

# HSNT Newsletter

No.31/October 2009

Historical Society of the Northern Territory  
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Patron: The Hon Austin Asche AC, QC

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Society's involvement with the Darwin200 celebrations have concluded. It was, in the end, very successful and a good effort by all concerned. The Darwin Harbour cruise 'In the Wake of the Beagle' was well attended and the historical commentary by Emeritus Professor Alan Powell appreciated by all the ship's company. This will be published as an Occasional Paper in 2010. The excellent brochure for the cruise will be a collector's item.

The Society was also able to publish just in time the edited 2007 lectures series, 'Collectors and Collections'. It is a handsome production that deals with museums and collectors in the Territory over the past couple of hundred years. It fitted well with the occasion. The publication was made possible by assistance from the Darwin 200 organisers for which we are very grateful. We are also particularly thankful to Charles Darwin University UniPrint for printing the monograph in time for the occasion.

We look forward to seeing members at the annual Christmas brunch on Sunday, 29 November which will be our last function for the year. Please book with Bev Phelts (8981 8236)8

Brian Reid

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- 14 OCTOBER:** HSNT Council meeting, 7.30pm, 55 Ross Smith Avenue, Parap
- 25/26 OCTOBER;** FAHS Annual general meeting, Brisbane
- 28 OCTOBER:** HSNT lecture: Speaker Richard Luxton: venue: Fred's Pass Reserve, Beehive building, 7.30pm, gold coin donation. *6 pue for BRQ,*
- 31 OCTOBER:** NT Library, Family History Workshop, 9am-12noon. Booking 1800 029 255 or [ntlinfo@nt.gov.au](mailto:ntlinfo@nt.gov.au) free
- 11 NOVEMBER** HSNT Committee meeting, 55 Ross Smith Av., Parap, 7.30pm
- 14/15 NOVEMBER,** Saturday/Sunday mornings, 9am-12noon. Northern Territory Library. Matthew Stephens: Oral History Workshop. Bookings essential 1800 019155 or email [libraryevents@nt.gov.au](mailto:libraryevents@nt.gov.au) by 31 October. Free
- 19-20 NOVEMBER: Deakin University:** Conference on Migration, Citizenship and Intercultural relations. [www.deakin.edu.au/arts-ed/icg/events/conf-2009.php](http://www.deakin.edu.au/arts-ed/icg/events/conf-2009.php)
- 29 NOVEMBER;** HSNT Christmas Brunch, 11 am at Brian and Lyn Reid's home, Lily Lane, Humpty Doo. Cost \$20 and BYO drinks. [please park in McMinns Drive and walk down the lane: you may also like to bring a chair]
- 2010**
- 24 FEBRUARY:** HSNT lecture, MAGNT, 7.30pm: Grahame Hockey *The NT Pastoral industry.* Gold coin donation

## EDITORIAL

In writing the Annual Report of the Society for the Annual general meeting of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies I have found the numbering of our Newsletters really 'away with the birds'! I am sorry and will try and do better—however we are missing no.27. We start with this one, no.31 for October/November. Possibly, as we retire for December, the next newsletter will be no.32/January-February

The Charles Darwin celebrations started well with the Administrator, Tom Pauling, giving a talk at the launch of the book *On the Origin of the Species*, a first edition which has been lent to the Northern Territory Library from the State Library of New South Wales. Tom Pauling has lent his own copy of this document and also on display is the NT Library's copy. Tom followed the theme of 'Madness and Suicide' in his talk and he was followed by Paul Brunton who spoke about the more social side of the times of Charles Darwin—it was a most interesting evening. Paul Brunton also gave a talk on Thursday evening, on Charles Darwin's correspondence.

The seminar arranged by Charles Darwin University at the Darwin Convention Centre was excellent. Speakers on many subjects dealing with Darwin's ideas and talking about his wealth of documents—21 printed documents when I had really only thought of the *Origin of the Species* and *The Descent of Man*—works on corals, barnacles, etc.

So far only the Federal Government Grants under the Jobs Fund for Victoria have been announced—we are still crossing our fingers for the submission by the Fannie Bay Historical Society.

