Discovering Local History through Museums at the Battery Hill Mining Centre, Tennant Creek

A Photo Card with Sincerest of Good Wishes from Tennant Creek

Zena and Harold Williams & Family 1941

An educational resource for middle – upper primary and lower secondary schools 2007

Battery Hill Mining Centre

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory

Community Benefit Fund

Helping Build Better Communities

Northern Territory Government
Acknowledgements

This package was created by Megg Kelham (meggkel@yahoo.com) with financial support from The Regional Museums Support Grant Programme, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, auspiced by the National Pioneer Women’s Hall of Fame, Alice Springs. Printing was made possible with financial support from the Community Benefits Fund, Northern Territory Treasury: Racing, Gaming and Licensing.

Book design: Joy Taylor. Other graphics: Artplan, JAT Illustrational, Kaye Kessing Productions and Megg Kelham.

Cover postcard: Evelyn Middleton, personal collection.

Copyright

This work is copyright. The CD-ROM and the accompanying worksheets may be copied, without payment, by educational institutions within Australia solely for educational purposes. Any other use will require the written permission of the producer, Megg Kelham and may require the written permission of other copyright owners. Copies should include this copyright statement or an appropriate acknowledgement.

Every attempt has been made to obtain the correct copyright permissions for use of these materials. If you believe there has been an error or omission please contact meggkel@yahoo.com

Important - read me!

Please leave this copy where you found it for others to use. Do not keep! If you want your own copy burn the CD-Rom at the back of the book and print a hard copy from the .pdf file. Then return the CD-Rom to the back of this book. We want these resources to be available to teachers in the years to come.
Discovering Local History Through Museums at the Battery Hill Mining Centre, Tennant Creek

Contents

Acknowledgements.............................................................................................................. 2
Copyright............................................................................................................................ 2
Important - read me! .......................................................................................................... 2
Key to symbols................................................................................................................... 5

Project Overview .................................................................................................................. 7

An extremely short history of Tennant Creek .................................................................... 9

Teacher Information ......................................................................................................... 11

The Battery Hill Mining Centre - practical information ................................................... 11
General guidelines for planning excursions .................................................................... 12
Museums and collections ................................................................................................. 13
Some notes on creating worksheets for museum visits ...................................................... 14
Time line pro-forma worksheet ........................................................................................ 15
Some discussion questions for museum visits ................................................................. 15
Some discussion questions for museum visits ................................................................. 16

Freedom Fortitude and Flies: Daily Life on Tennant’s Goldfields ......................... 17

Some notes on the development of the exhibition ............................................................ 18
Who said what: an excursion activity .............................................................................. 19
Who said what: mix and match ...................................................................................... 20
Who said what: the art of editing .................................................................................... 21
Who said what: mix and match answer sheet ................................................................. 22

The Talking Photo Albums ............................................................................................... 25
Technical information ...................................................................................................... 25
Instructions for using the talking scrap book s............................................................... 26
Learning history from the horse’s mouth: where did these materials come from? ....... 26
Slide notes: Francie Udall’s letters from Tennant Creek, 1930–1942 .......................... 28
The text of Francie Udall’s talking scrap book ............................................................... 32
Slide notes and transcript: Kevan Weaber’s talking scrap book .................................... 37
What did the past sound like? ......................................................................................... 44
Some notes on the sound in the talking scrap book s ...................................................... 45

Talking Photo Album and Excursion Activities and Worksheets .............................. 47
A multiple choice comprehension guide to Francie Udall’s talking scrap book .......... 48
Answer sheet: multiple choice comprehension guide ................................................... 50
Words from the past ........................................................................................................ 51
Who was Francie Udall: a discussion .......................................................................... 52
Who was Francie Udall? ................................................................................................. 53
Francie Udall, 1884 -1982: a biographical note ............................................................... 54
Mapping movement ........................................................................................................ 55
Sequencing historical events and evaluating their impact ............................................. 56
Eating, sleeping, travelling, and having fun #1.............................................................. 57
Eating, sleeping, travelling, and having fun #2.............................................................. 58
Eating, sleeping, travelling, and having fun #3.............................................................. 59
Eating, sleeping, travelling, and having fun #4.............................................................. 60
What have you learnt? .................................................................................................... 61
Postcards from the past.................................................................................................... 62
Time line to people in Tennant Creek ........................................................................... 63

History Notes .................................................................................................................... 65

Australian women in the 1930s.................................................................................... 66
Northern Territory Aborigines in the 1930s ................................................................. 67
Outback Ghans 1.............................................................................................................. 68
Outback Ghans 2.............................................................................................................. 69
## Key to symbols

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Key</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="/filetalltext3" alt="Teaching Notes" /></td>
<td>For teachers and independent learners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="/filetalltext3" alt="History Notes" /></td>
<td>For teachers and/or students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="/filetalltext3" alt="Discussion Focus Questions" /></td>
<td>For teachers and/or independent learners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="/handhalt" alt="Worksheet" /></td>
<td>Things for students to do!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="/pencil/pencil/pencil/pencil" alt="Activity" /></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From 'Eating, Sleeping and ...' in the Freedom, Fortitude and Flies Exhibition

Uncle Jim and I have a camp and are really comfortable. Up until Christmas we lived in a tent which didn't give us much room to move about in and was very awkward when it rained. Now we have an iron roof... We have no doors only a space left open... The aunt in whom whoop
Frances
1938

From 'Legends and Lies' in the Freedom, Fortitude and Flies Exhibition
Discovering Local History through Museums at the Battery Hill Mining Centre in Tennant Creek is the second in a series of skills-based educational programs designed to encourage teachers and their students to visit local museums. The first in the series was Discovering Local and Women’s History through Museums: an educational resource for upper primary and lower secondary schools in central Australia, 2006. It focused on four small museums in Alice Springs: Adelaide House, the Old Timer’s Traeger Museum, the National Pioneer Women’s Hall of Fame, and the Ghan Preservation Society. The section entitled ‘Make Your Own Exhibit’ is however, easily adaptable to any local history context, which is why a copy of this resource has been included on the CD-ROM attached to the front of this book.

Research shows that if people visit museums when they are young they visit them throughout their lives. Visitors keep museums open, which in turn helps preserve local heritage.

All of the learning activities in this series are designed to:

- develop student skills in historical literacy
- reinforce classroom curriculum with an integrated literacy and numeracy approach
- meet the needs of a transient teaching population. **Extensive knowledge of local history is NOT a prerequisite for using this resource**
- be easily adaptable to the wide variety of classroom contexts (age/literacy levels/cultural backgrounds etc.), which exist in Northern Territory schools
- fit a wide variety of teaching timetables. Each activity stands alone as a single lesson or it can be linked to other activities to become work for a day/week/term
- provide students with ‘hands on’ learning experiences
- encourage students to observe record and solve problems as they explore local history.

The educational package for Tennant Creek includes five ‘Museums in a Box’, which contain:

- artefacts
- gloves and other tools for handling objects
- object record sheets
- copies of two 1930s photo albums, which are part of the social history exhibition at the Battery Hill Mining Centre
- two talking scrap book s – multi-media presentations with moving text, sound effects, photographs, and eyewitness accounts of daily life on Tennant’s goldfields with accompanying information and student worksheets
- student worksheets for visiting the social history museum
- history notes
- information and classroom activities for exploring the Minerals Collection at Battery Hill
- two spiral-bound publications in the Discovering Local History through Museums series which give practical information about organising excursions to specific museums in Central Australia and the Barkly Tableland as well as links to the Northern Territory Curriculum Framework, DEET 2002.

Teachers who are planning an excursion to Battery Hill are encouraged to borrow one or more of these boxes before they visit.
The boxes have been placed with:

- The Battery Hill Mining Centre, Tennant Creek
- The Tennant Creek Training Centre – contact the group schools principal for the Barkly Region
- The Tennant Creek High School
- The Tennant Creek Primary School
- The Northern Territory Archives Service, Hartley Street Alice Springs.

Please contact these organisations in advance to organise borrowing a box.

**An extremely short history of Tennant Creek**

Like the rest of Australia, Tennant Creek was the terrain of Aboriginal-language speakers for many, many thousands of years before Europeans arrived and joined it to the hub of their universe – London.

Tennant’s Creek, as it was known to the first Europeans who lived there, was a telegraph repeater station operated by a small handful of men until the discovery of gold during the Great Depression when Tennant became a national economic success story.

The town has been riding the tides of boom and bust ever since.

Want to know more?

Visit the Nyinkka Nyunyu Cultural Centre and the Battery Hill Mining Centre with your students and learn about local history together.
The Battery Hill Mining Centre – practical information

Staff
The centre receives government funding to pay staff who manage the centre, provide guided tours and maintain the site.

Opening Times
9 am – 5 pm, seven days a week

Contact Details
Phone: 08 8962 1281
Fax: 08 8962 2022
Email: info@barklytourism.com.au

Location
1.5 km east of the town centre, along Peko Road, Tennant Creek

Costs
Underground tour (1 hour) – $10 per student with accompanying adults free of charge. Bookings essential. (The normal price is $20 adult, $17 concession – seniors only, or $12 children aged between 5 and 15 years.)

Entry to Minerals and Social History Museums for school groups is Free (normally it is $5 for access to both)

Gold Panning needs to be organised in advance

Prices are valid as at February 2007 and subject to change without notice. Please check with BHMC before you visit.

Guided Tours
The underground mine and viewing of the battery in operation are accessible only as guided tours. Prior bookings are essential.

Both museums are self-guided
**Practical Considerations**

The site is quite large with one old mine-shaft and some rusting mine machinery. Accidents are possible, so students need to be able to follow instructions or be very well supervised.

**Attractions and Limitations**

This is hands-on history at its very best – there is so much to see and do! Plan to be there for most of the day or focus on one or two attractions and take a class over several months or years.

Activities include:

- going underground with miner's light and hard hat and watching mine machinery in action
- seeing a 10-head stamp battery crush ore
- crushing iron ore in a dolly pot
- panning for your own gold, and keep what you find
- guiding yourself – with the aid of a booklet – through the ins and outs of old mining machinery – including an underground toilet! Where did the miners go and, more to the point, what happened to it after?

You can also visit the sites two museum displays:

- the social history Freedom, Fortitude and Flies Exhibition, which explores daily life on Tennant’s goldfields through the eyes of women and children'
- the McLaughlin Minerals Collection which explores the world of crystals and minerals - a spectacular array of mineral samples from around the world.

**General guidelines for planning excursions**

- plan for an adult student ratio of between 1:5 and 1:10. Staff at the museum expect teachers to discipline students
- students should provide their own pen/paper/clipboards for their museum visits
- please let students know that behaviour such as running, pushing and yelling intrudes on the rights of other visitors to the museums
- secure storage space for students’ bags is not available at the Battery Hill Mining Centre. If you plan on having lunch there pack student lunches into a box or at least warn students not to take valuables with them on the day.
Museums and collections

Museums house collections of objects, photographs and documents.

Groups of objects, photographs and documents that have something in common are often put on display. Interpretation is created through the arrangement of the objects, photographs and documents in the displays, and the linking of different displays as exhibitions.

A display tells a story. An exhibition is an extended story. The story is told through objects, photographs and documents.

There are many different types of exhibitions in museums. Some exhibitions tell us the history of an object; others tell the story of a place, person or event. Yet other exhibitions focus on an idea e.g. an exhibition about reconciliation.

See also:

Understanding collections
Reading objects and photos
Surveying museums

in the 'Make Your Own Exhibit' section of Discovering Local and Women’s History through Museums on the CD-ROM.
Some notes on creating worksheets for museum visits

Best practice in the creation of worksheets for use in museums says that the best museum worksheets focus students’ attention on the objects in the museum rather than on the labels.

In this context, it is good to remind students that the act of drawing, photographing or writing about the object is to remind the student about the object when they return to class rather than to be artistic.

Wherever possible you should try to photocopy worksheets before visiting museums. Whilst the Battery Hill Mining Centre in Tennant Creek has paid staff, many small museums are run by volunteers, on very small budgets. They may not have easy access to a photocopier.

For general museums worksheets see:
- My family history worksheet p49
- Objects tell stories p95
- Some common questions to ask about everyday objects p45
- Questions to ask when reading photographs p63
- Record of relevance p81
- Record of condition p82
- Museum surveys # 1, 2 and 3 pp 74–76
- The past can stir your emotions p97
- I know what I like p99
- Tools p100

In Discovering Local and Women’s History through Museums on the CD-ROM.

For post-excursion follow-up activities see:
- Museum personnel role cards p86
- Writing museum labels p89

In Discovering Local and Women’s History through Museums on the CD-ROM.
Time line pro-forma worksheet

Use the electronic version of this page to create your own theme-based object selection worksheets for a museum visit.

- to change theme names right click once on the name in each box. Delete the current subject and add your own
- to delete frames right click on line and on words and press delete
- to move frames and words together right click on both whilst holding down the shift key then right click and drag.
Discussion Focus Questions

What is a museum?

What do the objects and photographs in this museum have in common?

- Are the objects/photographs important to everyone in Australia or just the people of Tennant Creek?
- Where did the objects/photographs in this museum come from?
- How do you decide what to keep?
- Whose responsibility is it?

Who looks after this museum and puts the exhibitions together? (Paid workers, volunteers, outside visiting consultants, locals or people who live in other places?)

- How many people who work in this museum are paid?
- How many people who work in this museum are voluntary?
- Why do they think this museum is important?
- Who owns this museum? The donors? The visitors? The volunteers? The government? The community?

Why are museums important?

- Why are museums important to old people?
- Why are museums important to historians?

Why is preserving our past important?

Definition of a museum:

'A museum helps people understand the world by using objects and ideas to interpret the past and present and explore the future. A museum preserves and researches collections, and makes objects and information accessible in actual and virtual environments. Museums are established in the public interest as permanent, not-for-profit organisations that contribute long-term value to communities.'

Museums Australia, 2002
'Hi!
I’m Kevan Weaber, youngest son of the blind cattleman who became one of Tennant’s biggest gold producers in Australia’s Depression years.

This is my story.

And yes, it’s Kevan with an A not an I. That A has caused me trouble all my life though not as much trouble as gold.'
Some notes on the development of the exhibition

The Freedom Fortitude and Flies exhibition was created with government funding by a curator from Alice Springs and a designer who had lived in Tennant Creek.

The curator was asked to create an exhibition about the social rather than the hardware history of mining: to look at how people lived rather than the technicalities of gold production.

She began her work by looking at all the photographs and objects in the Battery Hill collection. When she saw the child-sized rusty wheelbarrow she decided to tell the story of Tennant’s goldfields through the eyes of its children. After reading Francie Udall’s letters, she decided that she had enough information to tell the story through the eyes of its women as well.

The curator then began the focused research phase of the project. She talked to as many old and current residents of Tennant Creek as she could; as well as mining the Northern Territory Archives Service and the National Trust in Tennant Creek. She looked at hundreds of old photos, read the transcripts of many oral history interviews, looked at old government documents like the ‘lavatory parade’ and searched for newspaper articles about particular events in Tennant’s social history.

When she felt like she knew a little about the prewar history of Tennant Creek, she wrote a short story about life pretending that she was Kevan Weaber. She showed this story to museum colleagues and then to Kevan Weaber who, at that time, she had never met. When he approved the story she began writing the text boards, selecting photos and writing captions for the prewar and postwar sections. The draft was then sent to the designer.

The designer asked for more of the text to be cut because there wasn’t enough space for it all in the museum. The designer also started looking for objects to go in the exhibition and decided how the text, objects and photographs should be displayed together. The curator and designer collaborated on the big picture design ideas and photo – object selection decisions. The designer looked after the fine details of picture quality, font style and size and text panel production. The designer and curator installed the exhibition together with a lot of help from family and friends.

Many of the photographs in the exhibition were given to the curator by individuals she had talked to. Others were purchased from public institutions like the Australian War Memorial.

Some of the objects in this exhibition came from the BHMC collection, others were found at the Battery Hill tip, whilst others were donated to the exhibition by individuals who saw the exhibition as it was being put together.

One of the things which makes this exhibition special is its reliance on oral histories as a source of information about the past. Another special thing in this exhibition is the designer’s decision not to put museum objects in display cases, but to attach them directly to the walls.
Who said what: an excursion activity

Please note: the 'Who said what' series of activities can only be done by visiting the social history exhibition at the Battery Hill Mining Centre as it requires students to read the quotes written on the museum’s objects and walls in order to fill in the mix and match activity. The information is not found anywhere else.

Activity aims:
• to introduce students to the value of oral history as a source of information about the past
• to introduce students to the conventions of historic referencing and reasons for doing this
• to encourage engagement with the written text in the exhibition.

Oral history is a 'picture of the past in people’s own words'
Oral histories do more than just give us information about the past. They capture the way people describe the past, the nuances of language which enable people to tell their stories in their own voice. Oral histories, depending on who is interviewed and what questions are asked, can also be excellent sources of information about the 'ordinary' lives of 'ordinary people' whose voices may not be found elsewhere.

