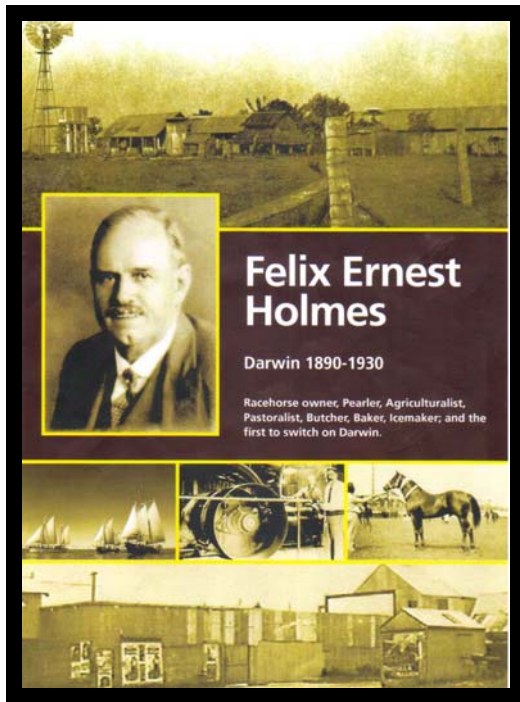


Launch of Dr Bev Phelts' book, *Felix Ernest Holmes: Darwin 1890-1930: Racehorse owner, Pearler, Agriculturalist, Pastoralist, Butcher, Baker, Icemaker; and the first to switch on Darwin in the Darwin Plaza Building on 31 May 2011.*



Local historian, Bev Phelts has published her 4th book relevant to Northern Territory history. Bev has been involved in the history scene for thirty years and has served as a Council Member of the Historical Society of the NT, the NT Professional Historian's Association and on the Federated Australian Historical Societies.

Her new book was launched in the Darwin Plaza Building by Robert Knight MLA, Minister for Essential Services.

The Minister and Bev also unveiled two plaques which commemorate Felix Holmes and the Darwin Plaza Building as the site of Darwin's first public "power station".

The Power Water Corporation organised the plaques and provided a wonderful display of Holmes' engine parts and photographs dating back to Holmes' era.

Felix Holmes is of Holmes Jungle fame and "Holmes Corner" flanked Smith, Knuckey and Mitchell Streets. From this site, he sold ice, cordials, frozen foods, meat and bread and produced electricity. Holmes also owned a fleet of pearling luggers, a share of the Don Picture Theatre, an awesome number of landholdings (32 lots in the Darwin CBD alone), and lastly, a stable of 24 racehorses that raced in both Darwin and Sydney.



Minister Robert Knight & Bev Phelts, the author



Making the speeches



Minister Rob Knight, Trevor Horman,
Power Water Corporation & Bev Phelts



Holmes' Tangye engine made in Birmingham was the centerpiece of the launch



The

unveiling of the plaques



The unveiled plaques



The Minister with some of the guests



Ash Dally, Leo Izod, Anne Wait and Bev Phelts

Michael Spadaccini (Randazzo Developments), Trevor Horman, Minister Knight & Dr Brian Reid





Judy Boland & Yvonne Forrest



Carol Chivers & Sandra Lenz



Barb Hickey & Bev Phelts



David Chivers & Bob Green



Jan Post, Bev Phelts & Rosa Norman



Jan Hargraves, Hilary Tagell & Bev Phelts



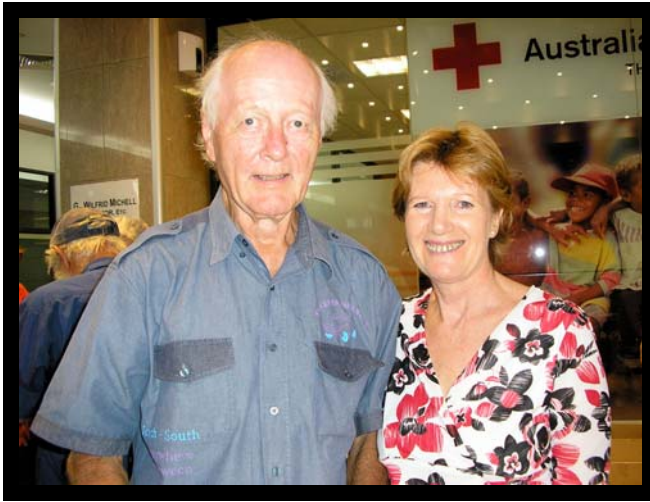
Peter Gloster, Greg Lambert & Carl Cossill



The Minister with one of Holmes' aerated water glass bottles



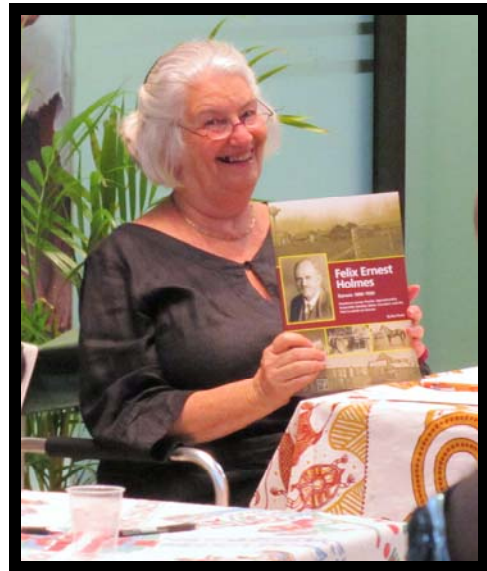
Sandi Gemmell, Annette Williams, Ken McCallum with one of the owners of the building, Michael Spadaccini



Robin Wait & the author



Power and Water Corporation & Department of Planning and Infrastructure public relations, Jan Hargraves, Hilary Tagell & Debra Wightman



Yvonne Forrest