

# 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.*



### National Trust NT Special Membership Offer

*National Trust NT is waiving the \$35.00 Joining Fee for **ALL NEW MEMBERS** who join before 31 December 2015!*

| Types of Membership: | 1-Year: | 3-Years  | Joining Fee:         |
|----------------------|---------|----------|----------------------|
| Individual           | \$65.00 | \$195.00 | FREE before 31/12/15 |
| Household            | \$95.00 | \$285.00 | FREE before 31/12/15 |
| Senior               | \$58.50 | \$175.50 | FREE before 31/12/15 |
| Senior Household     | \$85.50 | \$256.50 | FREE before 31/12/15 |
| Pensioner            | \$52.00 | \$156.00 | FREE before 31/12/15 |
| Pensioner Household  | \$76.00 | \$228.00 | FREE before 31/12/15 |

### Inside September Edition

- Page 1 Membership Special
- Page 2 Showcasing Our Volunteers

### BRANCH NEWS

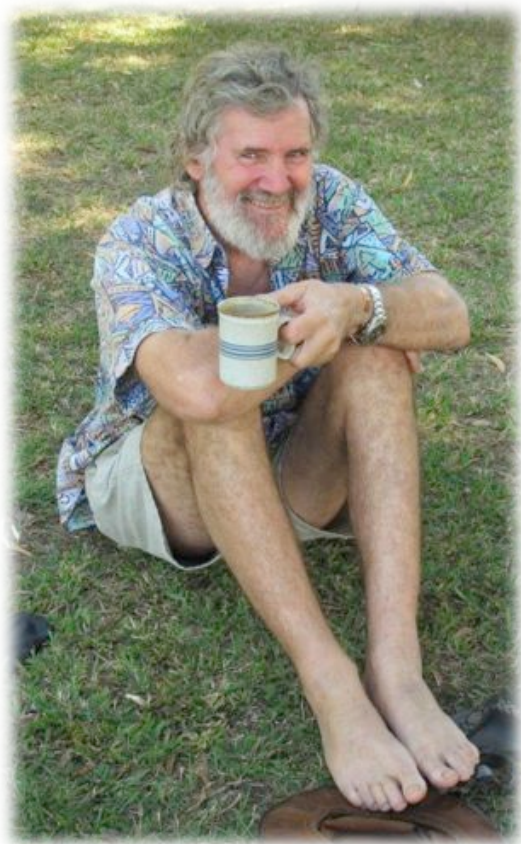
- Page 4 Katherine Branch
- Page 5 Gulf Branch
- Page 6 Larrakeyah Branch
- Page 7 Joint Lecture Series
- Page 9 Stella Marris



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## Showcasing our Volunteers: Peter Bate



The next person in "Showcasing our Volunteers" is Peter Bate.

Peter is one of our house volunteers. He also helps out at many of our other events.

Peter is also a fine musician.

He belongs to the Top End Folk Club and he and his group of fellow musicians play at many of our events.

Sometimes under the name of "The Fettleers" when they play at Railway events, "The Aviators" at aviation societies, "Moonta Revellers" at Goyders Day.

They are indeed a very versatile group.

### 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 COUICILLORS

Mrs Gillian Banks OAM

Ms Janet Webber

Ms Prue Crouch

Mr Edward Orchard Somerville-Collie

### GENERAL COUNCILLORS

Dr Bill Low

Dr Jan Hills

Mr David Hewitt OAM

### 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.*

I completed my B.Sc. in 1968 (Melbourne) then Diploma in Meteorology with the BoM, 1969. My educational background was strongly scientific but I believe that cultural pursuits are also vital.

I came to the Territory in early 1970 and, apart from a stint in Papua New Guinea 1972-74, have been based here ever since. Most of 1970 to mid-1972 I spent at Alice Springs where I was an aviation forecaster at the airport. I also experienced Alice's 1971 centenary celebrations, which highlighted local history. For six months of 1970 I lived in Darwin - based in the old Esplanade Hostel, now the Transit Centre. My block was old tropical Darwin, along Peel St - not sure if Burnett was responsible. It was, sadly, demolished for the Holiday Inn. Helen and I met at the hostel, nurtured our relationship in Alice Springs and married shortly before going to Port Moresby.

