



Historical Society of the Northern Territory

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2010

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From the President

The HSNT year is in full swing. The lecture series has been full of interest and as you can see there are many coming events to consider adding to your personal programs.

At the May meeting of the HSNT council the HSNT archives were discussed. A decision was made to review the archives and their future management. A small sub-group of the council plans to meet to consider the archives past, present and future. If you have any ideas in regards to the management and/or use of our archives please contact members of the HSNT council so they can be added to the mix.

A question was raised at the meeting about the Defence of Darwin museum. After much debate and public advocacy the Northern Territory Government announced that it intends to spend \$11.5 million to commemorate the Northern Territory's role in World War II. It also announced that an advisory group has been formed to inform the planning and development process comprised, amongst others, key stakeholders including military, heritage and tourism experts and local historians. As a key stakeholder the HSNT has yet to be approached by the Northern Territory government and we intend to contact the minister seeking information on the current status of this proposal.

There is no further news on the co-location of the Northern Territory Archives Service to the National Archives of Australia building in Milner. The HSNT continues to monitor this situation to ensure that current access and services are maintained.

If there are other historical issues that members believe that the HSNT should be aware of please let a council member know so that we can become fully informed and consider how the HSNT can contribute to the debate.

Matthew Stephen

Coming Events

- 8 June, Tuesday at 12:10pm at the NT Library - Jack Mullholland with an introduction by Tom Lewis OAM. Jack was an AA gunner in WWII, and fought in the first raids. His station was on the Darwin Oval, approx 700m from the NT Library. Jack is also the author of "*Darwin Bombed*", which some consider to be one of the most accurate eye witness accounts. Free event, open to the public. Bookings preferred 1800 019 155 or Email: libraryevents@nt.gov.au

- 10 June – Professor Tom Griffiths (Centre for Environmental History, Aust National University) will discuss “A Humanist on Thin Ice: Science, Humanities and Climate Change” on Thursday at 12.15pm in the Seminar Room, NARU (next to University) 23 Ellengowan Drive, Brinkin. The seminar is free and open to the public.
- 12-13 and 19-20 June – the NT Writers Centre will be holding a workshop titled “Spicing up the Shorts” by Mary Anne Butler. The workshop will be held at the Frog Hollow Conference Room, McMinns Street, Darwin members \$220/\$190 concession and non members \$260. For information phone: 89412651 or info@ntwriters.com.au
- 28 June, Monday at 12:10pm at the NT Library - Professor Steve Larkin - new Pro Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous Leadership at CDU. Professor Larkin is the highest ranking Indigenous person in an Australian university, and has extensive leadership experience in Indigenous organisations including the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, the Aboriginal Health Strategy Unit in the NT Health Services and the Community Development and Social Health Branch of the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care. He holds a Bachelor of Social Work, a Master of Social Science (Welfare and Social Policy) and is completing his PhD on the topic “*Race matters? Indigenous employment in the Australian Public Service*”. Free event, open to the public. Bookings preferred 1800 019 155 or Email: libraryevents@nt.gov.au
- 26 June – 3 July - the NT Writers Centre presents Desert Writers with Jan Cornall. A 2 day walk and write along the Larrapinta Trail to the newly opened Larrapinta Indigenous centre. Meet with traditional owners and Arrente guides. Workshops will be held on and off track with Jan. Camping and walking will be supported. Medium fitness required. Bring an existing writing project or start a new one. For information phone: 0414929768 or 0415921303 or www.intotheblue.com.au
- 29 June, Tuesday at 5:15pm at the NT Library - Mungo MacCallum “Current Politics and Deplorable Media Coverage” Come and join us to hear this talk by political journalist and commentator Mungo MacCallum. Mungo has also authored several books, including ‘Run, Johnny, Run’ written after the Australian federal election, 2004, and ‘Poll Dancing’ in 2007.
- Exhibition - On display at the NT Library until 20 June “ Selling an American Dream: Australia’s Greek Café”. This national touring exhibition chronicles a significant Australian story: how one key institution – the Greek café – set the agenda and broadly affected and influenced popular Australian culture. The exhibition comprises of over 100, mostly B&W, historical and contemporary photographic images featuring Greek cafés, their predecessors, (the oyster saloon, soda/sundae ‘parlor’ and milk bar) and those who ran, worked in, and frequented these establishments.
- 23-24 July - Darwin Show Day long weekend – Camping trip to Longreach Waterhole and Powell Creek Telegraph Station. Information below
- Friday 20 to Monday 23 August – Camping trip to Bradshaw Defence Force Base (near Timber Creek)
- 27 & 28 August – Open days at Government House - 3-7pm both days.

