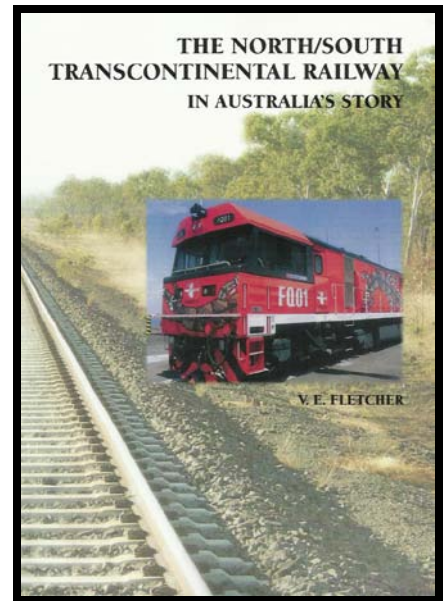


The Book Launch of Val Fletcher's *The North/South Transcontinental Railway in Australia's Story* - 6 August at the Darwin Railway Station

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 was launched by Clare Martin who was Chief Minister & Minister for the Railway when the first north/south train finally arrived in Darwin.



From left: Dr Brian Reid, Historical Society President, Yvonne Lamotte, Station Manager, Val Fletcher & Clare Martin



The audience with the Ghan in the background



Val Fletcher signing a book for Judy Richardson



Brian Reid & Clare Martin



The launch was held in the station waiting room