

# National Trust

## eNews

*The National Trust of Australia (NT) is a community based, not for profit heritage charity dedicated to promoting and conserving the heritage of the Northern Territory.*



### SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP OFFER UNTIL 30 JUNE 2015

National Trust is giving a special discount of 10% to NEW members who join for 3 years!

Joining the National Trust makes you a supporter of our efforts to conserve the unique heritage of the Northern Territory for future generations.

You will also enjoy the following benefits as a part of your 3-year membership:

- ✓ Welcome letter & Membership Card(s)
- ✓ Trust News magazine emailed to your specified email address four times a year
- ✓ Trust eNews emailed to your specified email address on a regular basis. eNews keeps you in touch with the business of the Trust
- ✓ A 10% discount on merchandise purchases at most National Trust shops and cafes throughout Australia
- ✓ Free entry to all National Trust properties in Australia that are open to the public
- ✓ IMMEDIATE reciprocal rights to National Trust properties in Britain, and other overseas countries, which is usually only available upon renewing an existing membership!

Example of Memberships available & your savings with our Special Offer:

Individual	\$195.00 before offer	\$177.27 with offer
Household	\$285.00 before offer	\$259.09 with offer

Also, by joining on a 3-year membership, the Trust waives the joining fee of \$35.00!



Please don't forget to check out our website & like us on Facebook!

Myilly Point Heritage Precinct  
 Audit House, 2 Burnett Place, Larrakeyah NT 0820  
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[www.nationaltrustnt.com.au](http://www.nationaltrustnt.com.au)

## \*\*\*ELECTION ALERT\*\*\*

Elections for Council will be called for

**30 June 2015**

**ONLY** Current financial members are eligible to nominate and vote.

Please check your membership status to ensure you don't miss out!  
If you are unsure of your membership expiry, or wish to join, renew or enquire, please  
contact the office by phone or email:

Phone: 8981 2848

Email: foh.ntnt@internode.on.net

### PATRON

His Honour the Honourable John Hardy OAM  
Administrator of the Northern Territory

### PRESIDENT

Mr Trevor Horman AM

### VICE PRESIDENT

Dr Bill Low

### TREASURER

Mr Colin Beard

### BRANCH COUICILLORS

Mrs Gillian Banks OAM

Ms Janet Webber

Mrs Judy Boland

Mr David Hewitt OAM

### GENERAL COUNCILLORS

Mr Roddy Calvert

Miss Margaret Clinch

Dr Jan Hills

### MEMBERSHIP 2015

	1 year	3 years
Individual	\$65.00	\$195.00
Household	\$95.00	\$285.00
Senior	\$58.50	\$175.50
Senior Household	\$85.50	\$256.50
Pensioner	\$52.00	\$156.00
Pensioner Hsehd	\$76.00	\$228.00
Joining fee	\$35.00	

*The National Trust of Australia (Northern Territory) is a community organisation which seeks to conserve the Territory's heritage.*

*Membership is open to everyone.*

## Showcasing our Volunteers: Edward Orchard Somerville-Collie



*The next story in our series of 'Showcasing our Volunteers' is Orchard Somerville-Collie. Orchard is one of our House Attendants. As well as opening Burnett House Orchard also assists at Government House and Burnett House Open Days and is always there when we need volunteers for some event.*

I studied Architecture at Canterbury School of Art, UK with a year-long break in Sydney after Third Year. Emigrated to Australia after finishing Fifth year back in England and flew past Cyclone Tracy on our way to Sydney. All the Captain said to us was "There's a bit of a thunderstorm off to our right and we're going to fly around it". So I will never forget my arrival in Australia.

Of course no one had told me there was a recession going on and over 55% of Architects in Sydney were drawing the Dole or driving taxis. After a year looking for a job and finding I was underqualified for any architecture jobs and overqualified for anything else a History teacher friend suggested I should try teaching Industrial Arts as there was a 250 teacher shortage in the State. After a year's Graduate Diploma in Education training at Sydney Teachers College I was posted to Canley Vale High School in Sydney's Western Suburbs – one station away from Cabramatta where we were living at the time.

