

HSNT Newsletter

No 26 June 2009

Historical Society of the Northern Territory

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Patron: The Hon Austin Asche AC, QC

DATES TO REMEMBER

22023 MAY: HSNT Book Stall at Government House open day.

25-31 MAY, NT Library: Library and Information week (*watch the NT News for events*)

27 MAY, HSNT Lecture at MAGNT: 7.30pm: Joy Cardona *My Family, Your Family*. Gold coin donation.

31 MAY, Sunday 11am: *Territory Stories workshop*, NT Library, Parliament House.

4 JUNE: NT Library, 6pm. Diana Giese will launch her next book on Darwin. All welcome.

8 JUNE, Monday, HSNT day trip around the 'Gold Loop', bookings a must, \$10pp includes documentation and map, bookings Yvonne.forrest@nt.gov.au before 5 June.

7-10 JULY: Sydney, ICOMOS conference: *(Un)loved Modern — conserving 20 Century heritage places*.

24-27 JULY, HSNT weekend at Fort Wellington, Self drive—information page 3

14-15 August, Friday/Saturday: HSNT book stall at Government House open day. 4.30pm-7pm and Saturday 3pm-6pm

14-17 August, Friday/Monday: HSNT trip to Bradshaw Training area [see page 3]

26 SEPTEMBER: Saturday, boat trip around Darwin Harbour to celebrate Darwin200. Cost \$25pp. Bookings janie.mason@cdu.edu.au

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The details of the Federal Government stimulus package are finally out. Thanks to the pressures from many, it includes \$60m for heritage projects around the country. This in turn will include \$6m for history projects. The Federal Government is now taking applications for these funds.

In these financially strained times these allocations are good news and at least a little recognition of the need to try and keep in touch with our history and heritage as well as the events whirling around us.

At the state level, annual applications for history and heritage grants to the NT Government are currently being assessed and will be announced shortly. Again although modest, they are a welcome gesture of support to history research and heritage site maintenance in the Northern Territory

Brian Reid

Currently two groups in Darwin are finalizing their applications for Commonwealth grants and hopefully these will go ahead - I do not know if applications have been made from other areas in the Territory but, if so, we would like to hear about them.

EDITORIAL

Yes, well I must have been asleep when I did the last newsletter - my apologies for the items that were 'cut off' - they are included in this newsletter. I also owe Bev Phelts an apology for not having included her in my thank you for the Harvey Norman sausage sizzle - Bev, your assistance is always VERY welcome (and essential!).

The workshop with Pearl Ogden on *So you want to Self Publish* went very well and we may have another one later in the year. From the number of people who wanted to come but were unable to, we certainly have enough people to attend. Many, many thanks to Pearl for giving up her time to conduct this.

Pearl has also donated some more books to our collection: Baiba Berzins (2008) *Australia's Northern secret: tourism in the NT 1920s to 1980s*; Douglas Barrie (2008) *The Darwin Stubby Story; Darwinites: portrait of a city*; Programme for the *Celebrate 50 Years of ABC in Darwin 1947-1997*. Reg Wilson has also donated a copy of Peter Grose (2009): *An Awkward Truth: the Bombing of Darwin, February 1942*.

At long last our organization has a new, modern up to date computer which is set up in the office at 55 Ross Smith Avenue. I am now looking for volunteers to 'man' the office for a few hours each day. I have an offer for Monday and Tuesday so hopefully a roster can be drawn up and training will be given to members. The systems are really very simple to use so don't be scared! Are you interested in slides? Photographs? recording or filing? Journals need recording and filing - there is much to do as there is a possibility that the information on our old hard drive may not be able to be retrieved. So help is definitely needed.

We congratulate Phyllis Williams who has been appointed head of the NSW National Archives office and has headed to Sydney for a year. A move from an office of 5½ (!) people to some 75 people - quite a change! In Darwin we welcome David Swift who has taken over, working from Brisbane he looks after the offices there, in Darwin and in Adelaide.

