

Historical Society of the Northern Territory

Patron: The Hon Austin Asche AC

NEWSLETTER October 2020

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HSNT Committee – President: Matthew James; Vice President: Bev Phelts;
Secretary: Wendy Asche; Treasurer: Lyn Reid; others - Brian Reid, Judy Boland,
Ian Anderson, Derek Pugh, Rosemary Chalmers, Robyn Smith and Clayton
Frederickson

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 3 October – Parap Market - HSNT book stall

Drop in and say hello to Janie and make an offer on some of our older books.

Until 25 October at the Museum and Art Gallery, Exhibition of Yolŋu Art

For over two decades Nyapanyapa Yunupingu has worked from the remote community of Yirrkala in the Northern Territory, creating significant paintings, drawings, sculptures and screen-based works.

This exhibition charts the evolution of her practice, which challenges the conventions of Yolŋu art making her an important established Australian artist. The exhibition features large scale multimedia work that has been specially commissioned for this exhibition, as well as an accompanying catalogue.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts.

Monday 26 October - International Laksa Festival

Following its successful launch last year, the Darwin International Laksa Festival is back.

From October 26, Territorians can follow the Laksa Trail, experiencing different Laksas from restaurants, market stalls and eateries, as they compete for the title of "2020 People's Choice".

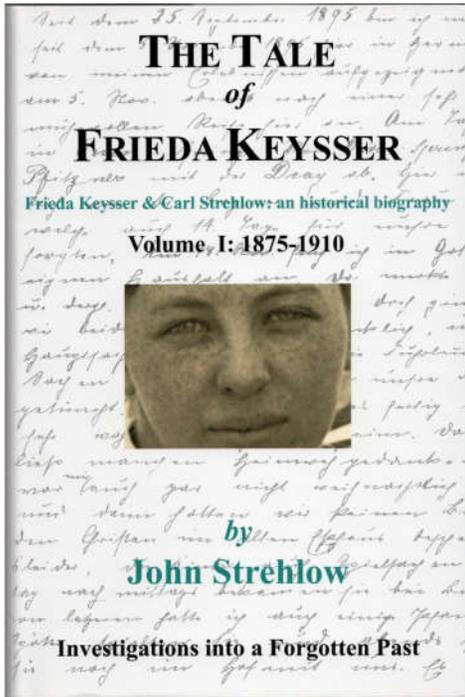
The four week long trail will end on 29 November at the Darwin International Laksa Festival where the winner will be awarded the "Golden Bowl" for the best laksa in the top end.

Saturday 31 October - Book Launch at the History Colloquium, NT Library

***The Tale of Frieda Keysser* by John Strehlow**

The book is written by John Strehlow, grandson of Carl and Frieda Strehlow who founded Hermannsburg. The book will be launched by Ted Egan AO.

The book is an historical biography in two volumes of Carl Strehlow and his wife Frieda née Keysser, who were at Hermannsburg in Central Australia from 1894 to 1922. Based in great part upon Frieda's diary and Carl's official letters, the book traces the development of Hermannsburg from its early beginnings under their predecessors Revs Kempe, Schwarz and Schulze to Carl's death from dropsy at Horseshoe Bend in 1922, in the process uncovering the inside story of how Central Australia's aboriginal population survived white settlement. Although almost completely passed over in the standard histories of this period, Frieda's work in overcoming infant mortality was a crucial factor in Hermannsburg's success, while her diary which has never been seen outside family circles throws light on life as it was lived in that period and will hopefully lead to a complete reappraisal both of the Hermannsburg venture and of those times.



Volume I comprises 1198 pages of text (including an historical timeline, dramatis personae, and several appendices), 100 pages of photographs, many of them never published before, and 3 fold-out maps. It deals with the complexities of the background, upbringing and training of Carl and Frieda who came from opposite ends of the social scale, and documents their lives at Hermannsburg until 1910, when they returned to Germany for the education of their children. It was launched in 2011 at the Strehlow Research Centre in Alice Springs by Prof. Marcia Langton, receiving high critical acclaim from Nicolas Rothwell in *The Weekend Australian* (11 Feb 2012), Dr Peter Sutton in *The Monthly* (April 2012), Dr Maurice Schild in *Lutheran Theological Journal* (August 2012), Prof. Regina Ganter in *Aboriginal History 2012*, and Dr Lois Zweck in *Lutheran Woman* (August 2012). MP for MacDonnell, Alison Anderson commended the book to the NT Parliament on 1 December 2011 and 21 February 2012.

Volume II is of similar size but printed in two parts, and likewise contains many photographs never seen before. It deals with the return of the Strehlows to Australia after the transfer of the NT to Commonwealth control in 1911, the successful resistance (spear-headed by Administrator Gilruth) to Prof. Baldwin Spencer's attempt to turn Hermannsburg into an orphanage as part of his 'Stolen Generation' policy, and the failed attempt to stigmatise Hermannsburg as a stronghold for enemy aliens hostile to Australia's interests during World War One. Volume II ends with Carl's death at Horseshoe Bend in Central Australia in 1922 just after Administrator Urquhart's recommendation that Hermannsburg be granted a lease of seven years was granted.