Just starting to get bored teaching uninterested Year 8 students how to make a triangular teapot stand out of laminated chipboard for the third year running, one of my fellow teachers pointed out an ad in the Sydney Morning Herald. "Architectural Drafting Teachers wanted – Architectural Qualifications Essential - Teaching Experience Desirable". I was offered the job on the spot and started at Sydney Tech (as it was colloquially known then) the following year.

Because I had absolutely no knowledge of Australian building construction they put me on Presentation Graphics about which I knew very little. I was still there 30 years later having started with manual drafting and model making, moving to computers in the mid 80's. In 1986 we took a group of 22 students to Kathmandu for 6 weeks to measure up and document the fabulous 11<sup>th</sup> century Hindu temple complex at Changu Narayan. The first time TAFE students had ever left the country. We had so much fun that we thought we would do it again and applied to Head Office for funding again. The Director General who had approved our Nepal trip gave an unqualified "NO" to the request saying "You are not to take students out of the country again". So we went to Norfolk Island instead in 1988. Overseas YES – Out of the Country NO. Under the umbrella of a "Bicentennial Project of Architectural Significance" we took a 65 strong student workforce to measure and document around 17 of the key buildings of Quality Row. The remaining heritage structures on the Island were documented in 1990 by a second group of over 55 students.

In the following years, we took groups of Second Year students to document selected structures on Spectacle Island, Goat Island, Fort Denison, Cockatoo Island, Observatory Hill, Fort Street High, Cooma Cottage, Yass, Hill End, Little Hartley, Berimah Courthouse and HMAS Creswell.

Over the years I also taught Interior Design at Sydney College of the Arts, Randwick TAFE and Nepean Institute of TAFE, designed three board games for John Sands, and co-partnered a consultancy specialising in 3-D computer modelling for Architects and developed the concept of 3-D and Multi-media Virtual Archaeology for 3 major projects for a Sydney Archaeological practice.

By 1999 teaching had changed so much with the introduction of Competency Based Training, Workplace Assessment routines, bureaucratic interference, and budget cuts that I was glad to be able to "pull the plug" at 60 and move to Darwin.

TAFE had changed from "Technical And Further Education" to "Training A\*\*holes For Employment".

Since moving up here I have worked part-time with a local architect in Cullen Bay and recently started to teach 3-D computer modelling and Observed Drawing courses at Casuarina Senior College. Fridays are spent in the tranquillity of Burnett House – always a wonderful end to another fantastic week in Darwin.

## Branch News from the Gulf branch



The Gulf Branch of the National Trust has been functioning in Borrooloola since 1985, and has relied on Local volunteers & interested persons to work on local historical/ social projects, record history and to maintain the Old Borrooloola Police Station Museum.

This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the opening of the Old Borrooloola Police Station Museum., members are busy negotiating with the Art Centre Staff to hold a joint community event , of stalls, film night and the Launch of various publications in the near future.

A new Display was launched in April for the Heritage Week Conflict and Compassion the Gulf Region had a number of Mounted Constables and Welfare Officers who served in WW1, Mounted Constable J H Kelly, Tas Festing, Bridgeland, and Will Harney to name a few.

Currently the Branch is developing a number of new exhibits to be launched in mid 2015, updating the Police display, and installing a new interpretation panel.

Soon to be released a new publication of stories for sale; these are collections of stories, yarns and articles of people and events on how Borrooloola or the Gulf region affected them.



These publications came about after listening to many of the tales over the years and realising how important it is that we do get them down on paper before they are lost, as History is not just the past but current events the history of tomorrow. Currently members are busy gathering stories for the next volume 3.

A second publication that members are looking forward to the release of is a joint project with NT Genealogical society of Gulf and Borrooloola Graves of Version 2 of Gulf Graves!