Oral history is memory based. Memories can change over time and different individuals can have significantly different memories of the same events. Information in oral histories needs to be corroborated by other people or other sources of evidence. Oral history is not 'the last word in an historical record' though sometimes, in the absence of other sources of information, it may be the only way we have of understanding the past1.

Use of oral history in the Freedom, Fortitude and Flies Exhibition
Much of the information in this exhibition was obtained from oral histories because
• most of the written documentation and published histories about Tennant Creek focus on the technical details of gold production, mine-site location and government policy rather than on people’s daily lives
• the oral history record for early Tennant Creek is extensive, enabling good cross-referencing and corroboration of information between a number of different interviewers and interviewees
• many of the people who lived in Tennant after the war are still alive to talk to

Referencing historical sources – why bother?
Most of the quotes in the exhibition are followed by the letters NTAS, NTRS 226, and TS162. This means that the quote has been taken from the written transcript of an interview recorded to tape, mini-disc or CD which has been lodged with the Northern Territory Archives Service, a government-run archive. the Northern Territory Record Series number and TranScript numbers are part of the archives filing system which enable people to find the quote if they want to. Every interview in the oral history collection has a unique transcript number.

Some quotes do not have reference numbers next to them. In this exhibition this means that the person was interviewed without being recorded, or the quote came from personal written documents (letters and emails) with the curator.

As you look through the exhibition:

**Match the quote with the name of the person who said it and what they did on the goldfields.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Quote</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>'It is no joke to live on meat and bread alone, gets a bit monotonous.'</td>
<td>Beryl Renfry</td>
<td>ore carter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>'I shudder these days when I see a shovel anywhere.'</td>
<td>Francie Udall</td>
<td>miner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>'Prospectors were rough diamonds, loved the plonk ... but ... out bush ... you couldn’t get better men.'</td>
<td>Leonard Kittle</td>
<td>prospector's wife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>'At parties people kept their beer cold by putting it in a wet woollen sock and hanging it in the breeze for an hour or so.'</td>
<td>James Alexander Smith</td>
<td>mine manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>'Adult games at the races included &quot;thread the needle&quot;. Men threaded the needle, women ran with the thread.'</td>
<td>Peter Gunner</td>
<td>miner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>'One birthday my mother bought me a claw hammer and nails. I spent endless days driving nails into gum trees. That was entertainment.'</td>
<td>Ellen Gunner</td>
<td>miner's wife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>'Sometimes ... it was cheaper to go and buy a bottle of beer than it was to buy a bottle of water.'</td>
<td>Peter Braham</td>
<td>teenager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>'Prospectors ... might be rough but, by gee, you could eat off the floor'</td>
<td>Pilot Carr</td>
<td>child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>'We treated water like diamonds, it was so precious. We used not waste a bit.'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>'Places like this needed tough women.'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>'Even the kids were individuals. I remember ... one 3 year old being sent outside when he had done something wrong. Three minutes later there’s a knock on the door &quot;too bloody hot out here Mum&quot;.'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>'They were good years, all right for us. When we worked in the mines we had good times, good mates all working together.'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Please Note:** There are more quotes than names because some people have been quoted more than once. Some of these quotes are longer and some are shorter than the actual ones in the exhibition, but they are clearly the same quote. The quotes are written on objects and on the museum's walls.
Discovering Local History Through Museums at the Battery Hill Mining Centre, Tennant Creek

Who said what: the art of editing

Try your hand at editing!
The quotes used in the Freedom, Fortitude and Flies Exhibition are short versions of much longer pieces of writing. They were edited so that they could be written on objects and into blank wall spaces between objects and photographs. Three dots (...) in the museum version of the text indicate where the speaker’s original words have been removed.

Editing must not lose or change the meaning of what was said and should try to retain the speaker’s personality! Referencing of quotes using the NTAS, NTRS numbering system enables people to find the quotes in the original source and authenticate their accuracy. The way we tell the story of our past can be politically manipulated in the present – historic referencing is one way we can try and stop this from happening.

Edit the following exhibition quotes to as close to the specified word size as you can. Remember not to alter the speaker’s meaning and try not to lose his/her voice.

Extracts from Braham Peter NTAS, NTRS 226, oral history interview TS162, courtesy of the Northern Territory Archives Service.

**Quote 1 – Currently 181 words. Edit to 50 words to go on the back of a door.**

Well, I've said so many times that people are sick of hearing me say it, I've never had so much really enjoyment in life, so many belly laughs, as I have in Tennant Creek. Your social life ... was so demanding because you were a member of pretty nearly every sporting club and whatnot, and there were meetings of this and meetings of that on the whole time. If you did have a quiet night at home somebody's turn up with a carton of beer ... 'Haven't seen you for a fortnight' sort of thing ... the thing that it [Tennant] taught me, and it taught me to love the territory was there, and to a lesser degree in the rest of the territory, it didn't matter what you had or what you did, but it's exactly what you were that mattered. The priest, the bar maid, the sweeper behind the bar, the manager of The Nob, might be all welcome in one group ... of all shades and descriptions, and wealth came so suddenly ... there's a sort of family relationship.

**Quote 2 - Currently 179 words. Edit to 2 separate texts of 25 words each, one for a photo caption, the other to go on a wall.**

Des and Rae Stevens came from New Zealand, living in 'a smaller galvanised iron shack with ... a 2 months old baby ... and I don't think she [managers wife] stopped crying for about 3 months ...' 5 years later this manager was appointed to the Nob and then given the sack ... '... And I think Rae [the wife] cried even harder when she left Tennant Creek than when she got there ... She loved it in the finish, and a lot of women do. Those who came up with the ingrained thing that ... The house ... and kids ... must be spotless ... what will the neighbours think ... couldn't stand it ... they went off ... As my old boss, Col Adams said, when you're recruiting people for these districts, you want to look over the best man on paper, then go and interview the wife, because if she doesn't like it ... He'll be gone in a few months... But some very good types stayed and some very wonderful women.'
Which statements support the following historical generalisations? Discuss the connections.

- Lack of water was a big problem in Tennant’s early years.
- Life was very physical in the days before electricity reached Tennant.
- Tennant was a rough town, a man’s town.

Who said what: mix and match answer sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Who Said</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A 'It is no joke ...'</td>
<td>2. Francie Udall</td>
<td>U miner’s wife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B 'I shudder these days ....'</td>
<td>3. Leonard Kittle</td>
<td>Z ore carter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 'Prospectors were rough diamonds ...'</td>
<td>4. James Alexander Smith</td>
<td>Y miner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D 'At parties people kept their ...'</td>
<td>1. Beryl Renfry</td>
<td>X prospector’s wife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E 'Adult games at the races included ...'</td>
<td>1. Beryl Renfry</td>
<td>X prospector’s wife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F 'One birthday my mother bought me ...'</td>
<td>5. Peter Gunner</td>
<td>S child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G 'Sometimes ... it was cheaper ...'</td>
<td>1. Beryl Renfry</td>
<td>X prospector’s wife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H 'Prospectors ... might be rough ...'</td>
<td>4. James Alexander Smith</td>
<td>Y miner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I 'We treated water like diamonds...'</td>
<td>6. Ellen Gunner</td>
<td>T teenager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J 'Places like this needed tough women.'</td>
<td>1. Beryl Renfry</td>
<td>X prospector’s wife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K 'Even the kids were individuals ...'</td>
<td>7. Peter Braham</td>
<td>W mine manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L 'They were good years, all right for us.'</td>
<td>8. Pilot Carr</td>
<td>V miner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Colour me in! Can you find me in the exhibition? Write your own caption for this photo!
Colour me in! Can you find the photo in the exhibition? Who are we? Where was the photo taken? Write your own caption for this photo!
The Talking Photo Albums

These educational resources were designed for classroom use either before or after you visit the Freedom, Fortitude and Flies Exhibition at the BHMC. The talking scrapbook may be studied by individual students on their own computer using headphones or as an electronic presentation with speakers attached to the headphone outlet of a laptop so that the whole class can discuss what they are hearing and seeing together.

The work and information sheets can be given to individual students or read by teachers as background information to the historical events mentioned in the talking scrapbooks. They could be completed in the classroom after viewing the talking scrapbook and/or when visiting the exhibition. Please feel free to rearrange and adapt any of the work and/or information sheets to your own classroom needs.

Two photograph albums, which contain more information than the talking scrapbook, can be viewed at the Battery Hill Exhibition or can be borrowed as part of the ‘Museum in a Box’ version of these resources. The photograph albums are an excellent source of reference material for students who missed something in the talking scrapbook; an extension activity for students wanting even more detailed accounts of daily life on the goldfields and/or literacy support resources.

Please note that these resources contain the images of Aboriginal people who have died.

Technical information

Both talking scrapbooks were made using Microsoft PowerPoint 2003 on operating system Windows XP. The presentation will operate on older versions of Power Point but some of the more interesting formats will be lost in the process.

The files on both albums are large because the sound has been embedded into them. This means that it will be slow to open. Please be patient. (The alternative of linking the sound to the presentation resulted in frequent and frustrating sound losses and so was rejected as a reasonable option.)

Slides, like the pages in a book, must be manually changed using a mouse or the arrow keys on a keyboard. There is no automatic transition. Slides are between 10 and 60 seconds in length.
Instructions for using the talking scrap book s

To start each photo album:

- place the CD-ROM in a computer
- double click on the folder you want
- open power point viewer
- open the icon labelled 'Kevan Weaber Talking Photo album' or 'Francie Udall Talking Photo album'
- when the programme has loaded press F5 to start.

To 'turn the page' i.e. move from one slide to another either:

- place the mouse over the left-hand corner of the screen and left click the arrow
- or hit the forward arrow on the keyboard.

To select a specific slide:

- right click mouse
- select go to slide and choose the slide number you want.

To end the show:

- place mouse anywhere on the screen
- right click
- end show.

Learning history from the horse’s mouth: where did these materials come from?

Copies of Francie Udall’s letters and photographs, a graphic eye-witness account of life on Tennant’s goldfields before the War, were donated to Museums and Art Galleries, NT a few years ago by one of Francie’s nieces. The letters were edited and used to create a photo album and sound installation for the Freedom, Fortitude and Flies: Daily Life on Tennant’s Goldfields Exhibition at the Battery Hill Mining Centre, Tennant Creek. The sound installation was then edited a second time to produce Francie Udall’s talking scrap book – a literacy tool with local history content.

All the photographs in the talking scrap book which are labelled 'The Havard Collection' belonged to Francie and Jim (see slide notes and the last three slides of the talking scrap book for referencing). The talking scrap book also contains photos from other sources. All the photographs are real – taken at or near the time/place specified in Francie’s letters and relevant to the subject matter she is discussing.

The sound in Kevan Weaber’s talking scrap book was taken from an oral history interview conducted by Hilda Tuxworth, a Tennant Creek historian, mine wife and long-term goldfield’s resident, in 1981 when Kevan was in his fifties. The original interview is approximately 80 minutes long. The 10 minutes of edited extracts in the talking scrap book were selected for what they tell us about a kid’s life before the War. A transcript of the entire interview is accessible to the general public via the reading rooms of the Northern Territory Archives Service in Alice Springs and Darwin.
Most of the photographs in Kevan Weaber’s talking scrap book come from Evelyn Middleton (nee Dwyer) one of Kevan’s cousins on his mother’s side, who spent her teenage years on the goldfields. Evelyn loved Tennant and remembers that her house was always full of visiting miners – not surprising given that there were 600 men and only a handful of women at the height of the goldrush, and three of the youngest women were the Dwyer sisters. After the War Evelyn married another of Kevan’s cousins – on his father’s side. Photographs from other sources, which are pertinent to time and place, have also been used in Kevan’s talking scrap book.

Both Kevan Weaber’s recorded oral history and Francie Udall’s letters are eye-witness accounts of goldfield’s life; though Francie’s letters – documents written at the time the events were taking place by a woman in her mature years – would be considered more reliable as sources of information by traditional historians, than the adult memories of a young child. Kevan’s memories are, nevertheless, a valuable source of information about a child’s life in the years before the War which are not generally found in written documents of the day.

Francie Udall’s letters and Kevan Weaber’s memories are also much more than a detailed description of daily life in 1930s Tennant Creek. They provide us with small but important windows of understanding into some of the big historical events and social trends which dominated the first half of twentieth-century Australia. Some of these major historical themes include:

- Australian Women in the 1930s
- Aboriginal Australia in the 1930s
- the role of Afghans in the economic development of Australia’s outback
- railways as nation builders
- the Great Depression
- World War II
- national security versus individual liberty and the place of ‘aliens’ in an Australia at war.
Slide 1 – Title page
Graphics: Artplan

Slide 2 – Alice Springs 1930.
The train, which arrived in Alice Springs for the first time in August 1929, changed the small settlement of Stuart into a bustling economic hub. Many of the new residents, like the Ah Chee family and many of the Afghan cameleers, came from Oodnadatta, the previous rail-head. Other new residents, like Taffy Pick, Camille Meyer and the Colson families, came to the Territory from Victoria. They were among the hundreds of workers employed by the Victorian company who won the contract to build the railway line from Oodnadatta to Alice in 1928 and 1929 and who stayed in the Territory after the line was completed.

Sounds: steam train, thunderstorms, 1930s truck engine.
Photos:
- Photo 1: The Ghan coming through Heavitree Gap – 1940. William Clements Collection, Adelaide House
- Photo 2: Horseshoe Bend, circa 1926. Kathy Weiss Collection
- Photo 3: The road between Deep Well and Alice Springs, 1926. McLelland Collection, Adelaide House
- Photo 4: MAGNT PIC 048/001. Havard Collection

Slide 3 – 25 February
For information about the money orders Francie received and why she was sent them see the information sheet 'Francie Udall: A Biographical Note'

Sounds: flies, thunderstorms and rain.
Photos:
- Photo 1: Tennant Creek. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
- Photo 2: Baldock’s mail truck bogged. Northern Territory Library, Transport and Works Collection.
- Photo 3: Collecting water at Tennant Creek Bore in 1934. MAGNT

Slide 4 – What to get to eat …

Sounds: knife and fork on plate
Photos:
- Photo: Harold Williams’, the storekeeper’s, truck bogged. MAGNT

Slide 5 – Alice Springs 24 August 1933

Sounds: steam train.
Photos:
- Photo 1: Ghan Preservation Society. Watson Collection
- Photo 2: Jim Udall, Alice Springs. MAGNT PIC 048/003, Havard Collection
- Photo 3: Little girls, Alice Springs. MAGNT PIC 048/004, Havard Collection

Slide 6 – There was a little excitement …

Sounds: explosives, flies.
Photos:
- Photo 1: Francie Udall, Alice Springs. MAGNT PIC 048/004, Havard Collection
- Photo 2: Mr and Mrs Myer’s boarding house, Alice Springs. MAGNT PIC 048/023, Havard Collection

Slide 7 – Tennant Creek 20 June 1937

Sounds: flies
Photos:
- Photo 1: Great Northern Mine, note the goats. MAGNT PIC 048/015, Havard Collection
- Photo 2: Jim and Francie Udall on the right. MAGNT PIC 048/018, Havard Collection
**Slide 8 – When you see your mother …**

**Sounds:** flies, page turn.

**Photos:**
- Photo 1: Drilling for water, Tennant Creek. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
- Photo 2: Water sign with price on it. MAGNT

The sign in the slide says that water costs 6 shillings for 100 gallons but Francie says it costs 11 shillings for 50 gallons. Who do you think is telling the truth or can you give an explanation for how Francie and the picture could both be right? The sign probably comes from the postwar period. There was no documentation with the photo for us to be certain. This is why documentation of photographs and their origins (see last three slides of this presentation) is important.

**Slide 9 – Adelaide**

**Sounds:** 1930s car horn, church bells, trams, city traffic, people talking in market place.

**Photo:**
- Photo 1: Francie Udall in Adelaide. MAGNT PIC 048/006, Havard Collection

**Slide 10 – Tennant Creek 25 February 1938**

**Sounds:** flies, 1930s truck engine, thunderstorms and rain.

**Photos:**
- Photo 1: Tennant Creek. Evelyn Middleton personal collection.
- Photo 2: The main highway just south of Alice Springs. Northern Territory Archives Service, NTRS 573, No. 58.
- Photo 3: The Finke in flood, 1938. Ghan Preservation Society, Alice Springs

**Slide 11 – In town here …**

**Sounds:** rain on tin roof, knife and fork on china plate, truck engine.

**Photos:**
- Photo 1: The Finke in flood 1938. Ghan Preservation Society, Alice Springs, copy courtesy Graham Ride
- Photo 2: The Finke in flood 1938. Ghan Preservation Society, Alice Springs, copy courtesy Graham Ride
- Photo 3: Train derailment, Finke 1938. Ghan Preservation Society, Alice Springs, copy courtesy Graham Ride
- Photo 4: The Ghan stranded at Finke, 1938. Ghan Preservation Society, Alice Springs, copy courtesy Graham Ride

**Slide 12 – We tore into town …**

**Sounds:** 1930s truck engine.

**Photos:**
- Photo 1: Tennant Creek main street and store. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
- Photo 2: The ANZ Bank in Paterson Street, Tennant Creek, 1930s. Copy courtesy Museum and Art Gallery, Northern Territory (MAGNT)

**Slide 13 – Tennant Creek 25 February 1938**

**Sounds:** iron ore being crushed in a dolly pot.

**Photos:**
- Photo 1: MAGNT PIC 048/015, Havard Collection
- Photo 2: MAGNT PIC 048/015, Havard Collection

**Slide 14 – Now we have an iron roof**

**Sounds:** rain on iron roof, flies

**Photos:**
- Photo 3: MAGNT PIC 048/008, Havard Collection
- Photo 4: MAGNT PIC 048/010, Havard Collection

**Slide 15 – The Ghan Battery …**

The Ghan Battery was owned and operated by Indian-born Fazal Dean who came to Australia in 1922 to work with his father as a truck hawker in Blackall Queensland before establishing Tennant’s first public battery in 1934. For more information see ‘Outback Ghans’ the information sheet which accompanies these educational resources.
The Islamic call to prayer in this slide has been included to remind us that in the years before WWII there was at least one practicing Muslim in almost every outback Australian town and local residents would have been familiar with the fundamentals of Islamic religious practice.

