



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

**Patron:** The Hon Austin Asche AC

### **NEWSLETTER JUNE 2013 NO: 66**

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

Whilst Centralia is rather wet, it looks like the Top End has finally entered the dry.; cool nights and mornings, sunny days. This is the time of the year we all try and find excuses to 'go bush'. That yearning is very much part of the history of North Australia and the identity we tend to layer it with.

This year, and thanks once again to the 'recky' work of Wendy Carter in Kununurra, the Historical Society ventures down the beautiful Duncan Road for its field trip, show weekend in late July. The area, as well as landscape and rivers, is steeped in Aboriginal history, contact history and the fluctuating fortunes of the cattle industry. But a new layer has been added, Lake Argyle and the proposed extension of the irrigation scheme into the Northern Territory. Field trips have been a central activity of the Society from its beginnings and I hope as many who are able will join us.

### **Forthcoming Events**

#### **Friday 28 June – National Trust & Historical Society Talk at Burnett House – 5.30 for a 6pm start**

The Honourable Sally Thomas AM, Administrator of the Northern Territory will speak on "Celebrating 150 years since the South Australia Letters Patent transferred the Northern Territory to South Australia"

\$2 sausage sizzle after the lecture at 7pm. Bar will be open at 5.30pm.

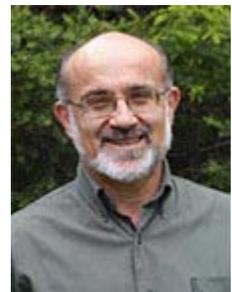
Entry \$2 for members and \$5 for non members

Members and guests are reminded that food and drink cannot be taken inside Burnett House

#### **Monday 24 June 5:15pm – Dr William Emilsen on *Our Uniting Heritage; Celebrating church partnerships across the centuries***

Dr Emilsen is a Senior Lecturer at Charles Sturt University. He has researched and created the exhibition of Poignant's photos from National Library of Australia collections and is currently writing a commissioned history of Waruwi (South Goulburn Island) Aboriginal community in Arnhem Land.

The talk will be held at the NT Library



**Wednesday 27 June 5:15pm - Dr Daniel Marshall - President Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives (ALGA) *The Queer History Slideshow***

Dr Marshall is an academic at Deakin University. His work unites with ALGA, who have been collecting Australian queer historical materials since 1978. This year the Archives celebrates its 35th Anniversary. His presentation of struggle and celebration is based on the Queer Youth Education Project, and is an entertaining, engaging slideshow of images from the Archives.



ALGA is collecting material across four key priority areas, including content from the Northern Territory, items pertaining to Indigenous Australians, and trans- and genderqueer materials. The Slideshow will be an opportunity to come and contribute ideas to this expanding work.

ALGA's historical records reflect the significant social change which has occurred as a result of the gay rights movement and the Slideshow is a fascinating look at a unique collection.

The talk will be held at the NT Library

**20 July – Jubilee Celebrations of the Ord River Stage 1**

Engineering Heritage WA (EHWA) have nominated the Ord River Diversion Dam for an Engineering Heritage Recognition Award and since January, the President of the Kununurra Historical Society (KHS), Andrew Barker, has been working on behalf of KHS, with former Diversion Dam Engineer, Don Young, of EHWA, towards a July 20th 2013 commemorative ceremony. The Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley and the Water Corporation of WA have agreed to support EHWA for this event.

KHS have provided photographs of the Diversion Dam construction, between 1960 and 1963, from KHS archival collections as well as assistance and advice for the history for the interpretive panel. The new heritage panel is to be unveiled on the day mentioned, being 50 years since the commemorative ceremony for the official opening of the Ord River Irrigation Project Stage I at the Ord River Diversion Dam, on July 20th 1963, by then Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies.

Although events are not finalised yet, it is likely to be a mid-morning ceremony and open to the public. The Kununurra Museum will also be open after the ceremony.

**HSNT Field Trip 26-28 July (Darwin Show Day Weekend)**

Wendy Carter, committee member of the Kununurra Historical Society, will be leading our field trip this year. It is planned to camp on Nicholson Station and do a number of day trips to the surrounding area. Some suggestions from Wendy are a visit to the old Ord River Station and cemetery, Nelson Springs and Inverway Station.

Members wishing to go on the field trip may also consider leaving earlier to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the Ord River Stage 1.