There are a number of projects that Branch members are working on, hopefully these will be completed in 2015, recording of Graves in the Borrooloola Gulf and Barkly region and marking all isolated graves, & making sure all the Graves at the Borrooloola Cemetery are marked. This work is under taken jointly with NT Genealogical Society, with the support and assistance of the local community and the Roper Gulf Shire new Borrooloola CO Nathan Mc Ivor.

April the 19<sup>th</sup> saw a New Gulf Branch Committee hard at work and getting ready to tackle a number of Projects especially hoping to see the Borrooloola Heritage Trail relaunched and ready for use in 2015!

Also we are updating the Indigenous display at the Old Police station, though assistance with local peoples and co-ordinated through Waralungku Art Centre Director Chloe Gibson.

The Old Borrooloola Police Station is open from 8-5pm, 7 days a week, at all other times Keys are available from local business around the town. Entry fee is \$5 per adult and no cost for children under 12 or Trust members.

Speak to our very Helpful Caretaker Glen to find out the local History of the region.

*Note: Please ring the Secretary on 0429625832 to find the date of the next gulf Branch meeting.*



## Branch News from McDouall Stuart Branch

### Whistle Stop Tour of WWII Military Sites:

The first event of the Heritage Festival was the Whistle Stop Tour of the WWII Military Sites in Alice Springs. Steve Sawyer, the Vice President of the McDouall Stuart Branch of National Trust researched this topic, produced a booklet with a map of the 34 identified sites, and led the tour, which he supported with pictures of the sites where there is now nothing to be seen. There was a lot of interest in the tour with all 46 tickets sold beforehand at Hartley Street School, thanks to HSS volunteers.



ANZAC Hill



Powerhouse

### Alice Springs Heritage Station Historic Precinct Open Day & Markets:

Although different from previous nighttime events, this was a lovely afternoon, at the Telegraph Station Precinct with the historic buildings open to the public, market stalls, historical groups, a blacksmith and some old working engines and games for the children, which was well attended.



National Trust had a stall with balloons for children for a donation

## Doreen Braitling Memorial Lecture:

Stuart Traynor was the speaker for the 2015 Doreen Braitling Memorial Lecture and his topic, "The town in 1914 and the men who went to war" was well received by the audience of 78 people. Stuart's research combined with that of Anne Scherer, Steve Sawyer and Alex Nelson, included a previously unknown Aboriginal man whose story has only recently been put together.

Stuart's talk included a description of the town in 1914: Sleepy little Stuart was the only town between the SA border and Newcastle Waters. It was just a handful of buildings, nestled amongst a shady, expanse of river red gums, and the people who were living in Alice Springs. He mentioned that the white population of the Northern Territory was 1729, according to the 1911 census, of whom only a quarter were women, 456.

The Aboriginal population was anyone's guess because they weren't included in the census in those days. I've seen references to there being possibly 50 000 Aboriginal people.

The men who went to war: the first is Mort Bradshaw, the son of Tom and Attie Bradshaw who were at the Alice Springs telegraph station from 1899 until 1908. The second; Harry Havelett an Aboriginal man, gave his occupation as stockman when he enlisted and Stuart assumes he was working at a station in the Marree area Stuart gave us a copy of his talk. The third man was Jack Meyers, an Alice Springs contemporary of Mort Bradshaw and Harry Havelett. He also enlisted but managed to survive the war.

During the Heritage Festival there were two talks organised by Kathryn Bailey the Special Collections Librarian at the Alice Springs Public Library.

They were:

- Family Historian Alison Donaldson talked inspiringly about getting started in family history and finding Anzac records which was most helpful to the people who attended.
- Stuart Traynor and Alex Nelson's excellent talk on Noel Loutit: Gallipoli veteran, convoy commander and Alice Springs storekeeper, filled the room to overflowing.

It was a very interesting talk enjoyed by the 50 plus people who attended the lunchtime talk.

Copies of all speakers talks will soon be available to download or print from National Trust NT's website via the McDouall Stuart Branches 'Publications' page.



