

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



Myilly Point Heritage Precinct
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www.nationaltrust.org.au



Christmas Shortbread Recipe

Ingredients

325g/11oz plain flour
200g /7oz butter, chilled
125g/4 1/2oz golden caster sugar
2 tsp vanilla extract
2 large egg yolks

you will need

2-3 baking trays lined with baking parchment

Preparation

1. Set the oven to 180C, 160C fan, gas 4. Place the butter, flour and sugar in a food processor and blend until it makes fine crumbs. Add the egg yolks and continue to blend until the mixture clumps together (or rub the butter into the flour until it forms bread crumbs, then stir in the sugar and egg yolks and beat

with a wooden spoon until it forms a dough).

2. Turn out onto a lightly floured work surface and knead lightly into a ball. Wrap in cling film and chill for 30 mins.

3. Roll the mixture out on a lightly floured work surface and cut out your shapes.

4. We use fluted round cutters for some, using a smaller cutter to take out the centre of some to make ring shapes. We placed a doiley over some round shapes, and rolled lightly with a rolling pin to leave a pattern, and used fluted square cutters. To make the Christmas tree shapes we used a large tree cookie cutter. Make sure you cut a bottom and a top biscuit. In the top biscuit dough, cut little holes using various sized piping nozzles. We also used some square cutters. To decorate we used the end of a small star shaped piping nozzle or a wooden skewer to indent a pattern, or used the end of a large piping nozzle to cut out small holes in the dough.

5. Place your biscuit on the baking trays. Bake for 10-15 mins depending on size and thickness, or until just pale golden. Allow to cool for 10 mins on the baking trays then cool completely. If liked, sandwich the biscuits with jam, dust with icing sugar and tie with ribbon.



Read more at <http://www.womanandhome.com/recipes/532243/christmas-shortbread-biscuit-recipe#6KaCG7pDMmpb4F8u.99>

PATRON

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

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Mr Trevor Horman AM

VICE PRESIDENT

Ms. Janet Leather

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Mr. Edward Orchard Somerville-Collie -
LARRAKEYAH

Ms. Prue Crouch – McDOWALL STUART

Mrs. Stephanie Hill - KATHERINE

GENERAL COUNCILLORS

Dr. Jan Hills

Mr. David Hewitt OAM

Dr. Bill Low

Ms. Laurelle Halford

MEMBERSHIP 2017

| | 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.



Audit House Project

Since the National Trust resumed Audit House after the death of Nan Giese, it's long term tenant, there has been much discussion about it's future use.

It is an amazing house and the community is truly blessed to have it as a legacy of Darwin's past. Built in 1938, it is a gracious survivor of a past age.

The Myilly Point Heritage Precinct committee has mulled over its future for quite some time and has finally decided that the House will become an historic house museum, open to the public with hireable spaces and a program of events for the dry season. Keep an eye on your newsletter as we bring you up-to-date with developments. The Committee will be looking for people to assist with many aspects of this work from gardening to being front of house for events. If you think you would like to be involved please get in touch with the office and leave your contact details.

So far there has been a lot of work in the gardens and an event to commemorate the Giese Legacy was held in June to introduce the work to our community. Many thanks to our Councillor, Jan Hills, for getting that function up and happening.

A painting program has been underway, funded by NTG heritage Grants. The exterior has been given a facelift and the second stage – painting the interior – will begin very soon.

In the meantime some much-needed work has been carried out under the House. A new concrete slab has replaced the old garden, which had been a haven for whiteants!! And work has begun on repairing the spalled concrete columns.

As the various stage of the Audit House project proceed we will keep you up to date through our social media and this newsletter.



Clearing the old garden



Formwork in place



Job Done!



Magistrates House & Mines House Now for Lease!

National Trust is seeking expressions of interest from organisations and businesses that might be interested in a commercial lease of either of these two iconic, heritage listed properties.

**Please contact George Vrodos at
Property Shop Darwin on 0412 893 111**

Katherine Branch News

Although Katherine National Trust properties are usually not open after most of the tourists have departed for cooler climates there have been some very enjoyable and well-attended events held during October.



