



## **Historical Society of the Northern Territory**

**Patron:** The Hon Austin Asche AC

**NEWSLETTER March 2012 NO: 54**

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### **President's Report by Dr Brian Reid**

The new year begins with the Society once again seeking a new home.

Our archive collection has mostly been deposited with the Northern Territory Archives and the Northern Territory Library and we are as a consequence, are a bit more mobile. I anticipate in our next newsletter, we will be able to advise that this problem has been resolved in the long term.

Unusually for the Society, we have four book launches in the beginning of the new year. We have reprinted Janet Dickinson's moving account *Refugees In Our Own Country* to coincide with the bombing of Darwin commemorations in February. Lam Thi Minh Nhuong and Dr Ian Walters launched their book, *Minh's Story: a conversation* on 11 February and Jimmy Cadogan will launch his book, *The Book of Harry, Eric and Bronte*, at the Society's AGM in March. In April, Rosemary Kennedy will launch her transcription of her great aunt's diary, *Mable Taylor's Diary*.

All four books have a significant Northern Territory relevance and the main reason for the Society being involved. Rosemary Kennedy's book, which deals with life at the telegraph station in Alice Springs in the early 1900s, will be launched in Alice Springs which I think is a first for the Society. Curiously Jimmy Cadogan and his uncles are descendents of the nineteenth century New Australia movement in Paraguay and one of Mable Taylor's brothers went to Paraguay as part of that experiment. The Society regards the editing and publication of manuscripts relevant to Northern Territory history as one of its core functions and is pleased to have these fine works available this year.

### **Coming Events**

#### **2012 Speakers Program**

As 2012 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Darwin, our theme will be on Territory events surrounding the Second World War.

Our first speaker for the year will be our Patron, Austin Asche who will talk about his personal experiences during the War in Darwin.

The talk will be on Wednesday 29 February, 7.20pm for a 7.30 start at the Museum and Art Gallery theatre. Stay for refreshments afterwards.

#### **HSNT AGM – Wednesday 28 March – 7pm for 7.30pm start**

Our AGM dinner will be held at Hot Rock Restaurant function room (ex NT News site) in Mitchell Street. The restaurant is at Bennett Street end, opposite Kitty's O'Shea's (old Hot & Cold Bar). If you wish to come along to the AGM dinner the cost will be \$40 p/p which includes an entrée of baguette filled with garlic and herb butter, a main course choice of barramundi, rump steak or chicken breast and a desert choice of either cheesecake or liquored mud cake Drinks are extra.

Also at the AGM, Jimmy Cadogan's book *The book of Harry, Eric and Bronte* will be launched

If you are attending, please send your cheque/money order for the AGM, with your details to PO Box 40544, Casuarina NT 0811 by Friday 18 March. For inquiries, contact Bev Phelts on 89818236ah or mobile: 0487 413 709 or email: [historicalsocietynt@yahoo.com.au](mailto:historicalsocietynt@yahoo.com.au)

The agenda and previous AGM minutes are at the end of this newsletter.

## **What's Happening at the Northern Territory Library?**

### **February - March 2012 - Exhibition - Roll Of Honour: Bombing of Darwin, February 1942**

The Northern Territory Library is marking the 70th anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin with a Roll of Honour that records and remembers the names of those killed on 19 February 1942. Based on information currently available, this Roll of Honour provides biographical details, photographs and personal stories for each casualty remembering them as unique individuals who sacrificed their lives in defending Darwin and Australia.

Contact has been made with relatives of some of the casualties, who have also contributed to the project.

The display in the Library will also include two large aerial mosaics of Darwin in 1941 and 1945, produced by the Department of Lands and Planning.

The Roll of Honour can also be viewed online at [www.ntl.nt.gov.au](http://www.ntl.nt.gov.au) and [www.ntlexhibit.nt.gov.au/exhibits/show/bod](http://www.ntlexhibit.nt.gov.au/exhibits/show/bod)

## **Welcome Back Wendy Carter**

After a two year absence from Australia, Wendy Carter dropped into Darwin on her way back home. Wendy, past President of the Kununurra Historical Society, had spent the past two years nursing her elderly parents in Devon, UK. Bev and Yvonne caught up with her over dinner at Yots, Cullen Bay.



