

HSNT Newsletter

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Patron: The Hon Austin Asche AC, QC

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Society has recently been advised by the Chair of the Northern Territory Place Names Committee, Dr Mickey Dewar, that the Committee is currently considering suitable names for Suburbs, Streets and other places in the proposed new town of Weddell. This is a good opportunity for the Society and its members, where this has not already been done, to recommend individual Territorians who are significantly part of or who have significantly contributed to Northern Territory history. Details of the criteria and process can be found on the Committee's web site.

The Society finally made it to Bradshaw. On Friday morning 8am, 14 August, 12 4wd vehicles and 34 intrepid historians lined up on Bradshaw Bridge. We were met by the Senior Range Control Officer, Warrant Officer Peter Watts, who looked after us and guided us over the next three days. We were able to visit the more significant historical sites in the Angalarri Valley, the escarpment precinct and the Koolendong Valley. It is grand country and we were all very pleased to be there. An interim report on the historical sites is currently being prepared for the Department of Defence. We plan a further visit next dry for a closer look, with a little more time at some of the sites that require more detailed investigation and then produce a final report.

Brian Reid

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 23 AUGUST:** Australian Maritime Museum, Sydney: *Farewell to Charles Darwin* lecture, 1pm-4.30pm
- 5-13 SEPTEMBER:** NSW history week: *Scandals, Crime and Corruption*—visit www.historyweek.com.au
- 15 SEPTEMBER:** HSNT Council Meeting, 55 Ross Smith Avenue, 7.30pm
- 22-24 SEPTEMBER,** Tuesday-Thursday: CDU Charles Darwin Symposium, Darwin Convention Centre: register at www.cdu.edu.au/cdss2009
- 26 SEPTEMBER:** Saturday, boat trip around Darwin Harbour to celebrate Darwin200. Cost \$10pp. Bookings janie.mason@cdu.edu.au
- 30 SEPTEMBER:** HSNT Patron's Dinner: Speaker: Earl James, at the Quality Hotel Frontier Darwin at 7pm [Rooftop Restaurant]. Buffet, \$42pp. Bookings and cheque by 25th September to HSNT P.O.Box, ATT Bev Phelts (0417 868 827 for information)
- 7 OCTOBER:** National Archives, Nightcliff, 12.30-1.30pm: Duncan McKenzie
- 9 OCTOBER** NT Literary Awards, Parliament House,
- 28 OCTOBER:** HSNT lecture: Speaker Richard Luxton: venue: Fred's Pass Reserve, Beehive building, 7.30pm, gold coin donation.
- 19-20 NOVEMBER:** Deakin University: Conference on Migration, Citizenship and Intercultural relations. www.deakin.edu.au/arts-ed/icg/events/conf-2009.php

EDITORIAL

We had a great time at Bradshaw!! Our thanks to Peter Watts (Australian Army) and Smiler (one of the Traditional Owners who accompanied us), to Peter O'Brien (one of the caretakers who joined us). Regrettably in my Acknowledgments with the documents I gave you I forgot two — Earl James gave the original information to Brian Reid who then passed it on to Ruth Kerr, one of our members from Queensland who, when in Canberra, spoke to a Brigadier who spoke to someone else... So thank you to both Earl and Ruth for starting what was a great few days. Our tax payers dollars are doing well in paying for the excellent roads that are on Bradshaw, however the HSNT went on some TERRIBLE tracks—bulldust, rocks, etc. but we saw some magnificent scenery and the Victoria River is just sublime. It was very slow driving in places and the climb to the top of the escarpment was exhausting in the hot weather—but again, to Earl, Ruth and Brian Reid who did all the organizing down this end, our thanks. Bev Phelts has produced the enclosed insert on this trip.

As well we made some new members—Charlotte Taylor from Darwin and Murray Coates from Kununurra. Andrew Barker, President of the Kununurra Historical Society joined us on this trip and we hope now to work closely together to see how both Societies can benefit.

