

NT hero



Neighbour's medal which was finally returned on loan to the Northern Territory last week by the National Library of Australia

This fact of indigenous contribution very rarely rates a mention in the many books that tell of our Australian and Territory history.

Spencer also makes mention in the report of Neighbour's bravery and tells of several other acts of heroism by a couple of other indigenous Territorians. The story of Billie Sheppard who saved both Spencer and Gilruths lived out near Borroloola in 1911 and the story of the 13-year-old Darwin domestic girl Cissy McLeod, who in 1913 saved the life of her mistress, Mrs Mugg, who fell from the Darwin wharf.

These are the stories and historical accounts that now need to be brought back to life and retold in full and to

take their rightful place in the historical timeline of the Northern Territory.

The medal belonging to Neighbour would remain at Government House in Darwin until 1934 when a visiting Commonwealth Minister of the Interior obtained the medal on loan, (to be returned when a museum was built in the Northern Territory) for the National Gallery in Canberra. After 77 years, Neighbour's medal was finally returned on loan to the Northern Territory last week by the National Library of Australia.

The library also had two replicas made of the medal in London, one medal for Neighbour's family and one for the Northern Territory Library.

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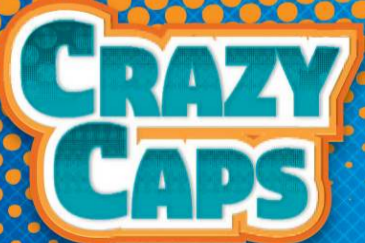
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