Singles/doubles looking for a ride and willing to share costs - we can try and find you a share 4WD. Itinerary and details will be available around mid June. If you are interested in coming on the trip, please email the Historical Society with your details.

**24 August - Government House Open Day**

Government House will be open to the public on Saturday 24 August from 2pm to 7pm. The Historical Society will be holding a book stall on open day and we look forward to catching up with members.

## **An Interstate Event in Perth –**

### **3-8 October 2013 - Empire, faith and conflict conference, Fremantle WA**

On the eve of the centenary of the Great War, the World History Association and the Australian Historical Association have combined forces to deliver this unique event which will consider the intersection of empire, faith and conflict in world history. The University of Notre Dame Australia is proud to host this event on its Fremantle campus.

Proposals for conference papers, panels and posters are now welcome. Papers are invited from scholars and postgraduate students of all historical traditions, periods and genres, including the Ancient, Medieval and Modern ages. Session themes might include (but are not limited to) imperialism; science and faith; mission; church history; military history; gender studies; colonisation and post-colonialism; trans-national, regional and national histories; historiography; art, artefacts and visual evidence; strategy, security, terrorism and diplomacy; faith in war; and myth and legend. Registration is now open. For more information, [www.nd.edu.au/events/wha](http://www.nd.edu.au/events/wha)

### **Volunteers Are Urgently Needed**

Help is needed to set up for our monthly lectures and clean up after. If we are to continue with these joint lectures, we are taking on quite a commitment and cannot rely on the Larrakeyah Branch to continue to carry it alone. The Historical Society NT is calling now urgently for some regular volunteers for these monthly joint lectures.

The jobs for each lecture are: move chairs into Burnett House, drinks – ensure cold, serve food – sausages out of freezer, cut up/buy onions, cook, set up for lecturer – laptop, projector, support for lecturer, chairs back to shed, wash up & lock up

You don't need to volunteer every month – casual help is gladly accepted.

Can you help? Volunteers urgently needed now please!

Contact Janie Mason on 8946 6385 or [janie.mason@cdu.edu.au](mailto:janie.mason@cdu.edu.au)

### **The National Trust is also seeking volunteers**

The National Trust is a community based volunteer organisation. The Larrakeyah Branch of the Trust has its Headquarters in Burnett House which is situated at 4 Burnett Place Larrakeyah. Larrakeyah Branch holds fund raising events to help maintain and preserve National Trust properties throughout the Northern Territory. We are looking for volunteers who are prepared to help out on a Sunday Afternoon from 2.20 till about 5.30 to assist in running our 'Afternoon Tea at Burnett House' fund raiser. Even if you can only help out once a month or once a year – we want to hear from you. Our volunteers are a great crowd of people of all age groups. Perhaps you are new to The Territory – come along and have a fun afternoon, meet new friends and help preserve our Past for future generations. We consider our volunteers to be without price. Contact Anna on 89816400 or come and see us at Burnett House

### **NT Archives are Moving**

Between June and September 2013, the Northern Territory Archives Service will be relocating from its premises in Cavenagh Street, Darwin, to the archives building already occupied by the National Archives of Australia - Kelsey Crescent, Milner.

Both archives will operate from this one location.

As archive collections are progressively moved, there will be disruptions to face-to-face reference services.

If you have any queries regarding reference disruptions or the relocation, please contact [nt.archives@nt.gov.au](mailto:nt.archives@nt.gov.au), phone NTAS (08) 8924 7653, or phone NAA (08) 8985 0300.

## The Opening of the Clyde Fenton Gallery, Katherine Museum on 9 May

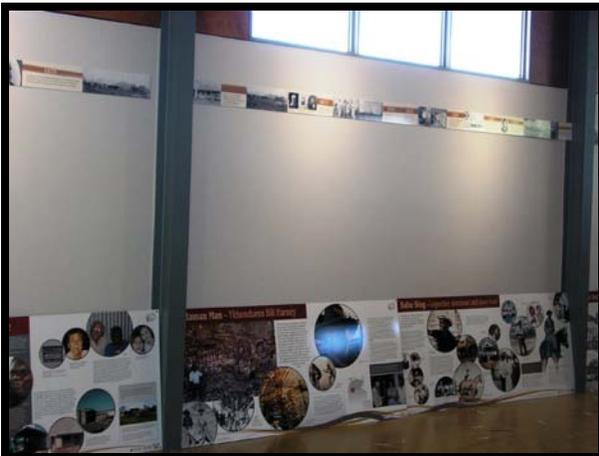
The new Gallery was opened by Fay Miller, Katherine Mayor, Minister Willem Westra van Holthe, MLA for Katherine and Warren Snowdon MP, Member for Lingiari. Before the official opening was held, a few Historical Society members managed to get a sneak peak of the new Gallery and the completion of the final touches.



