



Historical Society of the Northern Territory

NEWSLETTER MAY 2010

PO Box 40544, Casuarina NT 0811

Office: Room 3, Guide Headquarters, 55 Ross Smith Avenue, Parap

Mobile: 0432 558 226

From the President

At the recent AGM, the 2010 HSNT Council was elected and it is great to see all the positions filled. We have retained valuable experience and gained a great deal from new and/or returning members to the Council. I thank the outgoing members of the Council for their valuable contributions. Special thanks to Brian Reid for his long service as President. Although no longer President, Brian remains on the Council so his corporate knowledge is still at hand.

The Council's priorities for 2010, are as always, focused on fostering an interest in NT history and advocating on issues related to it. We are currently keeping a close eye on the agreement between the National Archives of Australia (NAA) and the NT Government and their 'co-location' agreement. We should congratulate ourselves on the vigorous campaign mounted by the HSNT in concert with other historical organisations and individuals to stop the closure of the NAA Darwin office. Although successful - we must remain vigilant. Although the NAA retains a presence in the NT, it will not be providing the same service that it has in the past. Details have not yet been released but NAA records related to the NT will remain in Darwin while others will be removed to other NAA facilities. The HSNT is seeking clarification as to what this actually means. There are discussions on having the NT Archives Service (NTAS) and NAA collections under one roof. This would offer great opportunities for an enhanced service to researchers. However, the HSNT's concern is that the NTAS continues to remain fully resourced if it is moved to the Milner facility, and that its services and capacity will not be diminished in any way.

As the new HSNT President, I would encourage all members to engage with the Council on any matters pertaining to history in general and the operations of the Society itself. As a volunteer organisation, we are only as strong and active as the membership itself. As always the Council is working on a program of lectures and activities that offer many opportunities for members and the public to engage with Northern Territory history. Keeping the Society financially buoyant is also very important. Any suggestions for lecture series and future activities would gratefully be received.

The HSNT is mindful that we need to maintain and grow our membership. Please take any opportunity that might arise to encourage new members to join. I believe for the HSNT to remain viable and relevant we must be involved as an advocate and lobbyist on important historical / heritage issues. If you become aware of issues of importance to your local area and/or the Northern Territory, please don't hesitate to contact myself or Council members to discuss them.

Matthew Stephen

Coming Events

- 12 May Wednesday – National Nurses Day – at the Nurses Museum, CDU. Minister Kon Vatskalis will be opening the nurses display. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, contact Janie Mason on mobile 0408 894 588 or 89466385 wk or Janie.mason@cdu.edu.au
- 22 May Saturday 10am – Meet David Carment at the Cool Spot, Fannie Bay
- 26 May Wednesday 7.30pm at the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT - Dr Ted Ling will talk about the history of the Territory pastoral industry. In particular, the Payne-Fletcher Board of Inquiry 1937.
- 12-14 June Queens Birthday long weekend– Camping trip to Fort Wellington site, Raffles Bay
- 23-24 July - Darwin Show Day long weekend – Camping trip to Longreach Waterhole and Powell Creek Telegraph Station.
- 20-22 August – Camping trip to Bradshaw Defence Force Base (near Timber Creek)
- 25 August Wednesday 7.30pm at the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT – Ian McBean, pastoralist will talk about the pastoral industry

***** **Friends of the Kahlin Compound** is interested in collecting any information/ photographs on the compound. If you are interested in joining or assisting the group, contact Janie Mason on mobile 0408 894 588 or 89466385 wk or Janie.mason@cdu.edu.au

VISIT TO THE FORT WELLINGTON SITE RAFFLES BAY LONG WEEKEND IN JUNE 2010

The Society has approval to revisit the old settlement site on the Queen's birthday weekend, Friday 11 June to Monday 14 June. We will camp, as before, on the western side of Raffles Bay and the Parks and Wildlife Rangers have again kindly agreed to transport us across the bay.

The intent of this visit, is to closely examine the fort site determined on our 2009 visit. This will be primarily an archaeological excursion and Archeologist, Richard Wolfe has agreed to take charge of those aspects at the site.