**Sounds**: Islamic call to prayer, iron ore crushed in dolly pot, flies, picture reel.

**Photos**:
- Photo 1: Hector Mahomet near Singleton Station. MAGNT PIC 048/011, Havard Collection
- Image 2: Francie Udall’s hand-written caption for the Hector Mahomet photo. Havard Collection

---

**Slide 16 – Pictures here are ...**

**Sounds**: children chatting, fireworks, flies.

**Photos**:
- Photo 1: The Dolly Pot Inn. MAGNT
- Photo 2: Jerry Maloney’s daughter in dress-ups. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
- Photo 3: Fancy-dress partygoers, Rising Sun Mine, 1930s. Evelyn Middleton personal collection

---

**Slide 17 – As you will note by the address ...**

**Sounds**: flies, Islamic call to prayer, iron ore crushed in dolly pot.

**Photos**:
- Photos 1 and 2: Fazal Dean's Battery. Tennant Creek Town Council Heritage Collection
- Photo 3: The Government Battery, Tennant Creek. Havard Collection
- Photo 4: Fazal Dean and his truck. MAGNT

---

**Slide 18 – Tennant Creek 15 December 1938**

**Sounds**: flies, firecrackers, children talking, flies.

**Photos**:
- Photo 1: The goldfields women and children in front of Zena and Harold Williams shop. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
- Photo 2: Catholic Ball, Tennant Creek, 1930s. Evelyn Middleton personal collection

---

**Slide 19 – Tennant Creek 29 July 1940**

**Sounds**: DC3 plane engines, 1930s truck engine.

**Photos**:
- Photo 1: Tennant Creek. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
- Photo 2: Tennant Creek Garage. Tennant Creek Town Council Heritage Collection

---

**Slide 20 – To work the mine ...**

**Aliens** – sometimes called prisoners of war, enemy aliens or friendly aliens – were people whose cultural origins could be traced back to countries Australia was at war with, mostly Italians and Germans. The Eldorado Gold Mine, the only Tennant mine to stay open throughout the war years, was apparently operated by alien labour.

For more information see: ‘Aliens and War’, the information sheet which accompanies these resources, also: Bevege, Margaret, *Behind Barbed Wire: Internment in Australia during World War II*, University of Queensland Press, 1993.

**Sounds**: explosives

**Photos**:
- Photo 1: Jim Udall at the Great Northern Mine. MAGNT PIC 048/017, Havard Collection
- Photo 2: Jim Udall at the Great Northern Mine. PIC 048/009, Havard Collection

---

**Slide 21 – Mind you write ...**

**Sounds**: explosives.

**Photos**:
- Photo 5: Camel team, Tennant Creek. Udall photo MAGNT PIC 048/014, Havard Collection
- Postcard: Evelyn Middleton private collection

---

**Slide 22 – Tennant Creek 5 March 1941**

**Sounds**: shovel in 44-gallon drum, flies, thunderstorm, rain in pot.

**Photos**:
- Photo 1: Al McDonald and family on the Black Angel Mine, Tennant Creek. MAGNT
- Photo 2: Paterson Street in flood. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
- Photo 3: Tennant Creek near where airport is now. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
Slide 23 – Do wish Kathleen and her hubby …
Sounds: flies, dolly pot crushing iron ore.
Photos:
- Photo 1: Bill Gorey drilling for water. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
- Photo 2: Tennant Creek postcard. Tennant Creek Town Council Heritage Collection
- Photo 3: Johnny Staunton’s water truck. Evelyn Middleton personal collection

Slide 24 – Tennant Creek 17 January 1942
Sounds: explosives, flies, knife and fork on plate.
Photos:
- Photo 1: The Northern Territory Library, Country Women’s Association Collection
- Photo 2: Argus Newspaper Collection of Photographs. State Library of Victoria

Slide 25 – Very few of the women …
Sounds: footsteps on gravel, dolly pot.
Photos:
- Photo 1: CWA building, Tennant Creek. Clements Collection, Adelaide House
- Photo 2: Tennant Creek street, 1941. Clements Collection, Adelaide House

Slide 26 – Denovan Street, Bendigo
(The mine Francie refers to was Eldorado)
Sounds: 1930s truck, fire, kookaburra laughing.
Photos:
- Photo 1: MAGNT PIC 048/012, Havard Collection
- Photo 2: The Eldorado Mine. Tennant Creek Town Council Heritage Collection.

Slide 27 – We went to Alice Springs …
Sounds: fire, kookaburra laughing.
Photos:
- Photo 1: Army camp and truck lines, Alice Springs. Clements Collection, Adelaide House

Slides 28, 29 and 30
Photographic references, copyright information and production notes.
Alice Springs,
Undated letter (about 1930)

Dear Ray and Doris

We had a good trip up but owing to the rains had to keep going off the beaten track … The car gave us no trouble at all. We were a wee bit afraid of the sand hills but she climbed them well, … From Horseshoe Bend which consists of a police station and hotel combined we saw no person until we reached here a distance of 127 miles. On the track though we counted no less than 6 cars which had been abandoned on account of some accident. Should anything go wrong (broken axle etc.) it is too costly to have car brought in so it is left …

With love, Francie

Tennant Creek
25th February

Dear Olive

Needless to say I was very pleased to get the money order altho’ it is not yet cashed as owing to the heavy rains the ordinary mail has been delayed for 6 weeks and the mail by plane for a month … Two Bores broke down and the other was condemned but as there was no other water available for drinking we simply had to use it, taking care to boil every drop. Such a lot were sick, several had to go to hospital for treatment but we stuck to good old Aspro and pulled through …

What to get to eat is a very big problem, meat and bread are still plentiful … The baker has a fairly good supply of flour with a truck load struggling in on its way from Mt Isa … he is expecting a load up from Alice Springs, a train is due there today and with luck the mails and goods will be coming along about Tuesday.

Alice Springs,
24th August 1933

Dear Olive and Everyone

… We are still in Alice Springs, have been here for some weeks, all on business. Jim is having a little trouble. A solicitor (no less) is trying to jump the mine. He has no hope of succeeding I may tell you! Still things are a bit lively. Tell Kathleen to be sure and write me. I hope they get on to some gold. It is the best paying if only you can find it.

… There was a little excitement in these parts last when two men and a woman were arrested for housebreaking … Then a miner was found shot in the head in his bunk and so far apparently nothing has been done, tho’ an arrest is hourly expected. We had great fun watching the trackers on the hunt for the burglars …

It’s nearly 11 at night so must stop,
Love to all, Francie
Dear Olive

.... You will be wondering if the money order reached me ... Yes I was very pleased to see it come along.

Like most of the people the Depression caught us and as to be without a car means death almost, it took us all time to get petrol and to keep the old bus going. At times we couldn't scratch up enough pennies to buy a stamp hence no letters very often ...

... When you see your mother ... tell her that the books arrived and were more than appreciated. Ralph was a brick to remember me. The book 'I Was a Spy' .... is going round the field. Reading matter is in great demand and when one has a book of any description it is expected to be passed on ...

... No gardens at Tennant. Water at 11 shillings for 50 gallons makes gardening too expensive ...

Kind regards to mum and love to yourselves and the nips

the auntie Francie

Adelaide
15th December 1937

Dear Olive

Don’t get a start to see the new address, but Jim had to come down to see a doctor, also had business to do, so I came with him.

... It is six years since I saw a city and I just stand and admire the wonderful fruit and vegetables ...

Yours affectionately
The Aunt

Tennant Creek
25th February 1938

Dear Olive

Thanks for the money order, it arrived here the same day as we did and was a Godsend ... We had a good trip up but slow owing to the rotten state of the track, such a lot of drift sand ...

We got here without mishap and no doubt you have read how the train has been held up by floods for a week now, without any hope of being able to move for the next month ...

In town here butter, eggs, bacon and potatoes and onions are finished, fruit and vegetables of course are only a dream .... Meat and bread can be had, no shortage and not likely to be. The people in the train are quite all right. They have sleeping berth and although they are somewhere in the middle of sand hills, have the supplies of food on board for all the towns up this way so they will be living well.

We tore into town and managed to get half a pound of butter three pounds of onions and 14 pounds of potatoes, the allowance our store was giving to its best customers. Other people
got nothing. The plane may bring up a little provisions but won’t they be dear. They have had a lot of rain between here and Alice Springs so no trucks are attempting to move between the two places on account of being bogged. Will stop now and write a line to Senya …

Yours as ever
Auntie

Tennant Creek,  
25th February 1938

Dear Senya,

What a delightful surprise to get such a nice letter from you. … by now you will be back at school … Uncle Jim and I do not live in a house like you see over there but have a camp and are really comfortable. Up to Xmas time we lived in a tent which if you can imagine didn’t give us much room to move about in and was very awkward when it rained. Now we have an iron roof and we did intend to have two rooms with a big verandah. As we had no place to put our car into … the kitchen was left without a back and so we use that as a garage. We have no doors, only a space left open. The bedroom is 12 feet by 10 feet and the verandah is 20 feet by 8 feet and is used as a kitchen and storeroom. Of course the verandah is closed in. Mother will tell you how we have had a lot of rain … since the rain we have been kept busy spraying for mosquitoes.

With love,
the aunt in whoop whoop,
Francie

The Ghan Battery  
Tennant Creek  
2nd August 1938.

Dear Olive,

Your letter and money order came about a fortnight ago. It arrived with the butcher’s bill so was cashed immediately. Needless to say we always seem to be short … Meat is our cheapest item, our grocery bill is anything from 15 to 20 pounds per month … How people manage on the basic wage and with families has me tricked, yet they always appear to do everything, pictures and all…

Pictures here are 2 shillings and 9 pence for adults … The Aboriginals get in for 2 shillings and are allowed to sit in the very front on the floor and they just love going. We haven’t been yet. We did struggle in to have a look at the children’s fancy dress ball … The children, about 60, looked wonderfully dressed and I didn’t see one child not in costume. The majority of costumes were hired from Adelaide and the judges had a hard job to pick out the winners.

As you will note by the address we are putting through a small crushing in the hope of getting some ready cash … Jim has a third man working which means 18 pounds a week for wages alone … There are two government batteries at which we have crushing booked but have to wait our turn and so had to come here in the meantime. The Ghan, as everyone calls him, is a very clever man, speaks 7 languages and is said to be very tricky. He charges a lot more for his battery but we are not able to wait our turn as we have to have some cash to carry on. Our address is as usual just Tennant Creek.

Love to all, from the aunt
Tennant Creek
15th December 1938.

Dear Olive and Company,

Thanks very much for the money order. Tomorrow night the Country Women’s Association is giving the Xmas tree to the kiddies … Each child will get a toy worth at least 5 shillings, a big Xmas stocking, crackers, soft drinks, lollies and a most wonderful Xmas tea. After Father Xmas has given out the toys the grown ups will hold a dance lasting until the wee hours of the morning …

Wishing all the compliments of the season from us both
Francie

Tennant Creek
29/7/40.

Dear Olive

Tennant Creek being on the direct route to Adelaide via Darwin, all the mail planes, bombers etc fly straight over our camp. The other day there were 10 going to Darwin and they did make a noise … One thing, as motor travel is our only means of travelling in these parts, the Northern Territory has no rationing of petrol, the price tho’ stops any thought of waste.

To work the mine, we now have to go to the police and get a permit to buy any fracture required and no alien, friendly or otherwise is allowed to have any and have had to hand over all fire arms in their possession. I went into the police station to declare what amount of fracture etc I had at the mine and noticed a large number of guns, rifles etc lined up along the walls, each bearing a name and docket. … Even if an alien is working for you, you are not allowed to let him handle fracture … A large number have been interned but even so we still have too many at large …

Mind you write a bit more frequently, it is no joke to go to the Post Office and to be told ‘no mail’ … Yes I do understand you are busy … still try to squeeze out a few lines now and again …

Love to everyone,
yours the aunt
Francie

Tennant Creek
5/3/41.

Dear Olive

We have been all this week trying to get a man to help Jim, for we are on good ore but cannot get one. Work is plentiful and men are scarce … Now for some joyful news, we have had two thunderstorms since Sunday and in consequence are smiling, it means no water to buy for at least a month if not longer …

… Only wish I could pop up to Katoomba for a short holiday, this place is not so nice in summer, what with butter that melts directly taken out of the cooler (only an ordinary kind), flies, dust and mosquitoes and heat. There are much nicer spots. We have had exceptionally bad dust storms and that is saying a lot for dust is expected all day and every day. … Do wish Kathleen and her hubby had wandered this way instead of towards Brisbane, for if he can work at all in the mining line and is steady, he would never be out of a job and the
lowest pay is 6 pounds per week. Living is dear but against that those who live out of town, live in camps have no rent or wood bills to meet and if they had a bus could cart their own water free.

With love to yourself and the bairns...
Francie

Tennant Creek,
17/1/42.

Dear Olive,

Thanks very much for the cash … we had quite a good Xmas. The CWA here runs a canteen free for any of the fighting forces passing to and fro from Darwin to Adelaide. Up to date over 40 000 men have been supplied with cups of tea, scone and cake each. Not a bad effort for such a tiny hole of a place …

Very few of the women can afford to come in and put in a whole day at the work and it boiled down to four then I made the fifth … Being 3 miles out of town means a long dreary walk, talk about ‘tramp tramp along the highway’. … Naturally I am keeping that slim and girlish figure but not, oh decidedly not, the schoolgirl’s complexion. The heat, sun, wind, and dust gives one a complexion that no artist could, nor wish, to paint!

Yours a grease spot
The Ant

Denovan Street
Bendigo
15/7/42.

Dear Olive

As you will see by the above address, I am at Ray’s place. Gold mining was stopped at Tennant Creek, although I believe one mine, a large company with its own crushing plant was still going strong …

We went to Alice Springs. Jim was thinking about prospecting for Wolfram but the conditions offering were not tempting enough and we had decided to return to Victoria when an order was posted up ordering all civilians not doing essential war work to be ready for evacuation. We were doing nothing so got away in the first batch …

Although the sun is shining and I am writing this by a fire my feet and fingers are just about frozen …

With greetings from all here,

Yours the ant,
Francie
Discovering Local History Through Museums at the Battery Hill Mining Centre, Tennant Creek

**Slide notes and transcript: Kevan Weaber's talking scrap book**

Please note that this talking scrap book contains photographs of Aboriginal people who have died. The photograph of Blanche Naljarri is published with the permission of her family.

**A note on transcription**
The written text in each slide is NOT a word-for-word transcription of the recorded sound. Written and spoken language are very different from one another. Word-for-word transcriptions of spoken texts are often impossible to read.

The practice of omitting 'ums' and 'aahs', inserting words the speaker intended to say but didn’t [usually placed in square brackets] and changing some of the grammar in order to make the written text of an oral history interview easier to read and therefore more meaningful, reflects current practice in the preservation of oral histories by archive services around the nation.

**Slide 1 – Title page: A Kid’s Life – Tennant Creek 1933–1940: Kevan Weaber Remembers**

**Photos:**
- Photo 1: Kevan Weaber and gold bars from the Rising Sun. Kevan Weaber personal collection

**Slide 2 – What I’m telling you tonight is partly my own memories as a young boy and partly what my parents told me later.**

We left Wyndham with two vehicles, one was a second-hand Pontiac and the other was a new Bedford truck and we loaded it up with possibly six months supplies. It had lots of petrol and tinned food and tinned butter and flour and sugar and it was stacked up about eight feet high above this truck.

**Photos:**
- Sugar Bag: Quote from Francie Udall’s letters. Design by Artplan

**Slide 3 – My brother who was 15 years of age drove one vehicle.** And I remember arriving at the Telegraph station at Tennant Creek and my mother sent a telegram to Brisbane to say where we had arrived. In those days, you took weeks or months to get anywhere and when you arrived at a town where there was a Telegraph station the old familiar telegraph went through: ‘Arrived so and so, love so and so’. From my memory of things, there was no such things as a town … there was just the odd person camped in a tent.

**Question**

Do you think the telegram in this slide was really written by Mrs Weaber or by someone else? Give reasons for your answer.

