



Historical Society of the Northern Territory

Patron: The Hon Austin Asche AC

NEWSLETTER

December 2010 to February 2011 NO: 44

PO Box 40544, Casuarina NT 0811

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President's Report

From Dr Brian Reid

Welcome to 2011 and another year of interesting lectures, field trips and activities.

Over the new year period, our President, Dr Matthew Stephen left Darwin for the greener pastures of Broome. Matthew has taken up a position with the Sisters of St John of God who are based in the Old Convent. The Sisters celebrated their centenary from 1907-2007 on their establishment in the Kimberley region. The Convent holds a rich display of 3500 photographs, film clips, oral interviews, historical data and heritage items. Matthew's primary role will be to digitize and catalogue their extensive photograph collection. The HSNT Committee thanks him for all the work he has done for the Society and the Council wish him the best in his new position and "sea change".

In December, the Committee held a meeting in order to fill vacancies and to say farewell to Matthew who departed Darwin in early January. Dr Brian Reid and Bev Phelts are our interim President and Vice-President until our AGM. We welcome on board Col Beard as our new Treasurer.

The Historical Society has two voluntary positions vacant and is seeking expressions of interest from members -

- An experienced Archivist – the HSNT has a wide collection of photographs, books, articles which need cataloguing. Over the years, much of the collection has been catalogued but there is still a lot more work to do. The Archivist can work their own hours to suit and is assisted by 3 wonderful volunteers who help out one day a week. Our collection is located in Guide House, Parap Road.
- The Federation of Australian Historical Societies Incorporated Committee (FAHS)

The HSNT is seeking a member to represent the HSNT and the Northern Territory on the FAHS. The FAHS is the peak body representing the interests of 1000 historical societies and 100,000 members throughout Australia with its office based in Canberra. On a Federal level, the FAHS lobbies federal, state, territory and local government bodies on matters of concern to historical societies that come within government responsibility. The FAHS makes submissions and recommendations on behalf of historical societies. The FAHS Committee comprises of one or two members from every state and territory. The FAHS holds a teleconference every quarter and an AGM. The 2011 AGM will be held in August in Adelaide. The representative will expect to become involved in national issues regarding movable heritage, heritage tourism, preservation of heritage sites and history/heritage Federal government policies/issues. FAHS web site: www.history.org.au

If you are interested in any of these two positions and want more information, contact Bev Phelts on mobile: 0417 868 827, 89818236 ah or Email: ntresearchservices@yahoo.com.au.

Coming Events

The NT National Trust –

A Commemoration of the Arrival of the Surveyor-General, GW Goyder in Darwin on 5th February 1869

The National Trust invites families to attend a re-enactment of the event on Saturday 5th February 2011 at 4.30pm at the Deckchair theatre area. Food and Drinks will be available and fun activities. It will be a great opportunity to learn more about Darwin's history. Free entry.

To Giveaway - Books/Journals/Newsletters/old records– Saturday 12 February 3pm to 5pm

We have a variety of items to give away to members. Most of the books and journals relate to Australian history and cover various topics. There are fiction and non fiction books and most of the records date back to the 1930s-40s.

If you are interested in obtaining some of these items, just come up to our office upstairs at Guide House 55 Ross Smith Road (next door to the Ambulance Service) during the designated time.

HSNT QUIZ – Sunday 20 February

The Historical Society will be holding a quiz at Shennigans from 3pm to 5pm. Shennigans is located on the corner of Peel and Mitchell Streets. This is an informal quiz and table bookings are not available. So just turn up. If you are single or a couple we can sit you with others to make up a table. Bring along your non history friends as the questions will cover various topics. Table numbers are open. Snacks and drinks can be brought at the bar. Cost is \$10 p/p and we will be auctioning off some great prizes.

For inquiries, contact Bev Phelts on 89 818236ah or 0417 868 827.

HSNT Talk – Wednesday 2 March

At the Museum and Art Gallery NT Theatrette, Concher Street, Fannie Bay – 7.20pm for 7.30pm start - Gold coin donation.

