Remembering Territory families

Pre-War Darwin

Darwin in those days was very, very much a real frontier town. There was no – like everything was brought to Darwin by boat, mainly from the south. There was no such thing as fresh milk. I was reared on tinned condensed milk. I don't think there was any powdered milk in those days either, if I remember rightly. I remember Darwin in those days, there was a lot of horses and buggies around, very few motor cars in my earlier times. The boats came, I think, about once a month; maybe a bit more frequently, I'm not real sure on that. But on the whole, we had a Darwin Public School and a convent; they were the main two schools in the town of Darwin in those days, of which I attended the Darwin Public School which was situated in the carpark alongside the old Cavenagh Street Woolworths, which is now closed down...

Yes, well, the building in the school was a big, very, very tropical built – like as the old Darwin homes were in those days. It was very open, wide verandahs, with central classrooms and right up off the ground; one of the main reasons for coolness, the other one was so – like when we get our tropical storms here in the wet, the children used to play underneath the school without being out in the yard.

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