

## **Historical Society of the Northern Territory**

**Patron:** The Hon Austin Asche AC

### **NEWSLETTER JUNE 2012 NO: 57**

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### **President's Report by Dr Brian Reid**

The Society has successfully moved its base to Magistrate's House, Myilly Point Heritage Precinct, and is settling in well. We now have a little more time to confront two issues that will shape the Society over the next few years. The first deals with our lecture series. It is under review and one of the options is to join with like minded organizations about us to make it a bigger and better publicised event. More modern ways of recording and publishing the lectures will also be considered.

The other issue concerns our need to engage with the various forms of social media to expand and provide a more suitable service to members. The development we are cutting our teeth upon at the moment is eBook publication to augment our book printing activities. We are currently working out how best to do this so some decisions can be made over the next month or so.

I would like to add my congratulations to Society Councilor, Professor Alan Powell, for the well deserved recognition of his fine book, *Northern Voyagers*. It is a comprehensive account of an under recognized part of Australia's history.

The Society is very pleased to have finally published the huge manuscript of the late Edward (Ted) Street, *Distant Settlements: Convicts in remote Australia*. It will be an important reference work for many years to come. We are very pleased Professor Don Garden, President of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies, has agreed to launch the book in Darwin at the time of the Federation's Annual General Meeting in July.

### **Australian Generations Oral History Project**

In a new national project, historians at Monash and La Trobe Universities, in partnership with ABC Radio National and the National Library of Australia, are collecting life story interviews with generations of Australians born from the 1920s to the 1980s.

We are currently seeking participants across Australia.

We are interested in the life stories of all Australians – rural and urban, male, female and transgender, the recently arrived and people whose families have lived in Australia for generations. We'd like to record stories about everyday life. What have been the turning points in your life? How have families and friendships changed over time? Have faith and belief become more or less significant to you and your family? What technologies have come and gone, and how has that affected your life at home, work and play? Where do you have a sense of belonging? Do you feel part of an Australian generation?

Project leader, Professor Alistair Thomson of the Department of History, Monash University believes the project will fill an important research gap.

“There is general agreement that generational differences in cultural ‘taste’ and resources affect social change, and are significant in conflict and cohesion as well as in mobility and value transmission, but these differences and their consequences have rarely been analysed in any detail.” People can register their interest in participating by phone, email, online or in writing:

PHONE: (03) 9905 2206

EMAIL: kate.e.james@monash.edu

ONLINE: go to [www.arts.monash.edu.au/australian-generations](http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/australian-generations) and click on the orange headphones

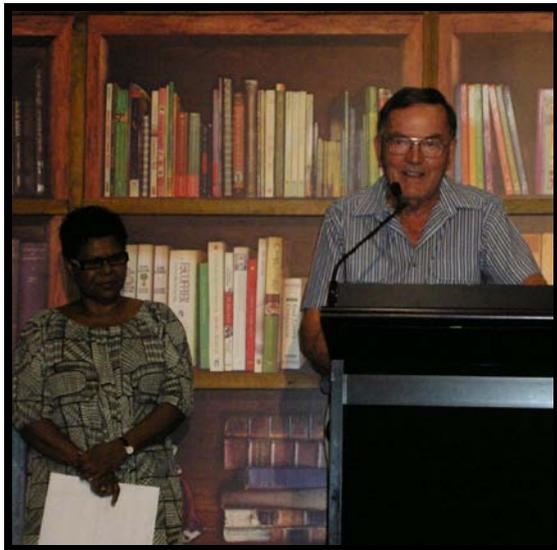
WRITE: Australian Generations Oral History Project, Department of History, Building 11, Level 6, Monash University, Clayton Campus, VICTORIA 3800

### **Background**

Funded by an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant, *Australian Generations* is one of Australia’s most ambitious oral history projects, and will pioneer new ways of creating, interpreting and presenting our life stories. These interviews will provide a unique snap-shot of historical change in Australia throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> and into the 21st century, and will be used by the research team in written histories and in a series of ABC Radio National history programs. The interviews will then be lodged with the National Library of Australia’s permanent online oral history collection.

