the superintendent of the CMS Mission at Angurugu, Groote Eylandt for nearly 14 years. He then served in other regions of the Territory, retired in 2002 and moved to Denmark, Western Australia.

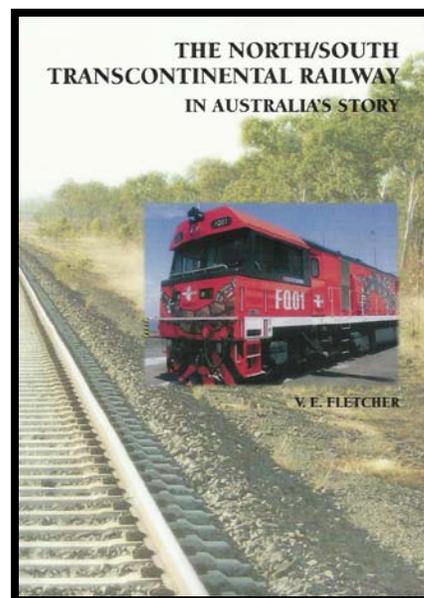
Jim's book is about his early days in Groote Eylandt, his friendship with the local people, living in the community and the development of the town – a supermarket, essential services, an aerial tower, a new bridge and mining.

The launch will be held at Christ Church Cathedral corner of Smith and the Esplanade and Jim's book will be launched by Bishop Greg Thompson. The book will be on sale for \$25.

**Tuesday 6 August at Darwin Railway Station at 6pm –
Book Launch – *The North/South Transcontinental Railway in Australia's Story***

Dr Val Fletcher nee Snell was born in Darwin in 1923 and raised here. She was among those evacuated from Darwin just before the bombing of Darwin. Because secondary education opportunities were limited in the Territory, Val moved to Queensland to complete her Master of Arts and her Doctorate. She later returned to Darwin to be with her daughter and family.

Val's book takes us back to the very first idea of a north/south railway when South Australia administrated the Territory. Her book then takes us through the many aborted dreams of a north south railway and the governments at the time – to finally in 2004, when the dream was realised with the arrival of the Ghan in Darwin.



The book will be launched by Clare Martin who was Chief Minister when the first north/south train finally arrived in Darwin. The launch will be held at the Darwin Railway Station with the Ghan as the backdrop to this wonderful occasion. The book will be on sale for \$35.

For catering purposes, please RSVP the Historical Society by email or phone by Friday 2 August if you wish to attend.

3 – 28 July 2013 Exhibition - The Document that created the Northern Territory at the NT Library

On 6 July 1863, a document assented to by Queen Victoria created the Northern Territory as we know it today. It placed a vast area of northern Australia under the administration of South Australia, and led to permanent European settlement in the Northern Territory.

The document was formally known as the *Letters Patent annexing the Northern Territory to South Australia 1863*. This exhibition tells the story of the Letters Patent and includes a replica of the document.

This exhibition has been produced by Heritage Branch (Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment) in collaboration with the Northern Territory Library.

8 July – 25 August - NAIDOC Week – Darren Clarke Exhibition At the NT Library

NAIDOC celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The Northern Territory Library is celebrating NAIDOC this year with an exhibition of photographs by Darren Clarke. Darren Clarke's work attempts to gather knowledge about what it means to be Indigenous in the Northern Territory by capturing aspects of daily life.

The exhibition features photographs which open a window into the many and varied activities of communities across the Territory and provide a greater sense of place, culture and character of Indigenous people.

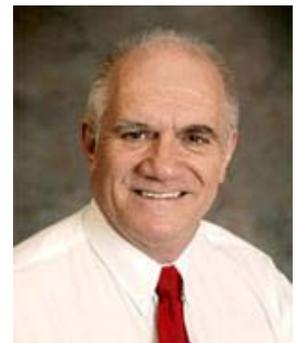
IMAGE: Bobby Bunnunggurr Oenpelli Stone Country Festival 2011 Arnhem Land NT



Wednesday 24 July 5:15pm - The Hon Grant Tambling AM 40 Years of CLP - Crisis or Challenge? at the NT Library

Grant Tambling was elected to the first Northern Territory Legislative Assembly as the Country Liberal Party (CLP) member for Fannie Bay in 1974, and later to both the House of Representatives in 1980 and the Australian Senate in 1987. After retiring from politics, he was appointed as the Administrator of Norfolk Island from 2003 to 2007.

Mr Tambling's talk seeks to answer questions such as; Are there good lessons and bad highlights from the last 40 years of politics? What's in store for politics over the next 40 years? Is a mid-life crisis upon us and does life really 'begin at 40'? How should the maturity of Indigenous Politics be recognised?



