

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.



Merry
Christmas
&
Happy
New Year!

Inside Christmas Edition

- Page 2 Gift NTNT Membership for Christmas this year
- Page 3 Final Speaker's for 2015 at Burnett House
- Page 7 AWE Concert
- Page 8 Stella Maris

BRANCH NEWS

- Page 10 Katherine Branch
- Page 11 McDouall Stuart Branch
- Page 12 Gulf Branch
- Page 14 Larrakeyah Branch



Myilly Point Heritage Precinct
Audit House, 2 Burnett Place, Larrakeyah NT 0820
GPO Box 3520, Darwin NT 0801
Ph: 08 8981 2848
Email: foh.ntnt@internode.on.net

www.nationaltrustnt.com.au



Stuck on Christmas gift ideas?

Why not buy a National Trust NT membership for friends and family this year?

National Trust NT members are ongoing supporters of our efforts to conserve the unique heritage of the Northern Territory for future generations. Members also enjoy the following benefits as a part of their subscription:

- ✓ Welcome letter & membership card(s)
- ✓ Trust News magazine emailed to your specified email address four times a year
- ✓ Trust eNews newsletter 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
- ✓ Future reciprocal rights to National Trust properties in Britain and other overseas countries (conditions apply)

As an added incentive, National Trust NT is offering a saving of \$35.00 to all NEW MEMBERS who join before 31 December 2015!

Membership forms are readily available and easily obtainable from the Trust office in Audit House, can be forwarded by email & post upon request or simply print yours out now directly from our website!

National Trust NT would like to wish all its members, volunteers and on-going supporters a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



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

PRESIDENT
Mr Trevor Horman AM
VICE PRESIDENT
Ms. Laurelle Halford
TREASURER
Ms. Petrena Ariston

BRANCH COUILLORS
Ms. Janet Webber
Mr. Edward Orchard Somerville-Collie
Ms. Prue Crouch

GENERAL COUNCILLORS
Dr. Jan Hills
Mr. David Hewitt OAM
Dr. Bill Low

MEMBERSHIP 2016

| | 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 Household | \$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.

Historical Society NT and National Trust NT's Larrakeyah Branch presented their final Speaker's Nights at Burnett House

Burnett House has seen its final speakers for 2015. September saw Marilynne Kirshbaum with her talk:

"In Pursuit of Improving Well-Being: Focus on Attention Restoration"

On Friday evening, the 25th of September 2015, Marilynne N Kirshbaum, Professor of Nursing at the School of Health, Charles Darwin University gave a talk on her ongoing interest and research on helping people deal with excessive tiredness and fatigue.

As an oncology nurse that started out in New York, New York, she has focused her work within the context of people who have cancer. Her PhD back in 2004 at the University of Manchester, UK looked at the benefit of exercise during and after treatment for breast cancer. In recent years she has considered what could help people who are not able or inclined to take up moderate physical exercise to improve their fatigue. She believes her current approach based on Attention Restoration Theory (ART) has applications for us all as it emphasizes the value of spending one's time and energy on fascinating pursuits rather than boring, tedious or generally 'non-nourishing' ones.



Marilynne explained that cancer related fatigue can be characterised as:

- mental, physical and emotional
- tiredness to exhaustion / total lack of energy
- unrelenting
- interferes with mood, concentration, perception, work, caring for family, social relationships, sex, continuing cancer treatment, enjoying life ...

A nursing and health promotion approach would suggest the The 6 E's approach:

- education (about why the person experiences fatigue, e.g. medication, worry, radiotherapy)
- exercise (moderate, aerobic exercise is the best)
- easing stress (always a good idea)
- eating well (plenty of vitamins, minerals found in fresh, colourful food)
- energy conservation (make life easy, delegate when you can, do things the easy way)
- energy /attention restoration (original research)

Marilynne explored Attention Restorative Theory, developed by an American Psychologist Stephen Kaplan, in her research with people who had advanced cancer or palliative care conditions that was causing them to experience fatigue. They were asked what they enjoyed doing and were given the time to explain why. The findings revealed that enjoyable activities that had the potential to restore people's energy mapped to five categories, that she calls 'attributes'. Activities were enjoyed because they gave people a sense of:

Belonging (social, friendship, sharing, contributing to community), or they were **Expansive** (opportunities for creativity and learning), **Nurturing** (relaxation, safe, familiar), **Purposeful** (advisory, challenging, sense of achievement) or best explained as **Fascinating** (beautiful, 'eye catching', entertaining) and FUN!!!!