Each volume costs \$100; the two volumes together cost \$180.

The books can be purchased at the Colloquium (cash preferred) or online by emailing friedakeysser@strehlow.co.uk. Postage costs from the UK are \$16 (single volume) or \$26 (for both volumes). Postage costs are to be paid by the purchaser.

Short listed finalists of the 2020 Northern Territory Literary Awards.

The annual Northern Territory Literary Awards have celebrated the work of Territory writers for more than 35 years. The Awards encourage and award the achievements of established and emerging writers, storytellers and prominent Territorians. This year, 190 submissions were received from all around the Territory. Congratulations to HSNT member Tom Lewis who has been short listed.

Charles Darwin University Essay Award - short list

The Hero who Wasn't - the Mythic Deeds of Pilot Robert Oestreicher in Darwin's First Air Attack by Dr Tom Lewis

States of Deferral: A Recent History of Housing at Borroloola by Liam Grealy, Kirsty Howey, Tess Lea

To what extent does architecture of the paediatric department at RDH promote a child's mental wellbeing and healing process? by Nuhansi Wijesinghe

Tuxworth Fullwood House, Tennant Creek



Tuxworth Fullwood House in Tennant Creek is now open to the public, opening hours are as follows:

Mon – Fri 4.30pm to 6pm
Sat 9am to 11am & 4.30pm to 6pm
Sun 10.30am to 12pm & 5pm to 6.30pm

If you are passing through or visiting the area, pop by the Museum and say hello!

Historical Anniversaries

21 Oct 1824 - Fort Dundas, first settlement in northern Australia, Melville Island.
Bicentenary on 21 Oct 2024

15 Sept 1870- Overland Telegraph Line: First telegraph pole planted in a ceremony by Harriet Douglas.
150th anniversary fell on 15 Sept 2020

22 Aug 1872 - The Overland Telegraph Line linking Darwin and Adelaide opened.
150th anniversary on 22 Aug 2022

1922 - Secondary education commenced in Darwin with Victor Lampe and 25 students. Prior to then, children undertook secondary education via correspondence or attended an interstate boarding school.
Centenary in 2022

Vale Judy Richardson



It is with sadness we hear of the passing of Judy on 18 September. Judy had been battling cancer since last year.

For many years Judy volunteered tirelessly for the National Trust predominately at the Adelaide River Railway Station Museum. Her, Trevor Horman and many others developed the precinct to the magnificent showcase that stands today.

She was a long term member of the Historical Society and will be sorely missed. A celebration of her life was held on 30 September at the Trailer Boat Club.

Judy at the 150th anniversary of the Overland Telegraph Line

Congratulations to the Arnhemland Historical Society on its acquisition of an Historic Satellite Tracker

The Society recently obtained a satellite tracker that is connected to Arnhemland's history.

The historic piece of space technology has been trucked three thousand kilometres via sea and land from RAAF Base Edinburgh, Adelaide.

The disused satellite tracker played a key role in early Australian rocket launches. Throughout the 1960s and 70s, the European Launcher Development Organisation (ELDO) satellite tracker stood in the East Arnhem Land bush and clocked the movements of rockets blasted from a launch site in Woomera. At the completion of its service in Arnhemland and the disbandment of the ELDO project, the satellite tracker was moved to a defence facility in South Australia. There it stood for years, eventually ageing and ready to be discarded until the Arnhemland Historical Society organised its homecoming. Life member Dave Suter said he had been working to get the machinery returned to its East Arnhem origin for more than a decade. It was dismantled into sections at the Edinburgh Base, loaded up onto a road train, and sent 3,000 kilometres up the Stuart Highway. When it arrived in Darwin, it was then loaded onto a barge and taken by Seaswift to Gove.

The historical society now plans to re-erect the tracker at their Gove Airport headquarters, where it will be painted and restored.



The ELDO satellite tracker. Photo courtesy Arnhemland Historical Society

Information from <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-09-13/nt-rocket-tracker-hauled-3000kms-through-nt/12657984> and the Arnhemland Historical Society

PAST EVENTS - 2nd Annual HSNT Oration - Speaker, Austin Asche

About 30 people attended our 2nd Oration to listen to our Patron speak on Herodotus who is regarded as the "father of history."



Susan Cameron & Austin Asche



Matt James, Libby Siebert, Jared Archibald & Judy Boland



Eddie Webber, Ian Anderson & Janet Leather



Austin Asche, Libby Fewings & Jenny Foreman



Rosemary Chalmers & Earl James



Wendy Asche, Andrew & Kate Bell