Occasional Paper no.12/09 has been published—Des Nelson talking about his trips to Uluru—it is available at \$10 which includes postage.

Julian Swinstead, owner of the Capricornia Motel on East Point Road, has appealed for information on the history of the building. It was, I think the first nightclub in Darwin, then became the restaurant *Genghis Kahn*. Julian can be contacted at 0429 806 669.

David Carment will be back in Darwin from Thursday 19 November to Sunday afternoon, 22 November. He will have appointments with his students but would like to see members – please contact Bev Phelts and we shall see what can be arranged - usually coffee at the Cool Spot.

Some names that have been suggested for streets etc. in the new town of Weddell are James Downing, Clifford Possum, James Miln Thomson (formerly of the Northern Territory University)

Girl Guides NT are hoping to publish a history of guiding in the Northern Territory during their centenary year and are looking to speak to former guides, brownies and leaders. Please contact the office at 8981 3628 or email [girlguidesnt@iinet.net.au](mailto:girlguidesnt@iinet.net.au)

Andrew Barker has a better link for the National Archives website—[www.naa.gov.au/search](http://www.naa.gov.au/search). I have also used the excellent website for the early Northern Territory newspapers but you do need magnifying glasses!!

For those teachers, the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has a new CEO, Dr Peter Hill. Board Chair, Professor Barry McGaw has said...*It is a great coup for Australia that Dr Hill is choosing to return to lead ACARA's efforts in helping to build a world-class school education system...*

*Opening Australian Archives* is being held in major capital cities around Australia to discuss open access to cultural collections, models of access being used, barriers to providing broader access to documents and the levels of interest in access to policies and practices now that digital technologies have changed the landscape of creating, collecting and providing access to information. Conducted by the Queensland University of Technology details of meetings and minutes can be found at [www.ip.qut.edu.au](http://www.ip.qut.edu.au)

Information from Canberra is that the Federal Government has cut funding for the Collections Council of Australia. It is planned to establish a working group to consider future approaches to collections. Also the Cultural Ministers Council has endorsed a new industry code for Indigenous Australian Art Commercial code of Conduct and sent a media release on the National Arts and Disability Strategy.

## **.NEW BOOKS/JOURNALS:**

- BROOS, Diane Austin- (2009) *Arremte Present, Arremte Past: Invasion, Violence and Imagination in Indigenous Central Australia*. Chicago: U Chicago Press; ISBN 13 978 9 226 03264 1
- HICKS, Joy Grant: *Inlander at Heart: the story of Arch Grant*. S.A., Seaview press, 2009 ISBN 978 1 74008 532 8
- LOVEGROVE, T Creed (2009) *Byrne's Run: Tipperary Station*. Darwin, HSNT (Occasional paper 11/09) ISBN 978 0 9803254 9 2
- NELSON, Des (2009) *The Rock named Uluru*. Darwin, HSNT, (Occasional paper 12/09) ISBN 978 0 9806673 2 5
- NELSON, Pat (2009) *Drought, Dust and Destiny: Memories of Alice Springs 1961-1966* ISBN 978 0 9806673 3 2
- AUSTRALIAN MINING History newsletter (2009) 58/ September
- CANBERRA Historical Society newsletter (2009) 425/October-November
- HISTORY (2009) 101/September
- HISTORY news (2009) 283/September-October
- JOHN McDouall Stuart memorial address 2009: Lois Litchfield: *Times when my Journey through life has crossed the tracks of John McDouall Stuart*.
- The LIBRARY (2009) Vol.1,no.3/September
- MEDICAL History newsletter (2009) 26/August
- PLACENAMES Australia (2009) September
- PROFESSIONAL Historians Association newsletter (2009) 94/March; 95/July
- QUEENSLAND History journal (2009) vol.20,no.11, August
- RHSQ Bulletin (2009) 733/August, 734/September
- TERRITORY Quarterly (2009) 3rd.

