



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

**Patron:** The Hon Austin Asche AC

### **NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2012 NO: 62**

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

2012 has been a successful and constructive year for the Society. We have published several books which sell well, including the late Ted Street's substantial manuscript, *Distant Settlements*. Our journal, the Society's flag ship, under the joint editorship of Alan Powell and Clayton Fredericksen, has been broadened to include relevant Northern Territory archaeology. Our Newsletter, inspired by our roving reporter Bev Phelts, continues to be very well received.

The Society, somewhat nervously, has entered into the world of social media. Our Facebook site is developing well under the watchful eyes of Matthew Stephen, Clayton Fredericksen and Ted Whiteaker. Finally our move into the heritage precinct at Myilly Point has worked well. Along with NT National Trust we will, in the new year, move from Magistrates House to Audit House and we will settle into a long term working arrangement there.

The Society's lecture programme has been in recess for most of this year while we thought through a better way forward. After extended discussions with the Larrakeyah branch of the National Trust we will mounting a joint lecture programme at the Heritage Precinct in 2013. Very appropriately, Elizabeth Close, CEO of National Trust NT will kick start the lecture series for next year. We anticipate this new arrangement will create a more comfortable organisation and better attendance for the series.

I wish all members a very merry Christmas.

### **Forthcoming Events**

#### **26th Eric Johnston Lecture - Thursday 6 December 6:00pm**

At the NT Library -

Prominent Darwin historian, Dr Mickey Dewar will deliver the lecture this year. Her theme will be the social history of the development of the whole of the Northern Territory, noting the contribution of particular families, industries and business enterprises, and is closely related to the Remembering Territory Families exhibition.

#### **Annual Memorial Service for Inspector Paul Foelsche – Thursday 31 January 5.00pm**

The Darwin Masonic Lodge will be holding its annual short Memorial Service Paul Foelsche who was the first NT Police Inspector. Foelsche died on 31 January 1914.



Paul Heinrich Matthias Foelsche (1831-1914) was born near Hamburg, Germany. At age 18 he enlisted in a German Hussar Regiment and migrated to South Australia when he was 25. In November 1856 he was appointed trooper third class in the Mounted Police. He was transferred to Strathalbyn where on 5 January 1860 he married Charlotte Georgina Smith. While at Strathalbyn he was appointed sub-inspector in charge of the newly-formed NT Mounted Police. In January 1870 he arrived in the NT where he spent his remaining years apart from brief visits to Adelaide in 1884 and China in 1897.

After establishing a home in Palmerston (Darwin) Foelsche sent for his wife and two daughters. Foelsche not only became a respected policeman and citizen he became a renowned photographer. His photography became a primary pictorial record of Aborigines, scenery and in particular, John McDouall Stuart's engraved tree at Pt Stuart. Foelsche also won repute as a dentist and he had a large collection of the best dental instruments. A man of many talents, he was also an amateur botanist, anthropologist and a Freemason. He was a founding member of the Port Darwin Lodge which was named after him. He retired from the police force in January 1904, and was awarded the Imperial Service Order.

The service will be held on Thursday 31 January in the Pioneer Cemetery, Goyder Road, Darwin at 5.00pm. Light refreshments will be served after the service in the Masonic Hall adjacent to the cemetery. There is parking at the rear of the Hall with entry from Stokes Street, Parap.

#### **National Trust & Historical Society talk - Friday 22 February**

5.30pm for a 6pm start in Burnett House.

Elizabeth Close, CEO of National Trust NT will be talking about the history of the Myilly Point Precinct and the National Trust's future relocation into Audit House, (Nan Giese's home)

#### **1920s-1970s Moving Memories - A Film on Life in the Territory and AGM - Saturday 23 March**

At the NT Library

The Society will be holding a film afternoon in conjunction with the Northern Territory Library on Saturday 23 March. The HSNT will hold its AGM at 5.15pm and the film will follow at 5.30pm.

