

# HSNT Newsletter

No.33/January 2010

Historical Society of the Northern Territory

PO Box 40544, Casuarina 0811

Office: Room 3,

55 Ross Smith Avenue, Parap

Office Telephone: 8941 4902

Mobile: 0432 558 226

Email:

historicalsocietynt@bigpond.com

www.historical.societynt.org.au

Patron: The Hon Austin Asche AC, QC

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES

*As most of you know the National Archives is planning to close down their Offices in Darwin, Hobart and Adelaide. This is not, perhaps, such a serious matter for Hobart and Adelaide as they are nearer to larger centres where information is available, but for Darwin this is a disaster! Not only will our records be out of our reach, we would, I imagine, have to deal with staff who have no idea of the Territory, let alone be able to identify some of the areas and groups of people we deal with.*

*To this end I am including a petition arranged by the Professional Historians Association for all to sign along with friends, relatives and others! Please return them to our office as soon as possible.*

**SECTION 63** of the Archives Act 1983 as amended by Act 102 of 2009 reads as follows:

### **Location of Material of the Archives**

2(a) the convenience of persons who are likely to require access to the material

(b) the desirability of keeping related material in the same place and

© the appropriateness of keeping in a State or

## DATES TO REMEMBER

2010

**31 JANUARY:** Closing for entries in NT Literary Awards: contact NT Library.

**ENDS 7 FEBRUARY:** Cyclone Tracy exhibition at NT Library. *Free.*

**10 FEBRUARY:** HSNT Council meeting, 55 Ross Smith Avenue, Parap, 7.30pm.

**14 FEBRUARY, Sunday, 3pm:** HSNT Quiz afternoon: at Shennegans Hotel, Cnr Mitchell St. and Peel St., \$10per person, come a join us—tables are not booked in advance—questions are very general.

**17 FEBRUARY:** HSNT lecture, MAGNT, 7.30pm: Grahame Hockey *The NT Pastoral industry.* Gold coin donation [please note new date]

**24 MARCH, Wednesday:** Annual General Meeting of the HSNT, Rooftop restaurant (same as the Patron's Dinner), 7pm for 7.30pm. \$45

**10-19 APRIL, Alice Springs:** 150th Anniversary of John McDouall Stuart's first expedition through Central Australia, April 1860 [contact the National Trust]

*Territory material that relates in particular to that State or Territory or to places in that State of Territory.*

*Division 3 section 36 Forms of Access: 2(a): a reasonable opportunity to inspect the record.*

*We must do our utmost to keep our records where they belong! I encourage all our members to telephone, write, email, etc. their local members.*

## EDITORIAL

More on Libraries...The Australian Library news decided to celebrate Constitution Day with a re-write of the national anthem. So...from Di Sinclair at our NT Reference Library:

Librarians all let us rejoice for we  
Provide great free  
Resources for our clients dear  
Wherever they may be.  
Our stacks abound in lovely books  
With treasures rich and rare.  
Great databases for their use,  
Docdel for items far.

Great databases for their use,  
Docdel for items far.

Beneath the weight of budget cuts  
We toil hard all the day.  
To make collections relevant for  
Those we serve today.  
With Google for a rival, NSLA  
Policies to guide  
We'll stand the test and be the best  
Across Australia wide.

We'll stand the test and be the best  
Across Australia wide.

Marvellous isn't it!!!!

Heard from Sue Stanton that she is going to Tunisia for the time being. She says that her email should be the same: [suestanton@hotmail.com](mailto:suestanton@hotmail.com)  
We wish her a happy and safe holiday.

News from the NT Library: *Sydney Herald* 1831-1842 and *Sydney Morning Herald* 1842-1852 now digitized and the copies from 1852-1954 will be made available each week. *Sunday Herald* 1949-1953 will also become available. The *Melbourne Argus/Argus* 1846-1945 are also available and the remaining 10 years (1945-1954) will be available in mid 2010. Contact the Library for more information.

Western Australia has recently revised its genealogical 'jungle' and it is available at [www.slwa.wa.gov.au/dead\\_reckoning](http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/dead_reckoning)

Some interesting questions have been answered: where is/was Nebraska Beach, King, Brooks and Aldridge streets were nearby.

Well, the beach was where the Darwin Naval Base is and these streets were in the area above which is now the Army Base. Does anyone know whether the names are still in existence as streets there? [from the Australian Government Solicitor, Sydney]

We have been asked the origin of the name 'Lameroo' - look up under 'Beaches' on the Place Names website.

I was asked the cost of land at Southport in 1926—the question went to Tony Pickering! [Another solicitor!!, NOT Tony!]

John Brookshaw (UK) wants to know more about the Royal Marines at Fort Dundas—a relative of his was one—I am unaware of any reports having been written about the marines—perhaps someone knows of one?