On October 13th four classes from Casuarina Street Primary School, Katherine visited O'Keeffe House as part of their studies about how people lived in the early days in Katherine.

Around one hundred children enjoyed playing old-fashioned games including skipping, quoits, marbles, jumping elastic bands and hopscotch in the garden. They toured the house and pavilion in small groups and studied the displays in the pavilion and filled out their questionnaires before sitting under the shady trees to eat their lunches.

A large "Thank You O'Keeffe House" card signed by all of our young visitors was presented to us and the very happy group was relayed back to their school.

The following evening approximately forty visitors gathered at the O'Keeffe House property for the presentation of Conflict and Compassion, The Territory Remembers 75 Years brought to Katherine by The Department of Tourism and Culture.

Drinks and canapés were served in the garden where a WW11 Army Jeep bought to us by members of the Katherine Motor Enthusiasts' Club was on display.

Inside the pavilion an audio visual display and a detailed description of when the war came to the Territory was delivered by Dr. Tom Lewis followed by some memories of the evacuation of Katherine by local residents. A very enjoyable evening concluded in the moonlit garden with music presented by local ladies Megan Harvey and Sue Jones.

The Katherine Branch of the National Trust is extremely grateful to all who contributed towards making such a special event and to all who so generously donated to the National Trust on the evening.

Another group chose our property to hold an event on October 24th and have booked for a further event on the 24th of November. It is indeed gratifying that other groups are now bringing more people to utilise the property.



McDouall Stuart Branch News

As the hot weather begins in Central Australia, we have less tourists visiting Hartley Street School and the Stuart Town Gaol, as a consequence both buildings will be closed from the end of November until the end of February.

Call for volunteers for 2017.

The McDouall Stuart Branch will be looking for volunteers to help keep the school and the gaol open in 2017, so if you can give 2 hours a week of your time, please contact 0427 295 367.

Heritage Week 2017.

Heritage Groups in Alice Springs are already showing interest in being part of Heritage Week 2017. The McDouall Stuart Branch has appointed Kevin Diflo to coordinate the Alice Springs Heritage Festival 2017. The aim is to build on previous Festival Weeks and fill the 10 days with a joyous and respectful commemoration of the existing heritage in Alice Springs and District resulting from the wide range of accomplishments in indigenous and non-indigenous endeavours. Suggested categories are: Archives; Children; Democracy; Education; Environment; Events; Exhibitions and Performances; Food; Horticulture; Indigenous; Literature/Oral Stories; Long Timers; Multiculturalism; Music; Private Enterprise; Religion; Talks; Tours; Town Crier; War/Soldiers. The theme for 2017 is 'Having a voice'.

Recent events in Alice Springs.

Combined National Trust and Strehlow Research Centre talk

On Sunday 23rd October 2016 the McDouall Stuart Branch joined with the Strehlow Research Centre to present a talk by local historian Alex Nelson on the history of the Strehlow Research Centre in Alice Springs titled "Through the Window of Time" a comprehensive timeline/ history presentation.

The design and construction of the Strehlow Research Centre, opened in 1991, was the culmination of several years of negotiations leading to the repatriation of the Strehlow collection to Central Australia. The building's distinctive architecture reflects a decade of debate between pro-development business interests and lobby groups and individuals concerned with the preservation of local heritage and character of "old Alice Springs. A recording was made of Alex's talk. Thanks to David Hewitt for the photos.

Stuart Traynor's book launch

There were many people who attended a wonderful evening on Thursday 5th November at the Telegraph Station for the launch of Stuart Traynor's book "**From singing wire to iconic outback town Alice Springs**".

In 1870 the South Australian colonial government, on the brink of collapse, made an audacious move to run an iron wire across the silent heart of the continent. This book is the story of the little outpost it built in the middle of nowhere – a significant heritage site – and how the iconic town of Alice Springs was born nearby. The book is for sale at the Red Kangaroo Bookshop.



The line of people waiting to buy the book and for Stuart to sign their books.



Bill Low, Alex Nelson, Olga Radke, David Hewitt, David Moore at the Alex Nelson Talk "Through the Window of Time"



Brenda Schields and Pat Ansel Dodds (MDS Committee members) with Olga Radke from the Friends of Strehlow.