The theme for 2011 is to mark the centenary of the transfer of the Northern Territory from South Australia to the Commonwealth Government. Michael Tatham, the Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Assembly who has in previous roles been both Executive Officer and Secretary to the Statehood Steering Committee, will be discussing the history and evolution of the statehood debate. Stay for refreshments after the talk

HSNT AGM – Wednesday 23 March – 7pm for 7.30pm start

Our AGM dinner will be held at Manoli's Greek Taverna (previously Giuseppe's/Schumbacher Building), Smith Street. . If you wish to come along to the AGM dinner the cost will be \$30 p/p which includes a Greek banquet consisting of dips, spicy sausage & meat balls, fried whitebait, calamari, marinated octopus, spaghetti, and traditional salad. Drinks are extra. If you are attending, please send your cheque for the AGM, with details to PO Box 40544, Casuarina NT 0811 by Friday 18 March. For inquiries, contact Bev Phelts on 89818236ah or mobile: 0417 868 827. Previous AGM Minutes, nomination form and Agenda are at the end of the newsletter.

HSNT Field Trip – July show weekend

This year we will be visiting Limmen National Park. Details will follow later in the year.

The Chief Minister's Northern Territory History Book Award is now open for applications. Entries Close 28 February 2011 The Award is given to the best historical book on the Northern Territory published between 1 January and 31 December 2010. For information go to the NT Library web site – www.ntl.nt.gov.au

What's Happening at the NT Library? Free exhibitions and open to the public.

1 – 13 February Goyder Survey Expedition Photos Display

Celebrating Goyders' survey expedition's arrival in Darwin on 5 February 1869, the display showcases the significance of the 19 stereoscope photographs taken during the expedition, and the impact this historic survey made to modern land development. The images captured in these photos give us a valuable record of an incredibly significant part of Darwin's history. The photos are from the Northern Territory Library's special collection, and have also been made available for public viewing in an online exhibition.

10 February - 20 March

Annual Bombing of Darwin Exhibition - The Track: 1000 Miles to War

The exhibition focuses on activities along the Stuart Highway during the Second World War. Annually the Northern Territory Library commemorates the anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin on 19 February 1942, with an exhibition from its collection. The exhibition of stories, photographs, artefacts and memorabilia, gives us an insight to the numerous Military units stationed along the Highway from Alice Springs to Darwin, who were engaged in road and airfield building, establishing bases and infrastructure and preparing to defend northern Australia. The exhibition will also travel the Stuart Highway showing at the Museum of Central Australia, Araluen Cultural Precinct, Alice Springs from 15 April to 16 October 2011. The Northern Territory Library's WWII collection preserves the memory one of the most significant events in the nation's history.

Saturday 5 March 2011 – Northern Territory Library Seminar

The seminar organised by the Department of the Chief Minister is to commemorate the transfer of the Northern Territory to the Commonwealth Government 1911-2011. Speakers and details are yet to be finalised

The Kununurra Historical Society is celebrating 25 Years of the Kununurra Historical Society Archives & Museum in 2011.

Making Archives Accessible in 2011 to Show the Significance of 70 Years of Tropical Agriculture on the Ord at Carlton Reach and 50 Years of Kununurra and the Start of the Ord River Project.

KHS Flickr Profile page at www.flickr.com/people/khs-museum/

Have You Lived in Kununurra?

Go to <http://www.flickr.com/groups/have-you-lived-in-kununurra/>

Coming Soon! - Thanks to the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley (SWEK)
Major Funding Grant & Other Generous Donors of Goods & Time.
1960 to 1965: A Photographic Journey on the Ord

If you are visiting:

Adelaide – there is the 20th State History Conference to mark 175 years since the official foundation of the Province of South Australia and to commemorate the end Northern Territory control. The conference will be held on the 5-7 August 2011 at the National Wine Centre, Adelaide. Contact Mandy Paul, Senior Curator, History SA, Email: mpaul@history.sa.gov.au or telephone 8203 9808.