The Weaber family telegram is an artistic recreation of an historical possibility, not an actuality. The Weaber family certainly knew the Durack family and may well have sent them a telegram. It cannot be this telegram, however, because this telegram is post marked Alice Springs not Wyndham, which is nearer to where the Duracks lived.
Slide 4 - The Rising Sun was discovered in a matter of weeks of us arriving here. And I remember going out and my brother said I think I have found gold. He didn’t know what gold looked liked, anymore than I did, or my mother or my sister and my father was blind. It has been written up in the newspapers, that my father found the mine, which is ridiculous because he was stone blind.

The Rising Sun was one of four adjoining leases pegged out by William Weaber when the family first arrived in Tennant. It was one of the richest of Tennant’s gold mines before the War. One of the other four leases, Nobles Nob, would become Tennant’s richest mine after the War.

Slide 5 – We then immediately moved out to the mines and we built there what was known as a bough shed. They didn’t look much but they were extremely cool and reasonably comfortable. I remember I was very proud when there was a little annex built to it and I had my own little room. It was a bough shed room. My bed consisted of four posts coming out of the ground with little Vs in them, with logs laid in them and a bit of canvas stretched across it.

Slide 6 – We moved from this original bough shed to a house built on the Rising Sun lease. There was a square type of flat-roofed house, built of native timbers and flat corrugated iron. It consisted of basically two rooms with a curtain across it that separated my mother and father’s bedroom and a verandah on the southern side, a verandah on the eastern side and the kitchen was on the north-western corner and the mess room where the men used to eat was on the western corner.

The photo of Owen reading the newspaper on a bed made of wooden crates is an excellent example of the rustic ‘make-do’ furniture, which existed in most homes in Tennant Creek before the War. The crates in this photo probably contained beer or explosives before they were recycled into a bed. The shortage of furniture resulted from Tennant’s geographical isolation with its consequent high transport costs, the rapidity of its population growth as well as the Depression. The shortage of building materials was so great that, before the War, even Tennant’s coffins were made from recycled wooden transport crates.
Photos
- Photo 1: Verandah of Rising Sun house. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
- Photo 2: Owen Weaber reads the newspaper in the Dwyer family home in town. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
- Photo 3: Kevan Weaber on the verandah of the Rising Sun house. Kevan Weaber personal collection

Slide 7 - My father then built a house in town, in Paterson Street, on a site, which is now known as Peko Park. It was a large house built of corrugated iron with a veranda completely surrounding it and built up on wooden piles.

Photos
- Photo 1: Tennant Creek just after the government houses were built. Evelyn Weaber personal collection
- Photo 2: Evelyn Middleton (nee Dwyer) and friend outside Weaber family house in Tennant Creek. Evelyn Middleton personal collection

Slide 8 - We of course carted all our water. It was carted in 44-gallon drums or tanks, which was one of the jobs I got when I was thirteen or fourteen because I could drive the truck. It was considered light work so the children did it. Nowadays they call them children, in those days we were young men, I suppose.

Photos
- Photo 1: Searching for a drinkable water supply. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
- Photo 2: Miners gathering to send a camel delegation to Canberra demanding a government response to the water crisis. Evelyn Middleton personal collection

Slide 9 - When we first arrived here in 1933 we got it out by buckets. We used to back the truck back and forth to pull the bucket up. Later on, of course, they put a windmill on and later still they put a lot of bores down in place of the original hand-dug well and they had pumps on there and they pumped it up into a tank and you drew it from a tank which made things a lot easier.

Photos
- Photo 1: The Dwyer family collects water. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
- Photo 2: Tennant Creek Bore in the 1940s. Northern Territory Library Information Services, PHO0459/0007, David Magery collection
- Photo 3: Collecting water at the Tennant Bore. Copy courtesy Museums and Art Galleries, NT

Slide 10 - Now Kevan, coming here as a child and growing up as a young man, what sporting life would you have had here?

Well we children had very little sporting life at all. You might say none. We weren’t short of exercise. I helped where I could on the mine and helped with the truck. The Fords, Jackie and Jim and Pat, they did work like carrying and collecting wood. We had bikes, that was the thing, when we got pushbikes. It was fantastic. We got a million punctures of course with all the bindii-eyes. We used to stop every mile or two to fix the punctures. I can remember one occasion we went out to about 8 or 10 mile and we finished up coming back like tandem because we ran out of patches and we had to take one wheel off one bike and hook the rear forks over the rear wheel of the other one and came back like a bicycle built for two.
Photos
- Photo 1: Five cousins on the Rising Sun Mine. Copy courtesy Museums and Art Galleries, NT
- Photos 2 and 3: Swimming in Tennant Creek. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
- Photo 4: Jack Noble travelling the outback by bicycle. Copy courtesy Museums and Art Galleries, NT
- Photo 5: Waterhole, Tennant Creek. Evelyn Middleton personal collection

Slide 11 – There were a few people who started a boys club and they got us down in Scott’s Hall and they used to teach us athletics and things like that and we had boxing tournaments. But the only organised sport I can recall was the women playing basketball. There weren’t enough, I think they played a reduced team but it was good fun and everybody used go down and watch at night, of course, it was too hot during the day.

Photos
- Photo 1: Snap of Vernon Thompson and Dr Smith-Roberts at hotel. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
- Photo 2: The women and children of Tennant Creek outside Harold and Zena Williams’ store. Evelyn Middleton personal collection

Slide 12 – And the men used to play football. And they played on this terrible hard ground. Everybody used to park their cars on the football field and watch from their cars. There were lots of bruises and lots of gravel rash and plenty of work for the hospital the next day. And the Rising Sun team I remember, I have a photograph of it and it varied a lot over the few years but in one photograph I have I think there are 6 of my cousins playing in it. Well you must remember it was the Depression years and there was no work on the east coast. And we were starting a business all this way out here and we had employment for men and we had relatives writing to us for work. And my entire father’s family and my mother’s family were all big families, six, eight children in the family. They were all young men.

Photos
- Photo 1: Snap of footballers leaving the grounds on Mother’s Day. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
- Photo 2: Town football team. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
- Photo 3: Rising Sun football team. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
- Photo 4: Frank Hayes, Mat Dwyer, May, Adele, and her father Denny Thomas in front of our home. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
- Photo 5: Snap of men including Vernon Thompson and Arthur Inkster. Evelyn Middleton personal collection

Slide 13: Now what do you remember about the native situation here, did you have contact with them at all?

We did. My mother had a woman who used to come and do her washing out at the Rising Sun and her name, would you believe, was Blanche. I remember that there was some sort of law, I wasn’t too worried about it at the time, but I know that the police came out and said ‘Mrs Weaber you can’t keep this woman here because you cannot employ natives on the goldfield’. So my mother told her that she would have to go. And we drove her back to the Telegraph Station. The next morning she was sitting on our doorstep. We couldn’t get rid of her. She just wanted to come and work there. She liked it.

When we came to town, quite often you’d go out and find Blanche hiding under the house, hiding from the policeman. She’d come in to do the washing and she would help my Mum do the washing and then get out and walk back to the Telegraph Station.

Photos
- Photo 1: Evelyn Middleton personal collection.
Slide 14 – You were telling me that you used to have a lot of comics. Now this would be the last thing I would expect to be up here way back in the early 30s when you couldn’t really get any food or anything else up, or it was very difficult, how did you get your comics?

Well, they came up in the mail and there was a comic book called Wags and they had The Phantom and Orphan Annie. I remember once my mother sent me to a fancy-dress ball, in the Scott’s Hotel and I was dressed up as the Phantom. I was the skinniest kid in town so I didn’t make much of a Phantom.

Photos
- Photo 1: Keith, Maureen and Evelyn Dwyer, Kevan Weaber’s cousins, on the hill overlooking the town. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
- Photo 2: The Bax children in 'Anvil Annie', the ute. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
- Photo 3: Fancy-dress party at the Rising Sun Mine. Evelyn Middleton personal collection.
- Photo 4: Dwyer cousins at the Rising Sun - Maureen, Evelyn and Eve. Evelyn Middleton personal collection

Slide 15 – My mother taught me to read and write. I started school when I was thirteen and a half. And Jacky and I and Jimmy and a lot of others were rounded up and sent to school and we didn’t take to it too kindly at all because we had been driving trucks. As a matter of fact, even after we had to go to school, I can remember getting the vehicle and driving my father out to the mine. And the local policemen, of course were kind enough to turn a blind eye because they knew how our family needed us.

But I can also remember them getting me about a week before the races and saying 'Now you kids if I catch you driving the truck in the next week I’ll kick your backside. Stay off them while all these visitors are in town for the races'.

Photos
- Photo 1: Kate and Nell trying to feed the camels beside the cricket ground. Evelyn Middleton personal collection.
- Photo 2: Tennant Creek School. Kevan Weaber personal collection
- Photo 3: The first educational certificate issued to a student of Tennant Creek School. Courtesy Kevan Weaber
- Photo 4: Snap of first Tennant Creek Race Meeting. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
- Photo5: Jim Weaber and Jockey Baden Bloomfield with the horse 'Roy' after he won the Tennant Creek Cup 1939. Evelyn Middleton personal collection

Slide 16 – There was one who used to dispense pies, soft drinks etc., Paddy Cavanagh, could you tell me about him?

Yes I remember him vividly. I think he came from Queensland somewhere and he used to make and sell hot pies. He used to make them in the winter time and sell them at the basketball and at the pictures. And he also started a soft drink factory and he used to make sarsaparilla and lemon and orange. And he used to use the recycled beer bottles from the back of Scott’s Hotel. And there was no shortage of them of course. And not only had we kids appreciated them, but the women as well. It was great to get soft drinks.

Please note: the photograph of the pie shop in this photo has been identified as coming from Tennant Creek. The pie seller, is however, as the sign on the door indicates a Bill Carter, not Paddy Cavanagh.
Photos

- Photo 1: Bill Carter 'Mug Baker'. Northern Territory Archives Service, Cleezy, Bruce NTRS 234, photographic copy prints CP 71_5
- Photo 2: Snap of truck in front of Noble's Hotel showing Dr Woolnough. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
- Photo 3: Snap of Hotel before other buildings were there. Evelyn Middleton personal collection

Slide 17 – The picture show was a great thing for we children. The pictures were old and the first ones were silent. The projector used to break down and it was a real night for us to come into town on a Saturday from the mine and go to the pictures. Out of devilment we used to try to see how many we could get in free. One of us would buy a ticket and if we could sneak past without handing it in we would. And we would go up the front, they had these old canvas chairs and would sneak it under the corrugated iron to our friend outside and he would try and get in.

I also remember that the music would stop and the blackness descend, with no roof on the place, there would be four or five kids come hurtling over the wall and race up and sit beside us.

Photos

- Photo 1: Maureen Dwyer and two Hayes (no relation) girls. They lived next to Williams' Store. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
- Photo 2: Tennant Creek 1943. Williams Collection, courtesy of Graham Ride
- Photo 3: Kevan Weaber’s cousin, Keith Dwyer. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
- Photo 4: Tennant Creek 1939. Hutchesson Collection. Copy courtesy Graham Ride

Slide 18 – One of the big impressions I get from Tennant Creek, which did not happen until after we moved into town, was the first refrigeration arriving. I don’t mean in hotels but in houses. I think it was about 1938; we bought a kerosene refrigerator. And to me this was a miracle to put that water in there and have ice. It was the epitome of luxury that we could have ice in Tennant Creek.

Photos

- Photo 1: Tennant Creek. Evelyn Middleton personal collection

Slide 19 – And could you just tell me how it is you got out of the mine and just what you did just briefly after that?

Well, during the War we did not work the mines because we had exemptions. After the War you have to work them or you lose the leases. By this time my father was dead. My brother was killed in the War and it was only my mother and myself. She was in ill-health and we didn’t have the capital to work the mine.

In my wisdom at the time my main concern was to find sufficient money to support my mother so I made the decision to sell the leases, which we did. And she did live in reasonable physical comfort, if not mental comfort, for the rest of her life.

Photos

- Newspaper article: ‘Ambitious Young Aviator’. Reproduced with the permission of The Sunday Mail, Brisbane
- Newspaper article: ‘Knew his Daughter was Dead’. Newspaper source unknown.
- Newspaper article: ‘Tennant Creek Man Missing …’. Newspaper source unknown
- Photo 1: Snap of Kate Weaber and Jack Middleton (a Weaber cousin). Evelyn Middleton personal collection
- Photo 2: Snap of Kate and Eve in Sydney. Evelyn Middleton personal collection
Slide 20 – For more information about the tragedies which forced the Weaber ...

Photos
- Newspaper article: ‘Plane Crash’. Reproduced with permission of The Courier Mail.
- WWII death notice: Kevan Weaber personal collection
- Photos 1 and 2: Hanging the Freedom, Fortitude and Flies Exhibition at the Battery Hill Mining Centre, Tennant Creek. Megg Kelham personal collection

Slides 21 and 21 – Photographic references, production and copyright information.
What did the past sound like?

- **Sit in silence** for between 3 and 5 minutes
- **List** all the sounds you can hear
- **Share your list** with the class, **identifying** those sounds:
  - which you could have heard 70 years ago e.g. people talking
  - which you could **not** have heard 70 years ago e.g. computer beeps
  - which you could have heard but which have changed in the past 70 years e.g. car horns
  - which you might have heard 70 years ago but which are missing from today’s sound-scape e.g. camels
  - which you might not hear 70 years from now

As you **watch** the talking scrap book s:

- **Listen and name** the sounds in each slide (see slide notes for detailed information)
- Where you do not know how to name a particular sound because of its unfamiliarity (e.g. the dolly-pot ring) try to **describe the sound quality** and then guess how the sound was made (e.g. is it a ring made from metal banging on metal, wood on wood, a bright or dull sound)
- **Think about sound-place-time associations** e.g. Alice Springs in the 1930s = the train; Tennant Creek = the Battery and dolly pot; the East Coast is evoked by the sound of kookaburras, which do not live in the Northern Territory (see also 'Some notes on the sound in the talking scrap book s')
- **Discuss the authenticity of the sound-place-time associations** used in the talking scrap book s. How can we know what the past sounded like? Where could we look for information?

"The present is noisier than the past."

Discuss.
Some notes on the sound in the talking scrap books

The sounds used in this talking scrap book are meant to evoke rather than re-create the past, though there are some nice historically authentic connections such as the truck engine, which is a recording of one of the actual trucks which transported the mail between Tennant Creek and Alice Springs in the 1930s. The truck now lives at the National Road Transport Hall of Fame in Alice Springs. The plane engines are DC3s the same engines used in 1940s planes.

The most obviously absent sound in the talking scrap book is that of the Battery, which operated 24 hours a day and which dominated the landscape to the point that residents remember waking up when the Battery broke down because the silence was so unfamiliar. The dolly pot ‘s ringing sound, produced when iron ore is crushed in a hollow metal tube to enable the gold to be processed – would be the next best sound included in the sound bed specific to Tennant Creek.

Other place specific sounds include the train – associated with Alice Springs, which is where the train line ended and which had such a transformative effect on life in that town (see notes for slide 2) and the church bells and tram sounds of Adelaide.

Fly sounds were included because of the constant references to them in the oral histories of Tennant Creek residents. The most common illnesses in Tennant Creek - diarrhoea, dysentery, trachoma, sandy blight, and sore eyes – were caused by flies. The only real way to prevent these diseases was to wear a fly veil – mosquito netting which was 'like putting your head in a bag'. (Beryl Renfry, Northern Territory Archives Service, NTRS 226 Oral History Interview, TS 109.)

The Islamic call to prayer (see France Udall notes for slides 15 and 17) sung here by the Malaysian Imam of Alice Springs in 2006 was included as a reminder that outback Australians in the years before WWII probably had a more intimate connection with Islam than most of their urban contemporaries or than many Australians today. (See Francie Udall slide 15 notes and History Notes 'Outback Ghans 1' to find out why!)