The annual NSW history lecture was given by Chief Justice James Spigelman with the bicentennial of the arrival of Governor Lachlan Macquarie on 1 January 2010 coming up. Held at Government House, Macquarie Street, Sydney on Friday 4 September, it was titled *A Reappraisal of the Bigge Reports*. Commissioner John Thomas Bigge conducted a Royal Commission where his conclusion have been the subject of controversy, particularly with respect to the balance between deterrence and rehabilitation in criminal punishment and the balance between the public and private sectors. Visit www.historycouncilnsw.org.au

Our thanks to Jo Parish and Frieda Evans who upheld the honour of the Society at the recent Government House open days. As most of the people who 'man' the bookstall were on the Bradshaw trip, we were most grateful for their assistance.

Two interesting books I came across may be of interest to others: Alan Tucker *My Australian Story: Atomic Testing, Woomera 1953: The Dairy of Anthony Brown*. Scholastic Press, ISBN 9 7817 4169 217 4 and Trish Clark *Good Night and God Bless: A Guide to Convent and Monastery Accommodation in Europe*. Paulist Press New Jersey, ISBN 9 781 58768 0533 3

Two more Occasional Papers have been published—Pat Nelson *Drought, Dust and Destiny: Memories of Alice Springs 1961-1966* and Creed Lovegrove *Byrne's Run: Tipperary Station*. Interestingly Andrew Barker (Kununurra) sent me some information concerning his grandfather, Jack Mayhew and his mother, Molly Mayhew nee Byrne surviving the 1897 cyclone in Darwin sheltering under the kitchen table. Molly was the sister in the Byrne's family. I have asked Andrew if he would tell us more about the family.

Andrew and Wendy Carter (another member from Kununurra) went with Richard Reid, Senior Curator of the National Museum in Canberra on a visit to Rosewood station and Newry station homesteads on his search for information on the proposed 2011 exhibition on the significance of the Irish in Australia. Richard also gave a public lecture in Kununurra—the HSNT was represented by Earl and Wendy James.

Visitors to Darwin include Robin McIntyre and Barry Leithhead who are researching Robin's father, Dr C E Cook. Robin was born in Darwin, left, coming back later and worked at the hospital from 1981-1985 - they have collected a lot of information but would like to hear from anyone who could add to this—their email is barry.leithhead@bigpond.com

Stuart Duncan at the Place Names Committee is asking for recommendations for street names for the new town of Weddell, due for development in two or so years. Guidelines are on www.nt.gov.au/placenames/policy/guidelines.shtml and information can be sent to email stuart.duncan@nt.gov.au. Stuart's telephone number is 8995 5334. It has been suggested that we nominate Barbara James.

Bob Reece is looking for information on Jack (John) Bates who may have been an overseer at Humpty Doo in the early part of the 20 Century. His phone is 0402 626 889 or email to b.reece@murdoch.edu.au

Yvonne Forrest

JOURNALS RECEIVED:

Citation; (2009) May
Heritage Alice Springs (2009) Autumn
History News (2009) 280/April-May
The Library magazine (2009) vol.1,no.2, June
Memento (2009) 37/July; Index 1996-2008 (nos 1-35)
Records Territory (2009)
RHSQ Bulletin (2009) 730/May
Word of Mouth (2009)

PATRON'S DINNER,

WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2009

The Patron's Dinner this year will be held on Wednesday 30 September at the Rooftop Restaurant, Quality Hotel Frontier 3 Buffalo Court, Darwin, 7pm for 7.30pm.

Speaker is Earl James, one of our original members from 1964 who will speak on The Hon Adair Macalister Blain, L.S., M.Q.I.S., MHR, surveyor, soldier, politician and prisoner of war.

We will have our own buffet and area in the restaurant so will be separate from the general public, however we do need to pay for 20 people so would like as many members as possible to attend. It is always an interesting and scintillating night.

Tickets are \$42 per person and you can purchase your own drinks. Please book and send money to Bev Phelts, email ntresearchservices@yahoo.com.au as soon as possible as we have to let the restaurant know how many are coming as soon as possible.

Teapot Genies announce the latest CD and book release:

Reports of Iron's Gangs Stationed at Woolloomooloo Stockade, Cockatoo Island and Carters Barracks 1840-1848 [State Records NSW] (this includes Morton Bay, Norfolk Island and Van Diemen's Land)

Scone Lockup book—persons attached to the road party. [State Records NSW]

Register of Prisoners employed and of Government Stock at the Government Stock Station Mulgoa [State Records NSW]

Cost is \$20 for the CD and \$25 for the Book includes GST (postage \$3) Cheques to Pendeo Pty.Ltd., 4 Scarborough Place, Beacon hill, 2100 or email kjvernon@bigpond.net.au or www.teapotgenealogy.com

Charles Darwin symposium, CDU, Darwin Convention Centre, 22-24 September 2009.