Canberra on 19 – 21 October 2011 there is the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material (AICCM) conference titled *Conservation in Australia: Past, Present, Future*.

The very first AICCM Conference, "Conservation in Australia", was held in Canberra in 1976. The intervening 35 years have seen many changes in the organisation and the profession.

The 2011 National Conference will be a chance to look at those changes and to consider where they have brought us. We will also look to the future: one significant aim of the conference will be to reposition the AICCM and the profession to ensure they are prepared to take on the challenges of the future.

It will be a forum for new ideas, forward thinking, broadening scope and building partnerships and will challenge members to revisit their basic perceptions of the AICCM, the profession and the definition of "conservator". From this a stronger, more focused, more outward looking and more cohesive organisation will result.

The National Conference will present and promote a range of events and activities that will raise the profile of conservation in the national consciousness and engage society in supporting the professionals who preserve cultural heritage.

There will also be sessions on conservation research, conservation practice and conservation treatment, with an emphasis on subjects of broad interest. The organising committee now welcomes abstracts (maximum 300 words) for papers on these themes. To submit an abstract, or for further information, please contact:

Ian Batterham, Assistant Director, Preservation, National Archives of Australia, PO Box 7425, Canberra Business Centre ACT 2610 Phone: (02) 6212 3424

Melbourne on 27-30 October 2011, a Conference titled *Watermarks, Water's Heritage* is being organised by the National Trusts of Australia and International Council on Monuments and Sites. The venue is the 'state-of-the-art' Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, (MCEC) is situated on the south bank of the River Yarra, just 500 metres from the site of the city's foundation and 6 kilometres from the iconic Westgate Bridge and the former MMBW Spotswood Pumping Station. Their internet site is – www.aicomos.com/2011-watermarks/2011-conference

Sydney – talks by the Royal Australian Historical Society and ASHET

Saturday 12 February 2011 - Tour: Kurradjong Radio Museum

Venue : 842 Bells Line of Road, Kurradjong Hills. Right hand side, 8.5km beyond Nepean River crossing. Parking on and adjacent to site.

Time: 10.30am to approx 12.30pm. Individuals may stay on if they wish.

Cost: \$12.00 Bookings: phone RAHS on (02) 9247 8001 or email history@rahs.org.au

Tuesday 22 February, 2011 - Talk by Professor Ian Jack - *Oil-shale and the Age of Kerosene*

Venue: History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney Time: 5.30 for 6 pm

Cost: \$8.00 Includes light refreshments on arrival - Bookings: phone RAHS on (02) 9247 8001 or email history@rahs.org.au

Wednesday 23 March, 2011 - Talk by Leonie Knapman - *Glen Davis and Shale Oil*

Venue: History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney Time: 5.30 for 6 pm

Cost: \$8.00 Includes light refreshments on arrival - Bookings: phone RAHS on (02) 9247 8001 or email history@rahs.org.au

New Publications

Jeff Corfield, *String Bands and Shake Hands: A Tribute to the Life and Music of Val McGinness, One of the Last of Darwin's Old String Band Musicians*, The author, Townsville, 2010, ISBN 9-780980-769906.

Australia's National Heritage eNewsletter - Recognising and protecting the places and stories that make Australia special. The first issue of Australia's National Heritage eNewsletter - Issue 1, December 2010 is now available. if you would like to receive issues of this eNewsletter, subscribe to the mailing list via the web site – www.environment.gov.au/heritage/publications/livingheritage/e-newsletter

Christmas Brunch at Brian and Lyn Reid's Humpty Doo property



The brunch was a very enjoyable morning and a welcome opportunity to catch up with some of our members that we don't see very often.

Lyn, as usual, had excelled her cooking skills and treated us to quiches, bacon rolls, spicy meatballs, preserved fruits and sauces, all topped off with quaint mince pies and brandy butter.

Before we could eat, a necessary chore was to move on one of the resident possums. Twenty guests chattering away didn't seem to bother this possum who was happy to continue sleeping above us.