November 1974: arriving back in Darwin to settle was perhaps a bad miscalculation for a weather forecaster. However, after Cyclone Tracy's trauma, including Helen's evacuation, we were determined to return which we did after our first son Sam was born in April 1975. Back in Darwin BoM I became a Senior Forecaster. Our second son Michael came in March 1977. In 1989 I left the weather forecasting desk to take over the BoM's Climate section, a job I loved.

I joined the Top End Folk Club in the immediate pre-Tracy days when it was located at the East Point No. 2 Gun Turret; I have supported it ever since. I was also heavily involved in the folk scene in my earlier Alice time. I credit my enduring interest in folk music and traditional jazz to three main influences:

- (i) My parents - both into music, albeit classical; as a child in both Sydney and Melbourne I was introduced to symphony concerts;
- (ii) ABC radio - during my childhood "the wireless" had School Broadcasts and, on weekday afternoons, the Children's Hour; both promoted singing and many of the songs were traditional;
- (iii) International jazz and folk revival movements were occurring during my impressionable teenage years; I became immersed in both.

Fascination with folk music fits nicely with appreciation of cultural heritage. I'm unsure whether the one led directly to the other but I was interested in local history from my earliest Alice time, being particularly taken by the Old Telegraph Station. Helen and I joined the National Trust in the latter 1970s. Being in the local music scene has also afforded many opportunities, for which I am very grateful, to link with heritage activities by playing with friends at such events. In recent years these have included Government House Open Days, Adelaide River Railway Picnics, Coomalie Creek fly-ins, Goyder Day and John McDouall Stuart celebrations and many others. We always strive to play music appropriate to the occasion.

Helen and I both inherited community service genes. On retirement volunteering seemed the thing to do; the heritage area was an obvious choice. Burnett House needed "sitters" happy to greet visitors, so here I am. Helen helps out waitressing for Afternoon Teas and pots seedlings for Greening Australia. We both volunteer at MAGNT: I lead weekly tours around the wonderful Cyclone Tracy Gallery, neatly connecting my former working life with Darwin's social history. For a while I was a (paid) Parliament House tour guide, another enlightening interval that provided a great chance to bone up on my Territory history. I also like old cars and belong to the Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club, my pride and joy being a 1957 Series I Land-Rover, still registered and running.



## Branch News from Katherine Branch



O'Keeffe House plant sale will take place on Saturday 29th August, starting at 8am and running through until 3pm.

There will be a raffle of a selection of plants and Devonshire Teas will be served under the shady garden trees.

We are hopeful of a good sale of plants to reduce the amount of care they require as the temperature in Katherine has risen dramatically during recent days.

Quite a few people turned up last week hoping to make a selection of the choicest plants.

It will be a busy weekend with the plant sale and also our Annual General Meeting and monthly meeting all taking place on Saturday.

A local businesswoman has approached the Katherine National Trust Branch in with idea of utilising the 1926 Railway Station building for her enterprise.

If this happens it will mean that the building will be open to the public on a much more regular basis.

Happy "Build Up" to all,  
Merriel

## Branch News from Gulf Branch

The Branch is very proud to announce the safe arrival of Book 2 of Borroloola Stories after 7 years of work researching, writing, collecting and collating stories from around the country to make another interesting collection of Borroloola Stories.

There will be a public launch on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September at 10m at the Old Borroloola Police Station with the Member for Barkly the Hon Gerry McCarthy doing the official Launch, Local Art Centre members and other community groups will hold stalls.

If you want to purchase a copy please email [j.ewebber@iinet.net.au](mailto:j.ewebber@iinet.net.au) \$20 plus postage

**The Public Launch of Book 2 of Borroloola Stories published by the National Trust NT Gulf Branch members - by the Honourable member for Barkly Mr Gerry McCarthy**



Local Members and Borroloola Old Police Station Caretaker Glen Thompson have had a busy tourist season with some interesting visitors with the Great Grand-daughters of the first Borroloola Mounted Constable Michael Donegan (4<sup>th</sup> October 1886 to December 1888) and Mounted Constable / Gaoler James Haircut Kelly 4<sup>th</sup> December 1903 – 19<sup>th</sup> February 1904.