Shepparton (Victoria) Aboriginal history has been preserved as thousands of documents have been catalogued and are held by the Koori Resource and Information Centre.

The archive of Robert Louis Stevenson has been brought together on a dedicated webpage [www.robert-louis-stevenson.org](http://www.robert-louis-stevenson.org)

The National Library of Ireland has launched *The Sources Database for Irish Research* which provides bibliographic reference details for books and journals concerned with Irish topics held in libraries and universities in US, AUST, NZ, UK and South Africa.  
<http://sources.nli.ie>

New exhibition at the National Library of Australia: *Thiess 75 Years: Shaping a Nation*. The National Library is also collecting the stories of the children who were in orphanages and foster care during the 1920s and 1970s. Also at the National Library is the exhibition *Far sited: The Maps that Made Canberra* until 31 January

Northern Territory Library has the *Cyclone Tracy* exhibition until 7 February.

Jennifer Ainge from Iguana Films was looking for women who experienced World War II for a short film *Girls own War Story*.

Yvonne Forrest

## Dates for your diary

Wednesday, 10 FEBRUARY: 7.30pm: HSNT Council Meeting, 55 Ross Smith Avenue

Wednesday, 17 FEBRUARY, 7.30pm: HSNT lecture  
MAGNT Theatre: Graham Hockey, Cattlemán

Wednesday, 10 MARCH, 7.30pm: HSNT Council Meeting, 55 Ross Smith Avenue

Wednesday, 24 MARCH: HSNT Annual General Meeting,

Wednesday, 14 APRIL, 7.30pm HSNT Council Meeting, 55 Ross Smith Avenue

Wednesday, 28 APRIL, 7.30pm: HSNT lecture,  
MAGNT Theatre: Jim Sullivan, Cattlemán

Wednesday, 12 MAY, 7.30pm: HSNT Council Meeting, 55 Ross Smith Avenue

Wednesday 26 MAY, 7.30pm: HSNT lecture,  
MAGNT Theatre: Ted Ling

Wednesday, 9 JUNE, 7.30pm: HSNT Council Meeting, 55 Ross Smith Avenue

Monday, 14 JUNE: Queen's Birthday—HSNT day trip

Wednesday, 23 JUNE, 7.30pm: HSNT lecture,  
MAGNT Theatre, Ian McBean, Cattlemán

Wednesday, 14 JULY, 7.30pm; HSNT Council Meeting, 55 Ross Smith Avenue

Friday/Monday, 23/26 JULY: HSNT field trip? Somewhere south so that members from Katherine, Mataranka, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs can join us.

Wednesday, 11 AUGUST, 7.30pm: HSNT Council Meeting, 55 Ross Smith Avenue

Wednesday, 25 AUGUST: 7.30pm; HSNT lecture,  
MAGNT Theatre

Wednesday, 8 SEPTEMBER, 7.30pm: HSNT Council Meeting; 55 Ross Smith Avenue

Wednesday, 22 SEPTEMBER: Patron's Dinner

Wednesday 13 OCTOBER, 7.30pm; HSNT Council Meeting, 55 Ross Smith Avenue

Wednesday, 27 OCTOBER, 7.30PM: HSNT lecture,  
MAGNT Theatre

Wednesday, 10 NOVEMBER, 7.30pm: HSNT Council Meeting, 55 Ross Smith Avenue

Sunday, 28 NOVEMBER: HSNT Christmas Brunch

*The dates for later in the year are tentative and rely on our speakers being able to come on those dates, however we will endeavour to stay with these days if possible.*

## NEW BOOKS

BAILEY, John (2006) *Mr Stuart's Track: the forgotten life or Australia's greatest explorer.* Sydney: Pan Macmillan

ISBN 978 0 3304 2361 8

## JOURNALS RECEIVED

Boab Bulletin 92009) December  
Canberra & District newsletter (2009) 426/  
December-January

Citation (2009) November  
Katherine Museum newsletter (2009) November., December

The Library (2009) December  
Placenames Australia (2009) December  
RHSQ Bulletin (2009) 737/December

## QUOTES WITH A DIFFERENCE

**Libraries:** Guy Brown, British author (2003):

*Libraries are brothels for the mine which means that Librarians are the madams, greeting punters, understanding their strange tastes and needs and pimping their books. That's rubbish of course, but it does wonders for the image of Librarians.*

British playwright, Billy Russell (2009):

*I pray that no child of mine would ever descend into such a place as a library. They are indeed most dangerous places and unfortunate is she or he who is lured into such a hellhole of enjoyment, stimulus, facts, passion and fun.*

The NATIONAL TRUST will be celebrating *Goyder's Day on Friday, 5 FEBRUARY 2010.* In the afternoon there will be an re-enactment of Goyder's arrival in Darwin near the park by the Deckchair Cinema. It is planned that the Historical Society will have a book stall between 2pm and 5pm selling our books and journals —visitors and helpers are welcome.

