

1/16 Charlton Court, Woolner NT 0820
PO box 40544, Casuarina NT 0811
www.historicalsocietynt.org.au
ABN 88 971 560 498

Newsletter – April 2017

Earl James, Retiring President – Report to AGM

As retiring President, Earl James presented his report for 2016. Earl has been more than a brief caretaker President, working over the last three years to give direction to the Society plus taking on treasury responsibilities intermittently as the Society moved past its fiftieth year.

Earl James presented his report and thanked the Council for support over the three years. The highlights of 2016 he reported as:

MEMBERSHIP:

Current membership numbers [single, family, concession and institutional] are 139 with a further 7 reciprocal members of heritage/cultural organisations plus 10 life members. Assuming the 32 family members are for 2 people each, there are almost 200 people and institutions within the Society's community.

HISTORY HOUSE:

Acquisition these premises, due to an anonymous donation of \$300 000, now known as History House and occupied 28/4/17 has been the highlight of the year. The official opening by the Minister for Tourism & Culture [Lauren Moss] on 3/12/16 was also the annual Christmas party and the Minister notified success in a grant application for about \$10 000 to furnish History House.

FIELD TRIPS:

Over the years, the Society has had limited focus on Aboriginal history and the Council seeks to rectify this. The annual field trip to Manigrida organised by the Vice President Bev Phelts with a guide Helen Bond-Sharp was very successful and some members also attended the unveiling on Bathurst Island of a statue of the first Australian to capture a Japanese airmen.

JOINT LARRAKEYAH BRANCH NATIONAL TRUST/HISTORICAL SOCIETY NT LECTURES: There were 7 lectures organised jointly with the Larrakeyah Branch National Trust at Burnett House in 2016 but more help to mount these lectures is needed from Historical Society members.

FEDERATION OF

AUST. HISTORICAL SOCIETIES [FAHS]:

Earl James has served as the NT representative to FAHS, attending 2 teleconferences and an AGM in Melbourne in October.

PUBLICATIONS:

Seven books were published and in 2016, the annual journal and 1 occasional paper will probably still result from the 2016 lecture series.

2017/18 Council of Historical Society NT

The 2017/18 Council of the Society is:

President:	Matthew James
Vice President:	Bev Phelts
Treasurer:	Rosemary Chalmers
Secretary	Janie Mason
Councillors:	Judy Boland
	Roger Davey
	Clayton Fredericksen
	Earl James
	Alan Powell
	Derek Pugh
	Brian Reid

March joint lecture

Kathie de la Rue presented a lively and interactive March joint Historical Society NT/Larrakeyah Branch National Trust talk at Burnett House 24/3/17. Personalities and power-plays of the early Commonwealth years told of stories from her forthcoming book *Stubborn City*.



Kathie de la Rue presented with her bottle of red with Brian Reid [26/3/17]

Recent book launches – books by Steve Farram and Derek Pugh

About 50 people enjoyed the launch by Matthew Stephens at the NT Archives 9/3/17 of Steve Farram's book *Charles James Kirkland*, an Historical Society NT publication. The NT Archives staff did a wonderful job in both organising the event and supplying food and drinks for everyone. The Historical Society sold eighteen books on the night.



Steve Farram at the launch

Earl James & Rosemary Chalmers, our stalwart book sellers [9/3/17]

Matthew Stephen of the NT Archives also launched Derek Pugh's *Fort Dundas* 23/3/17 with an audience of about 60. This first British northern settlement attempt in 1824 was short-lived and was mainly to exclude the Dutch and French and secure Britain's provenance to the New Holland continent as far as longitude 129°E – "one of the most engaging stories of nineteenth century Australia".

Forthcoming events

Joint Historical Society NT/Larrakeyah Branch National Trust Lectures – April, May & June

There will be no lecture for April because of the National Trust "Heritage Week" and the May lecture will be 26/5/17 and the June lecture on the 4th Friday 23/6/17

Pearl Ogden - *Life at the 2½ mile* – 24th April

As part of the National Trust NT - April Heritage Week, enjoy an interactive discussion led by Historian Pearl Ogden OAM at the Roadmaster's house, 1 McMinn street, Darwin at 4.30 for 5pm Monday 24th April - \$5 entry



Adelaide River ANZAC Dawn Service

commencing 5.30am, Tuesday 25th April

at Adelaide River War Cemetery

followed by Traditional Gunfire Breakfast

at the Adelaide River Show Society


National Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame – *Relationships* exhibition starts 27th April

The *Relationships* exhibition opens 27/4/17 and examines diverse relationships and stories from Her Majesty's Gaol and Labour Prison Alice Springs or old "Green Bush". How the Gaol changed people

for good and for bad, affecting prisoners, their families, the guards and the Alice community, is explored.

2017 Darwin Show Day W/E field trip – 28th to 30th July

The annual Darwin Show Day weekend field trip 28th to 30th July of the Historical Society NT will be along the Murrarji Track and Earl James is preparing the itinerary. Earl and Matthew James did a recce last Dry Season.

 Honorary Secretary & Public Officer