*Audience at the Doreen Braitling Memorial Lecture*



*Kathryn Bailey with Stuart Traynor & Alex Nelson*

## The Long Timers morning Tea:

This year there was a change of venue for The Long Timers Morning Tea. Usually held at the Telegraph Station Historical Precinct, this event is looked forward to each year by many Alice Springs Long Timers so the McDouall Stuart Branch organised the morning tea at the Old Timers Museum. The Sing Australia choir opened the event with some rousing WW2 songs and then Margo Trigg spoke about her father, John Blakeman, a long term Manager of the Old Timers Home and creator of the Old Timers Museum. Margot also talked of her mother and life at Old Timers. Having the event at this venue enabled people to visit the museum, which had been beautifully prepared by the Old Timers Museum Committee. The Community Working Party of the NT Correctional Services provided the shade structure free of charge and assisted with chairs and cleaning of the area. The Uniting Church, through David and Margaret Hewitt supplied the cups and sauces and water jugs. Morning tea was Anzac biscuits and fruitcake; the food that was often sent to soldiers in food parcels.



## Bush Nursing Talk:

Seventy people attended this wonderful Friday morning talk at Hartley Street School given by Margaret Hewitt about bush nursing from 1964 - 1974.

Margaret described what conditions were like for nurses and the work that they did; from babies being born, which in one situation turned out to be a surprise of 2 babies, caring for the people, feeding the children and old people during these years when the doctor was only contactable by radio or who flew in occasionally and where the country was in drought when she arrived at Amata 1964. She then moved to Docker River from 1967 to 1974 and experienced floods and being so isolated by the floodwaters that food drops from aircraft were needed. Margaret then showed some wonderful photos of the country, the people and the activities from this time.



## Tour of Soldiers Graves in Memorial Cemetery:

This Saturday morning tour helped us gain an insight into how conflicts have affected Alice Springs and Steve Sawyer who conducted the tour, shared interesting information of the 30 military casualties and 48 returned soldiers buried in the cemetery from 3 conflicts. There was a great deal of combined research by Steve Sawyer, Anne Scherer, Alex Nelson and Stuart Traynor for this tour and the information has been added to the knowledge of the local RSL and of Alice Springs. A poppy, handmade by people in Alice Springs, was placed on each soldier's grave.



David Hewitt placing a poppy on the grave of Rex Battarbee a WW1 and WW2 veteran who taught Albert Namatjira to paint.



## Songs of Wartime Sing-along:

The Old Stuart Town Gaol was a great venue for this old fashion sing-along with a songbook for the words and was enjoyed by those who came, Sing Australia who helped us keep tune and the musicians who played so well. Steve Sawyer took the tickets at the door dressed as a soldier from the past.

## Stuart Town Cemetery Tour:

After the Telegraph Station, the original Alice Springs cemetery is the most historic site in Alice Springs and contains the remains of some of the earliest pioneers in the area. Proclaimed in 1890 it is a small tucked away cemetery opposite the current railway line. This tour of the Old Stuart Town Cemetery conducted by Margaret Lawrence attracted 36 people on a cool Sunday morning. Information of those buried in the cemetery is hard to find and many of the graves are unmarked. Marg told the stories of 12 graves and people lingered to chat and share stories. A booklet has been produced.



## Old Lutheran Church Block:

An afternoon at the Old Lutheran Church was another well-attended event. It began with a lunch of tasty traditional German food, a chance to hear the Mission Block Ladies Choir and view the extensive display of photos, books and memorabilia relating to Hermannsburg and the Mission Block during WW1 and WW2. An illustrated talk by David Moore about Lutheran Missions and World War was interesting and thought provoking.



## Bond Springs Station Heritage day:

Bond Springs Station was first settled in 1870s and there are many old buildings to be seen and the display in the history room is full of photos of the people and times of Bond Springs Station. This final day of the Heritage Festival was a wonderful day. The Chief Minister of the NT, Adam Giles, opened it and there were over 160 people plus the station family and friends who attended this beautiful day. Anne Scherer had developed a new display which related to the people from the Pastoral Industry who served in WW1 and that was set up for easy viewing on the outside wall of the history room. Like last year, there was a wonderfully set out morning tea with lots to eat. Thanks to the Heaslip family, the McDouall Stuart Branch will benefit from the donations received on the day.