We plan to drive out in convoy on the Friday and return on the Monday, giving two full days at the site. The Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary and Marine Park Board have again generously agreed to waive the camping fees. However permits will be required to pass through the Arnhem Land Reserve and to enter the Peninsula. Permits are approximately \$15 per vehicle .

Members who are interested in participating, complete & post the form below and attach \$15 cheque to cover the cost of a permit **as soon as possible and no later than 15 May**.

For inquiries contact Bev Phelts on 0417 868 827 or 89818236 AH or by email:

ntresearchservices@yahoo.com.au

NAMES OF PEOPLE ATTENDING _____

VEHICLE TYPE/MAKE & COLOUR _____

NT REGO NUMBER _____ CONTACT NUMBER _____

VISIT TO THE LONGREACH WATERHOLE AND POWELL CREEK TELEGRAPH STATION (Newcastle Waters Station region) Darwin Show-day weekend Friday 23 July to Monday 26 July

***** Bring own camping gear, food and DRINKING WATER . ****

Programme

1. Meet at the Warlock Rest Area ('P') at 10.00 am (spacious with toilets) on Friday Show Day. The Warlock Rest Area is approx 37 km south of Mataranka on left. (15 14 11 S, 133 06 48 E)
Participants can either drive from Darwin early that morning or overnight in Katherine on the Thursday.
2. Slow drive to Elliott (287 km) on the Friday looking at historic sites on the way (eg Elsey Cemetery, Daly Waters, Newcastle Waters).
3. Arrive at Longreach Waterhole (12 km off Stuart Highway) around 4pm and set up camp. Sand track. Accessible in 2WD high vehicle clearance - with care. Toilets, water & swimming available but bring drinking water.
4. Saturday, 9.00am, drive down Stuart Highway to Powell Creek turn off (60 km) then along track (7km) to old telegraph station (Permission has been obtained from Newcastle Waters Station). Dirt road. A couple of rocky dry creeks. 2WD high vehicle clearance - with care. Lunch at Powell Creek then return to camp for a swim. There is an option after lunch to drive down to Tennant Creek (approx 200km) and return in the evening.
5. Sunday. Return to Katherine (approx 400km) when ready and overnight or on to Darwin (approx 300 km)

For inquiries & to advise that you wish to participate no later than 30 May - contact Bev Phelts on 0417 868 827 or 89818236 AH or by email: ntresearchservices@yahoo.com.au
Field notes with some detail of the historic sites will be available to those coming along.

Broome Visit

During April, Bev Phelts and Yvonne Forrest visited Broome and among other activities, met up with the members of the Broome Historical Society and Sister Patricia of the Sisters of St John of God.

The Broome Historical Society operates out of a wonderful museum that showcases much of Broome's history and covers the pearling, pastoral, WW11 and the rich cultural history of Broome. The museum building was originally constructed during the late 1890s and in 1901 it was used by Newman, Goldstein & Co. The company used the building to store all that was needed for its fleet of 22 pearling luggers, 2 schooners and a steam launch. At the time, the company also owned the notorious Roebuck Bay Hotel. In 1910, Customs moved into the building and remained there until 1979. The Broome Shire Council bought the building and it was opened as a museum in 1981 by the then Premier of WA, Sir Charles Court.



The Broome Historical Society Museum



Inside Broome's Pearl Museum
Yvonne Forrest & Bev Phelts

The Sisters of St John of God have a fabulous *Relationships Exhibition* on show at the Old Convent. The Sisters still continue to celebrate their centenary 1907-2007 of their establishment in the Kimberley region. The Convent was constructed in 1926 by Japanese carpenter and shipbuilder, Hori Gorokitchi and built using the traditional carpentry method of Shinkabe. Inside the Convent is a rich display of 3500 photographs, film clips, oral interviews, historical data and heritage items. Behind the Convent is a newly purpose built archival repository which will be officially opened in May. Sister Patricia and volunteer Gwen Bucknall gave us the honour of being shown through their new building. If you are ever in Broome, a visit to the Broome Historical Society Museum and the Sisters of St John of God *Relationships Exhibition* is a must see.



The Old Convent. The new archival repository is located behind the building.



Sisters of St John of God's new archive repository. Left: volunteer Gwen Bucknall, Sister Patricia, Yvonne Forrest & Bev Phelts