Sources of information used to develop some sense of historical authenticity in the creation of Francie Udall’s talking scrap book included local historians, anthropologists and the oral history memories of local residents.
The following activities and worksheets can be completed either during the excursion, after viewing the talking scrapbooks or they could be started during one activity and finished in another.
A multiple choice comprehension guide to Francie Udall’s talking scrap book

**Question 1** (slide 1)
Francie Udall lived in Tennant Creek from 19___ to 19____.

**Question 2** (slide 2)
Francie and her husband Jim travelled to Tennant Creek from the eastern states by car
a. train
b. plane
c. all of the above

**Question 3** (slides 3 & 4)
Too much rain in Tennant when Francie first arrived caused
a. a shortage of food
b. a lot of sickness
c. a shortage of cash
d. all of the above

**Question 4** (slide 5)
In 1933 Francie and Jim had to stay in Alice Springs longer than they wanted because
a. someone was trying to steal their mine from them
b. the road between Alice and Tennant was flooded
c. the train broke down
d. all of the above

**Question 5** (slide 7)
For a long time Francie stopped writing letters because
a. all her money went on petrol
b. there was nowhere in Tennant to buy stamps
c. floods stopped the mail from reaching Tennant
d. all of the above

**Question 6** (slide 9)
Francie stares at the fruit and vegetables in Adelaide because
a. she hasn’t ever seen fruit and vegetables before
b. there wasn’t much else to do in the city in those days.
c. fresh fruit and vegetables were rare in Tennant Creek
d. all of the above

**Question 7** (slide 10)
In 1938 the road between Tennant Creek and Adelaide was made of
a. sand and dirt
b. bitumen
c. concrete
d. all of the above

**Question 8** (slides 10, 11 and 12)
Tennant Creek ran out of butter, eggs, bacon and other interesting food in the beginning of 1938 because
a. people were too busy trying to find gold to think of growing food
b. the train which brought supplies from Adelaide was stopped by a flood at Finke
c. there was no shop in Tennant to buy these things from
d. all of the above
Question 9 (slide 13 and 14)
When they first arrived in Tennant Creek Francie and Jim lived in a
a. brick house
b. spinifex shelter
c. tent
d. all of the above

Question 10 (slide 15 and 17)
When Francie talks about ‘the Ghan’ in her letter of 2 August 1938 she is referring to
a. a train
b. an Indian battery owner
c. an Afghan cameleer
d. all of the above

Question 11 (slides 8, 16 and 18)
For entertainment people in Tennant Creek
a. danced
b. read books
c. held fancy-dress parties
d. all of the above

Question 12 (slide 19)
Lots of planes began to fly over Jim and Francie’s camp in 1941 because
a. stamps were free and people wrote lots of letters
b. Australia was at war with Japan in the Pacific
c. tourists were flying from Alice to Darwin
d. all of the above

Question 13 (slide 20)
The aliens in Francie’s letter were people who came from
a. countries Australia was at war with
b. outer space
c. anywhere overseas
d. all of the above

Question 14 (slide 24 and 25)
The thousands of men travelling from the east coast to Darwin were
a. soldiers on their way to war
b. gold prospectors wanting work in Tennant Creek
c. people born overseas who the Australian government was sending home
d. all of the above

Question 15 (slide 26 and 27)
Francie and Jim left the Northern Territory because
a. they ran out of money
b. the government closed down their mine
c. Alice Springs became a military town and all civilians not involved in war work had to leave
d. all of the above

Question 16 (slides 28, 29 and 30)

Discussion Questions

a) **What** does the information in the last three slides tell us?
b) **Why** is all this information included in the slide show?
c) **Why** is this information important?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1931-1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>The information in these slides tells us where each of the photos in the talking scrap book came from and the subject of each of the photos. This information is important because it is interesting to know which photos were taken by Francie Udall or by Kevan Weaber's family. It makes the photos more interesting if we know who took them. This information also tells us whether an image has been made up or was really taken at the time – helping to verify the historical authenticity of the talking scrap book. The information helps people who may want copies of these photos to find them. It has been included in the talking scrap book because copyright law says that there is a moral right to acknowledge the source of photos and other original documentation that is not your own.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discovering Local History Through Museums at The Battery Hill Mining Centre, Tennant Creek

Worksheet

Words from the past

Match the following words, found in Francie’s letters, to their meaning, which you can work out by re-reading Francie’s letters, by using a dictionary, by doing a web search and/or through the process of elimination.

| A | pounds, shillings and pence | 1 | Scottish word for children |
| B | gallons | 2 | money |
| C | trackers | 3 | Aboriginal people employed by the police to find people |
| D | nips | 4 | a liquid measurement |
| E | bairns | 5 | little children |

| F | jump the mine | 6 | Country Women’s Association |
| G | battery | 7 | a place which gets the gold out of ore |
| H | fracture | 8 | a time when many Australians couldn’t get a job and so didn’t have much money to buy things |
| I | The Depression | 9 | explosives |
| J | CWA | 10 | to take someone’s mining lease from them |

| K | interned | 11 | used in weapons making and mined at the Strangways Ranges |
| L | mica | 12 | a mineral used to make bombs. It was mined at Wauchope and Hatches Creek |
| M | aliens | 13 | limiting the amount of food, petrol or other goods that people are allowed to buy. This often happens when countries are at war |
| N | rationing | 14 | to be made to live and work in a certain place and not be allowed to leave |
| O | wolfram | 15 | term applied to people who came from a country Australia was fighting in WWII |
Who was Francie Udall: a discussion

Watch ‘Francie Udall’s Letters from Tennant Creek’ the talking scrap book then:

- **Brainstorm all the things you know about Francie from her letters.** You may want to divide the information into physical features, personality, interests, lifestyle etc. Justify your statements with reference to Francie’s letters. Use the ‘Who was Francie Udall?’ worksheet to record your thoughts.

- **Write down how you feel about Francie?** Do you like or dislike her? Would you have liked Francie to be your aunt? Give reasons for your answer.

- **Write down what else you would like to know about Francie, which are not mentioned in the letters?** For example:
  - How did Francie and Jim meet?
  - Why did they go to Tennant Creek?
  - Why was Francie getting money sent to her from the eastern states?
  - How important do you think this money was in helping Francie and Jim work the Great Northern Mine?
  - Do you think the Udall’s made a lot of money from gold?

- **Make up five questions you would like to ask Francie if could talk to her.** Then make up the answers you think she would give – justifying your answers with reference to things you know from her letters. Compare your questions and answer to others in your class.

- **Find out where you could look for more information about Francie?**

- **Evaluate whether you think Francie’s daily life experiences in Tennant were the same as other people’s or different?** Give reasons for your answer.

Now that you’ve formed an opinion go to ‘Francie Udall: a biographical note' and/or read the less edited versions of Francie’s letters, which you can find in ‘The Aunt from Whoop Whoop’ photograph album at the Freedom Fortitude and Flies Exhibition or in the ‘Museum in a Box’ version of these resources.
Who was Francie Udall?

My thoughts based on Francie’s letters and photographs ...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical features</th>
<th>Prediction</th>
<th>I think this because ...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hair colour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye colour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitness</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal details</th>
<th>Prediction</th>
<th>I think this because ...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Place of birth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language spoken</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places lived</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hobbies/special interests</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character traits</th>
<th>Prediction</th>
<th>I think this because ...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kind mean shy gregarious quiet talkative opinionated hard working lazy stingy generous bossy adventurous funny serious honest dishonest observant unobservant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As well as being ...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Francie Udall, 1884 -1982: a biographical note

Francie Udall was born in Melbourne in 1884 where she worked as a teacher, before she looked after her aging mother full-time.

When her mother died in 1922 Francie moved to Katoomba in NSW to look after an infant niece. She also lent her niece’s parents the money to buy a home. The money orders in Francie’s letters are the payments of interest on this loan.

In 1930 Francie bought a shop in Milson’s Point, Sydney, near where the Harbour Bridge now stands. Jim Udall, an English mining engineer and veteran of the First World War, met Francie in her shop because he bought his cigarettes there. He married her and they moved to Tennant Creek where they worked the Great Northern Mine for 11 years.

In 1942, after the Japanese bombing of Darwin, which lead to the evacuation of the Territory’s women, children and civilians not directly involved in the war effort, the Udall’s went to Victoria where Francie worked in a munitions factory.

After the War Jim mined tin in the Australian Alps. When he died of lung cancer in 1951 Francie moved back to Bendigo. Francie died in August 1982. She was 98 years old.

Dariel Larkins, one of Francie’s nieces, remembers Francie as ‘a tiny woman, less than 150cm in height’ who ‘had been brought up in a refined household in Melbourne. She was positive in outlook, forthright but humorous in speech, and never complained about her lot. Life to her was an adventure’.

Adapted from information supplied by Dariel Larkins, 2005

In her book, The Great Australian Loneliness, published in 1937, Ernestine Hill writes about meeting Jim Udall who she describes as a ‘young man ... who opened an old shaft, erected a crude and ingenious stamper mainly out of an old motor car and put through a crushing of six ounces to the ton'.

William Hatfield, author of Australia through the Windscreen published in 1936 also mentions meeting the Udall’s in Tennant Creek. The photo, above, of Francie, Jim and car outside their Tennant Creek camp was taken by him.
Mapping movement

**What** do Francie’s letters and Kevan’s memories tell us about life in Australia and how its people and places were connected in the years before the War?

**Mark** the following places and transport links, mentioned by Francie and Kevan, on the map above. Use an atlas if you need.

- Tennant Creek
- Alice Springs
- Adelaide
- Brisbane
- Mt Isa
- Finke
- Horseshoe Bend
- Wyndham
- Main Road
- Train Line
- Darwin

**Why** are some places harder to find than others?

**Put** a green circle around the places that supplied Tennant Creek with food, building materials and mining equipment.

**How** connected were Australians in the prewar years? For example:

- **What** happened in Tennant when there were floods at Finke? Would you expect the same impact on Finke when it rained in Tennant? Give reasons for your answer.

- **What** impact do you think that Tennant’s gold rush had on the growth of these towns and on the whole of the Australian economy? Where could you look to find evidence to support your ideas?
Sequencing historical events and evaluating their impact

Use Francie Udall’s letters and Kevan Weaber’s memories to put the following events in chronological order.

Classify each event in terms of the numbers and location of people affected by it. Be prepared to justify your choice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gold is discovered in Tennant Creek.</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>World War II starts.</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>600 men, a few women and some children travel from all over Australia to look for gold in Tennant. This is Australia’s last great gold rush the prime minister calls it the greatest goldfield in the commonwealth.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gold mining is stopped in Tennant. Gold is great in jewellery, hopeless in guns and bombs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Soldiers start travelling up and down the NT track on their way to war. Towns like Tennant Creek and Alice Springs are taken over by the army.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Great Depression arrives in Australia. Money is scarce and jobs are few.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The first steam train reaches Alice Springs making the Northern Territory much easier to get to than ever before.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use the list above to describe/discuss how major events in far away places affected everyday life in Tennant Creek.

Can you think of any international events which have affected your daily life? Describe them and their impact.
Eating, sleeping, travelling, and having fun #1

What do Francie’s letters and Kevan’s memories tell us about everyday life on the goldfields before the War?

Sleeping … Draw a plan of one of Kevan or Francie’s Tennant Creek homes, labelling the materials the house was made from …

Look at pictures to see what Francie and Kevan used for furniture. Draw and label or describe this furniture in the space below.

Why did Kevan and Francie live in such ‘rustic’ conditions when they were living on one of Australia’s richest goldfields and were both living with mine owners not mine workers?
**Worksheet**

**Eating, sleeping, travelling, and having fun #2**

**Fun** ... **List** all things that people in Tennant Creek did for fun ...

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Circle** those things that only women did in one colour, that men did in another, and that only kids did ...

**Clothing** .... **List** all the types of clothing that people in Tennant Creek wore, on the left ... notice the bare feet ... men’s and women’s dress ... hats ... **Compare** yesterday’s clothing to what people wear now, on the right ...

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
** worksheets**

**Eating, sleeping, travelling, and having fun #3**

**Getting around**  **List** the four different modes of transport which existed in Tennant Creek in the 1930s. Then list the goods each mode transported.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of transport</th>
<th>'Things' transported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Use* the information in the above table to explain why Francie wrote that 'to be without a car is death almost'.

**Eating**  **List** all the foods Francie mentions in her letters placing them in the appropriate column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food which was easy to get in Tennant Creek</th>
<th>Food which was hard to get in Tennant Creek</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why was there so little choice in what to eat in Francie’s life?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________
**The cost of living ....** Francie talks about money, the things she has to buy, the things she would like to buy, and the things she gets for free – a lot!

**List** all the things that Francie mentions she **could** spend her money on. Mark the things she must buy in order to live in Tennant Creek and work a mine with an *M* for **must have**! Mark the things she would like to spend money on, but doesn’t because she can’t afford them, with an *L* for **luxury**. Then grade the items in order of their cost – use five ticks for the most expensive, one tick for the least expensive and ticks from one to five in between. Mark with an *F* those things Francie can get for **free**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items to spend money on</th>
<th>Needs or luxuries</th>
<th>How expensive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Discuss:**
’The certain long-term winners on any goldfield are those who set up the support services, water and food carters, battery operators and shopkeepers’.

Kevan Weaber, personal writings

**Make a list** of things you spend your money on today. Separate your ‘needs’ from your ‘wants’.

**Compare your list** with Francie’s.
**Activity**

**What have you learnt?**

**Write a letter by imagining that:**

- you are living in Tennant Creek in the year 1935. Describe the house you live in, the food you eat and the things you’ve been doing for fun
- you can communicate across time to Francie and Kevan
- you are Francie’s niece Senya. Reply to one of Francie’s letters. Describe your city-based life, ask Francie questions about Tennant Creek and comment on the things you would like or not like about how Francie lives in Tennant.

**Create an historical postcard just like people did in the years before the War.** Visit [www.pictureaustralia.org](http://www.pictureaustralia.org) to find pictures to place on the front of your postcard.

**Conduct your own oral history interview** with a parent, grandparent or acquaintance to find out about their childhood. How similar or different was their childhood from your own?

**Make your own Tennant Creek scrap book** using a minimum of ten theme-selected photos with captions.

**Make a power point presentation** explaining life in Tennant Creek in its early days to tourists visiting Tennant Creek and/or your hometown today.
Postcards from the past

Create a postcard from the past. This is the front of your postcard. Cut and paste a picture here.

This is the back of the postcard. Write your message on the left-hand side – and don’t forget a date! Write an address on the right-hand side. Print, cut and paste both sides together. You may want to send your postcard to yourself or someone else!
Worksheet

Time line to people in Tennant Creek

Draw lines from each box to the time line to show when each of the following groups of people arrived in Tennant Creek.

Choose one object from the exhibitions at the Battery Hill Mining Centre to represent each group of people and draw or write about it in the appropriate box.

- The Warumungu
- Children
- Gold miners
- Women
- Shopkeepers
- Migrants
- 1860
- 2010
History Notes

Francie Udall’s handwritten letters and postcards: the Havard Collection
Autograph book: Evelyn Middleton personal collection
Newspaper articles: sources unknown
Australian women in the 1930s

By the 1930s all non-Aboriginal Australian women had acquired the right to vote and to own property even when they were married. Married women were not, however, expected to work and there were laws which forced women to resign from certain jobs as soon as they were married. The 'basic wage', a court-determined minimum wage referred to by Francie in her letters, assumed that men would be the sole wage-earners.

Francie’s pre-Tennant life as personal carer to family members and her role as mine wife in Tennant Creek fit with the conventional gendered expectations of prewar Australia. And yet, it is very clear from her letters – the constant mention of the money orders she receives from her family over East, her use of them to buy food, fracture, mining leases etc. and her detailed listings of Tennant Creek food prices, that Francie’s personal economic assets were as important to the continuing operations of the Great Northern Mine as the mine earnings themselves. Gender-based social, legal and economic discrimination did not always translate into personal, political or economic disempowerment in everyday life for many Australian women.

The absence of paid-work commitments in the lives of many married women in 1930s Australia also gave them time to contribute to the creation of community, as the story of the CWA’s contribution to the War effort reveals. One of the reasons for the current decline in membership of organisations like the C.W.A. is the paid-work commitments of today’s generation of married women.

Kevan’s mother, Kathleen Weaber, is an excellent example of the significant role of women’s unpaid work in the creation of community. Tennant’s first Christmas tree party was organised by Mrs Weaber at the Rising Sun Mine. Mrs Weaber personally bought presents for each of the goldfield’s children. She was also responsible for the transportation of Tennant Creek’s Catholic Church from Pine Creek and was a founding member of the Country Women’s Association.

For related information see:

'Three Francie Udall: a discussion'
'Francie Udall: a biographical note'
Tragedy and Change: The Weaber family in Tennant Creek a scrap book available in the 'Museum in a Box' version of these resources or on display in the Freedom, Fortitude and Flies Exhibition at Battery Hill.
Unlike Australian women, traditional Aboriginal Australians had limited legal rights in the 1930s. Generally, they could not vote, were not allowed to drink alcohol, could not travel freely or receive money for work, and from the moment Tennant Creek was legally declared a goldfield, they weren’t allowed to enter it.

The story of Blanche Najlarr’s refusal to abide by these exclusion laws is a wonderful example of personal individual resistance to the legalisation of social division. Mrs Weaber never talked about whether or how Blanche was paid for her work. This is not surprising since Mrs Weaber, an otherwise upstanding goldfield’s citizen, was breaking the law every time Blanche visited. Kevan’s story of his friendship with Blanche’s son, Monday, told in more detail in the Freedom, Fortitude and Flies Exhibition, is another example of how ordinary lives did not always reflect government policy.

Francie’s letters also raise some unanswered questions about relations between the traditional owners and new comers. Francie writes that Aborigines attended the pictures, paying a lesser price than non-Aboriginal customers and being allowed, it would seem, only to sit in the front row. The question arises – where did they get the money from if they weren’t allowed to earn wages?

The photograph of the coroboree in Francie’s photograph album which was probably taken when Tennant Creek celebrated £100 000 of gold production in 1936, can be interpreted as a gift of enormous generosity on the part of the Warumungu people and/or as the response of a coerced people attempting to gain some favours in a world in which they had lost control. One contemporary reporter interpreted the dance as a sign of gratitude for the arrival of civilisation. In the extant written documentation of this time, the voices of the Warumungu themselves are not recorded.

