



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

**Patron:** The Hon Austin Asche AC

### **NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2012 NO: 61**

PO Box 40544, Casuarina NT 0811

Mobile: 0487 413 709      [www.historicalsocietynt.org.au](http://www.historicalsocietynt.org.au)

Email: [historicalsocietynt@yahoo.com.au](mailto:historicalsocietynt@yahoo.com.au)      Newsletter Editor: Bev Phelts

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

Lyn, my wife and I have just visited Mornington Station in the South Kimberleys. We camped there for a few days and assisted with a seed eating bird count as we have done for the past three years. There are experimental burning regimes at Mornington and seed eating bird numbers is one of the indicators used for that programme.

Mornington Station was purchased by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) several years ago. It operates as a sanctuary and a research centre. AWC now owns several such stations throughout Australia, especially in the north. It is funded almost entirely by donations.

National Trust NT will be moving into Audit House, Myilly Point Precinct in the near future. Audit House was acquired by the Trust in 1980 and was Nan Giese's home before her death this year. We hope the transition will be smooth and more advantageous for the Trust.

### **Forthcoming Events**

#### **History Colloquium, Saturday 10 November at the MAGNT Theatrette**

The Professional Historians Association in conjunction with Charles Darwin University and the Australian National University, Canberra will be holding its annual history colloquium. It is a free event and all members of the public are welcome. The program is at the end of this newsletter.

#### **Christmas Brunch – Sunday 25 November**

Yet another year has whizzed by and the organisation of Christmas parties has commenced.

Due to popular demand, this year's brunch will again be held in Earl and Wendy James' home.

Last year, Wendy and Earl exceeded expectations with their homemade delights. We were treated to a variety of quiches, egg, mushroom and meat dishes. Lyn Reid brought along her champion mince pies and deadly brandy butter - champagne and orange topped brunch off nicely.

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.

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. Email: wendy-james@bigpond.com

### **Free Tours of NT Parliament House for NT Community Organisations**

Parliament House is running tours for organisations Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm Tour length is one hour. Your group will see the public areas of the Parliament House; learn the history of governance, view the Parliamentary Chamber; discover history behind parliamentary procedures and see relics from the bombing of Darwin. Book tours through the Legislative Assembly, on phone: 89461430 or 89461434

### **Whats on Interstate?**

If you are traveling interstate, you might want to attend –

#### Perth - WA World Heritage Forum

Thursday 11 October 2012 at Crown Theatre, Fremantle Prison, 6:00pm – 8:00pm  
Cost: \$15 RSVP: Monday 6 October, phone 08 9321 6088 Email: anne.brake@ntwa.com.au

The forum brings together world heritage experts, managers of world heritage sites and community leaders to discuss the implications of world heritage listing of natural and cultural sites to communities with the opportunity for you to have your say and ask questions. It is being held to mark the 40th anniversary of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, which was adopted in 1972. World heritage sites in Western Australia include Fremantle Prison, Shark Bay, the Ningaloo Coast and Purnululu National Park.

The forum will involve three speakers, Kristal Buckley, International Vice President, ICOMOS, Cheryl Cowell, World Heritage Project Officer, Mid West Region, DEC; Luke Donegan, Acting Manager Heritage Conservation, Fremantle Prison and Brad Pettit, Mayor, City of Fremantle. Tom Perrigo, CEO, National Trust of Australia (WA) will chair the session.

The outcomes of the discussion will be taken to the Australia ICOMOS world heritage symposium being held in Sydney in November and from there into a broader international debate.  
Drinks and refreshments will be served after the Forum

#### Melbourne - Australia ICOMOS VIC World Heritage Forum

Tuesday 16 October, Forum 6:00-9:00pm, Tour of Trades Hall at 5pm  
Venue: Bella Union Theatre at Trades Hall  
Cost: \$ 20.00 (ICOMOS Members) \$ 25.00 (Non Members); pay at the door  
RSVP: by Friday 5 October Email: austicomos@deakin.edu.au

The ICOMOS theme for 2012 is World Heritage in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. Input from each state into three key questions will be forwarded to the national symposium, to be held in Sydney this November.

## Sydney - 40 Years of World Heritage – Australian National Symposium

Friday 16 November 2012, 9am - 5.30pm, at the Education Centre, The Rocks YHA, Cumberland St, Sydney. Cost: \$95 ICOMOS members, \$130 others. Lunch and refreshments included. (If registrants join ICOMOS by mid-October, the lower rate will apply.)

Australia ICOMOS has been holding a series of state-based forums around Australia in 2012 focusing on the 40th anniversary of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention. A National Symposium is proposed in Sydney to build upon the issues and discussions raised in each State and provide an opportunity for Australia ICOMOS to contribute to the national and international debate regarding the value of the World Heritage in the twenty-first century.

A 'formal communication' detailing the current state and future direction of the management of Australia's World Heritage is proposed as an outcome of the Symposium, building on the work of the recent ACIUCN conference. Seating is limited on the day and we ask that members register their interest to attend with the Australia ICOMOS Secretariat by email to [austicomos@deakin.edu.au](mailto:austicomos@deakin.edu.au) by COB, Friday 5th October 2012. All members are welcome, but those with particular expertise in World Heritage are encouraged to attend, as the structure of the day will allow participation and questions by delegates 'from the floor'. The Symposium will conclude at 5:30pm and be followed by the Australia ICOMOS AGM and drinks afterwards on the roof-top overlooking Sydney and the Harbour.

