President’s Report by Dr Brian Reid

The fiftieth year of operation of the Historical Society is now underway. Our bumper edition of the *Journal* is with the printer and our project to document the stories and pictures of fifty years of field trips has begun. We would be pleased to hear from anyone with comments on these projects and indeed for any ideas regarding our celebratory year.

Our field trip for this year is not quite fixed. We are considering a couple of possibilities. We have not been to the Fort Dundas site on Melville Island for many years and we understand the process for heritage listing is faltering. So a trip there could be useful in several ways. Unfortunately the island’s timber plantation and an export jetty preoccupy the Melville Islanders and these developments are very close to the fort site. We may have to wait a little while for that trip. The other possibility is the Limmen Bight NP at the mouth of the Roper. This area is topical because of the new iron ore mine opened up near there. We should be able to firm this up in the next few weeks.

Our Annual General meeting will be held at the end of March as usual. The new Council will be elected at that time. We are always interested in new faces on the Council so if you would like to become a little more involved in the working of the Society, we would be delighted to hear from you.

**Forthcoming Events**

**Friday 28 February – National Trust & Historical Society Talk at Burnett House – 5.30 for a 6pm start**

Our speaker will be Dr Steve Farram who will talk about his up and coming publication, a history written in metal: plaques at Charles Darwin University.

$2 finger food – $4 drinks
Nibbles after the lecture at 7pm. Bar will be open at 5.30pm.

Entry $2 for members and $5 for non members

Members and guests are reminded that food and drink cannot be taken inside Burnett House

March speaker will be Earl James
Saturday 29 March – AGM – at National Trust, Burnett House

Please come and join us for afternoon tea at Burnett House while we conduct our AGM. Our AGM will commence at 4pm. Cost is $5 per person which includes scones, jam & cream, tea, orange juice/champagne. RSVP by Wednesday 26 March

All positions are open and we welcome new Committee members

Wednesday May 14 - Queer Histories Symposium, Darwin

Registrations are now open to attend the Queer Histories Symposium which is taking place as part of the Asia Pacific Outgames in Darwin.

Queer diversity across race, culture and gender will be proudly debated by speakers from Fiji, Indigenous Australia, New Zealand and Samoa. Initiatives to queer the archives will be discussed (Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines), and history practitioners will share insights into various technologies used in projects documenting queer life in the Northern Territory. Finally, to wrap it all up, an esteemed Hong Kong artist, Hiram To will encourage us to consider notions of memory and desire in cinema.

The Symposium will take place on Wednesday 14 May, 2104, at the Double Tree by Hilton, Esplanade, Darwin. Registration for the event is now open via the website, at $20 waged and $10 unwaged.


Sunday 18 May - Tony Robinson's Tour of Duty

WTFN Australian History Productions is currently in production on a series commemorating a centenary of war service called Tony Robinson's Tour of Duty. The series will cover ten regions in Australia and New Zealand, focusing on the experience of war on the battlefield, behind the lines and on the home front.

Tony is well known from shows such as Time Team, Blackadder, Worst Jobs in History etc.

Tony Robinson’s Tour of Duty is a documentary for the History Channel commemorating a centenary of military service from 1914 to the present day. We're filming an episode in Darwin focussing on the impact of war, whether on the battlefield, behind the lines or on the home front on people in or from the Northern Territory. The first half of the programme will be Sir Tony touring sites of military significance in Darwin and Adelaide River, while the second comprises a Darwin community event along the lines of a military-themed antiques roadshow, where anyone with medals, diaries, memorabilia or family stories of war service is welcome to visit to enjoy a sausage sizzle and share their memories with Tony and our panel of military experts. We'll be holding the community day on 18th May. Location to be announced.

The series will be shown on Foxtel’s History Channel in 2015. Any interested people are most welcome to contact David Cunningham, Researcher/Producer, WTFN Productions on phone (02) 8514 9014 or email: dcunningham@wtfn.com.au
HSNT Christmas Brunch

Let it be said, never let a cyclone get in the way of our Christmas brunch. The turnout for the brunch was fantastic considering Cyclone Alessia was bearing down on Darwin at the time. The brunch was a welcome interlude before getting our homes cyclone prepared.