## **PATRON'S DINNER,**

**WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2009**

**The Patron's Dinner this year was held on Wednesday 30 September at the Rooftop Restaurant, Quality Hotel Frontier 3 Buffalo Court, Darwin.**

**Some 24 members and guests enjoyed the talk given by Earl James, one of our original members from 1964 who spoke on The Hon Adair Macalister Blain, L.S., M.Q.I.S., MHR, surveyor, soldier, politician and prisoner of war. Blain was quite an exceptional man, notably being elected to the House of Representatives by Northern Territorians when he was still a prisoner of the Japanese, therefore, apart from not knowing that he was nominated, he certainly could not speak to the public and so apply himself to being elected. He also beat Harold Nelson, well known Labour politician who had previously represented the Territory.**

## **BITS AND PIECES:**

I am currently editing a most interesting manuscript on the wars in Florida, US Army v the Indian groups. John Bemrose, the great great grandfather of a friend left England to join the US Army in 1830 and was sent south for some five years. His tour of duty was quite eventful and he was very lucky not to have been killed and scalped—some of the stories are very traumatic. Sometimes strange things happen and, at the moment, a friend from Florida is in Darwin and has asked those at home to send maps of the area. He has also chased up the 'Historical Society of St Augustine' (the Florida city where Bemrose was sent) and I am now in contact with them to see if there is any further information they may have. I am enjoying this very much and have sent them our newsletter and will send a journal.

Also, referring to Griko and Henny, I would like to find an Historical Society in Burketown, Queensland, does anyone know if there is one? Apparently Charles Goodliff also spent some time in Burketown, having overlanded cattle. They have also found some Goodliff's in Perth but do not, as yet, know whether they are related. It's all very interesting!

Two new Occasional Papers are ready to be printed but we are waiting on permission to publish some photos from the NT Library.

## **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

Barbara Baggley, Darwin  
Margaret Donald, New South Wales  
Megg Kelham, Alice Springs  
Robin McIntyre/Brian Leighhead, N.S.W.  
Natalie Pullman and Ian Barrett, Katherine  
Ian Reddy, South Australia  
Lara & Perry Whitehouse, Darwin  
Kununurra Historical Society

It is interesting to note that almost 1/3 of our members are interstate or from areas outside Darwin. We are really becoming the Historical Society representing the whole of the Northern Territory

**Northern Territory Literary Awards, 2009**

**VISITORS/HELP REQUIRED.**

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*

[winners marked with ++]

Joy Grant Hicks has completed her biography of her father, the Rev Arch Grant. Titled *Inlander at Heart: the Story of Arch Grant* it is available from Joy at \$45 plus \$10 postage, 5 Fountain Avenue, Encounter Bay, S.A. 5211

Rosie Baird, Chief Executive Officer of the NT Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation is working on a steering committee focused on preserving and presenting the history of the Kahlin Compound on the allocated site at Myilly Point. She is looking for support and guidance for the project and can be contacted on 8981 7900.

Also looking for help are the Girl Guides NT - they are working on the history of guiding in the Territory

Steve Farram has been asked to do some research on Hilda Abbott, wife of Administrator CLA Abbott. He would welcome personal stories or recollections about her and can be contacted at 8946 6865 or email [steven.farram@cdu.edu.au](mailto:steven.farram@cdu.edu.au).

Grieko and Henny Enter have been in Darwin for the past two weeks researching Henny's grandfather, Charles Goodliff. They arrived with a lot of information that needed to be checked and found more at the NT Archives and NT Library. Charles and his brother had, at one stage, been buffalo shooters so we took Henny & Grieko to the *Window on the Wetlands* to let them have a small window on the land that Charles would have ridden over. We also took them for a fantastic day to Adelaide River (one of the party wanted to see the Civilian Cemetery at the War Cemetery) then into Litchfield National Park. We even had time for a swim at Wangi. Charles Goodliff was in the Territory between 1880 and 1895, then went to Indonesia where he married (twice) and his family grew up. It will be very interesting to read the article being prepared for the family who live both in Holland and in Indonesia, Henny's Mother apparently being one of 14 children. If anyone knows this name I am sure that Grieko would like to hear from them—his email is [genter@casema.nl](mailto:genter@casema.nl)