The film titled *From the Red Centre to the Top End* is a compilation of footage drawn from newsreels and documentaries covering a 50 year period. The film was produced by the National Film and Sound Archive.

The film features Darwin in 1926 and during World War Two, Alice Springs during the 1930s, early days in Tennant Creek, Hermannsburg Mission in 1947, Rum Jungle during the 1950s, Katherine during the 1960s, Cyclone Tracy 1974. Other highlights include outback festivals, regattas and rodeos. The film will run for 85 minutes. Refreshments will be served after the film.

Cost is \$20 p/p. For catering purposes, RSVP will be needed by 20 March.

Contact Bev Phelts on 0487 413 709, or by email: [historicalsocietynt@yahoo.com.au](mailto:historicalsocietynt@yahoo.com.au)

## Photographs of old Darwin and beyond – June

In June, the Society is planning to hold a “wine and cheese” afternoon in the grounds of Burnett House. The occasion will include background music from 1930s-1950s records (78s) played on a gramophone. A highlight of the afternoon will be a powerpoint presentation of digitised photographs of old Darwin and beyond. They will be photographs of buildings, activities, events, landscapes or of Territorians.

If members have any such old photographs and a burning desire to show them off, please get them out and dust them off! Arrangements can be made to have them digitised. A must however, is that the photos are identified by the year, and if applicable, building, persons and place. Contact Bev Phelts and she will collect them, digitise them and return them back to you.

## The Launch of Speak For Yourself

*Speak For Yourself: Eight Chief Ministers Reflect on Northern Territory Self-Government* written by Professor Clare Martin and HSNT member, Dr Mickey Dewar was launched by Chief Minister, Terry Mills at Parliament House on 31 October. The launch was attended by around 200 people and the “whose who” of Darwin. Past Chief Ministers, Paul Henderson, Steve Hatton and Denis Burke were among some of the prominent guests. The book was very sought after and the queue for the authors’ autographs seemed endless.



The book launched by Chief Minister Terry Mills



Dr Mickey Dewar and past Chief Minister, Professor Clare Martin



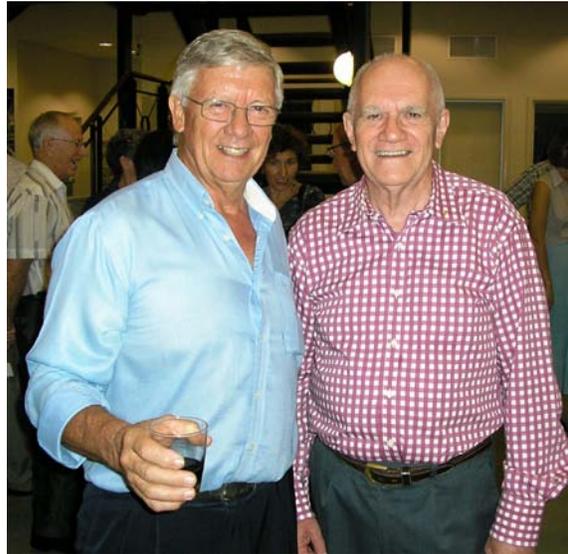
From left: Paul Henderson, Terry Mills, Steve Hatton & Denis Burke



The audience



Clare Martin & Mickey Dewar book signing



Trevor Horman and past CLP Member of the Australian Senate for the NT, Grant Tambling



From left: past Labor Minister, Kon Vatskalis, past Chief Minister, Steve Hatton & Charles Darwin University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Barney Glover



HSNT member, Judy Richardson & Kay Goon standing in the queue to get their books signed



HSNT members, Alan Powell, Kathy Dela Rue & Wendy James in the book signing queue.



Author, Dr Mickey Dewar & Steve Hatton

## History Colloquium, Saturday 10 November at the MAGNT Theatrette

Historians from the Professional Historians Association, Charles Darwin University and the Australian National University covered a range of topics from sheep farming in NSW to Australian peacekeepers to the work of Reverent John Flynn. About 80 people attended the lively talks throughout the day.



