



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

**Patron:** The Hon Austin Asche AC

### **NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2011 NO: 52**

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

At the end of October we had the last of this year's lectures. On the broad theme of the take-over of Northern Territory administration 100 years ago, Judy Boland gave an interesting account of the implications of that event for education in the Northern Territory. A few years ago we endeavoured to save, record and at times publish these lectures that often contain clever analysis or first hand accounts. Our Occasional Paper Series emerged from this effort and also a couple of monographs. Our lecture series this year will form part of a publication the Northern Institute of CDU will put out in time for the Statehood Seminar next year.

Recording and retaining the work and experience of Territorians is of vital importance as we grow and diversify. A few years ago the Northern Territory collection of the Northern Territory Library was under threat in the face of growing pressure for electronic libraries. Historians around the Territory rose up as one and insisted that the NT Collection was the one thing that differed our library from others. Happily today it is a central and precious part of NTL.

In a similar vein the Oral History collection of the Northern Territory Archives is under threat. This extraordinary collection of memories and stories going back many years is irreplaceable and is of huge research importance. The oral history recordings are transcribed, indexed and catalogued making them readily available to researchers. Rightly this is a growing resource. Sadly the Archives is under increasing financial pressure and will apparently be unable to have most of the future oral history recordings transcribed. Those recordings that are done will be largely inaccessible and surely the interest in this kind of history preservation will decline. We should all vigorously request in what ever way we are able that this tragic measure be reconsidered.

### **Memorial Gathering to Honour the Late Peter Loveday**

Members are invited to attend a gathering to celebrate the life and work of the late Peter Loveday at the Australian National University's North Australia Research Unit, 23 Ellengowan Drive, on Friday 18 November from 3.30pm.

Come and share your memories of Peter and join us afterwards for refreshments.

Nicole Everett, Administrator (Mon, Tues, Wed), The Australian National University North Australia Campus, *North Australia Research Unit | Arafura Timor Research Facility*  
23 Ellengowan Drive | Brinkin NT 0811 Ph: 08 8920 9998 | Fax 08 8920 9988  
<http://naru.anu.edu.au>

## **Sunday Christmas Brunch – 27 November**

All members are invited to come and enjoy a little Christmas conviviality at the home of Wendy and Earl James.

Time: 10.30 am for Brunch at 11.00am  
Place: 16 Allen Street, Fannie Bay (behind the Fannie Bay Gaol Museum)  
Cost: \$20 per head.

The cost includes all food and a welcome champagne. BYO and esky.

Lynn Reid has promised to bring an ample supply of her deadly fruit mince pies.

It is essential that numbers are known at least **7 days** before the brunch for catering purposes. If you intend to come along, please post a cheque made out to Wendy James to the address above or you can pay on the day. Contact details are email: [wendy-james@bigpond.com](mailto:wendy-james@bigpond.com)

## **Forthcoming Book Launch - 11 February 2012**

*Minh's Story: A Conversation* by Lam Thi Minh Nhuong and Ian Walters is a story about Minh's experience growing up Vietnam and her early years in Darwin. Minh's book will be launched at the Ruby Vietnamese Restaurant in the Paspali Centrepoint.

Details about the launch will be sent out closer to the date.

## **2012 Speakers Program**

As next year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Darwin and our theme for 2012 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.

Austin's talk will be held at the Museum and Art Gallery theatre on Wednesday 22 February, 7.20pm for a 7.30 start.

Stay for refreshments afterwards.

## Death of Emeritus Curator Dr George Chaloupka OAM (1932-2011)



Photograph courtesy MAGNT

It is with regret that we lose another top end icon, rock art historian, Emeritus Curator Dr George Chaloupka OAM who passed away at the age of 79 on 18 October 2011. His wife, Pina Giuliani and three children survive him.

George was an immigrant from Czechoslovakia who arrived in Darwin in 1956. During his early days in Darwin, he worked for Water Resources for 20 years. It was while he was working in remote regions for Water Resources that he discovered and developed an interest in rock art. George went on to document more than 3500 rock art sites. He earned a global reputation for his research work in Arnhem Land and Kakadu.

He worked for the Museum and Art Galleries of the NT (MAGNT) and Northern Land Council as a field officer. He arranged the first International rock art conference in Darwin in 1988, and was elected President of the Australian Rock Art Research Association.

A man of many talents George was also an artist. He designed the Cyclone Tracy memorial window in Christ Church Cathedral. The window depicts fishing nets and the upsurge of waves during Cyclone Tracy. It is a memorial to fishermen who were lost at sea. The motif above the door of the entrance to St Mary's Primary School is another creation by George. He painted aboriginal subjects like Pukamani posts and top end birds. He was involved with past MAGNT Director, Colin Jack-Hinton's Artists' Camps – the first of which were based in Water Resources' wet season camps such as Bowerbird Waterhole and Deaf Adder Creek.

In recent years, a fellowship funded by Energy Resources of Australia Pty Ltd through the Museum and Art Gallery was established to encourage further work on identifying and recording rock art sites in Arnhem Land Plateau.

A state funeral will be held for George on 4 November.

Information provided by Yvonne Forrest, Col Beard, David Carment & Bev Phelts

## Annual History Colloquium

This was another successful colloquium organised by the Professional Historians Association in conjunction with the Australian National University, Charles Darwin University and MAGNT.

The lively program of topics ranged from the national Australian education curriculum, aboriginal histories, Territory colonisation and ecosystems, to the culture of African Americans and Mongolians.

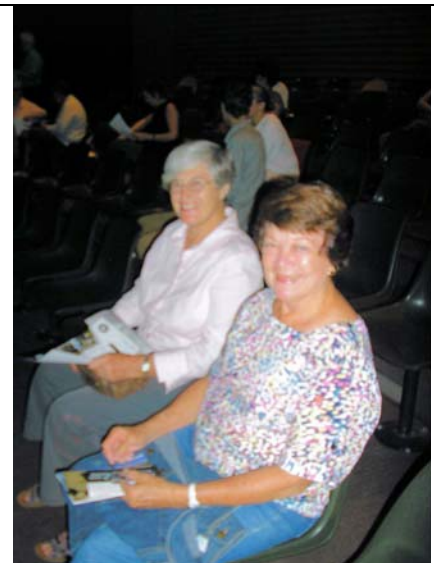
An enthusiastic crowd turned up for the energetic and informative talks which held the audience captive and eager with questions.



PhD candidate, Kathy De La Rue speaking about "Is Darwin Different? Australian Capitals and the Typology of Towns". Alan Davis chair.



Judy Boland & Jane Farr



Julie Mastin & Penny Baird



Megg Kelham, Kathy De La Rue & Alan Davis



Lunch at the Capricornia Restaurant.  
From left: Francois' Barr, Di & John Richards,  
Lynette Aitchison



From left: Judy Boland, Penny Baird & Bev Phelts



From left: Wendy Beresford-Maning, Francois' Barr, Megg Kelham, Alan Davis & Steve Farram



This will be the last newsletter for 2011.

The Committee wishes all our members a safe and happy Christmas season.

## Memberships for 2012 (January-December) – are 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

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

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_ NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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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**