The programme for this symposium is on the Charles Darwin web page and, please note, you do have to register however the symposium is free: www.cdu.edu.au/cdss2009

Key speaker at the opening of the programme will be Professor Tim Berra speaking on *The concise story of an extraordinary man*. Day 2 will cover *Brave new world? What is Darwin's legacy in the era of modern medicine and technology-based societies?* Speakers will include Professors Peter Doherty, Sarah Hrdy, Keith Crandall, John Mattick, Michael Akam and Simon Longstaff. On Day 3 the theme will be *Understanding the controversy between Darwinian science and religion* with Professors Ed Larson, Ted Peters, Emeritus Professor Martinez Hewlett (University of Arizona, USA) and Drs Lester-Irabinna Rigney and Maggie Walter.

Your Society is supporting this symposium with a harbour tour on Saturday, 26 September, 9.30am to 12.30pm, leaving from Cullen Bay. Emeritus Professor Alan Powell will provide a commentary. There are restricted tickets available (they will be available to all the symposium participants) so we are suggesting that you book early with the Secretary: janie.mason@cdu.edu.au Tickets are \$10pp.

NAMING OF STREETS IN WEDDELL

It has been suggested that we nominate Barbara James to the Place Names Committee to have a street named in her honour.

Do members have more suggestions as we would like to hear from you and can arrange to put the names forward for consideration.

Northern Territory Literary Awards, 2009

Finalists in this year's literary awards are:

CDU Bookshop Travel Short Story

Mary Allmich: *Against the Odds*
Barbara Eather: *Castronomy*
Claire Marron: *Journey to the Mountain: The story of Lullailaco Boy*
Rohan Wightman: *Tigers and Goats*

CDU Essay

Mary Anne Butler: *Drowning*
Roland Dyrting: *The Poinciana Woman of East Point*
Kieran Finnane: *Firework*
Leni Shilton: *Larapinta Trail: Notes from a Journal*

Dymocks Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Short Story:

Michael Giacometti: *Encounter at Kalaykapi, circa 1980*
Karen Manton: *Hannah's Bread*
Glenn Morrison: *The Mad Woman*
Natalie Sprite: *This is what Love Sounds Like*
Angela Schoen: *Ten Birds and Revelations*

Dymocks Red Earth Poetry Award

Kaye Aldenhoven: *Cows, Stuart Highway*
Kelly-Lee Hickey: *Sustenance*
Kelly-Lee Hickey: *Reflux*
Dani Powell: *Sketch of This Day*
Fred Vant Sand: *Thirty Years*

Kath Manzie Youth Literary Award

Rosie O'Reilly: *In Fertile Wet*
Oceana Pastor-Eisgood: *Taj and the Creature*
Shona Welsh: *Oubliette*

VISITORS

August and September seem to have been the month when Researchers came to Darwin.

Don and Marlene Baker arrived on the *Sun Princess* for a day of sightseeing and reflection. Don is the great grandson of Alfred Searcy and was up here as 2 IC to General Stretton after Cyclone Tracy. Needless to say he saw a lot of changes to the city.

Dr Ruth Keogh, Principal Environmental Scientist, Contaminated Land Management, is doing research on the Nightcliff area for the Darwin City Council. She is, in particular, looking at the site investigation of World War II defences, the foreshore dumping area and the adjoining cliff top area and an old gravel quarry pit/dump located near the WWII site. Ruth has been working on Leith Barter's documents collected as part of his research for his book on Nightcliff.

Robin McIntyre and Barry Leithhead are researching Robin's father, Dr Cecil Cook. Kathy de la Rue and I met them and we gave a number of suggestions of where they might look, did some photocopying for them and put information on CD.

Kay Bazlen from Florida had travelled across the V.R.D. and was interested in the history as well as information for travel across to Borroloola then up the Cape York Peninsula.

Ash Dally has also been talking about the documents belonging to Edgar Dunis, we have his passports and some work documents and will be making copies of these for our files.

All of this necessitated the Office being opened at some strange times!!