Marilynne's latest study is based in Darwin with social work lecturer, Dr Gretchen Ennis, is called: Artful Wellbeing: Exploring the role of experiential arts programs in the Top End. Here, two groups were set up and an 8-week program of art workshops took place.

1) Tuesday group (Artists: Ali de Groot, Linda Joy): Fibrous sculpture, silk scarves, painting, papier mâché, basket weaving, button jewellery

2) Wednesday group (Artist: Merilee Mills): Writing, drama, singing, 'group fun!'

The analysis of this work is taking place now, and is looking at the benefits of art workshops on wellbeing in terms the five 'attributes' again of: Belonging, Nurturing, Purposeful and Fascinating. Marilynne ended with presenting a very practical approach for everyone to consider (if they want to):

- ✓ Take a good look at all that you do (or think that you should be doing)
- ✓ Identify 3 changes that could make a difference to you in terms of your wellbeing/tiredness/boredom/loneliness - could be a change of perspective, adding more fun (less drudgery)
- ✓ Focus on putting your plan into action



Audience at Burnett House



Guests after the talk enjoying refreshments at Burnett House

The October speaker was Janie Mason who spoke about the many hardships endured by the Anzac Nurses and the loss of many nurses when shipping was sunk. Janie had just returned from completing a personal journey "in the footsteps of the original Anzac Nurses"



Earl James presented Janie Mason with her present.

The final talk was delivered in November by Allan Mitchell and was titled:



"Gull Force: Then and Now"

It was a privilege to be able to speak about Gull Force at the monthly talk to the National Trust and Historical Society in November. It was good timing as 2015 marked the 70th Anniversary of their liberation in 1945 after three and a half years as prisoners of the Japanese

Whilst I had some knowledge of Gull Force, it was my on first visit to Ambon in 2012 that spurred my interest and caused me to get a better understanding.

Gull Force was the name applied to an army group that was created in early 1941, with the plan to send them to Ambon to support the Dutch, in the case of Japan entering the war. Sparrow Force and Lark Force destined for Kupang and New Britain respectively were formed at the same time.

Gull Force was principally formed of members of 2/21 Battalion, AIF who had commenced training in Victoria in July 1940 and arrived in Darwin in April 1941. After spending almost 9 months camping in the vicinity of what is now the Winnellie Showgrounds, around 1130 soldiers sailed to Ambon in mid-December, 1941.

In late January 1942, the Japanese mounted a massive invasion of the island and after three days of sporadic fighting, the Dutch and the Australians surrendered to become POWs of the Japanese. The story of their life as prisoners of war, both on Ambon and Hainan Island in China is well documented in books, reports, novels and a movie (Blood Oath). It was one of the highest rates of death in any Japanese POW camp during the war, with just 300 alive after the war.

There is a plaque in Bicentennial Park behind the cenotaph, which many of us have probably walked past and maybe never stopped to look. And if we did stop, we may have noticed it was written in English and Chinese and never bothered to ask why.

The history of the memorial goes back to 1997, when the City of Darwin's Haikou Sister City Committee proposed the idea to honour the men of Gull Force. The sister city's interest resulted from the fact that in October 1942, about 267 members of Gull Force were shipped from the POW camp on Ambon to a camp on Hainan Island (Haikou is the capital), where they were to be used as slave labour. They spent the remainder of the war there.

