

HSNT Newsletter

Historical Society of the Northern Territory

PO Box 40544, Casuarina 0811

Office: 3/55 Ross Smith Avenue, Parap

Office Telephone: 8941 4902

Mobile: 0432 558 226

Email: Yvonne.forrest@nt.gov.au

historicalsocietynt@bigpond.org

www.historical society nt.org.au

Patron: The Hon Austin Asche AC, QC

FROM THE PRESIDENT

2008 has turned out to be quite a year for the Society. We finally managed a field trip to Raffles Bay and the Fort Wellington site, approximately 50 years after it was rediscovered by the Society's first expedition. The icing on the cake for that venture was the subsequent finding of a contemporary site plan in the NSW Archives. A follow visit is planned. We also, at long last, received approval for a field trip to the Bradshaw Field Training area of the Department of Defence. Hopefully that will take place in 2009.

There were also some changes in the Society's administrative arrangements. After years of thinking about it the decision was made to lease an office for the Society's archival collection, for Council meetings and, soon, for a 'shop front'. This is a trial venture that the Council has extended for a further year. This has been made possible by the Society's sound financial position due to some generous donations and skillful management by our Treasurer, Kay Goon. Today is the first 'occasion' we have had in the office and in that sense is an office opening. Janie Mason now shoulders most of the secretarial work of the Society for which we are very grateful.

The Society's publication programme remains a central part of our effort. The *Occasional Papers* series that was instigated by our Archivist, Yvonne Forrest, is now well received.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- 22 APRIL, Wednesday: HSNT lecture, MAGNT, 7.30pm: Pearl Ogden *My Family, Your Family*. Gold coin donation.
- 25 APRIL: HSNT fundraising sausage sizzle at Harvey Norman's store, Stuart Highway, Berrimah. 9am to 3pm. [it would be appreciated if you could spare an hour or so to help.]
- 10 MAY, Sunday: HSNT workshop with Pearl Ogden: *So you want to Self Publish*. Cost \$5pp. Contact Pearl Ogden 8985 3595
- 22/23 MAY: Government House Open Day, 4.30pm—7pm (Friday); 3pm-6pm.(Saturday)
- 4 JUNE: Thursday: NT Library: launch of Diana Giese's book *A Better Place to Live*. 6pm for 6.30pm
- 8 JUNE: HSNT day trip [Queens Birthday, yet to be discussed]
- 13 JUNE, Saturday, HSNT/FNAR fundraising at the Adelaide River Races.
- 7-10 JULY: Sydney, ICOMOS conference: *(Un)loved Modern—conserving 20 Century heritage places*.
- 24-26 JULY, HSNT weekend at Fort Wellington, Self drive—information closer to date.
- 22/23 AUGUST: Government House open day; 4.30pm-7pm; 3pm-6pm
- 22/24 SEPTEMBER; CDU conference on Charles Darwin
- 26 SEPTEMBER: Saturday: Cruise on Darwin Harbour ,

EDITORIAL

is (right next to the original airstrip).

My apologies for the incorrect telephone number I gave for my office in the last newsletter and I suspect that it would be useful to have some contacts for your Committee:

President: Brian Reid:

bandreid@bifpond.com

Vice President: Yvonne Forrest:

Yvonne.forrest@nt.gov.au/8982 4235
(Monday, Wednesday/Friday mornings),
8985 6015 (h)

Honourary Secretary: Janie Mason:

Janie.mason@cdu.edu.au

Honourary Treasurer: Earl James:

ebmjames@bigpond.com

Committee: Bev Phelts:

bev.phelts@nt.gov.au/8981 8236 (h)

Alan Powell: alan.powell@cdu.edu.au

Matthew Stephen

matthew.stephen@nt.gov.au

They would love to hear from you.

We had a very pleasant launch of Steve Farram's book on Bob and Mavis Lindon in the Wood Room at the Darwin Turf Club. The room, needless to say, is named after their horse that won 4 Darwin Cups! Tony Pickering, a long-time friend of Mavis & Bob, launched the volume titled *Mud-punchers, Racehorses and a Roadhouse* [Renner Springs] copies of which are available from Bev Phelts or at any of our functions. And yes, for those that need to know, the ISBN number is on the back cover and rather hard to see.

Which reminds me that the Government House open days will be on **Friday, 22 May, 4.30pm-7pm, Saturday 23 May, 3pm-6pm; Friday 21 August, 4.30pm-7pm and Saturday 22 August 3pm-6pm**. The HSNT will have a book stall and all are welcome to visit the house and gardens.

And speaking of new ideas—it would be a very good idea for the Society to have a small fundraising group. Please contact Yvonne Forrest if you are willing to help (8982 4235).

More help please!! Before the public housing units in Ross Smith Avenue were pulled down there was a memorial to Amelia Earhart and early pioneers of aviation. It was a plaque fixed to a large rock from Mt Bundy Station and dedicated by then Minister Roger Steele in 1980. It was situated on the site of the original tower at the Ross Smith aerodrome. It has disappeared and the current developers do not know what has happened to it—can anyone help? I have spoken to the Aviation Museum and various other groups that might have been interested in the memorial but none seem to know anything about it. If possible we would like it relocated to the grounds of Guide House where our office

The National Trust in New England (NSW) has arranged a photographic exhibition depicting the old country gardens of that area. Presented by the Australian Garden History Society it will be held at the historic Saumarez Homestead, 17 April to 14 June 2009: see www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au/properties/saumarez/default.asp or Bill Oates, woates@une.edu.au

Margaret Clinch is looking for support for the nomination of the six Catalina wrecks at East Arm to the NT Heritage Register. Although the final date for submissions was 30 March I am sure that you could still contact the Heritage Advisory Council, PO Box 4198, Darwin. Unfortunately Margaret's email to me was not in time for the last newsletter.