Marking the Centenary of the Kahlin Compound 1913-1938

14, 15, 21 & 22 August - Kahlin Sunset History trail

Starting at 5.30 to 6.30pm on these dates, Robbie Mills, Larrakia guide, will be conducting walking tours of the site which compulsorily housed Aboriginal children. The old Kahlin site is at the corner of Lambell Terrace and Kahlin Avenue, Myilly Point.

Wednesday 14 August

At the old Kahlin site at 1pm, Charlie King (ABC radio) Ted Egan (past NT Administrator), Kath Mills (singer and song writer), Barbara Raymond and Kahlin family representatives will tell stories and hold a sing-along to acknowledge this significant part of Darwin's history.

Do you reminisce about the good old days socialising in the Hotel Darwin? – interviewees are needed for a film

Liam Carroll, wants to make a short film to enter into the Northern Territory's "First Full of Films" short film competition this year. He is a part time freelance photographer and aspiring artist and cinematographer, see his web site www.williamcarroll.com.au for more information. He has lived in the Territory since 1987 originally in Alice Springs and moved to Darwin with my family in 1997. He currently work as a Business Manager with the City of Darwin.

Liam needs six to eight interviewees to express the loss they felt when the Hotel Darwin was dramatically removed from their lives. Any film footage or photographs, particularly of the interior and the Green Room would also be appreciated. The film will help promote heritage values in the Territory and lament the loss of such a wonderful "tropical presence" (even spirit) the Hotel Darwin possessed. He wants to do this project not only for artistic reasons but because something special was lost when the hotel was destroyed. If you are keen to be involved, Liam can be contacted on 0405 186 997 or via email: william@williamcarroll.com.au

Congratulations to members, Trevor Horman AM and Dr Ruth Kerr

Trevor Horman AM

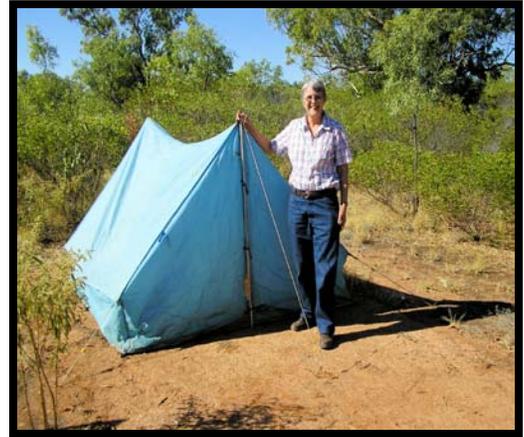


Congratulations to Trevor Horman who has been recognised for outstanding achievement and service within the community by being awarded the Member of the Order of Australia (AM). This honour is in recognition of his significant service to the Northern Territory, in particular through heritage preservation, the motor racing industry and the engineering profession.

Among many other committees, Trevor serves on the Engineers Australia, Northern Division, the Engineering Heritage Australia Board, the NT National Trust and he founded the Friends of the North Australian Railway. Trevor and his dedicated team of volunteers were instrumental in saving the Adelaide River Railway Station from ruin. The Station and its grounds are now a starring asset of the Territory's heritage. Trevor is keen saving and restoring the Territory's heritage, particularly the remnants of the North Australian railway and the overland telegraph.

Dr Ruth Kerr

HSNT Queensland member, Dr Kerr was recently awarded the John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction for her outstanding work on Queensland history and heritage.



Ruth with her vintage 1974 tent at Victoria River Station

Ash Dally

Ash is one of our long time members who is currently in hospital with a serious illness. We wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him back soon at one of our regular functions.

2 July 2013 Chief Minister's - Northern Territory History Book Award Ceremony at Parliament House

Nine entries were received this year, with the following titles shortlisted:

- Jennifer ISAACS - *Tiwi: art, history, culture*
- Darrell LEWIS - *A Wild History: life and death on the Victoria River frontier*
- Jane LYDON - *The Flash of Recognition: photography and the emergence of indigenous rights*
- Noah RISEMAN - *Defending Whose Country? : Indigenous soldiers in the Pacific War*

Congratulations to Darrell Lewis and Jennifer Isaacs who won jointly



From left: Peter Styles, MLA Sanderson, Jennifer Isaacs, Adam Giles, NT Chief Minister & Darrell Lewis



The HSNT and Professional Historians Association were well represented at the function.

From left: Dr Steve Farram, Dr Bev Phelts, Alan Davis, Dr Wendy Beresford-Maning and Dr Samantha Wells