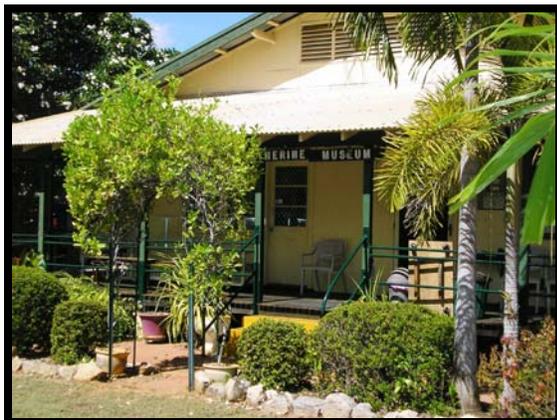
The new Gallery



Moving Clyde Fenton's Tiger Moth into place



Information on characters of Katherine to be mounted on the side walls



Katherine Museum

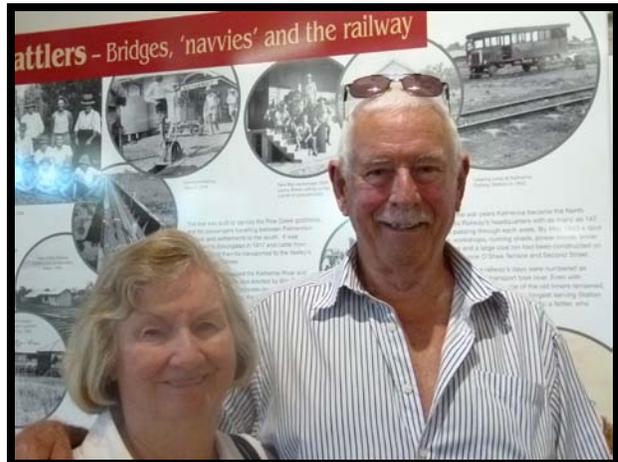


The Fenton Memorial Hangar



Warren Snowdon MP, Member for Lingiari, Fay Miller, Katherine Mayor & Minister Willem Westra van Holthe, MLA for Katherine

Photo courtesy Katherine Museum



Contributors to the Gallery, Valmai & Robert Scott

Photo courtesy Katherine Museum



Simmons Croft, past manager of the Museum; Minister Westra van Holthe & Fay Miller

Photo courtesy Katherine Museum



David Laugher (KTC) & John MacNamara, (Katherine Historical Society)

Photo courtesy Katherine Museum

## International Nurses' Day on 13 May 2013 at CDU

Charles Darwin University's Nursing Museum celebrated International Nurses' Day and retired nurses with guests from the University and the Historical Society of NT, Larrakeyah Branch of the National Trust, University of the Third Age [U3A] and Museums Australia NT. This annual celebration of the birthday of Florence Nightingale [12<sup>th</sup> May] is an opportunity for the Nursing Museum to celebrate nursing and nurses. This year the theme of the exhibition was "Thirty years of tertiary nursing studies and Twenty-five years of tertiary pre-registration nursing studies" – from Darwin Community College to Charles Darwin University".

One of the speakers, Kon Vatskalis, MLA Casuarina, a long time supporter of the Nursing Museum spoke movingly of nursing and the story of nurses in his life.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor for Community Engagement and Law, Education, Business and Arts, Professor Giselle Byrnes introduced the speakers and spoke of being an historian and appreciation of the role the Nursing Museum in developing to be a keeping place of nursing stories and artefacts



Among the guests were Brian Reid and Earl James of the Historical Society NT and Judy Richardson and Julie Mastin of Larrakeyah Branch of National Trust



Retired nurses, Gloria Gopal and Rosie Johnson with Beryl McEwen, CDU staff



CDU staff - Janie Mason (HSNT), CDU Nursing Museum, Professor Giselle Byrnes, PVC and Professor Rose McEldowney, Head of School of Health Sciences



Sue Carthew with Katrina Fong Lim, Darwin Lord Mayor and Kon Vatskalis, MLA

International Nurses Day photographs courtesy Janie Mason

## Launch of *Is There Anyone Alive in There?: Darwin Cyclone Tracy* at the Darwin Council Chambers

About 100 people attended Dr Ella Stack's launch of her new book. The book was launched by the Darwin Mayor, Katrina Fong Lim who had us all in fits of laughter with stories from the 1970s.