Members are also welcome at the Memorial to Ross and Keith Smith in Fannie Bay on 10 December at 3pm for 3.30pm when we celebrate the arrival of the brothers in Darwin ninety years ago. Administrator Tom Pauling will give the address

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

## REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

From Paul Rosenzweig:

After three years as the Assistant Defence Attaché to the Republic of the Philippines I came back to Adelaide in January 2008 where I was Deputy Director of the Army Personnel Agency/Adelaide. That job was busy enough but I was also often required to stand in for the Army Area Representative/South Australia at various commemorative events and medal presentations. I had the opportunity to represent Army in a Vice-Regal environment at events such as Investitures and the Opening of Parliament. I also kept busy as a volunteer First Responder with St John Ambulance and, during my time in Adelaide, I attained appointment as a Divisional Officer Grade VI and qualified as a Training Officer.

I've just completed an intensive Tetum language course at the Defence School of Languages and will go to East Timor in January 2010 as a Command Adviser to the *Falintil-Forças de Defesa de Timor Leste* [East Timor Defence Force]. I'll be based at Baucau in the east where I intend helping to set up a community library and assisting with literacy programmes. If anyone has appropriate books or they would like to donate I would be happy to hear from them.

My address is: 8261775 Maj. P A Rosenzweig, C/- Defence Staff, Australian Embassy Dili, Locked Bag 40, Kingston ACT 2604 or for parcels: 8261775 Maj. P A Rosenzweig, Defence Cooperation Programme, PO Box 86, Dili, East Timor/Timor Leste.

I wish you all well for 2010



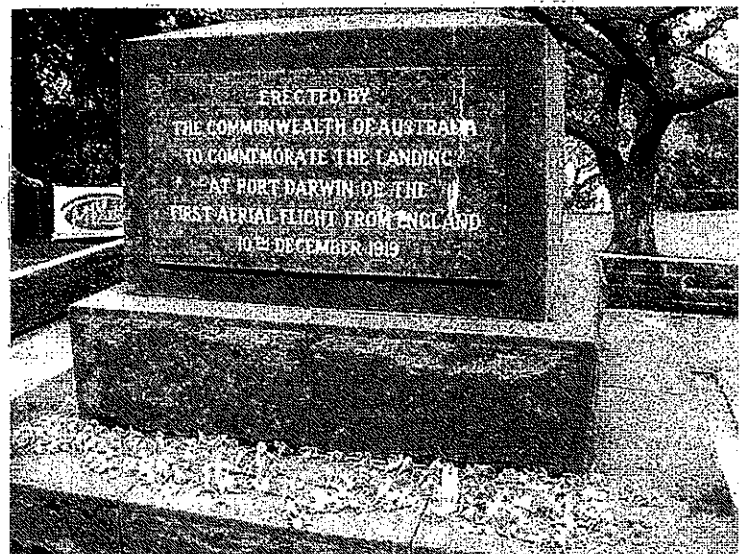
School children laying flowers at the memorial

## 90th Anniversary of the Great Air Race, England to Australia (Darwin) 1919

BY BEV PHELPS

On 10 December 1919, brothers Capt. Ross and Lt Keith Smith and technicians Sgt. Jim Bennett and Sgt. Wally Shiers touched down at Fannie Bay in their Vickers Vimy. The men had just completed the first flight from England to Australia and did it in 27 days 20 hours. The Vickers Vimy had travelled across Europe to Italy, then to Iraq, Delhi, Calcutta, Rangoon and Timor before landing in Darwin. The crew succeeded in winning "the Great Air Race", instigated by Prime Minister Billy Hughes. A £10,000 prize was offered to any crew who could complete the journey in less than 30 days. Of the seven aircraft that entered the race only two made it to Australia with the runners up arriving many months later. On their arrival in Darwin the crew were greeted by renown pilot, Hudson Fysh, who described the feat in his book *Qantas Rising* "as one of, if not the greatest flights in aviation history".

A monument acknowledging the event is located at the end of Ross Smith Avenue overlooking the sea. Ninety years later, at the very spot and minute, officials, historians, school children and the general public gathered to mark the occasion. The NT Administrator, Lord Mayor of Darwin and Minister for Education addressed the audience while a Tiger Moth flew overhead. Afterwards refreshments were taken at the Qantas Hangar (c.1934). The commemoration was organized by the Fannie Bay Historical and Heritage Society and Darwin High School and sponsored by the Darwin City Council and the NT Government.



The memorial at the end of Ross Smith Avenue, Fannie Bay