Francie’s understanding of the pressures a moneyed lifestyle was placing on Aboriginal access to their water supplies can be seen in the photo postcard she sent to her east coast relatives. It is on display in the Freedom, Fortitude and Flies Exhibition under the heading ‘Water Fights’. This postcard was written shortly after the Conniston massacre.

Many of Tennant’s early gold-rush residents were people of mixed Aboriginal and European descent: the children of European miners and Arrernte women who met on the Arltunga goldfields. While they are often described as ‘half-caste’ or ‘Bungalow kids’ in official government documents (see for example the lavatory inspection document in the Freedom, Fortitude and Flies Exhibition) they are also described in oral history memoirs (their own and others), as equal participants in the social and economic life of the goldfields, which included the consumption of alcohol and receipt of wages for work done. One of these residents was Ken Stewart, owner of the first horse to win the Tennant Creek Races. He was so successful at mining that he was dubbed ‘the Black Prince’ and said to have flown to the Melbourne Cup where he paid an orchestra to personally serenade him for the day!
Before WWII, outback Australians called anyone who came from the countries of The Old Silk Road (an ancient trade route linking China to North Africa), where the three countries of India, Pakistan and Afghanistan now meet, Ghans.

Ghans were sophisticated merchants who had worked with camels for generations. In Australia they took goods to the remotest parts of the outback until the trans-continental and northern railways began putting them out of business. While many of the original turban-wearing Ghans went home, a few stayed and took jobs on the railways. The last camel trains stopped trading when trucks and roads took over their remaining work. As Francie Udall’s photographs show, camels were still transporting goods to Tennant Creek in the 1930s.

Fazal Dean, Tennant Creek’s Ghan, was born in India in 1898. He came to Australia in 1922 to work with his father hawking (selling) goods out of a truck in the Blackall area of Queensland. Unlike the large population of Ghans living in Alice Springs, the Deans had never worked in the camel industry. Like the Ghans in Alice Springs, however, Fazal was a Muslim. This meant that he prayed five times a day, only ate meat which had been killed in the particular way described in the Koran (and so killed it himself) and never drank alcohol. Fazal was an excellent host, however and he always served wines and spirits to his guests.

Fazal built a large house in Tennant Creek, and it had running water and electricity powered by the battery he owned. When mining was stopped because of the war he went to Hatches Creek to mine wolfram. After the war, Fazal returned to India but was forced to leave when Pakistan separated from India. During Partition, as the separation of Pakistan from India was called, Fazal’s life was threatened because he was a Muslim living in a Hindu village. Fazal and his family returned to Australia and ran restaurants in Brisbane.

While Fazal Dean practised his Islamic religion in the privacy of his own home, Alice Springs Ghans had built their own mosque (where the Alice Springs Town Council is now). The Islamic call to prayer, which you can hear in Francie Udall’s talking scrap book, starts Islamic prayers wherever they are said, whether at home or in a mosque.

Alice Springs first mosque was bulldozed by the army in World War II. A second mosque was built in 1993 in Larapinta.
Outback Ghans 2

The word *Ghan* was also used by 1930s Territorians to describe the train which transported goods and people from down south to Alice Springs.

The importance of the train to the quality of daily life in Tennant Creek is clear from Francie’s constant references to it in her letters, especially when the train doesn’t reach Alice because of flooding or accident. The train carried most of the people, food, building materials, clothing, money (literally the cash the banks used as well as people’s wages), and other goods which all the small outback settlements needed to function.

The train supported the gold rush in Tennant Creek, which in turn supported a population boom in Alice Springs. In 1929, the year the train arrived in Alice, the town had a resident European population of just 40. By the time the War started in 1939 the European population had grown to 900 with Europeans outnumbering local Aboriginal residents for the first time in the town’s fifty-year history. For a few years in the middle of the 1930s there were more people living in Tennant Creek than in Alice Springs.

The train dominated Alice Springs life. When it announced its arrival with a ‘toot’ as it came through Heavitree Gap, everyone in Alice stopped what they were doing and went down to the station to meet it. Men abandoned their normal jobs to help unload the trains’ goods. Shopkeepers like Harold Williams from Tennant Creek and local cameleers then loaded up the goods for the journey to Tennant.

The train was more than just a carrier of goods and services. It was a sign of the growth of Australia as a nation. Although the train wasn’t to pass Alice Springs for another seventy five years, the people who built it hoped and planned that it would reach Darwin and be the first proper link between Australia’s Far North, its populous South and resource-rich West. Railways were, these dreamers thought, the steel backbone of the nation.

A sense of this bigger railway picture can be found in the words of Kevan Weaber, when he arrived on Tennant’s goldfields from the Kimberley region of Western Australia as a 7-year-old boy and thought Alice Springs was 'a BIG place ... I saw this train and I thought, God, you know, this is civilisation'. (Northern Territory Archives Service, NTRS 226, Oral History Interview TS351.)
On 3 September 1939 Australia went to war with Germany and its allies. Australian residents, who originally came from countries Australia was at war with, were called aliens.

While many aliens were newly arrived immigrants, others, like Tillie Johannsen from Alice Springs, were Australian-born or like her overseas-born husband Gerhardt, were naturalised Australian citizens. Even though the Johannsens had lived and worked in Central Australia since 1909 their loyalty to country was questioned when WWII broke out because German was the language they spoke at home. As ‘enemy aliens' the Johannsens were asked to leave the Alice Springs picture theatre in front of a large audience. Their house in Todd Street was taken over by the army who used it to accommodate army nurses. Like many other ‘friendly aliens', as locals called them, the Johannsen family spent the war years mining mica.

During WWII seven thousand Australian aliens were interned – arrested and placed, without charge or trial – in camps in NSW, South Australia and Queensland. Most of these internees came from non-English speaking backgrounds. A further seven and a half thousand non-Australian citizens were sent from overseas and interned in Australian camps. (Smith, Clarence Northern Territory Archives Service, NTRS 226, Oral History Interview TS 486)

Some of the aliens who escaped internment were conscripted into the Alien Work Corps where they worked on public projects like building a spur railway line for the army near Alice Springs. These men were paid less than their non-alien work colleagues for the same work. According to one Alice Springs local these 'friendly aliens' or 'prisoners of war' tried to strike for equal wages but returned to work when the army broke the strike up. (Smith, Clarence NTAS, NTRS 226 Oral History Interview TS486)

The Eldorado Gold Mine, the only Tennant Creek mine to stay open throughout the war years, was also operated by alien labour.

As Francie Udall’s letters show, even those aliens who were allowed to continue working for normal wages were not allowed to have guns or handle explosives.

The treatment of aliens in WWII aroused passionate debate in Australia. Many Australians thought that more aliens should be locked up, that national security was more important than individual freedom. A smaller group of Australians argued that imprisoning people without trial and forcing them to work for lower than normal wages was unfair and against the principles of Australian law.

Which countries was Australia at war with between 1939 and 1945?

Where did Francie Udall stand in the alien debate? Did she think aliens should be free or interned?

What do you think should have happened to Australia’s 'aliens'?

For more information see Bevege, Margaret, Behind Barbed Wire: Internment in Australia during World War II, University of Queensland Press, 1993.
**Significant time intervals for studying Tennant Creek’s history**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME INTERVAL</th>
<th>CHARACTERISTICS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre 1860</td>
<td>Warumungu people occupy the area in and around Tennant Creek living a traditional nomadic lifestyle for tens of thousands of years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870–1932</td>
<td>Tennant Creek is connected to the hub of the Western world through the construction of a telegraph line operated by a handful of European men.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1932–1945     | The permanent population of Tennant Creek goes from a handful to over 600 in a matter of months as Tennant becomes Australia’s last gold-rush town.  

  Tennant’s mines are worked by individuals who, when they are looking for gold but have not yet found it are called 'prospectors', and when they find gold and begin to mine it are called 'gougers'.

  In 1942 Tennant becomes a transit point for the army as thousands of troops and their equipment are moved from the Southern States to the War in the Pacific via Darwin. The track to Darwin becomes a road. |
| 1945–1963     | Goldmining resumes in Tennant Creek, beginning a cycle of boom and bust.  

  Mining is now dominated by big companies, with big money and big machines. Tennant is famous for being 'a man’s town'. There is very little accommodation for married men with families. Many of the miners come from overseas.  

  Though gold finds are huge, daily life is still tough because of the lack of a reticulated water supply. There are too many flies and lots of dust. |
| 1963          | Tennant water is tapped into houses. The greening of the town begins.  

  With the arrival of air-conditioning, radio, television, refrigerated transport, and the construction of family accommodation by the government and company-owned mines, life in Tennant begins to look like life in other Australian towns. |
# Time line of significant events in Tennant Creek’s history

## Events elsewhere which were to transform life in Australia’s outback:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>EVENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1831</td>
<td>Michael Faraday discovers that electricity is generated when a conductor (a wire or coil of wires) is moved across a magnetic field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1838</td>
<td>Samuel Morse invents communications code, revolutionising communications all over the world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>Kerosene is discovered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865</td>
<td>The first Singer sewing machines are manufactured in Sydney transforming the lives of outback women.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>America’s Wall Street stock market crashes, which sparks the Great Depression.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Events in Central Australia and the Barkly Tableland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>EVENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1825</td>
<td>British Government claims legal ownership of the Northern Territory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860–62</td>
<td>The first three European men travel through Warumungu lands, led by the explorer John McDouall Stuart.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1863</td>
<td>South Australia takes control of the Northern Territory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>Construction of the transcontinental telegraph line begins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1871</td>
<td>Surveyors start working on the construction of the Overland Telegraph Station.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1872</td>
<td>Transcontinental telegraph line from Adelaide to Darwin is completed and the main intermediate telegraph repeater station is established at the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1873</td>
<td>Uluru is given the European name Ayers Rock.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1874</td>
<td>Locals resisting European settlement attack Barrow Creek Telegraph Station.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1878</td>
<td>Construction of the transcontinental railway begins at Port Augusta.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1884</td>
<td>The Tennant Creek stockwell is completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1888</td>
<td>The township of Alice Springs is gazetted by the South Australian Government in response to the number of miners in Central Australia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891</td>
<td>The railway reaches Oodnadatta.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1892</td>
<td>Aboriginal Reserve declared over land to the east of the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1895</td>
<td>HYL Brown, a South Australian Government geologist find traces of gold in Bishops Creek in the Tennant Creek Area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1898</td>
<td>Gold is discovered at Tanami.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>Spencer and Gillen make an anthropological journey into Aboriginal lands in Central Australia and the Barkly Tableland. Jim Kite, an Arrernte man, travels with them as interpreter and ethnographer. His sculptured figurines are on display at the Old Timer’s Traeger Museum in Alice Springs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR</td>
<td>EVENTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907</td>
<td>The first car attempts to cross the continent from south to north following the railway line to Oodnadatta and the telegraph line to Darwin. The car breaks down south of Tennant Creek. First north-south crossing of Australia by bicycle is completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>First car successfully driven from Adelaide to Darwin. Harry Aungur and Henry Dutton took 51 days to complete the journey. Another car is not seen in the Territory for 10 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1911</strong></td>
<td><strong>South Australia sells the Northern Territory to the Commonwealth Government.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>Tennant Creek’s Overland Telegraph Station becomes a Post Office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>Charles Windley discovers and pegs Shamrock Claim. The lease is put in the name of Mary Rabbit, mother of one of the Tennant Creek Telegraph operators.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>Gold discovered by J Smith Roberts in the ranges three miles north of the present township of Tennant Creek. First two-way radio communication takes place between the radio hut at the back of Adelaide House and Hermannsburg Mission. The power source is, however, too bulky for general use. Construction of a railway line from Oodnadatta to Stuart (Alice Springs) is started.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>Charlie Windley finds gold-bearing rock at the site of what became the Great Northern Mine. This became the first producing mine of the Tennant goldfield.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>First flying doctor service starts in Queensland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1929</strong></td>
<td><strong>Two-way radio communication is born when Alfred Traeger invents the pedal radio.</strong> The first successful communication takes place between Adelaide House in Alice Springs and the Hermannsburg Mission. <strong>First train arrives at Stuart</strong> (now Alice Springs) and the first plane arrives in Tennant Creek.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>late 1920s</td>
<td>Police station ration depot established near the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930–31</td>
<td>Francie and Jim Udall from NSW work the Great Northern Mine. Jim Udall sets up the goldfield’s first battery using the engine of an old car.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>A shortlived gold rush takes place at the Granites, west of Alice Springs in the Tanami Desert.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

2 McKeon, MR, (consulting engineer) ‘Tennant Creek Goldfield’ in Chemical Engineering and Mining Review, August 10 1940.
3 Pearce, Howard, Tennant Creek Historic Sites Study: A Report to the National Trust of Australia, Northern Territory Volume 2, December 1984.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>EVENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Australia’s Last Gold Rush Starts** | **December** 1932  Frank Juppurla finds gold and takes it to Woody Woodruffe, a telegraph operator, who pegs the area where it was found.  
Realisation that gold in Tennant Creek is found in iron ore rather than quartz. |
| **1933** | **August**  Minister for the Interior officially announces the discovery of gold at Tennant Creek.  
200 prospectors are living on the Tennant Goldfields.  
**September**  Goldfield Warden arrives in Tennant  
Permanent non-Aboriginal population of the goldfields estimated at 100.  
Joe Kasczinski and Bill Bohning peg Peko Mine – named after Joe’s dog.  
The Weaber Family, with assistance from Jack Noble, peg four leases: Kimberley Kids, Weabers Find, the Rising Sun, and Nobles Nob. |
| **1934** | **1933–34**  Aboriginal people are removed from the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station to ‘Six Mile’.  
Fazal Dean’s Battery, the first public crushing facility, is established.  
Large-scale gold production commences at Eldorado Gold Mine.  
A police lock-up cell is built.  
Zena and Harold Williams open their shop. It operated from 1934–1951.  
First Tennant Creek Christmas Party is held on Weaber family leases. Mrs Kathleen Weaber bought a present for every child in the goldfields. |
| **1935** | **May**  Tennant Creek township is surveyed.  
**June**  School opens.  
Population now 600 – with 45 women and 20 children  
**September**  The Tennant Creek Goldfield is formally proclaimed. As a result of commonwealth laws, Warumungu people are now prohibited from entering the town. |
| **1935-36** | Australian Inland Mission Welfare hostel established. |

5 Donovan, Peter, *Alice Springs: Its History and the People who made it.*
1936

1936 Government Bore – water supply is established.

Catholic Church moves from Pine Creek to Tennant Creek – instigated by Mrs Kathleen Weaber and funded by the Weaber family group of mines.

E & S Bank is built

Three private batteries operational – Eldorado, Mammoth and Rising Sun

August 1936 £100,000 of gold produced (about $1,500,000,000.00 in today’s money). Celebrations held in Tennant Creek included a feast of saveloys, bonfires, fireworks, a corroboree, and dance under the stars.

1937 No 1 and 2 Government Batteries are operational.

1938 Eldorado Pty Ltd formed. Eldorado was the only mine to operate right through the war.

Wolfram mining boom at Hatches Creek saw the ‘departure of miners’ from Tennant Creek leaving the Tennant Creek field ‘practically deserted’.6

The War Years

1939 Ten-head stamp battery at Battery Hill Mining Centre commissioned.

1940 Australian troop convoys start coming through Tennant Creek ... some going to Darwin some involved in building a road. ‘It had taken a war for Canberra to realise that a road was needed to connect Northern Australia to the southern states.’ (Kevan Weaber personal writing)

No 3 Government Battery (now the Battery Hill Mining Centre) is operational.

First Nobles Nob ore treated at Kimberley Kids 5-head Stamp Battery.

1942 The army arrives in large numbers bringing with them an electricity supply.


1942 All gold mines, except Eldorado, are closed down due to the shortage of fuel resulting from World War II. Eldorado Mine is manned by a conscripted labour force of interned ‘enemy aliens’.7

1943 Crushing from No 3 Government Stamp Battery ceases due to unavailability of fuel from Darwin and lack of gold to crush since the only mine still operating in the goldfields has its own battery.

May 1945 Electricity generators in Tennant Creek set up following the departure of the army.

200 Warumungu living around Tennant Creek are moved to Phillip Creek. The Manga Manda Settlement was operational from 1945-1956.

