Author, songwriter and Australian ‘bush icon’, Ted Egan AM, was sworn in as the Northern Territory’s 18th Administrator this morning.

Mr Egan was officially sworn-in by Governor-General, Major General Michael Jeffrey, at a ceremony at Parliament House this morning.

Hundreds of people witnessed the historic occasion including Chief Minister, Clare Martin, who described the occasion as an exciting day for the Territory.

"Ted is a true Territorian and I am delighted to see him elevated to this position," she said.

"The Territory Government was extremely pleased that he agreed to take on the position and I am sure that all Territorians welcome his appointment.

"He will make a wonderful Administrator and continue to be a great ambassador for the Territory."

Ms Martin again thanked Administrator, Mr John Anictomatis AO, who completed his three-year term of office on 30 October 2003.

"The Territory greatly appreciates the work of Mr Anictomatis and his wife Jeanette during this period," she said.

"They continued the long line of people delivering distinguished service in the role and will take with them the very best wishes of Territorians."

Ms Martin said that Ted Egan has lived in the Territory for most of his life and had a long and varied career as a teacher, community activist, author, bush poet, balladeer, sportsman, public servant and a distinguished record of community service.

The Northern Territory University awarded him the Order of Australia in 1991 for his services to Aboriginal people and an Honorary Doctorate in 2002 for his ongoing contribution to Australia’s literary heritage. He is the 2003 Territorian of the Year.

"For many years Ted has contributed to Australia’s rich and diverse heritage through his song and verse and now, I believe, his role as Administrator will provide a new way for him to demonstrate his love of the Territory and his tremendous community spirit," Ms Martin said.

Deputy Administrator, Pat Miller, has been acting-Administrator since October 30, 2003.