- ANU/CDU History Colloquium, Saturday 6 November at the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT Theatre. Organised by the Professional Historian Association and History Council of the NT. If you are interested in presenting a paper (20 or 40 mins allocation), contact Steve Farram at the Charles Darwin University 89466666 or steven.farram@cdu.edu.au.

Congratulations to our President, Dr Matthew Stephen and Dr Ted Ling who were presented their PhD's at the Charles Darwin University Ceremony in May.

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. Friday 23 July (Show Day) at 10.00am - Meet at the Warlock Rest Area ('P') (spacious with toilets) 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 (22nd).
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 24 July at 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 25 July - Return to Katherine (approx 400km) when ready and overnight or on to Darwin (approx 300 km)

We have one lady looking for a ride and who is willing to share costs. If you have a spare seat please contact Bev. For inquiries & to advise that you wish to participate by mid June, 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.

Robin McIntyre & Barry Leithhead are doing a biographical project on Robin's father, Dr E C Cook. Barry will be traveling from Sydney to Darwin and retracing the route of Dr Cook who travelled between central Queensland and Darwin twice in 1925. Barry will be joining this field trip as it takes in part of Cook's route. During the trip and around the campfire, Barry will talk about the Cook project and his traveling adventures.

VISIT TO BRADSHAW FIELD TRAINING AREA

The Department of Defence and the Traditional Owners Bradshaw Liaison Committee are happy for the NT and Kunnunnara Historical Societies to make a repeat visit in August 2010. The weekend Friday 20 to Monday 23 August fits in between Defence activities there. This will be largely a working weekend re-looking at historic sites in the homestead area and hopefully finding a couple of marked Boab trees that eluded us last time. More detail in the next newsletter.

New Publications




Karen Fox, 'Rosalie Kunoth-Monks and the Making of *Jedda*', in *Aboriginal History*, vol 33, 2009, pp 77-96.

Rod Moss, *The Hard Light of Day: An Artist's Story of Friendships in Arnernte Country*, University of Queensland Press, Brisbane, 2010, ISBN 9780702237744.

This is What We Said: Australian Aboriginal People Give Their Views on the Northern Territory Intervention, 'Concerned Australians', Melbourne, 2010, ISBN 9788646527871.

Pam Oliver, *Raids on Australia: 1942 and Japan's Plans for Australia*. Cost \$44 includes postage. Send cheque or credit card details to Australian Scholarly Publishing PO Box 299 Kew Vic 3101

Snippets

-  If you are interested in finding out if your primary or secondary school has published its history, the Cunningham Library, Camberwell Melbourne has a list of school histories. The titles of the books can be browsed at <http://tinyurl.com/2uifshy>
-  Australian Book Review
Australian Book Review is now publishing short stories and is seeking contributions. For more information <http://www.australianbookreview.com.au/>
-  From Yvonne Forrest
Whilst in Broome recently, I learnt of Japanese soldiers who landed in the north west of Australia during World War 11. Leaving Kupang on the 17 January 1944, they arrived at York Sound near the Moran River on 20 January. Professor Mizuno was the leader of a group from the top secret Nakeno School of Espionage who spent 2 days in Australia filming the terrain and reefs in the area. The landing was to test the strength and presence of allied defences in the region as it was proposed by Japanese high command that, as a diversionary tactic, a fleet of small fishing vessels be sent from Indonesia. It was to be a guerrilla style offensive on isolated homesteads and towns. Luckily, the plan was not carried out. (ref: *Australasian Post*, 14 March 1985, pp.2-5) The Post has also other articles titled "Target Darwin" in the 4 July 1985 issue and "Spies in Sydney" in the 1 August 1985 issue. They make most interesting reading!

Past President and Secretary of the Historical Society, Emeritus Professor David Carment was in town recently and a group of us caught up with him at Fannie Bay's Cool Spot. Although David is "retired" and lives in Sydney he continues to supervise PhD students at CDU. Now an active member of the NSW Royal Historical Society, David continues to be involved in the NT Historical Society. His current projects are family history and writing about the social and political scene during the 25 years he lived in the Territory.



At the Cool Spot, from left: Bev Phelts, Yvonne Forrest & David Carment



from left: David, Lucio & Kathy Matarazzo