Ella as Lord Mayor c.1975



Ella speaking about her book



HSNT Patron Austin Asche, HSNT members, Grant Tambling & Alan Powell



Ella Stack & Brian Reid



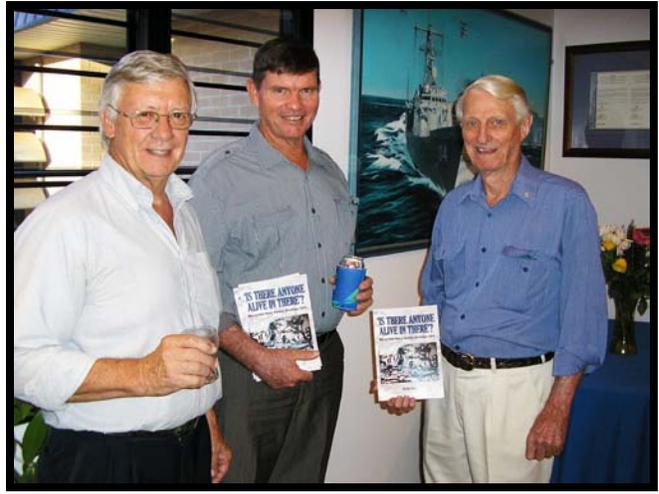
Egbert Ludorf & Renate Mohrbach



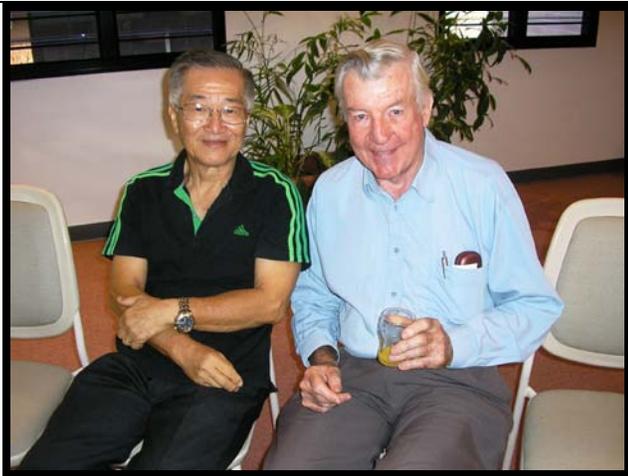
HSNT members, Judy Boland & Lyn Reid



HSNT members, Kevin & Rita Cluley and Alderman Alan Mitchell



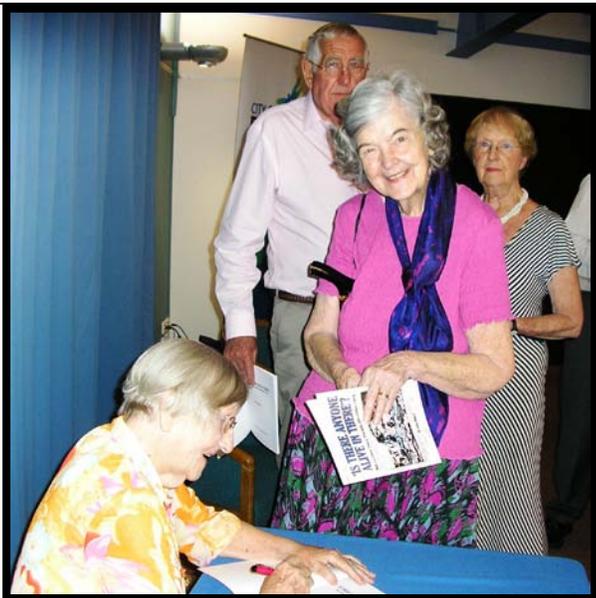
Trevor Horman, Derwent Wilson & Earl James



Dr T T Lee & Brian Reid



The queue for book signing



Dr Val Asche queuing to get her book signed



HSNT member, Jo Leahy