From left: Wendy Carter, Bev Phelts & Yvonne Forrest



## Goyder's Day, Sunday 5 February

The National Trust held a re-enactment to commemorate the arrival of Surveyor-General George Woodroffe Goyder and his party to Port Darwin on the 5 February 1869. In late 1868, they had set sail from Port Adelaide with 150 men who included a botanist and medical doctor. Goyder's diary records the journey, the seasickness, rough seas, and the prevailing humidity and heat. Their ship, *Moonta*, dropped anchor in Darwin harbour and Goyder with a small party, rowed ashore to explore the area. While "Goyder's" boat sailed the choppy sea, Daryl Manzie described Goyder's journey and the Moonta Revellers (alias The Fettleers) serenaded us with music.



"Goyder's Party" arriving at Port Darwin.

The re-enactment was carried out by the Office of the Surveyor-General, Department of Lands and Planning staff.



The Moonta Revellers



Some of Goyder's tools on display



Goyder and his party "surveying Darwin"

## Public Tour Guides - Parliament House

The Department of the Legislative Assembly Parliamentary Education Services is seeking Expressions of Interest for casual Public Tour Guides to conduct tours of Parliament House in Darwin.

Tours are conducted every Saturday at 9am and 11am, and from May to September on Wednesdays at 10.30am and last about 90 minutes. A roster system means guides usually work one to three Saturdays (and/or Wednesdays) per month.

A typical tour involves description of the building, a brief history of governance in the Territory, our floral and faunal emblems and coat of arms, basic parliamentary procedures, and the bombing of the post office (where Parliament House is sited).

Tour Guides need to have a well presented and friendly nature, be experienced with public speaking, and be familiar with the history of Darwin and the Northern Territory. Guides will also need to adhere to confidentiality, be impartial in their presentations, and be prepared to answer or refer queries from tour participants.

Tour Guides will need to comply with criminal and police check requirements.

Training will be provided by Parliamentary Education Services.

Salary is based at the AO4 level \$55,556 pro rata plus penalty rates and casual loading.

For more information, please contact Caroline Cavanagh, Director of Parliamentary Education Services [caroline.cavanagh@nt.gov.au](mailto:caroline.cavanagh@nt.gov.au) or phone 89461 430

### ***Minh's Story: A Conversation*, Book Launch held on Saturday 11 February 2012 at the Ruby Vietnamese Restaurant**

An enthusiastic crowd of 150 turned up for Minh's book launch and the restaurant was packed to the hilt. Alan Powell provided an insight to the author's background and an emotional Minh thanked her family and friends for their support. The restaurant put on a lovely spread of delicious Vietnamese food topped with strong "Vietnamese espresso" coffee. As a result of Minh's popularity, her book has now been sold out.

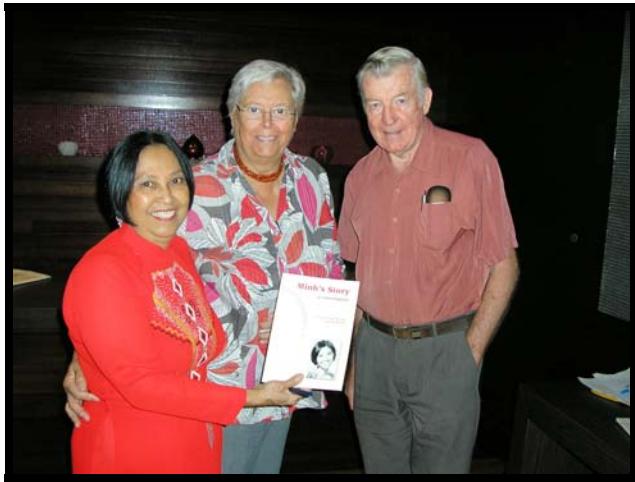


Alan launching the book



Minh speaking to the audience





Minh with Lyn and Brian Reid



Minh book signing

## New Publication

*The Tale of Frieda Keysser: Frieda Keysser & Carl Strehlow : an historical biography*, Wild Cat Press, London 2011, 1200 pages, well illustrated maps Cost \$90. The book is written by John Strehlow, the grandson of Frieda and Carl. It is a story about the lives of his grandparents who in the eighteenth century, left Germany and arrived in the inhospitable country of Hermannsburg, near Alice Springs as Lutheran missionaries To purchase, go to [www.strehlow.co.uk](http://www.strehlow.co.uk) or email the author  
Email: [john@strehlow.co.uk](mailto:john@strehlow.co.uk)