The Council decided on two plaques, one to be erected in Darwin and the other near the site of the POW camp on Hainan - hence the reason for having it inscribed in Chinese. After many years of negotiating on the wording, liaising with the Chinese government, Foreign Affairs, Veterans Affairs and securing the site, the efforts of the Sister City committee was finally rewarded in 2002. The first of the memorials was dedicated and unveiled in Darwin by Lord Mayor George Brown.

Unfortunately, George Brown passed away before the memorial on Hainan Island was completed and that task was performed by his successor, Peter Adamson in 2003.

There are other recognitions to Gull Force in Darwin with the gymnasium at Larrakeyah Barracks named Gull Force Hall. The 2/21 Battalion also have their own plaque amongst the many lined along the walkway behind the Cenotaph.

Rosebery, one of the newer schools at Palmerston have named their school house after units that served in Darwin during the war, with one of them named for Gull Force.

In August 2015, the City of Darwin held a remembrance service at the Gull Force memorial to recognise the 70th Anniversary of their Liberation from Hainan Island on 30 August 1945. The City brought Max 'Eddie' Gilbert to Darwin from Melbourne for the event. Max is just one of five remaining survivors of Gull Force.

Two weeks later, the Lord Mayor, Katrina Fong Lim led a delegation to Ambon, where we joined with the Gull Force Association in remembering the 70th Anniversary of Liberation at the Tan Tui Commonwealth War Cemetery.



Arafura Wind Ensemble Concert

Just a short note to report on the very pleasant event held on Sunday afternoon of October 11 at the Stahl Block, Myilly Point Heritage Precinct.

This was a concert performance by the ARAFURA WIND ENSEMBLE (25 members) playing a varied repertoire ranging from ABBA to movie themes to big band tunes to light classics. Commencing at 5.30pm the shade of the established trees and the light sea breeze made the site very comfortable.

The band elected to perform on the hardstand area marking the outline of the former Stahl residence. This meant that patrons were able to spread blankets or chairs on the grassed areas.

The genesis of the event was the serendipitous coincidence of the AWE band wanting to perform and the Trust's desire to get things happening on the Stahl block.

The applause during the concert and at the conclusion indicated the appreciation that the audience felt. Many positive comments were made as the patrons departed.

The Trust deeply appreciates the generous performance by the ARAFURA WIND ENSEMBLE on this occasion and hopes that a longer-term relationship may develop.

And thanks are also conveyed to the volunteers who prepared the site, welcomed patrons, collected donations, sold refreshments, provided afternoon teas for the band, packed up afterwards etc. These people included: -

Judy Richardson, Jan Hills, Anna Harris, Debra Wightman, Jane Munday, Janelle and John Marrington, Helen Bate and Kathryn Chandler

Thanks also to Larrakeyah Branch for the loan of chairs, tables and the PA system.

This event gave us another small insight in to the potential that exists for events at the heritage precinct generally and at the Stahl block in particular.



National Trust gets to Grips with 1 McMinn Street

Over the last two months some dedicated members of the National Trust Council together with energetic supporters have put a great deal of time and energy into tidying up the grounds of the old Stella Maris hostel. Work began on the 20th October and it was a big day. Then followed two more days of hard work. National Trust people sure know how to get stuck in.

Surveying the Site

Former Surveyor-General Trevor Menzies arrived on site to confirm the boundary location, so that we know where it is and in particular to guide us with a couple pieces of missing fence that need to be reinstated.

The job had its up and downs. Trevor surveyed the location of the corner nearest the Esplanade and dropped right on top of the existing survey peg. Always a good sign. But to his delight he found that right next to the steel peg was a very old wooden peg. Until someone proves otherwise let's assume that it's a Goyder peg!!

The north-east corner near the water meter was a bit more problematic. Trevor spent some time checking and resurveying and at the end of the day was still hoping to find a reference peg or other to confirm the location that he had surveyed.

Working with the Prison Crews

We have been extremely lucky to have the services of the Prison Work Crews. They come in Coaster buses and haul large trailers with high sides for exactly our type of work. They also come equipped with chainsaws, steel rakes, plastic rakes, gloves and rubbish bags.

