

# 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.*



## Council Elections Next one is due in July 2017

Every two years the National Trust holds an election by postal ballot to select Councillors whose job it is to manage the organisation.

This is an opportunity to bring special skills to the work of the Trust; it is not just for historians. The organization is seeking new Councillors who may have skills in marketing, event management, social media and IT.

To stand for election, you would need to be a current financial member of the National Trust. If you are interested in being involved but not yet a member you can easily join through our website, [www.nationaltrust.org.au/nt](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/nt)

Perhaps you know of someone who may be interested?

For more information please call the office on 89812848.

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## Vale Penny Cook

Recently the National Trust was advised that Penny (Watson) Cook had died from cancer on Friday, Feb 17th, 2017

Penny was Director of National Trust (NT) from 1983 to 1992. In those halcyon days of heritage funding and growth, she was very effective in pulling all the branches together and developing a substantial membership in our organization.

Her husband, Dr Ian Cook, was Chairman of the National Trust (NT) Council for nearly the same number of years.

Some years after moving to Brisbane, Penny took on the role of Executive Director of the National Trust Queensland until her retirement in 2009.

Penny and Ian had been living in Townsville and she had been in remission for 5 years until last year.

Those who knew her will remember her with great fondness.

National Trust NT would like to give special thanks to Michael Hester & Pamela Perry for their generous donations in Penny's honour.

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

PRESIDENT  
Mr Trevor Horman AM  
VICE PRESIDENT  
Ms. Janet Leather  
TREASURER  
Ms. Petrena Ariston

BRANCH COUILLORS  
Ms. Janet Leather – GULF  
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
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Individual	\$65.00	\$195.00
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Household	\$95.00	\$285.00
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Senior	\$58.50	\$175.50
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Senior Household	\$85.50	\$256.50
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Pensioner	\$52.00	\$156.00
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Pensioner Household	\$76.00	\$228.00
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Joining fee	\$35.00	
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*The National Trust of Australia (Northern Territory) is a community organisation which seeks to conserve the Territory's heritage.*

*Membership is open to everyone.*

## Katherine Branch News

At the present time we are busy cleaning the O'Keeffe House and pavilion in readiness for our Easter Craft and Fun Morning for children, on Saturday 8th April. So far there has been plenty of interest shown in the event so we are hoping for a really good roll up. There will be lots of craft activities for the children and games and treasure hunts in the garden. Parents will be able to enjoy Devonshire Teas and pot plants will also be on sale.

The Railway station will be next in line to for a good clean in readiness for the arrival of tourists and those who wish to utilise the vast number of books for exchange or sale.



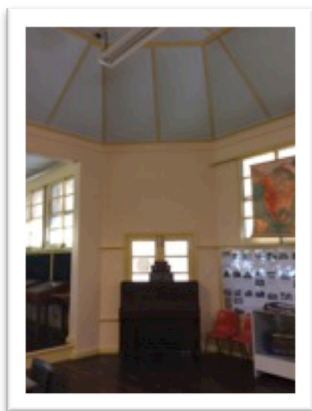
It was good to see Trevor Horman in Katherine on 22nd March attending the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Katherine at the Katherine Museum. A big crowd attended the event including many representatives from the Defence Forces. An air raid siren signaled the time that the bombing originally took place and an RAAF fly past by a F/A-18 Hornet aircraft, at very low level, made attendees grateful for the ear plugs which were supplied. Following the addresses and wreath laying, morning tea was served and two new books were launched. The books were "The Fall of the Daisy Cutters," Bombing of Katherine WWII 1939 - 1945, by Mike Reed and Simone Croft and "Our War," When WWII came to Australia, by Mike Reed.



Some items of memorabilia from the WWII era and belonging to Mr. Les Cox were also on display. Mr. Cox was living in Pine Creek at the time of WWII and was amongst those evacuated south. The Katherine Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club also displayed some of their wartime vehicles and we look forward to their attendance at our Heritage Week tour of Katherine historical sites, which we anticipate for Saturday 29 April.

## McDouall Stuart Branch News

The Alice Springs Town Council arranged for the Hartley Street School classroom and foyer to be painted during the summer closure. The Alice Springs School was the first purpose built government school in Alice Springs and this new paint will restore the school room to its original colours, although the blue that is on the ceiling was originally on the walls as shown in the 1950's photo attached.



These photographs from the McDouall Stuart Branch collection were digitised recently as part of a grant from the NT Government. The original paint colours were found by scratching back layers of paint on the interior walls. The Alice Springs Town Council's Manager of Community and Cultural Development, Leon Tripp works with the McDouall Stuart Branch Committee on projects such as these.

### *Hartley Street School and Stuart Town Gaol are now open for 2017!*

Both were closed over the very hot months and quieter times of December to the end of February.

We thank all volunteers who helped National Trust keep the school and gaol open during 2016.

Due to the loss of some long time volunteers, the branch sought some new people to cover the vacant shifts.

An advertisement in the local paper, Facebook posts and an interview by the Volunteer Coordinator Joel Crawford on ABC radio with Stewart Brash, brought responses and we now have some new volunteers.

However, we would still like to encourage more volunteers as we have a few vacant shift times and also it would be very useful to have a group of people to cover the times when volunteers go on holidays.