Ash Dally wearing his xmas bonbon toys

Jane Farr, Mike Nicholls, Francoise Foti, Barry Russell & Alan Mitchell

Terry & Diana Erickson with Earl James

Our wonderful hostess, Wendy James with Julie Mastin & Judy Boland
Tour Guide needed for Parliament House, Darwin

Expressions of interest are invited for a casual Public Tour Guide to conduct tours of Parliament House in Darwin.

Tours are conducted every Saturday at 9am and 11am from February to November, and on Wednesdays at 10.30am from May to September. Tours are about 90 minutes and a roster system means guides usually work one to three Saturdays (and/or Wednesdays) per month.

A typical tour involves description of the building, a brief history of governance in the Territory, our emblems and Coat of Arms, basic parliamentary procedures, and the WWII bombing of the Darwin Post Office (where Parliament House is sited).

Guides will also need to adhere to confidentiality, and be impartial and non-political but prepared to deal with questions that may be political or controversial.

For more information please contact Ben Harris, Director of Procedural Support and Education Services, on 8946 1424 or at ben.harris@nt.gov.au.

History Colloquium, Saturday 9 November at the MAGNT Theatrette

Historians from the Professional Historians Association, Charles Darwin University and the Australian National University covered a range of topics from aboriginal history to women in war. The colloquium was well attended with a constant stream of people throughout the day.
Remembering Kahlin Compound Photographic Exhibition launched on 16 December 2013

The Kahlin Compound operated from 1913-1938 and housed Aboriginal families and part Aboriginal children who had been taken from their families. At the launch, speakers such as Barbara Raymond and Kathy and Robbie Mills spoke about the influence the Compound had on them and their families, and how the memories are still fresh in their minds. The photographic exhibition was launched by Professor Steve Larkin, Charles Darwin University Pro-vice Chancellor. The exhibition holds some amazing stories and photographs from those days. This well presented exhibition was put together by the Friends of Kahlin and in particular, HSNT member, Dr Samantha Wells.
HSNT: Fifty Years of Field Trips

As previously mentioned in our newsletter, this is one of the projects we are mounting, as part of our fifty years celebration, is a retrospective of the Society field trips. These have been a major activity of the Society since its inception and we believe worthy of commemoration.

We have put together a field trip list as far as we are able. There are still some gaps and we continue to work on these but we would like to move on to the next phase; the gathering of stories and interesting illustrations. The final phase will be collating the information and deciding how best it should be processed.

So, we are now asking if you would ransack your memories, diaries and photo collections for any stories or illustrations you think may be suitable. We will of course, would appropriately acknowledge what we receive and use. Feel free to discuss with me or forward to bandlreid@bigpond.com - Brian Reid
HSNT FIELD TRIPS LIST

1966 Raffles Bay
1970 Point Stuart
1974 Fort Dundas
1982 December. Adelaide River
1984 Mallapunyah Springs and Borroloola
1986 Port Roper
1987 Daly River
   Wave Hill
1989 Point Stuart
1990 Escape Cliffs
1992 South Alligator Valley
1993 Maranboy

HSNT FIELD TRIPS cont…

1994 Roper River area
1995 Bathurst and Melville Is
1996 May. Oenpelli
   Adelaide River, Grove Hill, Southport
   Seven Spirit Bay Port Essington
1997 VRD country
1998 August. Gurig NP
1999 July-August. Newcastle Waters
2000 July. Gulf Country
2001 July. Keep River and Wattie Creek
   East Arm Leprosarium
2002 July. Newcastle Waters and Tennant Creek
   Daly River
2003 July. Humbert Track and Gregory NP
2004 July with Kununurra Historical Society (KHS) East Kimberley
   Raffles Bay
2006 July with KHS. Victoria and Keep Rivers
2007 July. Mary River NP
2008 July. Raffles Bay
2009 July. Raffles Bay
2009 August. Bradshaw Army Training Base (BFTA)
2010 June. Raffles Bay
2010 July. Powell Creek
2010 August. BFTA
2011 July with KHS. VRD
2012 Pt Stuart visit and re-enactment
2013 July with KHS. Duncan Rd and East Lake Argyle
Antecedents: the History of Ward Keller by Robyn Smith