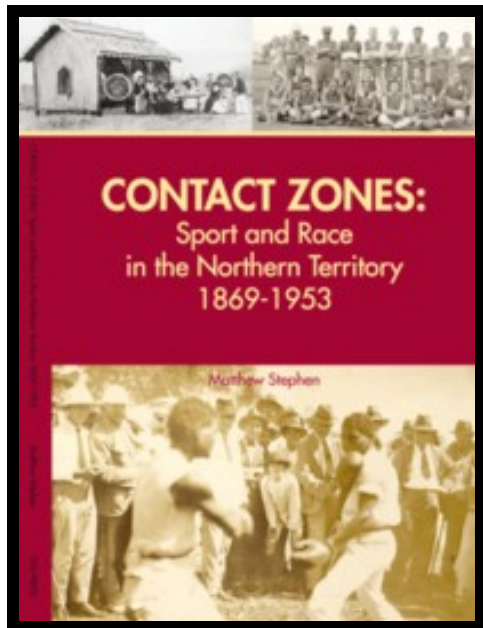


From left: Ruth Kerr who made a special trip from Brisbane, Judy Boland, Janie & John Mason, Wendy James, Alan Powell, Jan Moore, Sandra Lenz, Ron Ninnis, Penny Baird, Julie Mastin, Earl James, Matthew Stephen, Brian Reid, Ash Daly and daughter Sharon, Albert and Jenny Foreman.

Book Launches

In between Christmas parties, November and December were also busy months for book launches.

Contact Zones: Sport and Race in the Northern Territory 1869-1953 by Dr Matthew Stephen



Our President's book was launched by well known sporting identity, Charlie King on 25 November at Angus and Robertson's Book Shop in The Mall.

Contact Zones is a unique look at the dynamic that saw Indigenous athletes in the Territory subjected to more extreme and prolonged adversity than their southern counterparts. Dr Stephen, who graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy from Charles Darwin University in May last year, said that the obstacles of poverty, oppression, bigotry and discrimination that confronted non-white participation in sport throughout Australia were not different in the Territory, but that the social, political and physical environment meant that they were more exaggerated and prolonged. "At the heart of this history from sporting exclusion and segregation to integration and liberation for the Territory's non-white sportsmen and women is the struggle for human rights and recognition," he said. The book also addresses common stereotypes that exist around Aboriginal athletes.

The book is published by Charles Darwin University Press and can be ordered on line at www.cdu.edu.au/cdupress

Information and photographs courtesy Charles Darwin University



Charlie King launching Matthew's book



Dr Matthew Stephen promoting his book.



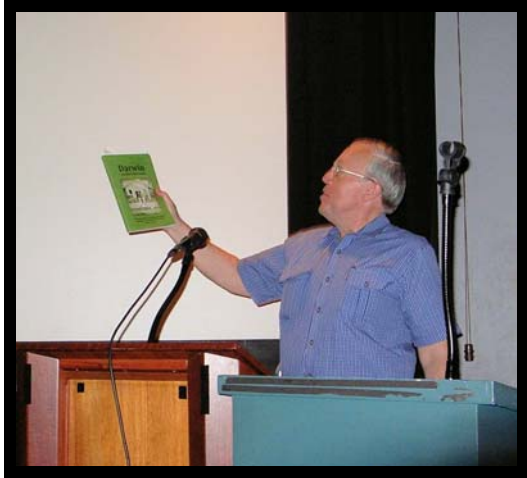
Book signing



The Launch of *Darwin – No Place Like Home: Australia’s Northern Capital in the 1950s through a Social History of Housing* written by Dr Mickey Dewar.

At Darwin’s Annual History Colloquium on 6 November 2010, Emeritus Professor David Carment launched HSNT member, Dr Mickey Dewar’s book, *Darwin – No Place Like Home*. The book published by the Historical Society of the NT examines the evolution of the Darwin community through its private and public housing schemes. Mickey also addresses the housing reconstruction of Darwin after the cyclones of 1897, 1937 and Cyclone Tracy in 1974, and after the bombing of Darwin in WW2.