6 McKeown, M.R. (consulting engineer) ‘Tennant Creek Goldfield’ in Chemical Engineering and Mining Review, August 10 1940.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>Water from Ghan Bore piped to town, but water was brackish and not suitable for gravening. Did provide a fire hydrant though. (Wilson xxiii) Crushing recommences at the No 3 Government Battery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Australian Development NT granted the option to purchase Rising Sun group of leases, of which one was Nobles Nob. Purchase price was £70,000. Breakdowns and a strike by workers limits operations of No 3 Government Battery (now Battery Hill Mining Centre).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>Nobles Nob starts production to become the biggest gold mine for its size in the world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Commencement of copper mining at Peko.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Tennant Creek Town Dam construction is completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>Peko Mine starts supplying Tennant Creek township with electricity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Town of Tennant Creek Officially Proclaimed as 'an ordinary government town site'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>Ali Curung is established (people originally from the Old Telegraph Station and Phillip's Creek). <em>Tennant Creek Times</em> published until 1957. Explosion and fire at Campbell's Store. The fire was hard to put out because of the lack of water. One person died, 70 were injured. No 3 Government Battery closes down for re-building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>Extensive flooding following cyclone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>Eldorado closes down.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>No 3 Government Battery re-opens and is operational until the late 1980s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960s</td>
<td>New prison cells constructed following representations from CWA ... (Visit the National Trust, Tennant Creek, to see why!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>All government houses in town are air-conditioned (Wilson pxxi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>First commercial helicopter muster takes place in the Northern Territory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Warrego Mine starts production. By 1975 Warrego town is producing 95% of Australia's bismuth. Before the year is out 550 are retrenched and the town is closed down.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Mining at Gold Forty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Warrego ceases production. Peko ceases to supply Tennant Creek township with electricity. The supply now comes from the public sphere.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

8 DocTXMS2609 - 26/09/96 entitled 'The History of Tennant Creek - Australia's Last Goldrush Town and the Stamp Batteries of the Goldfield', author unknown.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>EVENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Land Rights Legislation, the first in Australia, are passed in Northern Territory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Warumungu lodge land claim over areas of Tennant Creek.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>TNT Courier Services and regular planes to Tennant Creek. Tennant Creek Telegraph Station closes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>A standard-gauge railway line from Port Augusta to Alice Springs becomes operational, reducing the risk of delays in the transportation of food and supplies from the Southern States caused by derailments and floods. CAAMA (Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association) is founded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>The Indigenous Art Award, now known as the Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Award, is held in the Northern Territory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Nobles Nob closes down. Uluru is handed back to traditional owners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Mining at Northern Star. Discovery of White Devil gold deposit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Last of Nobles Nob ore is processed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Tennant Creek is rocked by earthquake. Warumungu land claim is upheld by the Courts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Australian Development NT changes its name to Poseidon Gold Limited (PosGold).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>No 3 Government Battery is handed over to be developed as a tourist attraction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Normandy Mine closes down. For the first time in its history as a gold-mining town there are no operational gold mines on the Tennant goldfield.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>The Nyinkka Nyunyu Cultural Centre is opened. Chariot Gold Mine operated by Giants Reef opens. Gold is selling at $550 an ounce.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>The first train passes through Tennant Creek after the Alice to Darwin rail link is constructed. Referendum held in Tennant Creek about whether to chlorinate the town's water supply. Residents vote against chlorination.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tickets courtesy of Emilia Pallaro.
Resource Materials for a Numerical Journey into the Past

The information relating to production and living costs on Tennant’s goldfields before and after the War has been included to enable teachers to integrate local history into numeracy lessons and to encourage an understanding of the diversity of sources of information used by historians to reach conclusions about the past and the need to obtain corroboratory evidence.

Sources of information used in constructing the prewar and postwar living-costs tables include:

- an academic completing a master’s thesis
- the oral history memories of people who lived on the goldfields recorded many years after the events they are discussing took place
- an historian commissioned by the National Trust
- non-recorded conversations with goldfields residents
- a resident journalist
- a mining engineer writing at the time
- the recollections of adults who were children at the time of the events they are discussing.

Students could compile their own lists from Francie Udall’s letters.

Please note that none of the information has been corroborated by documentary evidence such as mine accounts and so is not definitive. Indeed, some of the information is contradictory. For example Peter Braham, the postwar manager of Nobles Nob, says that he was paid £5,000 a year while academic research puts his wage at £1,500 a year. A class discussion could focus on:

- Who do students believe?
- How can differences in information about the past be explained?
- How many and/or what kinds of corroborative evidence would students accept before they felt safe to say what Peter Braham really earned?
- Where could corroborative evidence (like the mine’s accounts) be found?
- If someone is shown to be inaccurate in a few statements about the past then should all of their recollections be dismissed or only some of them?

Though the accuracy of some of the information contained in these tables may be doubted, conclusions about social structures in the prewar and postwar years can still be drawn. The
numerical patterns in people’s memories say a lot about the hierarchy of social reward on the goldfields i.e.: who earned the most, who earned the least, who paid for water and rent, who were given these things for free as influenced by type of work, gender, race …

Mathematical activities related to the statistical information provided below could include:

- graphing – by gender, by job, by money earned, etc.
- attempting to add up in pounds, shillings and pence and then discussing why Australia changed its currency
- converting pounds, shillings and pence to decimal currency
- converting past costs to present equivalents – how could we do that? Comparing the price of a soft drink or a person’s wage may produce equivalence but how valid is it?

For an online calculator recommended by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as a valid method for converting Australia pounds, shillings and pence to modern currency values using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) go to the Reserve Bank’s ‘Time Conversion CPI Calculator’ and let the computer do it for you! The calculator can be found at:


For an interesting debate about the different formulae which can be used to convert past monetary values to present day ones go to:

http://www.measuringworth.com/uscompare/

Note that this is an American site and if you or your students want to use it you will have to convert the information you input from Australian pounds to American dollars and then the answer from American dollars to Australian pounds. Just imputing a number and a date without reference to real prices does however graphically illustrate huge differences in the answers different formulae provide, enough to show that the conversion process is a complicated one.
Prewar production statistics for the Tennant Creek goldfield

To 31 December 1939 the Tennant Creek goldfield had produced 57,895 oz gold valued at £522,000 from 61,792 tons of gold produced from 98 mines.

Principal producing mines are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mine</th>
<th>Ore milled tons</th>
<th>Gold recovered by amalgamation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eldorado*</td>
<td>16,134.60</td>
<td>7,898.060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rising Sun</td>
<td>9,901.10</td>
<td>7,579.438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Star</td>
<td>3,794.88</td>
<td>1,867.420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peko*</td>
<td>2,420.50</td>
<td>582.030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lone Star</td>
<td>2,901.02</td>
<td>2,183.820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hammer Jack</td>
<td>2,029.93</td>
<td>3,069.938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Samuel</td>
<td>1,816.50</td>
<td>3,575,730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hopeful Star</td>
<td>1,432.22</td>
<td>625.543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Angel</td>
<td>1,223.61</td>
<td>871.786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Cat</td>
<td>1,069.26</td>
<td>650.543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Moon</td>
<td>1,056.07</td>
<td>4,271.375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinnacles</td>
<td>1,032.83</td>
<td>1,075.685</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Company-owned mines.

Production from the field is handicapped by inadequate milling capacity. The mine owners have to book crushings at the government battery several months ahead.

**Future of the Field**

'The goldfield is the youngest in the commonwealth and is the largest gold producer in the Northern Territory ... In several of the larger mines, values are showing a greater vertical persistence than was originally anticipated. The ore shoots are small and their location involves a considerable amount of development work. The grade of ore on the field, however, is generally high ... The characteristics of the field do not indicate large mines, but rather, properties with a production capacity up to a maximum of 8,000 tons per annum.'

M.R. McKeon, Consulting Engineer, Melbourne August 1940 in *The Chemical Engineering and Mining Review*, August 10, 1940

95 of the 98 functioning mines in the prewar years were owned and worked by 'gougers' the name given to individuals who’d found gold and were digging it out of the ground. Prospectors were those who were still looking.

Source: *Chemical Engineering and Mining Review*, August 10, 1940
# Prewar living costs on Tennant’s goldfields #1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Source of Information</th>
<th>Relationship to Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miner’s Right</td>
<td>5 shillings</td>
<td>Hill</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government fees to ‘peg a lease’</td>
<td>about £4</td>
<td>Hill</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Sanitary rates – 1938 – a range depending on where someone lived | • £5 -£21 a year depending on where lived  
  • 15 pence per pan  
  • 10 shillings a month for 9 or more services | Lavatory Parade, Telegrams – NTAS  | Academic                    |
| Sanitary Rates                | £10 a year in 1936 reduced to £7 a year in 1938 | Wilson pxxvi  | Commissioned historian |
| To cart a load of sand        | 30 shillings                | Len Kittle OH                  | Goldfields resident and ore carter in the prewar years |
| Garbage                       | 6 pence a pan               | Wilson                         | Commissioned historian |
| To wash and iron a shirt to go to dance | 9 pence                   | Margot Miles                   | Barmaid, mine cook and long-term goldfields resident |
| Gold transport charges to Peterborough | cost the equivalent of  3oz gold mined in 1932  | McKeown                        | Consulting engineer |
| Ore crushing"                | Fazal Dean charged £2 a ton |                                | Historian                   |

---

*Document entitled ‘The History of Tennant Creek - Australia’s Last Gold Rush Town and Stamp Batteries of the Goldfields’, authorship unknown.*
## Prewar living costs on Tennant’s goldfields #2

### Goldfields Wages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wages for pulling buckets of ore from mine with a windlass (Great Northern)</th>
<th>5 shillings a ton 20 buckets = a ton</th>
<th>Len Kittle OH</th>
<th>As above</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shop assistant wages</td>
<td>£2 per week</td>
<td>Zena Williams OH</td>
<td>Tennant Creek shop owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working at Tennant Creek hospital doing the washing</td>
<td>£6 per week</td>
<td>Zena Williams OH</td>
<td>As above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barmaid at Tennant Creek hotel</td>
<td>£2/10- + 'everything found'</td>
<td>Margot Miles OH</td>
<td>Tennant Creek Barmaid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mine workers’ wages</td>
<td>about £6 a week</td>
<td>Clarence Smith OH</td>
<td>Miner in Tennant Creek before the War and railway worker in Alice Springs during the War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award wages for working on the goldfield for a 44-hour week.</td>
<td>£6/10- per week</td>
<td>Hill</td>
<td>Research academic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracker’s wages – 1944</td>
<td>4 shillings per week</td>
<td></td>
<td>Policeman’s wife and author of a Tennant Creek police history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining warden</td>
<td>£20 a year as part of Alice Springs duties £1,200 a year if located in Tennant Creek</td>
<td>Muldoon OH</td>
<td>Mining warden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warden’s clerk</td>
<td>£400 a year</td>
<td>Muldoon OH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor</td>
<td>£800 - £1,000 a year</td>
<td>Lisbeth More author of ‘Opened with a Crowbar’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cut and cart a load of wood</td>
<td>30 shillings</td>
<td>Len Kittle OH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaft sinking</td>
<td>£10 a foot</td>
<td>Len Kittle OH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ore breaking</td>
<td>£10 a ton</td>
<td>Len Kittle OH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Gold Price

| Gold price - when Wards had the Blue Moon. | £15 per ounce | Len Kittle OH |
| Ore-gold ratios | 4 oz gold per ton Blue Moon, 1940 | Len Kittle OH |

---

## Prewar living costs on Tennant’s goldfields #3

### Water-Cartage Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cartage</th>
<th>13 or 14 shillings for 100 gallons</th>
<th>Len Kittle OH</th>
<th>As above</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mines got deliveries once a month</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>6 shillings for 44-gallon drum</td>
<td>Bernie Kilgariff</td>
<td>Child who visited Tennant Creek. Written memories as Intro to Hilda Tuxworth’s book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cartage – 1940</td>
<td>£3 per 1000 gallons</td>
<td>McKeown</td>
<td>As above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cartage</td>
<td>11 shillings for 100 gallons</td>
<td>Francie Udall – letters</td>
<td>Goldfields resident – writing at the time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police station prices for selling water to travellers</td>
<td>1 penny = 1 gallon (with receipt issued)</td>
<td>Bill Waudby</td>
<td>Goldfields policeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water consumption was subject to stocktaking. Discrepancies, which were frequent, were attributed to evaporation.</td>
<td>3 shillings = 44-gallon drum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Goods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goods</th>
<th>£5</th>
<th>Len Kittle OH</th>
<th>As above</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Axe and shovel</td>
<td></td>
<td>Len Kittle OH</td>
<td>As above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffin cost</td>
<td>£6/4-</td>
<td></td>
<td>Police records as compiled by the National Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft drink – ‘lollie water’</td>
<td>1 shilling (in cities the same bottle cost 4 pence)</td>
<td>Kevan Weaber</td>
<td>Resident as a child on the goldfields. Recorded in Oral History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel meals – e.g. bacon, eggs, porridge</td>
<td>4 shillings</td>
<td>Margot Miles OH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### References:

OH = Oral History, Northern Territory Archives Service, Hartley Street Alice Springs.
Kittle, Lenoard James NTAS NTRS 226 Oral History Interview TS 464.
McKeown, M.R. (consulting engineer) ‘Tennant Creek Goldfield’ in Chemical Engineering and Mining Review, August 10 1940.
Miles, Margot 1988 The Old Tennant.
More, Lizbeth, 'Opened with a Crowbar!!' An Early History of Hospital Services in Tennant Creek, National Trust, 1990.
Smith, Clarence NTAS NTRS 226 Oral History Interview TS486.
Muldoon, Phil NTAS NS 226 Oral History Interview TS7602.
Waudby, Bill NTAS NTRS 226 Oral History Interview TS 136.
Weaber, Kevan NTAS NTRS 226 Oral History Interview TS351.
Williams, Zena NTAS, NTRS 226 Oral History Interview TS 357.
Wilson, Helen J, 'The Heritage of Tennant Creek: Report to the National Trust NT', 1995.
## Postwar living costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Water</strong> was free but cartage cost!</th>
<th>1958</th>
<th>A family of five used about 400 gallons per week, costing £3 for 1,000 gallons</th>
<th>(Wilson p xxiv)</th>
<th>Commissioned report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mines provided 1,000 gallons a month of free water to people living on the mines. Excess water had to be bought</td>
<td>Hilda Tuxworth OH</td>
<td>Staff wife and local historian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nobles Nob paid £317/- for 1,000 gallons</td>
<td>Peter Braham OH</td>
<td>Manager Nobles Nob Mine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 shillings for 100 gallons or £3 for 1,000 gallons</td>
<td>Christine Afianos OH</td>
<td>Resident journalist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Wages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>shaft, building/digging</th>
<th>£6 a foot</th>
<th>Bill Fullwood OH</th>
<th>Miner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A miners wage</td>
<td>£18 a week</td>
<td>Bill Fullwood OH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>supervisors wages (bills)</td>
<td>£22 a week</td>
<td>Bill Fullwood OH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mine Managers Wages</td>
<td>£5,000 a year – at Nobles Nob</td>
<td>Peter Braham OH</td>
<td>As above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mine Managers Wages</td>
<td>£1,500 a year at Nobles Nob</td>
<td>Brian Hill – of Peter Braham’s wage p77 ’To Buy a Mine’ 1994</td>
<td>Research academic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>£1,000 a year + electricity, house, 1,000 gallons water a month + wood</td>
<td>Lindsay Tuxworth OH</td>
<td>Engineer – Eldorado</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Accommodation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff houses</th>
<th>Rent free</th>
<th>Hilda Tuxworth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miners paid board to live on the mine</td>
<td>30 shillings a week</td>
<td>Bill Fullwood OH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>10 shillings a week to rent on house at Eldorado</td>
<td>Robert Reed OH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nobles Nob – 1950</td>
<td>35 shillings a week board and accommodation</td>
<td>Alec Bates conversation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Gold Price

| Gold sold at | £16 an ounce | Lindsay Tuxworth OH | Mine engineer |

### References:

OH = Oral History, Northern Territory Archives Service, Hartley Street Alice Springs.
Afianos, Christine NTAS, NTRS 226 Oral History Interview TS 782
Braham, Peter NTAS, NTRS 226 Oral History Interview TS 162
Fullwood, Bill NTAS, NTRS 226 Oral History Interview TS 560 TS431
Hill, Brian To Buy a Mine. A History of Nobles Nob 1994 Masters Thesis
Reed, Robert NTAS, NTRS 226 Oral History Interview TS 576
Tuxworth, Hilda NTAS NTRS 226 Oral History Interview TS347 & TS561
Tuxworth, Lindsay NTAS, NTRS 226 Oral History Interview TS 130
Wilson, Helen J The Heritage of Tennant Creek: Report to the National Trust NT 1995
Online and Local History Resources

Museum and history websites of excellence

A range of quality websites provide for personal and professional development, interactive teaching activities and good old-fashioned inspiration!