## The 70th Commemoration of the Bombing of Darwin- 19 February 2012

The Commemoration was well attended by high profile officials such as the Governor General, the Prime Minister, Federal Ministers, Territory Ministers and media from all around Australia. Ray Martin did an excellent job hosting the ceremony. The Society's Alan Powell did a sterling interview with Channel 7 on the bombing of Darwin, and managed to star on the Sunrise morning show. Bev Phelts was lucky enough to speak with the Governor General and shake her hand. Although a very hot humid day, the event was well supported by locals.



The entrance to the Cenotaph



Prime Minister Julia Gillard arriving with the Darwin Lord Mayor, Graeme Sawyer



The Governor General, Quentin Bryce speaking with Darwin High School students



The Governor General addressing the audience at the 70th Commemoration of the Bombing of Darwin reception. The Prime Minister is in the background.



After the Service, the Chief Minister held a 70th Commemoration of the Bombing of Darwin reception in Parliament House for veterans and their families. This was also attended by the Governor General and the Prime Minister.



The 70th Commemoration cake



Chief Minister, Paul Henderson cutting the cake with Darwin High School students

***Refugees in our own Country: The Story of Darwin's Wartime Evacuees – Book Launch held on Sunday 19 February 2012, at the NT Library – The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Darwin***

When the Reception ended, many people moved next door into the Library and attended Janet's book launch. Historical Society Vice-President, Bev Phelts introduced the author and Wendy James launched Janet's book. We were swamped by so many people that there was shortage of chairs and we sold out of books in no time.



Wendy James launching Janet's book



Janet book signing

## **News From the Federated Australian Historical Societies**

### **Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2011**

The 2011 AGM was held in Adelaide at the headquarters of the History Trust of South Australia on Monday 8 August. Delegates enjoyed generous hospitality of the Trust organised by CEO Margaret Anderson. The meeting was very productive with a range of issues being discussed. Many of the delegates attended the South Australian History Conference prior to the meeting. This Conference, with the theme 'In perspective: rethinking South Australia's history', was held at National Wine Centre of Australia, Adelaide, and was impressive as to the quality, breadth and number of papers read.

### **Future directions**

Although all the Federation's objectives will be purposefully addressed under its Operational Plan 2011-2014 our priority will be advocacy on behalf of the nation's historical societies. The main focus will be on obtaining much increased government interest in and funding for the management of Australia's distributed movable and static heritage.

### **Your Community Heritage**

The Minister has announced the categories and guidelines for the \$4 million 'Your Community Heritage Grants'. FAHS has distributed the link through its networks. FAHS and the ACNT are to be commissioned to undertake the work of developing the part of the grant money that will be devoted to making community heritage information online.

### **National Cultural Policy discussion paper - submission**

Following the call by the Federal Minister for the Arts (The Hon. Simon Crean MP) for feedback on the National Cultural Policy discussion paper, the Federation made a submission. Although the discussion paper spoke of 'arts, cultural and creative endeavours' the Federation pointed out that there was need to include 'the study and publication of history' as a cultural and creative endeavour. The Federation also urged that a generally accepted definition of 'culture' be included such as 'The totality of socially transmitted behaviour patterns, arts, beliefs, institutions, and all other products of human work and thought.' A serious oversight in the discussion paper was the omission of 'cultural heritage'.

The Federation's submission may be accessed on the FAHS at

<http://www.history.org.au/Recent%20submissions%20by%20FAHS.html>

The discussion paper can be read at <http://culture.arts.gov.au/discussion-paper>

### **The Australian Heritage Partnership (TAHP)**

The TAHP, comprising the FAHS, Australian Council of National Trusts (ACNT) and the Australian branch of The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), has been formed and will meet every quarter. It will enable the three organisations to provide material to the Minister responsible for heritage and to work together for the furtherance of heritage in Australia.

