

HSNT Newsletter

No.35/March 2010

Historical Society of the Northern Territory

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Patron: The Hon Austin Asche AC, QC

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Northern Territory Government has recently announced its intention of Heritage Listing the Fort Wellington settlement site on Cobourg Peninsula and invited comment. This is a very welcome stage in a significant Historical Society project. A Society expedition in 1966 'rediscovered' the site and further expeditions in 2008 and 2009 have added considerably to our understanding of the area. It is hoped heritage listing will lead to the preparation of a management plan for the material remains. It is ultimately hoped to heritage list all three nineteenth century British Government settlement attempts in north Australia (Fort Dundas, Fort Wellington and Victoria) and the two South Australian government attempts (Escape Cliffs and Goyder's Camp). This would then enable an application to have all five sites serially listed nationally and make better known the rich nineteenth century history we have.

The Society like most others these days is having to count it pennies. With this in mind we are thinking about turning our Newsletter into an e-newsletter. We are not sure if this

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 25 FEBRUARY, NT Library, 5.15pm:** Talk by author Jill Jolliffe on '*Cover-up: The Inside Story of the Bailibo Five*.'
- 10 MARCH, Wednesday:** Committee meeting, 55 Ross Smith Avenue Parap, 7.30pm
- 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*]
- 14 APRIL, Wednesday, HSNT committee meeting,** Ross Smith Avenue, 7.30pm
- APRIL, HSNT evening lecture:** MAGNT, 7.30pm, Jim Sullivan, pastoralist. *Gold coin donation.*
- 22 MAY, Saturday, 10am:** Meet David Carment at the Cool Spot, Fannie Bay.
- JUNE:** possible trip to Fort Wellington, Raffles Bay
- JULY:** possible trip to Tennant Creek region, Powell Creek telegraph station.
- AUGUST:** possible return trip to Bradshaw Station (hopefully camping at the Station homestead).

Would suit everyone so, if any member does not like the idea or does not have easy access to email would you please let us know (ph. 0432 558,226)

Brian Reid

EDITORIAL

I do hope that you will all consider nominating for a place on the Committee—we really do need some overhauling as a number want to close the office in Parap and give away our resources. It is difficult trying to open the office with such apathy from the Committee but it would be a shame for members to loose a meeting place or somewhere to just have a coffee. Last year the rent was covered by fundraising—most of which is done by Bev Phelts and a small group of helpers—the ACCS lottery is an easy way of making money but some don't think it is quite 'appropriate' for our Society. Unfortunately they are the ones who do not do anything to raise money and who often don't support our functions. To be honest, anyway of raising money in this day and age has to be looked at and explored. At least with the ACCS lottery we get all our money back and the GST as well. I am sure that you all read Earl James' comment re our finances in the last newsletter—we really do need to do something.

My apologies to members who may have got a notice of renewal of membership when they had already paid—unfortunately the information sent to the Post Office box is not always relayed to me immediately so this oversight on my part may occur again - My apologies.

A most successful quiz afternoon was held in February at Shenannigans, Mitchell Street. The Hotel do all the work — the questions, provide the prizes and the MC, etc. so we were fascinated to see if it would work for us. Unfortunately only 47 members and friends attended but we did pick up some of the public who were at the pub at the time. Winners were Pamela Pinkerton, Nannette Hunter, Darlene Wright, Jenny Parish, Peter Thomas, Jennifer Rigby and Erica Sims—and out thanks to our supporters, Roma Bar, Angus & Robertson (the lucky door prize that went to Peter Thomas' table), Darwin Central Hotel (won by Lucio Matarazzo), Calvi Boutique (won by Yvonne Forrest), Pee Wees at the Point and the Darwin Airport Hotel (won by a member of the public). The HSNT made \$855 and we all had fun. Many thanks to those who participated and it is hoped that those new members will take an active interest in the Society. *Please note that you can only win a free membership once, not each year.*

We welcome new members Teresa Lugg, Barbara Baggley, James and Belinda Boland, and June Slee and look forward to seeing them at our meetings and outings.

We are looking at going to the Tennant Creek area for our July weekend away. This would allow us to meet members from Katherine, Mataranka, Tennant Creek and perhaps have those from Mount Isa and Alice Springs join us.

I have just returned from a wonderful trip to Canberra to see the 'Masterpieces from Paris' exhibition—I would recommend it to anyone who is lucky enough to get to Canberra before it finishes on 4 April—to save time, book your ticket over the internet and arrive after lunch—the queues are shorter and you can get a pass out so you can refresh yourself with a coffee. The weather was perfect but I did return to a rather soggy Darwin.

I shall also be driving to Broome during the month of April—a fact finding trip as next year I am to take members of U3A Prague across the Kimberley. So next newsletter may be a little late—please keep this one to give you dates for April functions and watch the NT News for exact dates.

By now many of you will know that we have won the first round of the battle with the National Australian Archives to keep our information in our own states - but beware, I am sure that there will be more to come and that we should not relax our vigilance. Congratulations to all who supported our efforts and thanks to those who wrote letters to their local members and to the politicians. I heard from a friend that he saw David Carment on television, I am not sure whether he was interviewed or whether he was attending a demonstration.

Whilst in Canberra I visited the Australian War memorial and, it being the 19 February, I was asked by the Guide to give a short talk on the bombing of Darwin when we saw that display—a painting of Samuel Fejo and the Flag from Government House.