### **Territory Read: NT Book of the Year Award held at Parliament House on 10 May 2012**

Congratulations to Historical Society Council Member, Professor Alan Powell on winning two awards – Best Adult Non-Fiction Book and the Chief Minister’s Territory Read NT Book of the Year for his book titled *Northern Voyages: Australia’s Monsoon Coast in Maritime History*

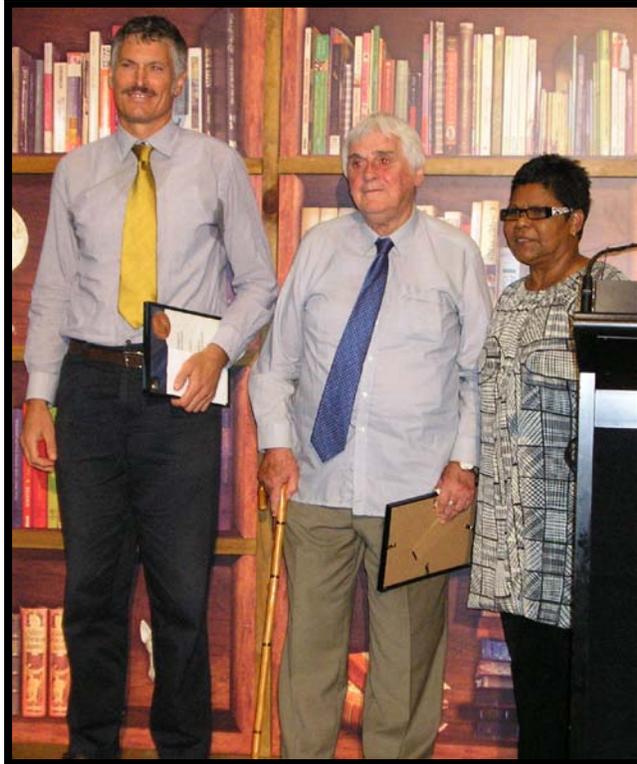


Alan Powell was presented with his awards by Marion Scrymgour, Member for Arafura.

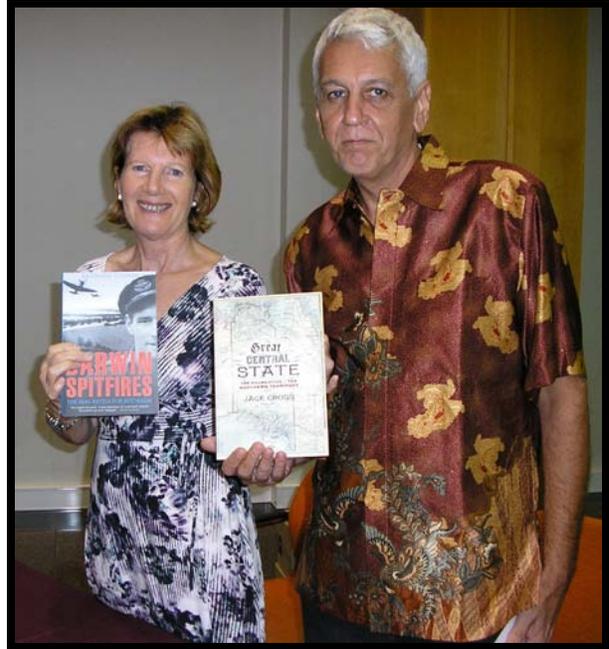


## The Chief Minister's Northern Territory History Book Award

Entries are judged by their originality, depth of research, contribution to Territory history, readability, structure, style and presentation. This year, the Award had joint winners - Anthony Cooper, a Brisbane schoolteacher for his book *Darwin Spitfires* and South Australian, Professor Jack Cross for his book, *Great Central State*.



