**Remembering Territory families**

‘The Katherine Express’

Even in the post-war period, Katherine was remote, from southern capitals at least. This is how one long term resident recalled how she came to the town:

So one of the doctors said to me: ‘Why don’t you go to the Territory’. He’d been up here for six months. And I said, ‘The Territory? I don’t want to go to the Territory.’ He said: ‘Oh, it’s wonderful. Go up to the Territory’.

So at that stage it was – the Repat was under the Commonwealth Government, so I had to make application through the Commonwealth, and so was the Northern Territory. So I had to make application through the Commonwealth Government. They wanted me to come to Katherine and I said: ‘Well, couldn’t I go to Darwin, or Alice Springs?’ And said: ‘Well if you’ll just relieve in Katherine for a few weeks, we’ll move you on.’

Of course that didn’t happen. I came to Katherine in 1950 – I think it was probably July 1950, because we’d just had a light snowfall, even in Collins Street in Melbourne, a couple of days before I came to the Territory. And when I got up here of course it was pretty warm.

And, ‘Oh’ I thought: ‘This is a dreadful place. I can’t stay here.’ I was covered in prickly heat about the first week I was here. And was – there were only three of us at the Katherine Hospital in those days – three sisters. And we used to go out in a little, single engine plane...

[Northern Territory Archives Service NTRS 226, TS 930 and NTRS 219, TP 1073, Peg MacFarlane]