Yvonne Forrest

FUNDRAISING

We now have our allocation of 40 books in the Australian Central Credit Union 2010 Lottery. At two dollars (\$2) for each ticket and 10 tickets to a book, it is an easy way of making some funds for the Society. I would encourage all members to ask for a book from Bev Phelts (~~8221~~ ~~2000~~ [h]) or Yvonne Forrest (although I shall be away for the rest of February) 0432 558 226. We have already sold 3 books and tickets will be available at all our functions. By now I hope that you have read the comments of our Treasurer, Earl James, and will participate in making some money for us.

Many thanks to those from interstate who have supported us—we have taken already over \$200.

As I shall be away for April and possibly into May Bev Phelts will have the available tickets - please contact her if you feel you could sell some or to return books and money.

With regard to the closing of the Office in the Guides' building, it is difficult to know where we could go. We certainly do not have the money to pay commercial rates of rental and, if they are sent to the Archives, who knows what might happen to them. Certainly they would be very difficult to access as Archives check all documents before they are available to the public and they give priority to Government documents - ours may take years to be available. Also it is not practicable to hold them at a private house as this also would be difficult to access. Some thoughts please -

NEW BOOKS, JOURNALS AND ARTICLES ON THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Boab Bulletin (2010) 96/February
Canberra & District H.S. Newsletter (2010) 427/Feb-March
Canberra Historical Journal (2009) 62/October
Historical Society of S.A. JOURNAL (2009) no.37
History (2009) 102/December
History News (2009) 284/Nov-Dec; 285/Feb-March
History SA (2010) 203/January
John McDouall Stuart Soc newsletter (2009) 127/December
RHSQ Bulletin (2009) 737/December; (2010) 738/February
Royal Australian H.S. journal (2009) vol.95,pt.2, November
Signals (2010) 89/February
Stockman's News (2009) 106/October
Territory in Trust (2009) vol.26,no.1, Jan-June
Trust News (2009) vol.1,no.10/November

Darwin High School year book, 2009

TO THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT RENEWED THEIR MEMBERSHIP, THIS WILL BE THE LAST NEWSLETTER SENT—AS THE COMMITTEE HAS NOW SAID THAT THE NEWSLETTER SHALL BE SENT OUT BY EMAIL COULD EVERYBODY BE SURE TO ADVISE ME OF THEIR ADDRESS. THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE EMAIL WILL STILL RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER AS A HARD COPY.

(I am having problems with some of the inet.com addresses—could those people using this please contact me on 0432 558 226 or send an email to the office)



Northern
Territory
Government

What's on at the Northern Territory Library

Annual WWII Exhibition

'Serving in the Territory, 1941-1945'

Until 21 March 2010

In commemoration of the Bombing of Darwin

In 1944, 63 690 men and women were serving in the Northern Territory and experiencing the tropics for the first time.

The exhibition uses photographs, newspapers and original documents from the Library's collection, showing the adverse conditions under which our military forces lived whilst protecting Australia's north during the Second World War.

Free exhibition



Evening Talk

Tony Fitzgerald Memorial Address

by Terry O'Gorman

President of the Australian Council for Civil Liberties

Thursday 4 March 5:30pm

This inaugural memorial address is in honour of Tony Fitzgerald, former NT Anti-Discrimination Commissioner; a man who worked tirelessly to promote messages of tolerance, understanding and justice for all people in the Northern Territory. The guest speaker for the address is Mr Terry O'Gorman. Mr O'Gorman worked for the Queensland Legal Aid Commission in 1981, and since 1996, he has been the President of the Australian Council for Civil Liberties.

Hosted by the Criminal Lawyers Association NT

Free event, open to the public

Bookings preferred

1800 019 155

or libraryevents@nt.gov.au



Exhibition Launch and Display

'Territory Women'

Monday 8 March 5:15pm

Celebrating International Women's Day 2010

The Northern Territory Library (NTL) will launch a newly-compiled online database and display which contains biographical information on women who lived in the NT and contributed to the Territory way of life. Extensively researched by NTL, this new online collection reveals intriguing details about these amazing women.



The exhibition launch will feature a talk from guest speaker, Margaret Reynolds, who held the position of Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on the Status of Women from 1988-1990.

Free event, open to the public

Lunchtime Talk

'The Copenhagen Climate Summit: Where to from here?'

by The Hon. Robert Hill

Former Australian UN Ambassador

Monday 15 March 12:10pm

Mr Hill will present an overview of the recent Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen and its implications for the future.

Robert Hill is a former Liberal Senator, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Defence. In 2006, he was appointed as Australia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and was later appointed to head the Australian Carbon Trust. Mr Hill is now the National President of the United Nations Association of Australia.

Hosted by United Nations Assoc. Australia NT (UNAANT) Inc

Free event, open to the public



Lunchtime Talk and Display Launch

*'For Tiwi People Football Means Life':
Northern Territory Football, 1916-1953*

By Matthew Stephen NTAS

Wednesday 10 March 12:10pm

History of Tiwi Football Display

'Kicking Goals – Tiwi Style'

10 March until 1 May 2010

The display will take you back in time with photographs and a time line of the history of Tiwi Football.



Photographic Exhibition

*A Different Time: The Expedition Photographs of
Herbert Basedow.*

29 March - 2 May 2010

Herbert Basedow was an anthropologist, geologist and doctor, whose photographs document his expeditions to Central Australia in the early 1900s.

In 1903, Basedow compiled a detailed journal on the Aboriginal communities he visited, collecting a vocabulary of about 1500 words of the Aluridja Aranda languages. He was one of the few Europeans of his time to show an active interest in recording details of traditional Aboriginal life.

Free exhibition



LIBRARY

"Celebrating 30 years" www.ntl.nt.gov.au

**Territory
lifestyle**