### **Patron's Dinner**

Around 30 people attended the Dinner - an unusually high number of people which can be attributed to the popularity of Earl James and Trevor Horman.

Earl provided a detailed account about his 1984 survey of Overland Telegraph poles. Unlike many other people's slides languishing away in boxes, Earl has gone to the effort to digitise his almost thirty year old collection. Earl and his "1984 surveyor's assistant", wife Wendy are still "young" and adventurous as they were back then!

Trevor discussed the engineering aspects to the construction of the Line and the anniversary celebrations that were organised by Heritage Engineers Australia.



From left: Reg Wilson, Alby & Jenny Foreman, Maureen Reiter, Roger Coutts, Terry & Diana Erickson



From left: Roger Heapy, Yvonne Forrest, Rosemary & Alan Chalmers and Sandra Lenz





Kevin Cluley & Val Asche



From left:: Jane Farr, Judy Boland, Austin Asche and Rita Cluley

## John McDouall Stuart 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (1862). Celebrating the arrival of Stuart and his party at the northern sea (south to north) – The Time Capsule

The burying of the time capsule at Pt Stuart completed the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities. This event occurred after the main celebrations because we were waiting for permission from the traditional owners. The location of the site is not available to the public but it has been GPS and is documented.



Robin & Anne Wait digging the hole

The secret squirrel capsule committee set out in the early hours of 7 September and were met by Ranger Greg Peckham at Pt Stuart. A suitable site not far from the Cairn was selected and digging with crowbars, root cutters and shovels commenced.

The goodies that went in the capsule included a list of people who attended the 24 July Pt Stuart ceremony; photographs and a write up of the day; a special Australia Post JM Stuart/Thring/Australian explorers stamps and envelopes collection, a 2012 Queen Elizabeth jubilee 50c coin, family information from Anne Bachelard & the Websters (descendents of the Stuart family) and NT Newspaper articles on the northern expedition.





Greg and Robin take turns digging



Hole finished. Robin lays a mixture of fine sand and insect killer on the base



Anne and Bev place all the items in the capsule



Cheers to a job well done – champagne toast  
Anne Wait, Bev Phelts, Robin Wait & Ranger Greg Peckham

Thanks to Greg Peckham for assisting on the day. Big Huge Thanks to Robin & Anne Wait for constructing the capsule and organising the time capsule event.

### Vale Father Dr Paul Webb

On 7 September, at the young age of 80 years, Dr Webb passed away at the Darwin Hospital from cardiac failure. He was born in England and during his early days, he served in the UK Airforce in Egypt. He was a university lecturer, a bush, hospital and military chaplain, an author, and an Anglican reverent and a Catholic priest. Most would remember Paul for his advocacy work with migrants, detainees<sup>1</sup> and the RSPCA; and as a passionate and vibrant lecturer of South-East Asian history at the Northern Territory University (now CDU).

<sup>1</sup> Information from the *NT News*, 12 September 2012, p. 41.

Professional Historians Association (NT)	The Centre for Environmental History, The Australian National University	The School of Creative Arts and Humanities, Charles Darwin University	The Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
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## ANNUAL HISTORY COLLOQUIUM

**Saturday 10 November 2012**

The Theatrette, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin

<i>Time</i>	<i>Presenter</i>	<i>Title</i>
<b>Session A</b>	Chair – Dr Steven Farram, CDU	
8.50 – 9.00 am	Welcome	
9.00 – 10.00 am	Dr Francis Clark, CDU	<i>Electricity: past, present and future</i>
10.00 – 10.30 am	Isabella Bruckback, ANU	<i>Wool, Society and the Economy: A case study of the NSW Riverina</i>
10.30 – 11.00 am	<i>Morning Tea</i>	
<b>Session B</b>	Chair – Dr Samantha Wells, PHA(NT)	
11.00 – 11.30 am	Prof David Carment, CDU	<i>Local History and Local Historical Societies in Twenty-First Century Australia</i>
11.30 - 12.00 noon	Alan Davis, CDU	<i>Client demand in the shaping of the Northern Territory Collection at NTL</i>
12.00 - 12.30 pm	Dr Stephen Hamilton, CDU	<i>A Research Archive for Charles Darwin University</i>
12.30 - 1.30 pm	<i>Lunch, Cornucopia Cafe</i>	
<b>Session C</b>	Chair – Alan Davis, CDU	
1.30 – 2.30 pm	Michelle Smith, MAGNT,	<i>Connecting in a hurry! The Defence of Darwin Experience</i>
2.30 – 3.00 pm	Kimberley Doyle, ANU	<i>Piece by Piece: Australian Peacekeepers in Bougainville, Solomon Islands and East Timor, 1997-2006</i>
3.00- 3.30 pm	<i>Afternoon Tea</i>	
<b>Session D</b>	Chair – Prof David Carment, CDU	
3.30 – 4.00 pm	Dr Samantha Wells, PHA(NT)	<i>Friendly Allies or Strategic Negotiators?: Exploring early interactions between the Larrakia and white settlers in Port Darwin</i>
4.00 – 4.30 pm	Dr Steven Farram, CDU	<i>A Queer Idea: Lord Kintore's visit to the Northern Territory, 1891</i>
4.30 – 5.00 pm	Dr Wendy Beresford-Maning, PHA(NT)	<i>The Twenty Dollar Man – Rev John Flynn and Frontier Services</i>

**Entry is free and morning and afternoon tea is provided. Lunch is at your own expense.  
For further information please contact Dr Steven Farram on (08)8946 6865 or  
steven.farram@cdu.edu.au**