In November last year, local historian and HSNT member, Robyn Smith published her latest book. In 1910, a quirky and slightly eccentric Londoner named Ross Mallam arrived in the Northern Territory of South Australia prior to the great northern land being transferred back to the Commonwealth. Mallam loved the lifestyle, the lack of formality and the lack of pressure for him to take a bride. He set up legal practice in Palmerston and remained for a number of years, eventually leaving because of ill health after he’d been appointed a judge. He was, it can be said, a founding father of Ward Keller.

This work takes the reader through the principals of Ward Keller from 1910 until 1998 when Hugh Bradley, the firm’s most enduring Managing Partner, left the firm to take up the position of Chief Magistrate in controversial circumstances. This work is not so much a legal history of the NT as a social one – all the players in the history of Ward Keller were leading or active citizens and they took on great battles – often with outstanding success. They were, without knowing it, agents for change. A small part of the history relates to legal aid: before the Northern Territory had any form of legal aid, it had Dick Ward and Jim Bowditch. They were a formidable team and took several battles – successfully – to the High Court of Australia, as did Ross Mallam when he was struck off the Roll of Practitioners for irritating an Acting Judge. This is a good, easy read with lots of fascinating history in it.

For a copy of the book, contact Ward Keller Solicitors Phone:08 89462999

The author, Robyn Smith

The book’s cover
Paul Foelsche Centenary – 29, 30 & 31 January 2014

Paul Heinrich Matthias Foelsche (1831-1914) was born near Hamburg, Germany. At age 18 he enlisted in a German Hussar Regiment and migrated to South Australia when he was 25. In November 1856 he was appointed trooper third class in the Mounted Police. He was transferred to Strathalbyn where on 5 January 1860 he married Charlotte Georgina Smith. While at Strathalbyn he was appointed sub-inspector in charge of the newly-formed NT Mounted Police. In January 1870 he arrived in the NT where he spent his remaining years apart from brief visits to Adelaide in 1884 and China in 1897.

After establishing a home in Palmerston (Darwin) Foelsche sent for his wife and two daughters. Foelsche not only became a respected policeman and citizen he became a renowned photographer. His photography became a primary pictorial record of Aborigines, scenery and in particular, John McDouall Stuart’s engraved tree at Pt Stuart. Foelsche also won repute as a dentist and he had a large collection of the best dental instruments. A man of many talents, he was also an amateur botanist, anthropologist and a Freemason. He was a founding member of the Port Darwin Lodge which was named after him. He retired from the police force in January 1904, and was awarded the Imperial Service Order.

Several events to mark the occasion were organised by the Foelsche Lodge Freemasons, Fannie Bay History and Heritage Society, NT Library and NT Archives.

NT Archives held a talk by local historian, Kathy De La Rue who spoke about Darwin town during Foelsche’s time. The NT Library launched an exhibition on Foelsche which highlighted his photographic legacy, contribution to natural science & ethnography and his life as an influential public figure. At the Pioneer Cemetery, It was the brave and dedicated who dodged the rain to attend the “graveside service”. Due to the appalling weather conditions, it was decided to hold the service in the Masonic Hall. Unfortunately it was just too wet to also include the mounted police officers. The Freemasons did an excellent job organising and leading the service. Addresses were made by Lodge Foelsche Brother Colin Hallenstein, John McRoberts, Commissioner of Police and our Darwin Lord Mayor, Katrina Fong Lim.

John McRoberts, Commissioner of Police and our Darwin Lord Mayor, Katrina Fong Lim.

Foelsche Lodge Freemasons
HSNT member, Ash Dally with one of the Darwin High School students

HSNT members, Judy Beard & Jane Farr

Mary & Brian Woodhouse

Darwin High School students with Darwin Mayor, Katrina Fong Lim

Judy Boland & our Patron, Austin Asche launching the exhibition at the NT Library

The NT Library exhibition