Also moving south for a year is Francesca Cubillo, the MAGNT curator of indigenous art who is off to the National Gallery in Canberra - it is great that the skills of Territorians are being recognized on a national front.

I am told that the book by Jimmy Cadogan is, in part, dedicated to the people of Darwin (see p.3)

The FAHS has recently put in a submission on the reform to the *Archives Act*. Submissions have now closed and those who want can keep up with the issue by accessing information on www.pmc.gov.au. The most important change may be that documents re available after 20 years rather than the current 30 years.

The NT National Archives are looking at having their *Shake Your Family Tree* on an annual basis but, for Brisbane and Darwin, later in the year than February which is just a bit too early as many people are still away. I have also asked that we be given earlier notice of events so that they can be added to our calendar.

For those in Victoria, on Saturday 13 June the History Victoria Support Group will have a seminar on *Managing your paper based collection, conservation and producing a newsletter* in the Murray-Goulburn region.

Yvonne Forrest

FIELD TRIP, MONDAY 8 JUNE 2009 ALONG THE PINE CREEK/GROVE HILL GOLD LOOP ROAD.

Please note that this trip is suitable for 2 wheel drive cars.

To be lead by new member Roger Heapy, Vice-President of the NT Prospectors and Detectors Association, we will meet at the turn off to Ban Ban Springs, past Adelaide River at 9.30am so look for the golden Eco car (*it will take about 2½ hours from Darwin*). Visits will be made to mine areas, old cemeteries, site of the Shackle telegraph station and the old Port Darwin Camp. Although we will travel in convoy, you will have information about the places we visit and a map.

Bookings **MUST** be made with yvonne.forrest@nt.gov.au by 5 June and cost will be \$10pp. You can bring a picnic lunch or have refreshments at the Grove hill pub.

HSNT FIELD TRIPS

This year the Society will be having two weekend trips. As they are quite close together the following preliminary details are provided to help with decisions and planning.

RAFFLES BAY

We have again been given approval to re-visit Raffles Bay and the Fort Wellington site, this time for an archaeological dig so the weekend will be a working effort. This will take place on the weekend of Friday 24 July to Monday 27 July. We will muster at Cahill's Crossing on the East Alligator River at 10am on Friday, then drive in 4WD convoy to the camp-site on the west side of Raffles Bay. It will be a dry camp so you will need to bring food and liquid needs for the duration as well as fuel for the return trip (fuel can be bought in Jabiru). Park Rangers have again kindly offered to transport us across the Bay in their boat to the Fort Wellington site on the Saturday and Sunday. Because of the tides at Cahill's Crossing we will need to return promptly on the Monday morning.

Last year the Society had a preliminary visit to the site and now, armed with a contemporary site plan, the particular purpose of this trip is to locate the site of the fort and, hopefully, some material remains. Clayton Friedrickson, archaeologist at the CDU will take charge of this aspect of the visit.

Permits are required so we need details of people and vehicles by the end of May. Please contact Bev Phelts 8981 8236 (h) or 041 868 827 to book. Cost will be \$30pp which will include your permit.

BRADWHAW FIELD TRAINING AREA

[BFTA] of the Department of Defence

[*Bradshaw Station*]

The Society has at last been given approval to visit the BFTA. This is an area rich in history, archaeology and landscape and is an active Defence field training area. This has made a time that would suit everyone difficult to achieve. We have approval to visit on the weekend of Friday 14 August to Monday 17 August. We will spend three days at the Station, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It is very unlikely that another opportunity will come to visit. We will need to camp off site at Timber Creek and proceed in and out each day in 4WD convoy (about 20min to the bridge). Details of the visit will be available a little closer to the event. Permits are not required, however we will need to give the Commanding Officer advance details of people and vehicles. We need to know by the end of June if you would like to be involved. Please contact Yvonne Forrest on email Yvonne.forrest@nt.gov.au if you wish to join us.