One crew immediately set to work clearing the hundreds of palm fronds from the site and loading their trailer while the second crew parked below in McMinn Street and skillfully chain-sawed the stand of coffee bush and loaded it.

The prison crews returned to the job twice, each time working hard at raking and removing lots of garden rubbish. Senior Prison Officer Maree Lloyd called in to see how the project was progressing and again was supportive and mindful of the win-win benefits from these programs.

These three weeks of assistance have been invaluable for the National Trust and we would like to thank Corrections Commissioner Ken Middlebrook for keeping the program running. Special thanks also to the Prison Officers Maree Lloyd, Kieran and Craig for their efforts.

Trust Members put in the hard yards.

Janet and Eddie Webber have been amazingly good supporters on the site, working hard over each of the three days. Eddie labored in the garden and advised the Prison Crews. Janet slaved over cleaning the Road Masters House and giving both the Social Club and Accommodation Block an initial clean. Trevor Horman has been tireless in his efforts to get everything working. This is seriously hard work for folk in the temperatures that Darwin has been experiencing. The National Trust is most appreciative of the efforts.



View of McMinn St from the Roadmaster's House

Making it all Work.

Getting the power on has been harder than you would expect. It worked until the lights in the rear of the Road Master's House were switched on. The result was a large "bang" and all lights out.

We then found that the switchboard at the house was locked and no one had a key. So the lights stayed off.

The use of some big levers meant the metal door was pried open. A new lock was now required. UES in Winnellie were most helpful. They found two keys for the old lock and sought no charge. Big thanks to UES.



Power was fixed and the switchboard now lockable again. This meant that fans and lights were on whilst Janet was working. It also meant that we had power for a blower, a vacuum cleaner and other electrical appliances.

Over at the Accommodation Block we tidied the place up a little and tried to get the water supply working. It seems that the supply line is charged but the stop valve is not opening.

There are still so many things that require attention!

Artefacts in the Gardens.

Whilst working on site with a trained eye, Eddie Webber found an opium bottle that he has donated to the Museum. After more 130 years of European occupation of this site (the railway activity started in 1886) one wonders what else has happened on this site. And the opium bottle is a reminder that Travellers Walk was at one time known as Chinaman's Walk. Thanks Eddie.

The observant Eddie also found pieces of glass bottles from around 1900 and vintage fishing gear. We also found a short piece of 1886 KRUPP railway line in the garden. Huge quantities of this quality German rail were imported via Wishart's jetty near here in 1886 and 1887 to build the 145 mile railway to Pine Creek.

In Summary

The grounds of 1 McMinn Street now look considerably better than they did before the National Trust got involved.

We have established a good relationship with the prison officers managing the work program, which will hopefully become an on-going arrangement.

We have electricity and water services at the Road Master's house and so it is able to be operational. We are not sure about the operation of the sewerage pumping station that is fed from this switchboard as it's been off for months.

Now that the garden is at least observable we will be able to plan future work such as removing a large fig that is threatening the underground power supply and the café building.

A very big thank you goes to Trevor Horman, Eddie and Janet and Trevor Menzies for their sterling efforts. And thanks also to our Prison Crews. We certainly appreciate the assistance and will need to call on every little bit of help we can if we continue to manage this site.



BRANCH NEWS from Katherine Branch

The departure of our long time member and Chairperson, Gillian and her husband Ian, who are leaving for the cooler climate of Victoria, during the second week of November, will leave a huge gap in our branch. They will both be missed not only by our branch but by all members, and councillors, past and present, of the National Trust of the Northern Territory. The many projects and events instigated and organised by Gillian, and frequently assisted in so many ways by Ian, will long be remembered in the Katherine community and the National Trust.

We wish them every happiness in their new home in Victoria.

All Katherine Branch members are invited to enjoy lunch with Gill and Ian following our monthly branch meeting, which will take place on Saturday 7th November at 11am.