The audience at the Alex Nelson Talk "Through the Window of Time".

School Children visit Hartley Street School

More classes of students have come to see what school was like in the early years of Alice Springs. The following article was from the Centralian Advocate newspaper. Read the students comments.

Students see ink writing

SCHOOL of the Air students coming together and meeting up in person is a rare occurrence but that was exactly the case when the school got together for a week of excursions and activities last month.

Often set apart by hundreds of kilometres, about 30 students from across Central Australia all gathered to tour the historic Hartley Street school to learn about what being a student was like in years past.

Students ranging from transition through to year 2 learnt

what writing with a quill and ink about and played games students used to.

Comments from the students included: "We liked writing in ink, doing the Hokey Pokey and dancing."

"We also liked learning about the Australian Signal (Oath of Allegiance) and having a turn at playing the piano."

Some students also ventured to Adelaide House to learn about how medical treatment was managed in the past.



Ross Park students under the pepper tree in the front yard of the school.

80 Head St
Alice Springs
NT 0870

18/10/16

Dear Mrs Braham,

Thank you for showing us around the Hartley Street School – it was lovely being there. We liked writing in ink, doing the Hokey Pokey and dancing with you. We also like learning about the 'Australian Signal' (Oath of Allegiance) and having a turn at playing the piano. It was interesting seeing how children did school in the olden days. We learnt that some things are the same like doing the Hokey Pokey, spelling and playing games while other things are different - we have pens now so you don't have to keep dipping your quills in ink to write. Thanks again for having us.

From

Early Childhood students at Alice Springs School of the Air



Gulf Branch News – 2016 Christmas cheer!

Our grounds and museum are looking great and for this thanks are due to our caretaker Glen who, as always, has done a terrific job!




October 2016 showing the benefit of early rains, note vehicles gone.

Local company Cairns Industries are working hard to complete the welfare building despite very challenging weather conditions. The Gulf Region temperatures have been sitting in the high 30s most days and there has been not a lot of relief from rain. The office extension and refurbishment is complete with newly painted walls and floors. The security doors have been installed and there is just minor exterior vermin sealing left to do before the completion of the project. We would like to give special thanks to the **Local MRM Community Benefit Fund** for providing the funding for the old welfare building renovations.

Members would like to acknowledge the very sad sudden passing of community educator and advisor Mrs A Miller who was a stalwart of the Borroloola community. She supported many young people in the Gulf Region and will be remembered with much affection. There is a deep sadness and sense of loss at her passing.

Roper Gulf Shire Councillor, business man Bernie Redferm, husband of Enid, passed away on the 4th November. At the time he was involved with his latest commercial tourist development, the late Peter Brown's old block. So members were all feeling rather fragile when they received the sad news that Terry Fischer had also passed away in Katherine on 14th November. Terry had run "Fischers Motors" a local Borroloola institution which was located directly behind the Old Police Station. Terry had been one of the Police Station Key Holders and supported us over the years. Sometimes he challenged us too; especially Karina's cleaning abilities as she struggled with the amount of engine grease that adhered to the museum's toilet! She went through more degreaser for cleaning the facilities than had ever been recorded but it was the only product strong enough to cope. Terry sometimes offered us other challenges connected with his dead vehicle collections. These often encroached on the old police station and made visitors start looking for the crowds! Some visitors even thought the vehicles were part of the museum's collection! But Terry was always supportive and a good friend to the National Trust and its members.



Trish and Charlie Radovich are looking at leaving the region due to Charlie's recent health issues. They will be a sad loss for the Gulf Branch of National Trust, the local tourist industry, Roper Gulf Shire and the community as they have supported so many local events over the years. We wish them all the best for future health and happiness.

Eddie Webber continues work on the B24 Interpretation panels for which the National Trust received a grant under the **Territory Remembers Grant Program**. This was to design and install interpretation panels at the Old Police Station telling of the story of a downed American pilot and his epic journey of survival in the Gulf country. There will be information on the origins of the Aeroplane Dance and its significance to local people. The panels will be installed with an official opening in the New Year.