## Branch News from Katherine Branch

Here are a couple of photos taken during Heritage Week on 18th April.

The first is of the pavilion and part of the garden at O'Keeffe House in readiness for visitors to look over the property and to enjoy a Devonshire Tea in the shade.

The second photo shows some of the passengers who took part in the bus tour of the World War II sites around Katherine. It was great to see that parents and grandparents brought along children to discover the World War II history of the O'Keeffe property and other places in the immediate township area of Katherine. The bus was full to capacity and everyone commented how much they enjoyed the experience.

The 1926 railway station was also open for the day and the branch is most grateful to all who contributed towards making the event a memorable experience for all concerned.



## Branch News from Larrakeyah Branch



### National Trust 2015 Heritage Festival "Conflict & Compassion" Recap of Events:

#### Ghost Walk:

Our first event for this year's Top End Heritage Festival was the popular Ghost Walk.

When darkness fell over the Goyder Road Cemetery the Ghosts (Judy Boland and Colin & Judy Beard) dressed in period costumes took us on a tour of the residents of the Goyder Road cemetery. They told tales and gave us little snippets of gossips about their fellow residents in the cemetery. Our guests carried lanterns and followed our ghosts around the cemetery. A few resident ghosts in white sheets also slipped thru the crowds making the appropriate ghost like sounds.

Due to the large crowds a second cemetery tour comprising of about 20 souls was hastily organised, Trevor Horman and Allan Mitchell led this. We told people that there was no charge for the second walk but they all enjoyed themselves so much that they insisted on donating generously to the National Trust.



Judy Boland & Judy Beard



The Ghost Walk always attracts a large audience at the Goyder Road Cemetery



Trevor Horman & Allan Mitchell



## Barbara James Memorial Lecture:

Honorable Fred Chaney AO delivered the third annual Barbara James Memorial Lecture. Mr. Chaney has extensive experience in aboriginal and community service. He spoke about the aboriginal people and their struggles for recognition.

## Myilly Point Heritage Precinct Open Day:

All four houses on Myilly Point, Audit, Burnett, Mines and Magistrates were open for public viewing. Burnett House was the central meeting point and guests set off from there to tour all houses and gardens. A large crowd wandered through all the houses chatting to the volunteers in each house.



Audit House



Burnett House



Mines House



Magistrates House

## Burnett House Afternoon Tea:

Sunday afternoon saw a very large crowd relaxing in the beautiful grounds of Burnett House partaking of delicious scones and the specialty cakes of the day.

## CBD Heritage Walk: "A walk through early Darwin"

A large crowd followed Pearl Ogden as she told amazing stories of the buildings in the CBD, explaining what once stood there and the stories of people who once owned and worked in the buildings.



Pearl Ogden & the participants of CBD Walk

## Heritage Symposium:

Themed "Conflict & Compassion", the three local speakers took up the challenge for this Symposium. Austin Chin for the Chinese community, Wendy James for the Australian point of view and Sachi Hirayama told her story from the Japanese point of view.

The speakers all told very different stories from their point of view of the war years. All speakers were excellent and we thought Sachi was particularly brave in telling her story from the Japanese point of view.

Austin Chin



Wendy James



Sachi Hirayama



## WWII 16-Mile Camp Heritage Walk:

This was a military base during WWII. It was to be a strategic fortress in case the Japanese reached Darwin in a land assault. Director of Heritage, Michael Wells, led the group around the site at a casual pace and explained about the different installations along the route.



## Mystery Heritage Bus Tour & Barbecue:

This tour commenced at the Old Qantas Hanger at Parap. Everyone hopped onto the bus and Peter Poole took us on a journey around the Liberty Square area and into the Cenotaph on the Esplanade. After the tour, everyone enjoyed a sausage sizzle at the Qantas Hanger, courtesy of the Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club members.