The Chief Minister’s Northern Territory History Book Award has celebrated its 10th anniversary at a special Territory Day ceremony at the NT Library.

The annual Award recognises the contribution that written history makes to the cultural and intellectual life of the Territory.

“I would like to thank and congratulate the entrants, finalists and winners for their contribution and their role in reminding us about the significance of our unique history,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said as he presented the Awards today.

“Territory Day is our day for all Territorians to take pride in who we are and the unique place where we live and it is fitting to celebrate the 10th anniversary of these history awards today – as we reflect on a significant day in our own history; the day the Territory gained self-government.”

Three books made the finals of the Awards this year, judged out of a fantastic field of 10 entries.

“This year some outstanding books about Northern Territory history were published,” Mr Giles said.

“The finalists included Carrier Attack Darwin 1942: the complete guide to Australia’s own Pearl Harbour, by Dr Tom Lewis and Peter Ingham, which provided a timely and fresh analysis of the Darwin raid in 1942 and incorporated specially translated Japanese resources.

“Other finalists included Maningrida: a history of the Aboriginal Township in Arnhem Land, by Helen Bond Sharp which is a story about life and the people of Arnhem Land and Antecedents: the history of Ward Keller which was commissioned to commemorate law firm Ward Keller’s 50th Anniversary.

“The panel of judges were particularly impressed with the standard of this year’s entries, however Maningrida: a history of the Aboriginal Township in Arnhem Land by Helen Bond Sharp was unanimously declared the winner.

“Congratulations Helen on her beautifully written work which explored the value of positive partnerships between black and white.”

The Chief Minister’s Northern Territory History Book Award was established in 2004 and recognises the most significant book on Northern Territory history published in the preceding year.
It is open to books published between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2013 with a cash prize of $1000.

For more information on the Chief Minister’s Northern Territory History Book Award or the Northern Territory Library please visit: www.artsandmuseums.nt.gov.au

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