Over the Rodeo weekend recently one of the early Nackaroo's Lawrie Baily, came to look and visit old sites around the region and showed local member Annette Bradford the location of their early Nacka roos campsites.

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Two large tourist buses have come through in the past month and one Outback Tours so Glen has been kept busy helping visitor's with tourist information and local knowledge, handing out brochures and linking visitors with the status of old friends some alive but many now reside out at the Borroloola Cemetery.



## Branch News from Larrakeyah Branch



### Government House Open Day

On 22 August this year Government House or the House of the Seven Gables as it is fondly known was open for Public viewing.

The Open Day attracted a large crowd and it was estimated that at least 1800 people viewed the house.

The Army Band provided the music and attracted a large crowd seated at the tables provided. They had some wonderful vocalists.

The National Trust assisted with volunteers inside Government House and provided Devonshire Tea for the many visitors.



### An afternoon of Bridge

For the second year in a row, Burnett House hosted a bridge afternoon organised by local enthusiast, Michael Furstner. At 3 pm on Saturday 29 August about twenty bridge players arrived in the gardens where tables were set out for the games. For three hours the participants played bridge and enjoyed the afternoon tea provided by Anna Harris. It seems as if this might become an annual event, as Michael told Anna that "everyone had an absolutely great time".



# Joint Lecture Series at Burnett House

## - Joy Davis



The social life in Darwin was brought vividly to life on 28 August when Mrs Joy Davis (nee Drysdale) reminisced about growing up in Darwin in the 1930s. Entitled "Recollections: Darwin pre-World 2", Joy's talk was part of the Historical Society/National Trust Joint Lecture series which is held each month at Burnett House.

Joy was born in 1934 in the original Palmerston Hospital on the cliffs above Doctor's Gully. As a child, her father Stewart came to Darwin with his parents in 1893, where his father plied his trade as a stonemason and builder. Her mother Bessie came to the Territory in 1912 with her parents who initially took up peanut farming on the Daly River. The family later moved to Darwin where Bessie's father worked on the Palmerston and Pine Creek Railway.

Joy's father had a business selling petrol, oil, tyres and other equipment and supplies for cars in the town. He was also the town's undertaker. His shop and the family home were situated in Cavenagh Street opposite the RSL Building. Joy described what it was like to grow up in a town where there was no reticulated water or household electricity and where there were daily deliveries of ice, fruit and vegetables, and ice cream. She talked about the family's head house girl, Topsy, who was like a second mother to her, and about an Aboriginal man, Leo John who worked for her father and who took part in regular boxing matches at Mr Hickey's boxing ring. Leo always insisted that Joy's father go to the matches to give him support.





Joy described her early days of going to school when she would join hands with her friend Chin Gong's daughter, Pearly Chin and Topsy's daughter Lorna, and they would all walk to the public school together. She later decided she wanted to join her best friends who attended the Convent school and she enrolled herself in the school without her mother's knowledge. Luckily her mother was quite happy for her to attend the Convent so she avoided any serious trouble about it.

Joy also provided a description of the town as it was in the 1930s giving details of the Chinese shops in Cavenagh Street, Mrs Bleezer's shop which she said was like Aladdin's cave, and Cashman's store where a customer's money and docket were transported in a cylinder through the air to the office girls at the back of the shop who would return the cylinder with the receipt and any necessary change. Joy also gave fascinating details about the social life of the townspeople, where it was common for the women to dress up in elaborate evening dresses and long gloves, while the men were resplendent in white suits with waistcoats, and also wore gloves. Joy described boat races, picnics, tennis tournaments, days at the golf links, and swimming in the sea during the Dry season and in the Bagot Road gravel pit in the Wet.

Joy's talk transported the audience of about forty-five people into a different world for an hour or so, and it was only reluctantly that they came back to the present to share a drink and some nibbles before going home.





## 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](mailto:foh.ntnt@internode.on.net)