Marion Scrymgour presented Anthony Cooper and Jack Cross with their awards



Bev Phelts and Steve Farram with the winning books



Actor and author, William McInnes, Patron of National Year of Reading 2012

## International Nurses' Day and Top End Nurses book launch held on 12 May

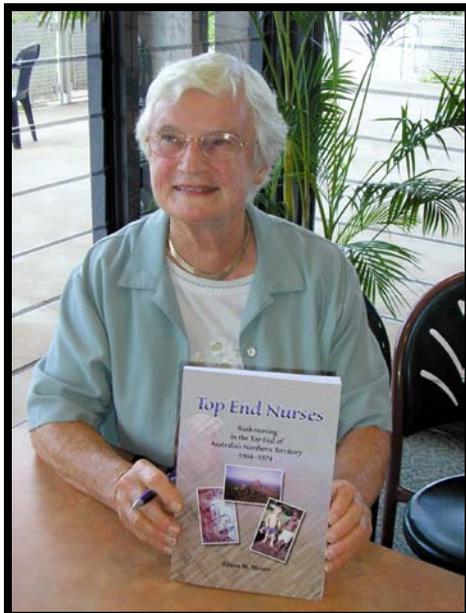
About 70 people turned up to see the opening of the *Art and Story - Closing the Gap* exhibition and to see the launch of Jill Moore's book. The book contains Jullian's stories of bush nursing in Arnhem Land 1964-1974 with the Anglican Church Missionary Society and then with the Commonwealth Department of Health. The new exhibition was opened by Kon Vatskalis, Minister for Health.



Charles Darwin University Vice-Chancellor, Barney Glover addresses the audience.



Kon Vatskalis MLA, Minister for Health opening the exhibition



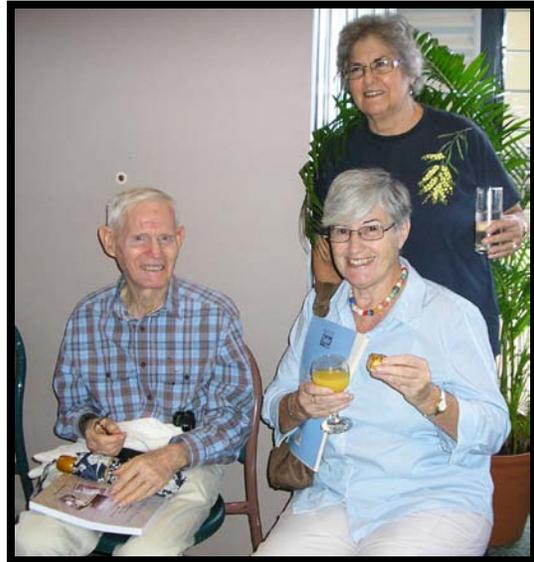
Author, Jillian Moore with her book



Queuing for book signing



Jackie O'Brien and Jillian Moore



Reg Wilson, Julie Mastin and Janie Mason



Richard Moore (Jillian's brother) & Jillian with the Northern Territory Administrator, Sally Thomas



Dr Tom Lewis, Alderman Alan Mitchell, Earl & Wendy James & Alderman Gary Lambert representing the Darwin Lord Mayor



Dr Tom Lewis, Dr Brian Reid and Senator Trish Crossin



Professor Sharon Bell, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Associate Professor Peter Brown School of Health, Associate Professor Carol Thorogood School of Health, Professor Sue Carthew Pro Vice Chancellor, Faculty of Engineering, Science, Health & Environment

### **Contributions to the newsletter**

If any members are working on a history/heritage project, or have any history news/events to tell, we would like to hear about it and perhaps include it in our newsletter.

Please email articles/photographs to the HSNT. Email: [historicalsocietynt@yahoo.com.au](mailto:historicalsocietynt@yahoo.com.au)

### **Vale Nancy Giese AO OBE MBE**

Nan who moved to Darwin in 1954, passed away this month at the age of 90. Among many attributes, she was a great advocate of education and a passionate art and culture enthusiast – a supporter behind the Darwin Sympathy Orchestra and the Darwin Entertainment Centre.

She was honoured for her work. She was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire, an Officer of the Order of the British Empire, and Officer of the Order of Australia, the Centenary Medal and the Administrators Medal.