Katherine Branch is extremely grateful to the Katherine Town Council for the Community Grant which will enable the branch to install DVD players at the O'Keeffe Pavilion and The 1926 Railway Station so that the DVDS produced for the branch can be shown to visitors to both of the properties. The DVDS are a tremendous asset to the Trust and are also available for sale at O'Keeffe House.



Gillian Banks' last Branch meeting for National Trust Katherine Branch



Gillian Banks with Willem Westra Van Holthe



Gillian Banks with Neila Boyle

BRANCH NEWS from McDouall Stuart Branch

The 2015/2016 McDouall Stuart committee members are settling into their roles and their enthusiasm is adding greatly to the work and role of the committee and to Hartley Street School and the Stuart Town Gaol. A meeting of the National Trust volunteers was held recently with some good suggestions made to changes that will make it easier for the volunteers and will help National Trust in Alice Springs

The new display at the Old Stuart Town Gaol is ready for the final stages of printing and setting up, and quotes are being sought for this. The concept is that the old gaol is the artefact and that is what is going to be on display with more interpretive signage to explain what areas were used for what purposes, and about the mural, which is separate from the old gaol.

A visit to Hartley Street School is popular with school classes. Year 3 students from Living Waters School recently visited Hartley Street School dressed to remind us of times long ago. Thanks to their teachers who had provided information and prepared them well for the tasks they were to enjoy for the first time, and particular thanks to the parents who had taken such care to dress the children to suit the day. Loved the bonnets! The students enjoyed activities such as drawing on slates, writing with pen and ink, a stamped map of N.T as well as singing, poetry and rote counting. Thanks to organiser Loraine Brahm who makes the visit enjoyable for the children and their teachers.

A few comments from the students.

"It was scary when we almost got the cane."

"Wow it must have been hard using ink all that time – if you made a mess"

"Some of the maps look really old"

"Did kids really used to go to school here?"

And a final comment as one of them walked out the door – "This is the best excursion we have had!"



BRANCH NEWS from Gulf Branch



Old Borrooloola Police Station

The Gulf Branch celebrated its final event for 2015 with a combined film night, Waralungku Craft fair, food stalls and celebrating the 30th Birthday of the Old Borrooloola Police Station as a National Trust Property and Museum on the evening of the 21st of November. The local population celebrated after the Film by sharing a birthday cake made by local member Trish.

The Branch says a fond farewell to local member Michele Foates, who assisted with the Big Pack up of the Old Police Station and organising Chairs and tables for various functions. Michelle with young family now head for the bright lights of Mareeba! We wish them all the best for a happy future in Queensland!

PICTURE (RIGHT): "Angus and Maria and friend enjoy a night out at the Old Police Station when not searching for Treasury!"

The Branch happily welcomes two new members to the Gulf Branch new comer to the region Kiwi John and our caretaker and local long term identity Glenn Thompson.

PICTURE (BELOW): "Margery Keighran and Mrs Mawson selling artwork and Wallaby Stew to Joyce, Chloe and Janet checking it out!"



The Branch is really delighted with the positive response and the amount of interest shown with Publication 2 of Borrooloola Stories, which is now selling at the Savannah Way Motel in Borrooloola, Katherine Museum, Charles Darwin University Bookshop, Darwin Museum, the Bookshop Darwin and the Larrakeyah Branch! The Gulf Branch is very grateful for Larrakeyah Branch's support and funding assistance with printing costs! Gulf Member's and friends are engaging the grey matter and putting pen to paper for Book three, as they perceive that there are still a lot of tales to be told from the Gulf Region!



PICTURE (LEFT): Members were pleased to see the Old Rum Cask kindly donated by the late Gulf Branch member Lancelot aka Mick Baker back in one piece and reunited with the other relics from the Old Tattersall's Hotel display carefully re crafted back together by Branch Chair Eddie Webber using the late Mick Young's Coopers tools.. Which after a bit of cleaning up they showed their true value! Yes it is bolted to the floor to a false manhole! As it was felt too tempting for the Tourists, but definitely not water proof! It will never hold rum again.