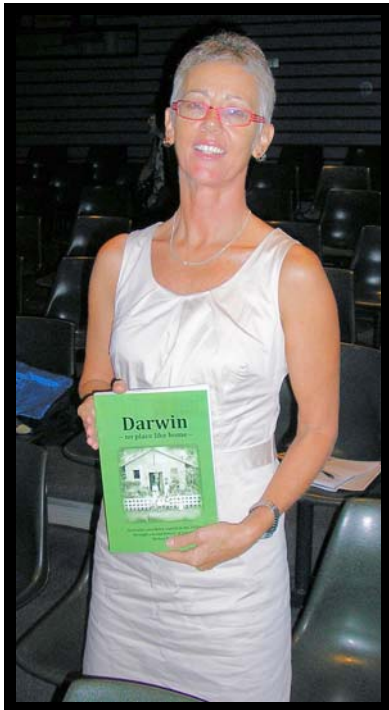
Consequently with many “old” Darwinites attending the Colloquium, the book sold like hot cakes.



David launching Mickey’s book
Photograph courtesy Mickey Dewar



The queue to buy the book
Photograph courtesy Mickey Dewar



Photograph courtesy Bev Phelts



Mickey chatting with PhD candidate, Alessandro Antonello, Australian National University

Photograph courtesy Mickey Dewar

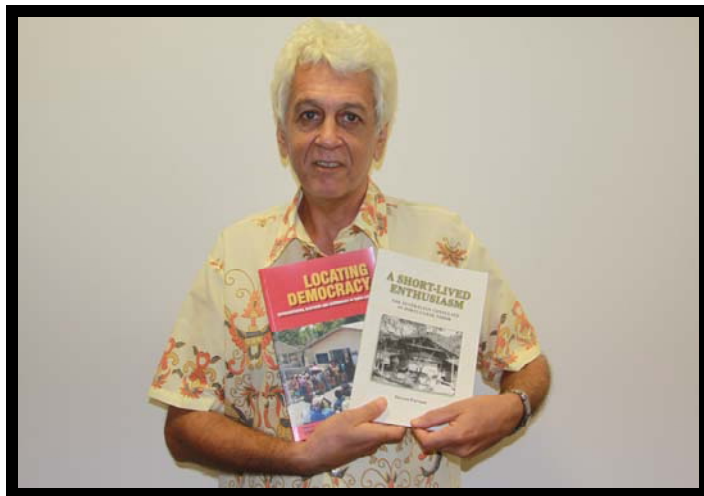
The Launch of Dr Steve Farram's Two Books

In December 2010, HSNT member, Dr Steven Farram published two books titled: *A Short-lived Enthusiasm: The Australian Consulate in Portuguese Timor* and *Locating Democracy: Representation, Elections and Governance in Timor-Leste*. Both books were launched by acclaimed author and journalist Jill Jolliffe at the Charles Darwin University (CDU).

The books explore some key events in the history of the political relationships forged between South-east Asia and northern Australia.

A Short-lived Enthusiasm is illustrated with rare photographs, and looks at why Australia established the Dili consulate in 1946. "It details the appointment of Charles Eaton as Australia's first consul to Portuguese Timor to develop trade and defence arrangements with the Portuguese," Dr Farram said. "By the time Eaton was replaced in October 1947, this enthusiasm began to wane and continued until the consulate's closure in 1971."

Locating Democracy: Representation, Elections and Governance, contains a selection of papers presented at a symposium, held in Dili on 26 and 27 April 2010. "At this time, four districts were being prepared for the first municipal elections," Dr Farram said. "The symposium was organised in response to the local government and decentralisation reform policies of the Timor-Leste government. "With elections now postponed until at least 2014, part of the reform program will be to establish municipal assemblies, with the aim of making democracy more representative."



Dr Farram at his book launch.

Information and photograph courtesy Charles Darwin University

Steven Farram received his doctorate in history from CDU in 2004. He has published widely on the history and politics of East Timor, Indonesia and the Northern Territory. Steve is currently a research associate at the University.

