1983 CABINET RECORDS RELEASED

1 January 2014

Territorians have been given new insight into what life was like in the Territory in 1983 following the release of Cabinet Records from the year.

Attorney-General John Elferink said the documents provide an opportunity to reflect on the Territory’s rich, and often colourful, history.

“Several significant events took place in the Territory in 1983 that still hold a place in the memories of Territorians who lived here at the time,” Mr Elferink said.

“Many would recall on 20 March, when Prince Charles, Princess Diana and a baby Prince William touched down in Central Australia as part of the Royal Visit.

“The opening of the $30 million Casino Resort Hotel was one of the biggest events on Darwin’s social calendar in 1983 and in December that year, Territorians went to the polls and re-elected the CLP Government in a landslide victory with the CLP claiming 19 seats to the ALP’s 6.

“Paul Everingham remained Chief Minister, Noel Padgham-Purich became the Territory’s first female Cabinet Minister and many of this Cabinet’s decisions helped shape the NT we know today.

“The Government began work on an access road and bridge to Channel Island for a new power station and a $14million natural gas pipeline was constructed from Palm Valley to Alice Springs.

“International shipping and exporting activity was ramped up at Fort Hill Wharf with a new $4million roll-on/roll-off facility, the Territory Wildlife Park was officially declared a conservation area, the old Fannie Bay gaol was re-opened as a museum and Darwin became the home base of No.75 Squadron RAAF, equipped with Mirage fighter aircraft.

“Changes were also made to the Liquor Act, with the CLP Government introducing new laws that made it illegal to drink alcohol within two kilometres of a licensed premise.

“The Cabinet also approved a raft of measures to celebrate the fifth anniversary of Self-Government on 1 July 1983 including a gala ball and fireworks display on the harbour, a tradition that is still going strong 30 years on.”

Cabinet Records are made public 30 years after they are created under the Northern Territory Information Act. The records can be accessed at: www.cabinetrecords.nt.gov.au

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