

Historical Society of the Northern Territory

Patron: The Hon Austin Asche AC

NEWSLETTER August 2020

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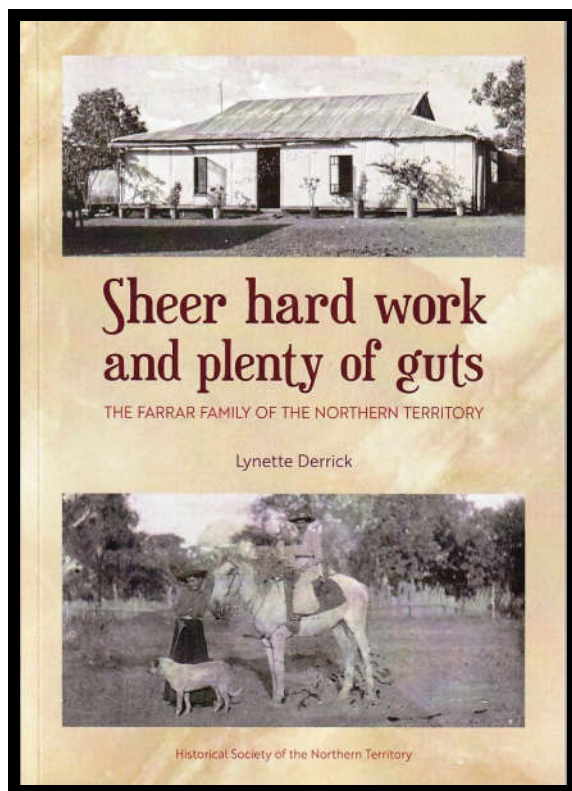
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HSNT Committee – President: Matthew James; Vice President: Bev Phelts;
Secretary: Wendy Asche; Treasurer: Lyn Reid; others - Brian Reid, Judy Boland,
Ian Anderson, Derek Pugh, Rosemary Chalmers, Robyn Smith and Clayton
Frederickson

FUTURE EVENTS

Tomorrow evening - Friday 7 August at 6pm - Book Launch

A new book published by the Historical Society *Sheer Hard Work and Plenty of Guts: The Farrar Family of the Northern Territory* by Lynette Derrick will be launched at the Recreation Centre Community Room 2, 11 The Boulevard, Palmerston



Most of the research for the book is derived from the author's mother Phyllis Uren nee Farrar which is based on her memories and research. Part 1 - Outlines the Farrar family association with the pastoral industry in the remote top end of the Territory from 1880-1942. Part 2 - Details the impact of WW2 in 1942 on Darwin and the Farrar family's evacuation to Ban Ban Springs Station, near Brocks Creek where they faced the war. The book contains 143 photos taken between late 1800's and 1950.

Dr Brian Reid, editor and council member of the Historical Society of the NT will be MC. Speaker will be Lilly Pyers who will talk about part 2 of the book. The book will be launched by June Tomlinson, Hon. Secretary of the Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory.

The book will be on sale for \$40 at the launch (cash only). If you are unable to make the launch, the book can be purchased from the Historical Society.

On now until 25 September 2020 - "Behind the Wheel" Exhibition

Australian Archives presents an exhibition on the development and demise of car manufacturing in Australia. The exhibition includes the car manufacturers of Morris, Austin, Hillman, Mercedes, Volkswagen, Toyota, Ford and Holden. The exhibition is free and showing Monday to Friday, 9am to 4.30pm, NT Archives, Kelsey Crescent, Nightcliff. For information email: eventsnt@naa.gov.au or phone: 89996890

National Trust Events

Tuxworth Fullwood House, Tennant Creek reopens - Sunday 16 August from 10am - 4pm

Girl Guides High Tea at Burnett House - Sunday 30 August from 3pm - 5.30pm
for tickets please call Justine on 0438 558 691 or email: girlguides.darwin@mail.com

Afternoon Tea at Burnett House - Sunday 20 September from 2pm - 5pm (booking essential on 8981 0165)

Marnie Jay Art Exhibition at Audit House - Saturday 12 September - Sunday 26 September

Craft Morning at Audit House - Saturday 12 September

Tropical Tea at Audit House - Sunday 13 September from 3pm - 5pm

Saturday 29 August - Day Field Trip - Hang Gong Landing (West Arm) and Charles Point Lighthouse

Our draft itinerary is as follows:

- 8.30am meet at Berry Springs Tavern car park on Cox Peninsula Rd.
- Drive to the Hang Gong Landing (West Arm) – 2.5km off the Cox Peninsula Rd (old West Arm Mineral Field). The track requires a 4WD high clearance vehicle.
Spend an hour inclusive of morning tea.
- Drive to Cox Peninsula and visit the WW2 sites of the American bomber crash site, Wagait Battery (anti-aircraft) and West Point (submarine boom net and anti-aircraft)
- Drive to Wagait community sports ground for lunch (shade and toilets available).
You will need to bring your own lunch, drinks and chairs.
- After lunch, drive to Charles Point Lighthouse and explore. There is the WW2 Radar Station and camp site in the area as well.
- Drive to Harney Beach (Bill Harney's old camp) – optional. There is a crash site of a Japanese WW2 bomber in the area – to be discussed.
- Return drive to Darwin – 1.2 hours.

Due to restricted parking in the areas we are going to visit, the number of attendees will be limited.

If you are interested in coming along, please let us know Friday 21 August.
Ring Bev on 0417868827 or email hsnt@inet.net.au

Saturday 5 September – Parap Market - HSNT book stall

Drop in and say hello to Janie who will be manning a stall and offering special prices off our books.

History Titbits



Ray Parer and John McIntosh
Photo NT Library

The 2nd August marked the 100th anniversary of Ray Parer and John McIntosh's flight from England to Darwin in a single engine aircraft. It was the first time this had been achieved. Ross and Keith Smith had completed the same journey 8 months earlier in a twin engine aircraft. On the journey their Havilland biplane engine caught fire twice and a downdraft almost dragged the plane into the crater of Mount Vesuvius (Pompeii fame). The men continued their journey onto Melbourne¹.

McIntosh Avenue at the Airport is named after John McIntosh but there is no road named after Ray Parer. The Fannie Bay History and Heritage Society will be addressing this point with the Place Names Committee.

Government House celebrates 150 Years

What was first known as The Residency commenced construction in 1870 with a central stone hall and cellar. It was originally a two storey residence in 1874 but by 1878, the second storey was considered unsafe, so the building was modified. By 1910, the verandah was enclosed by thatch shutters and before 1960, the verandah had its shutters replaced by asbestos louvres.¹ Since then the "House of Seven Gables" has had further modifications with the most recent being a new high fence at the entrance replacing the beautiful white picket fence. The building has withstood the Bombing of Darwin and Cyclone Tracy and hosted a multitude of dignitaries including Queen Elizabeth, Prince Charles and Lady Diana. Government House celebrated its milestone with two public openings this week.



Government House, post 1910. Photo NT Library

¹ *The Residency and its Residents: The Story of Darwin's House of Seven Gables*, Paul A Rosenzweig, 1996.

PAST EVENTS

HSNT book stall

We had a very successful afternoon selling some old and more recent published books. It was lovely catching up with members over a cuppa.



From left: Lyn Reid, Ian Anderson, Ted Whiteaker, Lyn Derrick & Brian Reid

Day trip to Channel Island Leprosarium and Middle Arm Petroglyphs

Eleven vehicles and 26 trekkers met at the Elizabeth River Bridge carpark and drove along the track towards the Middle Arm Aboriginal use site. We then walked about a kilometre to a site where we saw petroglyphs, very unusual in the Top End, and several large shell middens



Shell midden



petroglyph

Morning tea at Middle Arm



Greg Freeman & Janet Elliott



Jane Munday & Christine Tarbett-Buckley



Kate Bell & Wendy Asche



Penny Baird, Ron Innes & Julie Mastin



Peter Siebert



Sue Ridgwell. Libby Siebert. Janie Mason. Derek Pugh



Lunch was at the Channel Island boat ramp car park and then we headed to the abandoned Channel Island Leprosarium site. In 1884, the site was the Territory's first quarantine station. Its hospital and facilities were completed in 1914. In 1931, the site and buildings were converted to a leprosarium which operated until 1955. At the end of its time, most of its buildings were dismantled and moved elsewhere. There was also evidence that the area was used by Defence during World War 2.

The site is very overgrown with only a couple of corrugated iron huts still standing. Two sweet possums had made their home in one of them. Foundations of buildings were still very visible with several sets of stairs that led to nowhere. The jetty had been built with stone and covered in concrete but much of the concrete had crumbled away. Metal beds, chairs and cabinets were scattered in the bush. A pleasant find was a beautiful stone and brick fire place complete with chimney.



Corrugated iron hut



Metal bed inside the hut



The stone and concrete jetty



Metal chair and bed



Stone and brick fire place



Metal toilet - flaming fury with a sea view