Three original articles from the old Tattersall's hotel The Picture from above the Hotel Bar, and the Old Safe returned by the Dunham family and the old rum cask, along with numerous bottles collected and donated from the region over the years.

2016 is already looking too be a busy year with planning under way for the Gulf Branch Open Day on the 19th March. *National*

Trust Australia Theme "Discoveries and re-discoveries! Lazarus Species.. The Branch felt we will have to involve the Parks and Wildlife to help identify rare and endangered along with some newly rediscovered species! A number of local organisations are been approached to become involved with the weekend!

The 2011 125th Anniversary ...



The big event for the year will be the 130th Anniversary of the arrival of the Magistrates Presence in Borrooloola on the 29th - 30th September, which will be jointly coordinated with NT Department of Law Magistrate Elizabeth Morris, who is hoping we can organise a Ball under the stars at the Old Police Station on the evening of the 29th, a re-enactment of the first Magistrate McMinn's arrival to the region –So there are a number of events and activities to organise. The Branch is in the Process of updating the Old Police Panels with new Interpretation panels and an updated service roll. A grant application was submitted to MGANT as many of the panels in the Old Police station like many NT Trust Buildings are over 30 years old and getting rather tired and faded. The displays need a total makeover!

The Branch would like to thank all Local Volunteers a special thank you to Gulf Trust Members Annette, Michelle, Sue, Trish, John, and our every energetic Eddie who fixes and replaces the broken timbers around the old building! A very special thank you to Glen for keeping our buildings and grounds looking so presentable and the Community of Borrooloola for their Support in 2015, we look forward to working with you all in 2016!

Wishing you all a safe and happy festive season

BRANCH NEWS from Larrakeyah Branch

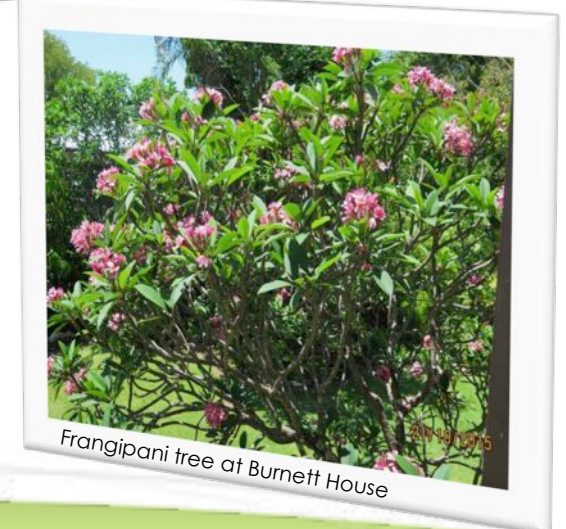
The grounds at Burnett House in the Myilly Point Precinct are looking truly beautiful. The Poinciana tree is blooming, the Frangipani trees of which we have a few varieties, red, white and pink are all in flower. The replanting (which we had to do after the installation of sewerage) is coming along very well and the whole place is lush and green.

Afternoon Teas are still in fully swing and we are experiencing many people coming to enjoy their afternoon tea on our lawns.

The Branch would like to say a big thank you to Su Shaw whose planning and foresight has helped to keep our gardens looking as they do today. Unfortunately Su decided to retire to Queensland, which was our loss.



Gavin Perry, Anna Harris & Su Shaw in the garden at Burnett House



On Friday 4 December, the Larrakeyah Branch held their annual Christmas party for our Members and very valuable volunteers...



Julie Mastin arranged our Christmas dinner, which was accompanied by some very delicious salads.

Anne Davis baked her much sought after Christmas cakes. Anne baked one for us to raffle and one for our guests. Needless to say the cake disappeared very quickly. Anna Harris was the lucky winner of the raffle. Thank you Anne, your contribution is appreciated.



Brian Woodrow won the bottle of wine and Julie Mastin presented him with his prize. Judy Boland made a speech thanking all our members and volunteers for their assistance throughout the year.



Guests
enjoying
the
Christmas
Party at
Burnett
House