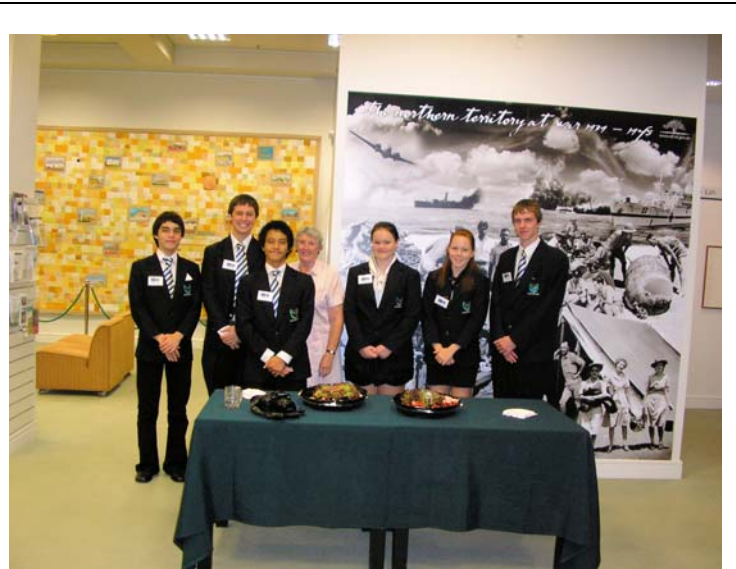
Both books can be ordered online:
www.cdu.edu.au/cdupress

91ST Anniversary of the Great Air Race from England to Australia (Darwin) 10 December 2010

To celebrate the occasion, the NT Library held a display and function at Parliament House on 9 December. Our patron, The Hon Austin Asche AC spoke about the great journey that the men undertook and the harrowing experiences on their flight to Darwin.



Justice Asche



Judy Boland, (Historical Society of the NT & Fannie Bay History and Heritage Society) and Darwin High School students who were our ushers



Yvonne Forrest, Judy Boland & Barbara Hickey looking at the display

91ST Anniversary of the Great Air Race from England to Australia (Darwin) 10 December 2010 cont...

On the actual anniversary, the Fannie Bay History and Heritage Society, Darwin High School, the Defence Force, Darwin City Council, Michael Gunner MLA, Member for Fannie Bay organised a wonderful commemoration at the Great Race Monument situated on Ross Smith and East Point Roads.

About 70 people attended the event. Speakers were the Master of Ceremonies, Darwin High School student, Matthew Zarimis; Marion Guppy, Principal of Darwin High School; Alderman Heather Sjoberg, Deputy Lord Mayor of Darwin; Judy Boland of the Fannie Bay History and Heritage Society, and the RAAF formed a guard of honour.



Judy Boland addressing the audience



Placing flower tributes at the Monument



Justice Asche and former Chief Minister, Clare Martin, speaking with Darwin High School students



Dr Val Asche

Photographs courtesy Bev Phelts

If you haven't paid your membership for 2011(January-December) – it is now due

With your membership you will receive regular newsletters and our annual journal.

Membership fees are \$25 for pensioner/full time student, \$40 for individuals and \$50 for a family/ institution

I/We wish to join/renew membership with the Historical Society of the NT



TITLE: _____ NAMES: _____

POSTAL ADDRESS: _____

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: HOME: _____

WORK: _____

MOBILE: _____

SUBSCRIPTION RATE:
(Please tick)

\$25 for pensioner or full time student \$40 for individuals

\$50 for a family or institution

Tear off and send to PO Box 40544, Casuarina NT 0811

Donations are most welcome

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 7.35pm, Wednesday 24th March '10 @ Frontier Hotel

Present : Maisie Austin, Margaret Clinch, Yvonne Forrest, Roger Heapy, Roslyn Henry, Earl & Wendy James, Janie Mason; Graham & Kath McMahon, David & Lesley Mearns, Jan Moore, Alan Powell, Brian & Lyn Reid, Matthew Stephen, Reg Wilson - see attachment 1

Apologies : Austin & Val Asche, Judy Boland, David Carment, Jan Hills, Sandra Lens, Bev Phelts,

The President, Brian Reid, opened the Annual General Meeting and welcomed members.

