

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.



New Council for the National Trust

The results of the recent election for councilors of the National Trust are as follows:

Branch Councillors:

Gillian Banks OAM	– Katherine
Edward Sommerville-Collie	– Larrakeyah
Janet Leather	– Gulf
Prue Crouch	– McDouall Stuart

General Councillors:

Dr. Jan Hills
Laurelle Halford
Trevor Horman AM
David Hewitt OAM
Dr. Bill Low
Petrena Ariston

The first meeting of the new council will be held on Saturday 29th August. The office bearers will be elected at that meeting.

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Showcasing our Volunteers: Christine Bell



Our next volunteer in our "showcasing our volunteers series" is Christine Bell.

Christine called into Burnett House not long after arriving in Darwin and innocently enquired if we needed any help.

Not one to lose any time or a valuable volunteer, Anna Harris immediately had Christine signed up for Burnett House.

Christine is indeed a valuable volunteer and besides working at "Afternoon Tea at Burnett House" also helps to keep our house in order plus volunteering at all our over events.

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 Hsehld	\$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.



I am a Sunday afternoon-tea volunteer at Burnett House in Darwin. Prior to moving to Darwin and immersing herself in community activities, I worked in government and private sector jobs mainly in Australia and the UK.

“How would you feel about moving to Darwin” my husband said out-of-the-blue one Sunday afternoon in February 2013. Within a few weeks I had my first visit to Darwin and the Northern Territory and a few weeks after that we found ourselves happily settled in this great city we now call home.

Darwin is a long way from Canberra where I was born, and from Cooma where I grew up, Sydney where I went to university to study biochemistry and pharmacology, and even further from the UK, Europe and the US where I applied my university training to work in the development and approval of new medicines.

Along the way, a library and information science qualification came in handy when I spent time at the National Library of Australia, and working in a number of government jobs (mainly with medicines regulation) helped me see the merits of good public administration.

I've always been fascinated by history, the wisdom of civilisations and the preservation of cultures. When living in the UK I was privileged to be able to travel and experience the historical sites across Europe, and it was in the UK where I first really appreciated the work of the National Trust. Other lasting experiences include safaris in Zimbabwe and Zambia, multiple trips to southwest France (where we own a tiny house in a medieval village) and recent visits to the Torres Strait and national parks in the Northern Territory.

The opportunity to retain links with the past means a lot to me. Whilst languages and landscapes and structures may change, the reflection on the lives, work and places of previous generations is a vital component in building a better future.

Working with a group of dedicated volunteers at Burnett House has not only given me a great introduction to Darwin's diverse history, but offered an immediate, most welcoming community for this newcomer. I remember clearly my first visit to Burnett House one Monday morning in 2013 – just to have a look around, you understand. I met both Anna Harris and Cathy Flint that day and, after innocently enquiring about whether they needed any help in the house, found myself signed up to help with Sunday afternoon teas and cleaning on Monday mornings! The rest, as they say, is history.

When I am not helping out at Burnett House, I am a community visitor with Anglicare, play an active role in the Christ Church Cathedral community, am a member of an internet-based Rotary Club (the Rotary E-Club of Brindabella), am one of the wonderful group of volunteers with Council on the Ageing (NT) and find time to go to my Pilates class twice a week. In between times I love spending time with my husband Jonathan, our dog Sally (who keeps us fit with twice daily walks) and our numerous visitors who also appreciate the joys of what Darwin has to offer.

Branch News from Katherine Branch

It is hard to believe that yet another month has slipped by and it is now the second half of the year.

Firstly, I would like apologise for the error in our last eNews where I thanked Mr. Bill King instead of Mr. Jim King for the great work done in the restoration of the track laying tractor at the 1926 Katherine Railway Station.

After hosting a successful conference in the O'Keeffe Pavilion we are hopeful of being able to attract more such bookings in the future as that function proved to be our best income earner this year.

Whenever possible we are endeavoring to keep the properties open but the roster has been reduced as people take leave and other major functions, such as the fiftieth Katherine Show, occupy the time of our valued volunteers.

The next monthly meeting will take place on Saturday 1st August at 11am and our AGM will take place on Saturday 29th August along with the annual pot plant sale. Work is continuing on neatening the garden and pot plants to ensure they are looking their best for the pot plant sale day.

Gillian is working with Francesco on completing our WWII DVD, which was filmed around Heritage Day and is now being edited with additional credits, titles and cover design. The intention is to have it completed by the end of the month, as some copies have already been pre-sold.

The caretaker is busy restoring display boxes in the pavilion and plans to do some restoration work on the back wall of O'Keeffe House at the end of tourist season.

Three nominations were attracted to contest the Trust Council election. Branch membership is steadily building, as is interest in what the Trust does and a willingness to take part, giving some confidence in the future for the Branch and the Trust generally.

Stella Maris is now in National Trust stewardship.

After the Commissioner investigating the matter of Stella Maris handed down his recommendations, a call was made for Expressions of Interest in managing and developing the site.

The Council of the National Trust agreed to submit an EOI and this was subsequently prepared and sent to the Government.

It transpired that the National Trust was the preferred candidate and it then entered into discussions with the Department of Land Administration to determine the best lease for the site.

The Council of the National Trust has now been granted a Crown Lease Term over the 1 McMinn Street site. Initially this Lease is for 6 months while the Trust explores the viability of its plans for the site. Once the way forward is satisfactorily determined, the initial lease can be converted into a ten-year lease.

There is much to be done on the site and the Trust will need the support of its members and the community in general if this unique and fascinating site is to be attractive and accessible to the general public. Your involvement with the Trust on this journey is very welcome. Let us know how you can help or any suggestions you may have that could help with the use and management of the site.



Connect with us on Facebook or simply write to Stella Maris, GPO Box 3520 , Darwin, NT, 0801, or email the Office at foh.ntnt@internode.on.net