Yvonne Forrest

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NSW PREMIER'S HISTORY AWARDS 2009

Our flagship, the *Journal of Northern Territory History* appears regularly and maintains a high standard thanks to the effort of our Editor, Alan Powell. Last years lecture series on the theme of Missions and Missionaries was interesting and wide-ranging but not well attended despite the diligent publicity efforts of Bev Phelts. This is an activity at which the new Council will need to have a closer look. The Society's Treasurer, Kay Goon, will not be standing for Council this year and nor will our Deputy President, David Mearns. They will both be much missed by the Council and I would like to take the opportunity of thanking them for their help and support over the years. Rita and Kevin Cluley are also retiring this year to pursue more travel. I would like to thank them also and wish them well.

Finally I would like to thank our Patron, Austen Asche, for his continued and much valued interest and support.

Brian Reid

YOU ARE INVITED TO A PUBLIC FORUM on Managing the Darwin Harbour Region. The Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee are looking for community feedback on the draft *Darwin Harbour Regional Management Plan* and invite the public to the following:

- Monday 20 April: Howard Park Reserve, 6pm-8pm
- Tuesday 21 April: MAGNT Theatre, 6-8pm.
- Wednesday 22 April: Wagait Beach, 6-8pm
- Thursday 23 April: Batchelor Resort, 6-8pm

Phone 8924 4139 or email dhac@nt.gov.au

NEW BOOKS

NICHOLAS, Frank and Jan: *Charles Darwin in Australia*. Cambridge, CUP,

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

Dr Peter Brown, Darwin

Applications for these national awards are due by Friday 17 April and are worth \$15000 in the following categories:

Australian History prize for a book on Australian History;

General History prize for a book on international history;

NSW Community and Regional History prize;

Young People's history prize for a book or audio/visual presentation which increases the knowledge of children or young adults;

Multimedia history prize for history utilizing non-print media (film/TV, radio/CD-ROM/DVD/website)

Entry fee is \$40 and works must have been produced between 8 March 2008 and 27 March 2009.

Leonie Sheedy is looking for information on the orphanages and children's homes in the Northern Territory for white children. She is also looking for photos of the Missions, Rita Dixon house, the Bungalow and Kahlin Home. Her email address is support@clan.org.au

HISTORY COUNCIL OF NSW

The theme for History Week in New South Wales this year will be **Scandals, Crimes and Corruption**. We need to get Emeritus Professor David Carment to give us a talk on this when he is next in Darwin!!

A data base www.expertguide.com.au/ lists professional historians available for research or consultancy services — do check it if you need assistance.

ARCHIVES REPORT:

JOURNALS RECEIVED:

- Australian Assoc. for Maritime History n e w s
letter (2009) 113/March
- Australian Mining History Assoc. newsletter (2009)
56/March
- Australian Assoc. for Sports History (2009) 49/
February
- Boab Bulletin (2009) 91/April
- Canberra & District Historical Soc. Newsletter
(2009) 422/April-May
- Dispatch (2009) vol.24,no.3/March
- Early Days (2009) vol.13, part 1
- History SA (2009) 199/March
- Medical History newsletter (2009) 24/February
- National Library magazine (2009) vol.1,no.1/
March
- Placenames Australia (2009) March
- Public History News (2009) vol.29,no.2/March
- RHSQ Bulletin (2009) 728/March
- Signals (2009) 86/March-May
- Stockman's News (2009) 104/February

GENERAL

Interstate inquiries have been directed to the Place Names register for the naming of the Alligator Rivers and to the Geneological Society for information on teamster Francis (? Franz) Holzerland.

Yvonne Forrest
Honourary Archivist

The PROFESSIONAL Historians Association in NSW has started an informal discussion group to talk about topical or controversial historical issues – their first topic *When should we Commemorate Australia Day?* Suitably held at the Hero of Waterloo Hotel in the Rocks area of Sydney with dinner afterwards—we wait to hear of their deliberations.

BITS AND PIECES

DARWIN200

I thought that it would be a good idea to have a 'Charles Darwin' column so that we can keep track of what is happening, around Australia.

Queensland Museum Southbank has a display featuring a three metre section of tree trunk, the '*Investigator Tree*', engraved during the third voyage of Charles Darwin in 1841. It also has engravings by members of Matthew Flinders voyage in 1802 and was recovered from Sweers Island in 1889.

Charles Darwin University is holding a three day seminar, Tuesday 22 September to Thursday 24 September – more news when the programme is confirmed.

Historical Society of the NT will host Saturday morning on the *Spirit of Darwin* for members and visitors. Emeritus Professor Alan Powell will talk about sites of significance around the harbour. Please contact Janie Mason to register your interest if you would like to go. Cost will be around \$25pp.