Eddie also has completed a wooden worktable. No one could move this in a hurry as it was made of salvaged timbers from various old Gulf buildings that had succumbed to termites and age. This is to be installed in the Welfare Gallery! It is definitely strong enough to survive school students and art workshops!

Janet Leather continues to work on the Borroloola Graves project. It is her ambition to see the Gulf Graves booklet in print!

The Branch would like to thank our ever supportive local crew Annette Bradford, Sue Morgan and Trish Radovich who manage our local Issues help keep the National Trust profile high.

Thanks to local builder, a 80ish young Larry Tilbury for keeping the hinges on our cupboard doors and doing minor maintenance work over the years!

And we send a very special thanks to local member, caretaker, cleaner, historian and tourist liaison person Glen. We hope he has a well-deserved break down in the Apple Isle. While he is absent visiting his Mum, his sister-in-law Kathy and brother-in-law Neville will be caring for the Old Police station.

Best wishes to all Gulf Branch members for a very safe, healthy and happy festive season. Looking forward to a positive 2017 with many new relationships, members and interesting activities to come! And kindest regards to all our fellow Trust members for a safe and happy 2017

Janet Leather

Larrakeyah Branch News

Fort Wellington - A Military Establishment



As the Speaker for this October, Dr. Brian Reid talked about the all too brief history of Fort Wellington in Raffles Bay on the Cobourgh Peninsula.

The settlement, which lasted from June 1827 - August 1829 was the second of 4 military establishments built on the northern coastline in the 19th century. Part of the British protective "ring fence" designed to confirm its claim to the whole of Australia and deter other empire-building competitors.

Fort Wellington was founded by Captain James Stirling, sent from Sydney on board HMS Success together with the transport Mary Elizabeth.



The Fort was garrisoned by Commandant Captain H. G. Smyth and 30 men of the 39th Regiment of Foot, 14 Royal Marines, a Surgeon and 22 convicts.

The Historical Society has undertaken 3 expeditions to the site since 1971 to better understand and document the few material remains of this isolated and short-lived settlement.

Alcoota Fossil Beds - Central Australia

The last Speaker for the 2016 Joint Talks series was Jared Archibald, History Curator MAGNT. historian, taxidermist and fossil hunter, Jared gave a fascinating talk to more than 30 guests about the Alcoota Fossil Beds, located some 200 km north east of Alice Springs.

The Alcoota fossil beds are about 8 million years old and are one of only 3 vertebrate fossil sites in the NT.



Among the species found was the Dromornis, a flightless bird, over 3m tall and weighing in at around 650 kg.

The bird is also known as Stirton's Thunderbird or 'Mihirung paringmal', an Aboriginal word meaning 'giant bird'.

In 1984 the MAGNT established a yearly excavation programme and created a permanent field station in 1988. The site offers a superb research and teaching facility for palaeontology students.

The fossil beds show a complex community of marsupials, birds and crocodiles existed in the Alcoota area during the mid Miocene period around 8 million years ago.

At the end of the talk, Jared was presented with the traditional bottle of wine by Earl James, President of the Historical Society of the NT.

The Larrakeyah Branch is looking forward to resuming the Joint Talks series in 2017.





As part of the on-going repair and maintenance program for Burnett House, Stage 2 of the Fly Screen Replacement Plan has just been carried out by Micky Giannikouris of NT Total Maintenance.

The damaged and crumbling First Floor window Fly Screens have been replaced, as have the Kitchen and double windows to the North elevation on the Ground Floor.

Heavy duty "Petmesh" screening has been used for its quality, durability and impact resistance.

Larrakeyah Branch has funded this, and many thanks are due to the tireless efforts of our Sunday Afternoon



The Larrakeyah Branch Committee of the National Trust would like to wish Members of the National Trust all the best for the Holiday Season and the Happiest of New Years for 2017.

In addition they would like to extend their sincere thanks to those Volunteers who have given so generously of their time and energy over the past year and helped make it such a success.

Chair:

Orchard Somerville-Collie

Treasurer:

Judy Richardson

Secretary:

Trish Greenfield

Volunteer Co-ordinator & Afternoon Teas:

Anna Harris

House Bookings & Joint Talks:

Julie Mastin