### **Burra minesite, South Australia**

The Federation was delighted to learn that the South Australian Minister for Mineral Resources Development has made a decision to continue to protect the important heritage Burra mine site by not removing the restriction whereby the site is exempt from the operation of the *Mining Act 1971*. This was an outcome that was the aim of the Federation's advocacy on the issue.

### **Australian Heritage Strategy (AHS):**

The Australian Government is working with its Heritage Division on the development of the AHS. All State governments have agreed in principle to support the development of a strategy. It is understood that the Australian Heritage Council will be involved in wider consultations in the development of the AHS. Discussion papers have not been released up to this time.

Helen Henderson

Immediate Past President and Royal Western Australian Historical Society delegate



**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY  
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**7.30pm 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011 @Manolis Greek Taverna, Smith St., Darwin**

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

**Present :** Earl & Wendy James, Brian & Lyn Reid, Reg Wilson, Roger Coutts, David Ritchie, Mickey Dewar, Clayton Fredriksen, Jan Hills, Lucio & Catherine Matarazzo, Penelope Baird, Julie Mastin, Judy Richardson, Trevor Horman, Judy Boland, Graham & Kath McMahon, Bev Phelts, Sandra Lenz, Colin & Judy Beard.

**Apologies :** Janie Mason, Yvonne Forrest, Masie Austin, Alan Powell

**1. Minutes of Annual General Meeting of 24th March 2010**

The minutes of the Annual General meeting held on 24 March 2010 were circulated to all members prior to the meeting and were taken as read. The minutes as circulated were adopted as a true and correct record of the meeting [moved by Earl James, seconded by Bev Phelts] – CARRIED

**2. Business Arising from the Minutes**

The financial and auditor's reports for the year 2010 having been circulated to all members prior to the meeting, were taken as read. Treasurer Colin Beard called for any discussion and when there was none he moved its acceptance [seconded by Earl James] – CARRIED.

**5. Election of Officer Bearers**

The following nominations for office were received within the prescribed time

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NOMINEE</u>	<u>NOMINATED &amp; SECONDED BY</u>
President: Brian Reid		Janie Mason, Bev Phelts
Vice President: Bev Phelts		Brian Reid, Colin Beard
Hon Secretary: Janie Mason		Earl James, Wendy James
Hon Treasurer: Colin Beard		Brian Reid, Bev Phelts
Council Members: Earl James Alan Powell		Wendy James, Judy Boland

There being no other formal nominations these members were elected unopposed. As the constitution provides for eight Councillors there were four positions vacant and the President called for nominations from the floor to fill those vacancies. Clayton Fredriksen –[nominated Jan Hills, seconded Lyn Reid] and Margaret Clinch [nominated Judy Boland, seconded Trevor Horman] elected unopposed

**6. Other Business**

6.1 The meeting was advised of the following:

- i Vita Gustafson & Associates reappointed as the society's Auditor;
- ii The society's Public Officer is Janie Mason ;
- iii Colin Beard and Earl James are authorised to deal with ATO

6.2 Special Resolution to Implement Changes to the Constitution

The required prior notice having been given and the proposed amendments to the constitution having been circulated to all members, the president called for discussion on the proposal. There being no discussion, the proposed amendments, as circulated were adopted [moved by Earl James, seconded by Mickey Dewar] - CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting closed 7.47 pm. Earl James, Acting Honorary Secretary

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
7pm Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

**AGENDA**

Welcome and thanks

Present

Apologies

1. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 23rd March '11
2. Business arising from minutes of AGM 24<sup>th</sup> March '11
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of Office Bearers
  - President
  - Vice President
  - Honorary Secretary
  - Honorary Treasurer
  - Council Members [up to 8]
  - Public Officer
  - Authorized Person [ATO]
6. Other business

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Nomination Form  
Historical Society NT, PO Box 40544, Casuarina NT 0811

I, .....  
[please print]

hereby accept the nomination for the position of

.....  
[please print] on the Council of HSNT 2012/2013

Signed : .....

Nominated by : .....  
[please sign & print]

Seconded by : .....  
[please sign & print]

Date : \_\_\_\_\_