NEW BOOKS AND ARTICLES

CADOGAN, Jimmy (2009) *Cadogan, from Abergavenny to Australia and Beyond, 1829-1850*. NSW: Anno Domini 2000

ISBN 978 0 9804001 5 1

FRAME, Tom: *The Bombing of Darwin IN: Quadrant* (2009) no.456, May, pp.46-50

MADDISON, Sarah (2009) *Black Politics: inside the complexity of Aboriginal Political culture*.

ROTHWELL, Nicolas (2009) *The red Highway*. Melbourne: Black Inc.

ISBN 978 18639 542 11

ARCHIVES:

Journals received:

- Australian Association for Maritime History newsletter (2009), 113/March
Australian Mining History Association newsletter (2009) 56/March
Australian Society for Sports History (2009) 49/February
Boab Bulletin (2009) 91/April
Canberra & District Historical Society newsletter (2009) 422/April-May
Dispatch (2009) vol.24, no.3/March; 4/April, 5/May
Early Days [WA Historical Society journal] (2007) vol.13, pt.1
History SA (2009) 199/March
Medical History newsletter (2009) 24/February
National Library magazine [new] (2009) vol.1, no.1/March
Placenames Australia (2009) March
Progenitor (2009) vol.28, no.1/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:

Terry Brookshaw is keeping me up to date on his research into the Royal Marines who were at Fort Dundas and Fort Wellington. He would like to know if any work has been done on their departure from Fort Wellington in 1829 - can anyone help?

Christine Osborn is looking for information on an old map of the Pine Creek/Grove Hill road.

*Yvonne Forrest
Honourary Archivist*

FROM THE FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETIES.

The FAHS has submitted a recommendation to the national Curriculum Board supporting the teaching of history in schools and the continued upgrading of the skills of history teachers. They pointed out that indigenous and settler components of Australian history are most productively studied with local museums and historical societies being able to provide students with physical access to material culture and primary sources. Students, particularly those born elsewhere and those who move to other areas, need to be able to access and see the impact of national and international historical events on local lives and the local environment. Local societies are able to make their collections of artefacts, photographs, documents and museum displays available and have experts on local history available to teachers for visiting lectures, group visits to museums and guided tours for class groups. Other digitized material is often available through these Societies who may be linked to intrastate and interstate groups.

The Board had its final meeting on 28 April, completing the key foundational documents that will shape the national curriculum - found documents that are available on the website www.ncb.org.au - and cover English, mathematics, science and history.

BITS AND PIECES

Lifetime Achievement Award to Meredith Walker.

Perhaps best known for her co-authorship of the ICOMOS Burra Charter, Meredith has been one of the leading heritage theorists and activists, her involvement going back to the late 1960s. This honour was given under the Energy Australia National Trust Heritage awards in New South Wales. Meredith is noted for being a wonderful, generous, visionary trouble maker!

Heritage Alice Springs had a morning tea and their Annual General Meeting at the Residency on Sunday, 17 May. This group is one of our institutional members and, through this, gets the benefits of connection to other historical and heritage societies through our membership of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies. We also welcome the Fannie Bay History and Heritage Society Inc. as an institutional member.

HELP WANTED

Expressions of interest are invited for casual Public Tour Guides of Parliament House.

Tours are conducted every Saturday at 9am and 11am and, during the dry (May-September), on Wednesday at 10.30am. A tour usually lasts about 1½ hours depending on demand. A roster system for several Guides will be established so not all Guides will be required to work every session.

A typical tour involves describing the building, a brief history of governance in the Territory, our floral and faunal emblems and coat of arms, basic parliamentary procedures and the bombing of the post office (where Parliament House is sited). Some tours coincide with parliamentary sitting days so it is beneficial if Guides have some knowledge about members of the legislative Assembly.

Guides need to have a well presented and friendly nature, be experienced with public speaking and be familiar with the history of Darwin and the NT. They need to adhere to confidentiality, be impartial in their presentations and be prepared to answer questions from visitors. They need to comply with criminal and police check requirements. Training will be provided.

Payments will be at the AO6 level salary, \$66,238-\$74,047

More information from Caroline Cavenagh, 8946 1430 or caroline.cavenagh@nt.gov.au (Parliamentary Relations and Education Unit)