**Remembering Territory families**

**After the War**

The rebuilding of Darwin after the devastation of the Japanese bombing raids and military occupation during World War II was an enormous task for the Commonwealth. The government had to subdivide and plan the suburbs for the ‘new’ Darwin.

In the 1950s Ken Frey was appointed the Government Architect:

But you’ve got to remember of course, that some of the early development areas in Darwin had had bulldozers over them several times. I think I mentioned before that Fannie Bay had been bulldozed during the war, to push down all the trees so they could have machine-gun traverses, in case the Japanese landed on Fannie Bay beach. Therefore, by the time we put houses on the sites – and they’d been cleared again just beforehand by the engineers – there was very little topsoil left; you were down to the laterite. And this made gardening harder.

One of the other features, of course, which is in the same area, is a lot of people used to complain about how boring the place – Fannie Bay particularly – looked, because all the buildings were facing the same direction, and they all had just grey asbestos cement on them. The point is, if you look at Fannie Bay now – people would’ve been doing the same sort of garden works as they did in those days, but the gardens hadn’t grown up, and you could see all these asbestos cement-clad houses.

[Northern Territory Archives Service NTRS 226, TS 630 and NTRS 219, TP 738, Ken Frey]