1. Minutes of Annual General Meeting of 29th March '09

Janie Mason moved acceptance of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting 29/3/09, motion seconded by Maisie Austin. See attachment 2. There was no business arising from the minutes

2. President's Report

Brian Reid presented his report [see attachment 3] and moved its acceptance, seconded by David Mearns. He highlighted the ongoing investigation at Fort Wellington, Raffles Bay with a return field trip and finally success with a field trip to Bradshaw. There were also the Society's activities for the Charles Darwin celebrations, including a harbour cruise "In the wake of the *Beagle*". The publishing has been active with the annual Journal, books and the very successful Occasional Papers. The shopfront has been a two year experiment but the Council has taken some hard decisions to discontinue it because of the lack of demonstrated increase in membership or book sales to justify continuation. Brian then thanked the 2009 Council members, with special thanks for the outgoing treasurer, Earl James, and presented a gift to Alan Powell for his generous donation to the Society. He moved acceptance of his report [seconded David Mearns].

3. Treasurer's Report

Earl James presented the financial report of Society activities since last AGM [attachment 4]. He said the Society has current assets of \$33 446 of which \$18 000 is in term deposits. He reported that membership is down and there had been high printing costs related to the Darwin 200 activities in 2009. He presented the Auditor's report and moved its acceptance [seconded David Mearns]

4. Election of Officer Bearers

The Council for 2009/11 was declared elected unopposed. Nomination forms can be seen in attachment 5. The HSNT Council from this AGM is as follows:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NOMINEE</u>	<u>NOMINATED & SECONDED BY</u>
President	Matthew Stephen	Janie Mason, Earl James
Vice President	Yvonne Forrest	Janie Mason, Roslyn Henry
Hon Secretary	Janie Mason	Roslyn Henry, Matthew Stephen
Hon Treasurer	Roslyn Henry	Janie Mason, Matthew Stephen
Council Members	Maisie Austin	Yvonne Forrest, Roger Heapy
	Judy Boland	Bev Phelts, Yvonne Forrest
	Margaret Clinch	Judy Boland, Kay Goon
	Earl James	Janie Mason, Bev Phelts
	Bev Phelts	Janie Mason, Roslyn Henry
	Alan Powell	Janie Mason, Matthew Stephen
	Brian Reid	Lyn Reid, Matthew Stephen

5. Other Business

- i Donations on membership form: Graham McMahon raised the issue of putting acceptance of donations on the membership form [moved that the matter be heard: moved Earl James, seconded David Mearns] and this was discussed. The meeting directed the incoming Council to develop appropriate wording to this intent [moved Graham McMahon, seconded Lyn Reid].
- ii Appointment of Auditor: Earl James [seconded Yvonne Forrest] moved that Vita Gustafson & Associates be appointed Auditor again. The meeting agreed.
- iii Thanks to outgoing President: David Mearns [seconded Earl James] moved a vote of thanks to the out-going President, Brian Reid

There being no further business, the meeting closed 7.45pm. Janie Mason, Honorary Secretary

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
Notice of Annual General Meeting to be held at
Manoli's Greek Taverna, Cavenagh Street, Darwin
7pm Wednesday 23rd March 2011

Welcome and thanks

Present

Apologies

1. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 24th March '10
2. Business arising from minutes of AGM 24th March '10
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of Office Bearers
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Honorary Secretary/Minutes Secretary
 - Honorary Treasurer
 - Council Members [up to 8]
6. Other business

Historical Society of the Northern Territory, PO Box 40544, Casuarina NT 0811

Nomination Form

I, [please print]

do hereby accept the nomination for the position of

..... [please print]

on the Council of HSNT

Signed :

Nominated by : [please sign & print]

Seconded by : [please sign & print]

Date :