HSNT members, Ash Dally, Judy Boland & Alan Mitchell



Australian National University student, Isabella Bruckback with HSNT members, Rita & Kevin Cluley



At lunch. From left: Pat & Alan Davis, Michelle Smith, MAGNT, Mickey Dewar, Sam Wells, Alan Powell & David Carment



Professional Historian Association NT members, Steve Farram, Alan Davis & Wendy Beresford-Maning

## Vale Pat Forster

At the grand age of 92, Pat slipped away in the early hours of 8 November in Alice Springs. Pat served in the Navy in Darwin between 1941 and 1943. His book, *The Navy in Darwin*, published by the Historical Society, was based on his experiences during those years and covers the bombing of Darwin.

## Christmas Brunch – Sunday 25 November

Earl and Wendy James' home was again a very popular venue to hold our annual brunch. It was so popular this year that we had a waiting list.



Clayton Fredericksen & Julie Mastin



Jane & Ted Whiteaker



Anne Zerafa, Wendy James, Mario Zerafa, Kath & Graham McMahon



Michael Nicholls & Ash Dally



Rita Cluley & Judy Boland



Ron Ninnis, Penny Baird & Margie Roe

## News from the Federated Australian Historical Societies from Dr Helen Henderson [www.history.org.au](http://www.history.org.au)

### Election of office bearers

The bi-annual election of office bearers was held at the AGM in Darwin in July. Dr Ruth Kerr (Royal Queensland Historical Society), who was President from 2001 to 2004 was re-elected to that office. Two RWHS delegates are on the Executive – Nick Drew as Hon. Treasurer and Helen Henderson as Hon. Secretary. The Immediate Past President, Associate-Professor Don Garden (Royal Historical Society of Victoria), will continue to be actively involved and has taken on the special role of Advocacy Officer. The meeting coincided with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of John McDouall's crossing of the continent.

### Promoting the interests of historical societies

During his presidency, Don Garden has worked hard to improve the image of historical societies, heritage and history in the eyes of federal politicians of all parties as well as relevant bureaucrats and you will be pleased to know that the Federation is now recognised by the federal government as one of the principal bodies representing and promoting cultural heritage in Australia. This has given us the opportunity to represent our constituents at the highest level, particularly with regard to promoting the importance of government support for movable heritage. Unfortunately, this was not reflected in a government funding. The Federation suffered a 23% reduction in its GVESH Program grant which is making our ability to expand our activities very difficult since we are not in a position to extend our part-time Executive Officer's hours.

### Cultural Heritage Portal

The Federation has signed a contract with the Federal Government to participate in at least the early stage of the development and promotion of an online Australian Heritage Portal. This is to be an interactive program which the government hopes heritage organisations, including historical societies, all over Australia will contribute information about their local heritage. The website is in an advanced stage of development. You will be hearing more about this fairly soon.

### New guide for historical societies

The Federation will soon be publishing online through its website the Federation's latest guide for historical societies. This is on the identification and protection of heritage landscapes.

### Australian Historical Societies Support Group withdrawn

The Federation was disappointed to learn that the Victorian Government had withdrawn its financial support for its online *My Connected Community Program* which hosted the Australian Historical Societies Support Group. This was a national forum for the exchange of ideas and information gathering and had over eighty members when it was shut down. The Federation is considering other options for opening a similar forum. We will keep you informed as soon as it is up and running on our website.

### Submissions

A number of submissions have been made to government committees. Perhaps the most important was on the federal government's proposed Cultural Heritage Strategy. This submission stressed the importance of recognising and funding the important work of historical societies who are caring for so much of the nation's movable and built heritage.

### Constitution review

The Federation is currently reviewing its Constitution, which with only a few amendments, has guided its activities since 1977.



This is the last newsletter for 2012

The Committee wishes all our members a safe and happy Christmas season.