**Educational Sites**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Website URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian Museums Online</td>
<td><strong>Discovernet</strong> is an on-line interactive activity in which students select objects, write labels and create their own exhibit about dinosaur fossils. <strong>InHeritage</strong> is an excellent unit of work for literate high school students where students collect objects from three generations of family members to create a personal family social history.</td>
<td><a href="http://amol.org.au">http://amol.org.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum Victoria</td>
<td>The Biggest Family Album in Australia has excellent online activities introducing students to the study of photographs as historic documents.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.museum.vic.gov.au">http://www.museum.vic.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Centre for History Education</td>
<td>A Commonwealth-funded national history project with excellent educational resources including a package which looks at the controversy surrounding John Flynn's Grave. This would be a fabulous accompaniment to an excursion to Adelaide House. <strong>Getting Connected</strong> is an excellent classroom activity which introduces students to the question of 'What is history?' through the collection and sorting of personal objects.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hyperhistory.org">http://www.hyperhistory.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Territory Library</td>
<td>In particular go to <strong>Territory Images</strong> for excellent photographic images of the Northern Territory.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ntlib.nt.gov.au/ntlipicweb">http://www.ntlib.nt.gov.au/ntlipicweb</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museums and Galleries Foundation of NSW</td>
<td>Contains lots of information, useful fact sheets and some interesting educational resources.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mgfnsw.org.au/">http://www.mgfnsw.org.au/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Australian Women’s History Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Milestones in Australian Women’s History</td>
<td>This site contains an actual time line for looking at history from a women’s point of view.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oswdpmc.gov.au">http://www.oswdpmc.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Territory Office of Women’s Policy</td>
<td>This site includes biographical information on the women honoured in the plaques located on the lawn outside the NPWHF. This is also available as an on-site resource at the NPWHF.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.women.nt.gov.au/dcm/womens_policy/tribute_2003.pdf">http://www.women.nt.gov.au/dcm/womens_policy/tribute_2003.pdf</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessie Street National Women’s Library</td>
<td>They have an excellent lending library of books on Australian women’s issues, produce a monthly newsletter for members and run an annual essay-writing competition on women’s history for high school students.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nationalwomenslibrary.org.au/">http://www.nationalwomenslibrary.org.au/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Aboriginal History Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Website (NATSIEW)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.natsiew.nexus.edu.au/">http://www.natsiew.nexus.edu.au/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apology Australia Reconciliation Events Calendar</td>
<td><a href="http://www.apology.west.net.au/eventnsw.html">http://www.apology.west.net.au/eventnsw.html</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Online Tennant Creek History Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### History Competitions for School Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The National History Challenge</td>
<td>This is for students of all ages. First prize is a trip to Canberra to accept the prize for teacher and students.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.historyteacher.org.au/">http://www.historyteacher.org.au/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Simpson Prize</td>
<td>This is an essay competition for year 9 and 10 students. The 2005 prize was a trip to Gallipoli (in Turkey) for teachers and students.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.historyteacher.org.au/">http://www.historyteacher.org.au/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Selected local resources

**Primary source materials**


This is an excellent collection of primary source materials relevant to NT history, as useful for teachers today as it was when it was first put together.

'The Last Camel Train’ – Teacher’s Resource Pack.

**Teacher references**


Miles, Margot 1988 *The Old Tennant*.


Tennant Creek Visitor Information Centre, *Tennant Creek Historic Town Walk: A Self Guided walk looking at Tennant’s History through the buildings and stories of the people who created it*, Battery Hill Mining Centre Tennant Creek.


**Archives for Tennant Creek can be found at:**

The Northern Territory Archives Service is located at 58 Hartley Street, Alice Springs, phone (08) 8951 5669.
The Minerals Collection

The Tennant Creek Minerals Collection houses some absolutely beautiful crystals and other rock specimens well worth visiting with your students.

Information about the collector and the rationale behind the collection is included below.

**Online Mining Education Resources of Excellence**

For exceptionally creative ways to teach students of all ages some of the fundamentals of mining go to the award winning 'Women in Mining Education Foundation' at:

www.womeninmining.org

You can also find a copy of these educational resources in the 'Museum in a Box' version of Discovering Local History through Museums.

**Related Information about the Minerals Exhibition**

Dehne McLaughlin’s article ‘Is Our Mineral Heritage Heading for Extinction? The Need for a State Mineral Collection in the Northern Territory’ 1994 Australasian Mines and Metallurgy Annual Conference, Darwin, can be obtained by writing to

The Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines  
The Geoscience Information Branch,  
PO Box 3000, Darwin  
NT 0801

Phone: 08 8999 5282  
Fax: 08 8999 5221

One copy has also been placed in the 'Museum in a Box' version of these educational resources.

Similarly, Maggie Hickey’s speech recommending that Dehne’s collection be placed in Tennent Creek can be found at:


notes.nt.gov.au/lant/hansard/HANSARD7.NSF/0/9f8578...

or in one of the 'Museums in a Box'.

91
**The Tennant Creek Minerals Collection: the collector’s story**

**The collector**
Dehne McLaughlin was conceived in Japan and born in Sydney in 1949. His parents were part of the occupation forces in Japan at the end of World War II.

**A passion ignited.**
He was 14 years old when a science teacher asked him to collect and present 12 rock specimens as part of a school assignment. Dehne, contemptuous about the assignment, put very little effort into it. The result was the first school failure of his educational life, a mark of 3 out of 10. Humbled, he asked to do the assignment again.

When his science teacher agreed, Dehne began scouring quarries in Sydney and Dundas for interesting looking rocks. Each discovery was *pure magic*, and the idea that rocks are made of minerals captivated him. He put a lot of effort into the presentation of the crystals he found, getting a mark of 9 out of 10.

Before the end of the year Dehne had back-packed his way to Yass, south of Sydney, to look for rocks in an old copper mine, and headed north to New England where he found quartz crystals, beryl crystals and wolfram in old tin and wolfram mines. He was 15 years old, camping out on his own, having a ball. Everything about rock hunting: the outdoor lifestyle, collecting, displaying, and repeating the joys of discovery as he poured over his collection back home, had captured his imagination.

**A passion paused**
Dehne’s interest in rocks eventually lead him to study geology at university. Here, teachers and peers alike, worked hard to drive the collector out of him. Exploration geologists are trained to look for economically viable ore deposits. Those who look for individual rock specimens were looked down upon as amateurs. Rock hunting was not something ‘the real’ geologist should do. Dehne studied hard and kept his love of collecting to himself.

The jobs he took after university, working first as an exploration geologist and then for Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) identifying Aboriginal sites of significance, slowed down his collecting activities. In 1982 Dehne obtained work as an environmental and
engineering advisor with the Northern Land Council and started collecting again with a vengeance.

**Rock hounds, silver picks and bowerbirds**

In the rock-collecting world there are, Dehne says, three kinds of collectors: rock hounds, silver picks and bowerbirds. *Rock hounds* only display and keep what they have found themselves in the field. *Silver picks* purchase the rocks in their collections, trading rocks they no longer want for ones they do. *Bowerbirds* don’t like to throw anything they have ever collected out. These different collection methods lead to very different types of collections.

Museum-quality collections are usually created by silver picks because it would take too long and cost too much money to physically travel the world to find rocks that meet the needs of a particular collection.

Initially Dehne was a rock hound. Now he is a silver pick and a miner. He has never been a bowerbird. The Tennant Creek Collection is a mixture of purchased and found specimens.

**The personality of collections**

Collecting, Dehne insists, is a very personal thing. Collections reflect the personality of the collector. No two collections are ever the same.

Some people are very systematic in the way they create their collections. They may only collect specimens from a particular locality (like Broken Hill) or they may want a collection containing one specimen of each of the world’s 4,000 minerals.

Other collectors are not systematic, choosing specimens simply because they like them and/or because they are beautiful.

Dehne does a little of both. While he does collect specimens from particular localities this will not limit him from buying a stunningly beautiful or scientifically interesting specimen even if it does not come from one of his chosen localities. God, Dehne points out, didn’t put all the beautiful things in one place. Political and geographic boundaries are irrelevant to the global collector.

**Showing it off**

Just as there are different ways of collecting rocks, there are also two different ways of displaying a rock collection.

The first is to take a scientific focus – putting rocks with similar mineral compositions and ways of being formed together, and providing detailed explanations of their chemical compositions.
The second approach is to focus on beauty. Minerals are the flowers of the rock kingdom. People will respond, as Dehne himself did when he was 14, to natural beauty first. Then they might look for more information about the scientific processes that created it.

The minerals display at Tennant Creek does a little of both.

**Favourites**

Dehne’s favourite specimen in the Tennant Creek Collection is, he admits, a rather ugly specimen where large chalcopyrite crystals sit on top of other minerals. The specimen comes from Penasqueira in Portugal, a locality Dehne was in love with for some time as a source for his specimens because the assemblages of granite hosted tin and wolfram and were similar to the mineral composition of the Australian mines he visited when he was 15 years old. Though he has never visited Penasqueira, Dehne has purchased a number of mineral specimens from there.
Politics meets passion: how Dehne’s collection came to live in Tennant Creek

Preserving our mineral heritage

In 1994 Dehne wrote a paper called: 'Is Our Mineral Heritage Heading for Extinction? The Need for a State Mineral Collection in the Northern Territory', which he delivered at a mining and metallurgy conference in Darwin. Mining, Dehne argued, is destroying our inorganic heritage. Beautiful and unique mineral and crystal specimens are crushed to dust every day and it doesn’t have to be this way. Practical arrangements with mining companies could ensure that new mineral specimens are preserved for the future. In the recent push to preserve the organic world of animals and plants, minerals have been left off the list. To solve the problem, Dehne suggested that the Northern Territory Government appoint a curator of minerals to work with the mining industry to collect specimens before they disappear. These specimens could be kept or traded to create a state minerals collection. The entire project including the curator’s wage and costs associated with housing a world standard minerals collection could be partly funded from the sale of the specimen’s themselves.

Maggie Hickey, Tennant Creek’s parliamentary representative, heard Dehne talk and impressed by his passion, took up the cause in parliament, adding that any state minerals collection should be located in the Territory’s heart at Tennant Creek because mining has been crucial to its development.

A personal collection sold

Rather than appoint a minerals curator, the government decided to purchase a pre-existing minerals collection. The decision coincided with a personal family tragedy, which forced Dehne to put his own collection on the market. The Northern Territory Government bought it and, with a political push from Maggie Hickey, housed it in Tennant Creek.

Though he had never planned to sell his first collection, Dehne is pleased to share it with the public. He has, of course, started collecting again but that is another story.
Photo and copy of school certificate courtesy of Kevan Weaber
**TOPIC: FREEDOM, FORTITUDE AND FLIES: DAILY LIFE ON TENNANT’S GOLDFIELDS**

The following learning outcomes are those which are directly addressed by:
- **viewing** Kevan Weaber and Francie Udall’s talking scrap books
- **visiting** the Freedom, Fortitude and Flies Exhibition at The Battery Hill Mining Centre
- **completing** some or all of the worksheet activities included in this educational package.

### STUDIES OF SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT LEARNING AREA - - SOCIAL SYSTEMS AND STRUCTURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band 2</th>
<th>Band 3</th>
<th>Band 4</th>
<th>Band 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soc 2.1</td>
<td>Soc 3.1</td>
<td>Soc 4.1</td>
<td>Soc 5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time, Continuity and Change</strong></td>
<td><strong>Time, Continuity and Change</strong></td>
<td><strong>Time, Continuity and Change</strong></td>
<td><strong>Time, Continuity and Change</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research past events to evaluate why change occurs and their impact on the community.</td>
<td>Investigate the past and how events have impacted on individuals and groups.</td>
<td>Analyse significant ideas, people and movements that have shaped societies.</td>
<td>Analyse how past forces and events have shaped contemporary communities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Indicators**
- Learners demonstrating evidence of Band 2 e.g.,
  - Represent changes over time in the local/broader community – organize and label significant events on a pre-constructed time line
  - Use historical language to describe key lifestyle aspects of previous generations
  - Source a wide variety of information such as photographs, local histories, and artefacts to describe aspects of life in previous

- Learners demonstrating evidence of Band 3 e.g.,
  - Identify links between world events and Australia’s immigration patterns – the relationship between the construction of the railway line to Alice Springs; the onset of the Great Depression; the arrival of a significant population of Europeans in Tennant Creek in the 1930s; and the departure of that same population as permanent residents of the town after the bombing of Darwin in WWII

- Learners demonstrating evidence of Band 4 e.g.,
  - Represent and analyse significant events in Australia’s past and explain how they have impacted on Australia today.
  - Investigate and report on key themes in the history of the modern period – the Great Depression, WWII and the debate about individual freedom and national security in the aliens debate of WWII

- Learners demonstrating evidence of Band 5 e.g.,
  - Research and report on significant events and ideas which have shaped Australian society – construction of communication and transport links connecting Australia to the rest of the world.
  - Critically analyse information for accuracy, relevance, reliability, bias, racism, and paternalism in subject matter of photographs taken in the past; nature of historical generalisations made on the basis of this limited evidence; and choices of photographs made by students in depicting the past.
Imagine a table like this:

| generations/eras and/or changes in a community. | Represent significant factors in the development of the Northern Territory – construct a time line or a multi-media presentation focused on Australia’s last gold rush in Tennant Creek and how it increased the European population of the NT and changed Indigenous lifestyles. |

**ENGLISH LEARNING AREA**

Written texts students will be exposed to by viewing the talking scrap books include:

- letters
- transcripts of the spoken word
- photograph descriptions
- source acknowledgements/references

Written texts students will be exposed to in a visit to the Battery Hill Mining Centre include:

- theme text boards
- photographic captions
- object labels
- functional signage

Please note that current curriculum frameworks assume that students will write more extended texts as they get older and the more extended a text the more sophisticated they are. Museum texts challenge the truth of that assumption. Museum object, photo caption and text boards are short but highly complex texts because they need to be historically accurate, attention grabbing and condensed ... people standing on their feet do not need to read a book written on a wall! As such. Museum texts are amongst the hardest of texts to write and often contain huge political assumptions, which are obscured by the text's brevity and the generally held belief that short is the same as simple. For an excellent and brief description of the bias inherent in many museum texts go to the transcript of 'Interpreting the stories museums tell us' by linguist Louise Ravelli broadcast on Lingua Franca on ABC Radio National on 21/10/2006 @ abc.net.au or read Louise Ravelli’s book, Museum Texts: Communication Frameworks, published by Routledge.

In the following curriculum links 'extended text' is interpreted as describing the complexity of ideas expressed in any given text rather than word length.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Curriculum Links</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>how own speaking and listening is adjusted in different situations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **L/S 1.2**  
**Language Structures and Features**  
Experiment using standard Australian English structures and features for expressing and interpreting spoken ideas and information. |
| **L/S 1.3**  
**Strategies**  
Speak and listen in ways that assist communication with others. |
| classroom and school community, recognising aspects of context and purpose. |
| **L/S 2.2**  
**Language Structures and Features**  
Use appropriate language structures and features of spoken language for expressing and interpreting ideas and information. |
| **L/S 2.3**  
**Strategies**  
Reflect on own approach to communication and the ways in which others interact. |
| information in a variety of situations; consider aspects of context, purpose and audience when speaking and listening. |
| **L/S 3.2**  
**Language Structures and Features**  
Control most language structures and features of spoken language for interpreting meaning; develop and present ideas and information in familiar situations. |
| **L/S 3.3**  
**Strategies**  
Assist and monitor own and others’ communication. |
| texts; present and support ideas in a variety of contexts. |
| **L/S 4.2**  
**Language Structures and Features**  
Discuss and experiment with the language used for interpreting meaning and presenting ideas orally. |
| **L/S 4.3**  
**Strategies**  
Use a range of strategies to construct and present spoken texts; reflect on how to improve approaches and methods of oral communication. |

| Band 1  
**R/V 1.1**  
**Texts and Contexts**  
Read/view with understanding a range of visual and short written texts with familiar topics and vocabulary, related illustrations and predictable text structures; recognise the way texts are constructed by people to represent real and imaginary experiences meanings and stereotypes. |
| **R/V 1.3**  
**Strategies**  
Use a range of basic strategies to select and interpret visual and short written texts. |
| Band 2  
**R/V 2.1**  
**Texts and Contexts**  
Read/view with understanding a range of visual and written texts with familiar content, and some unfamiliar vocabulary or language structures and features; identify simple symbolic meanings and stereotypes. |
| **R/V 2.2**  
**Language Structures and Features**  
Identify and use the language structures and features of texts to construct meaning. |
| **R/V 2.3**  
**Strategies**  
Integrate a variety of strategies to interpret visual and written texts to |
| Band 3  
**R/V 3.1**  
**Texts and Contexts**  
Read/view with understanding a range of visual and written texts containing some unfamiliar concepts, topics, language structures and features; explain possible reasons for people’s varying interpretations of texts. |
| **R/V 3.2**  
**Language Structures and Features**  
Identify and discuss how language is used to shape readers’ and viewers’ understanding. |
| **R/V 3.3**  
**Strategies**  
Select, use and reflect on strategies appropriate for interpreting texts and |
| Band 4  
**R/V 4.1**  
**Texts and Contexts**  
Construct interpretive responses demonstrating knowledge that texts are created for a particular audience and purpose; develop inter-textual understanding. |
| **R/V 4.2**  
**Language Structures and Features**  
Describe techniques used to shape audience response to literary, film, media and everyday texts. |
| **R/V 4.3**  
**Strategies**  
Use strategies to identify and respond to the way conventions shape meaning in a range of texts. |
Learning outcomes in mathematics can also be achieved when students participate in the object-measuring and description activities in the ‘Museum in a Box’ version of these resources, and in other activities teachers develop using the reference materials provided in the chapter headed ‘A numerical journey into the past’.

Detailed curriculum links relating to the reading of photographs and objects as visual texts are provided in Discovering Local and Women’s History through Museums: an educational resource for middle-upper primary and lower secondary schools in Central Australia distributed to all Central Australian schools in 2006, available from NT Explore and also included on the CD-ROM which accompanies this book.