If you would like to support National Trust in Alice Springs on a regular or a relieving basis, please ring 0432 826 185. By keeping the Hartley Street School open we are also keeping the Stuart Town Gaol open for visitors.

 NATIONAL TRUST NT

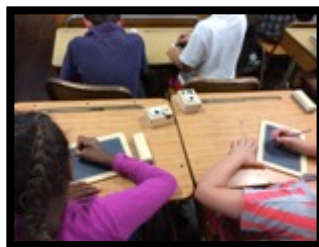
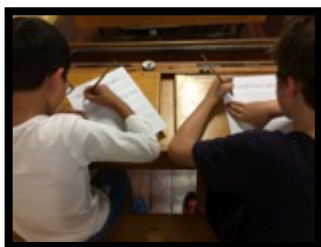
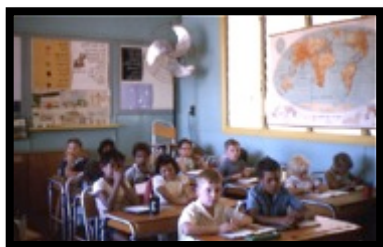
### **WE DON'T WANT YOUR MONEY**

...just a couple of hours of your time to help keep a vital piece of Alice Springs history alive. The McDouall Stuart Branch of the National Trust Australia (NT) needs volunteers to ensure that the Hartley Street School remains open for local and overseas visitors.

**Call Joel on 0432 826 185** to arrange your participation in preserving history in Alice Springs.

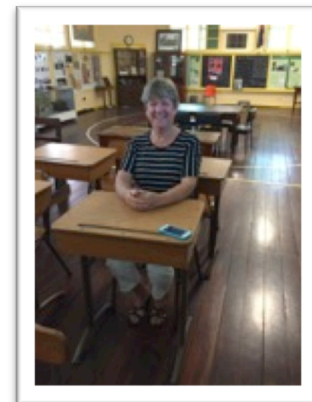
Do you want to help the National Trust teacher with the interesting activity of reproducing old days schooling for visiting pupils from local and interstate schools? Enjoy watching their reaction to using old desks, writing on slate and using pen and ink. **If you'd like to assist call, 0419861467.**

Visits to the school by classes of Alice Springs school children have already begun for 2017, and we thank the Living Waters School and Ross Park School for their generous donations. Loraine Braham continues to give school children of today an experience of a 1950's classroom, but she needs help with these school children visits, so if you have some time and would like to help, lets us know by ringing 0419 861 467.



#### Visitors to the branch

The Director of National Trust NT Ms. Elizabeth Close visited Alice Springs to attend the McDouall Stuart Branch Committee meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup>. It was good to have Elizabeth spend time with us and to have the chance to discuss the startegic directions of the organisation. Mrs. Petrena Ariston Treasurer of the Council of the National Trust NT visited Alice Springs from Katherine at the end of March; she enjoyed her visit to the Hartley Street School and the Stuart Town Gaol very much.



NATIONAL TRUST  
**AUSTRALIAN  
HERITAGE  
FESTIVAL**

**Heritage Week is fast approaching and a big program of interesting events has been organised by this year's Coordinator Kevin Diflo.**



**The program will be available soon. We look forward to seeing you at as many events as possible.**

## Death in the Outback in 1936

The body of Mr Ellis Bankin, a Victorian schoolteacher from Badgers Creek who “worked to fund his explorations outback” (Caddie Brain, 2011, ABC Rural) was found 10 miles from Lindavale (now Lyndavale) Station near the border of South Australia. Bankin was an amazing adventurer and a keen motorbike enthusiast who “at just 31 years of age, had already travelled the world – 45 states of America, plus England, Ireland and Scotland. Upon returning home, the outback called, and he began travelling the central deserts of Australia by motorbike.” (Northern Territory Library)

An article reporting his death in the Western Argus, 25 Feb 1936, says he left Alice Springs on January 9<sup>th</sup> 1936 to travel by motorcycle probably to Ayers Rock (photographs in the NT Library include Ellis Bankin in Alice Springs with his 350cc Triumph motorcycle). He was due to return to Badgers Creek School on January 28<sup>th</sup>. The article says he was last seen at Ernabella station on January 13<sup>th</sup> and when there was no further news of him, a search party set out to look for him. (In an article from the Northern Territory Library Facebook page it says Victor Dumas left Alice Springs with several camels to search for him by tracking his movements).

The search party found that he had strayed from the Ayers Rock track soon after leaving Ernabella. He had reached Mt Conner and from his tracks, had been looking around for water. He wasn't successful. The area where he was found was heavy sand and he had apparently been too weak to get his machine over the top. “The back wheel had spun into the sand and, when the body was discovered the machine was standing in the sand”. His body was buried where he was found.

Ashley Severin from Curtin Springs had found the grave many years ago while out mustering on horseback, but it took him a few years to find the grave again. On a recent trip to Uluru we stopped at Curtin Springs to take a photo of Mt Conner and I decided to ask about the bike. Ashley happened to be in the shed and took me to see it. He told me the story of how the motorcycle ended up back at Curtin Springs Station.

After Bankin's death the bike was apparently taken from the Northern Territory, but some years later the Severins had found it at an auction in Victoria and bought it. The tag, which is still on the bike, says Lot 525, Ritchie Bros Auctioneers.

The bike when I saw it recently had been polished up and Ashley says that it will eventually be part of [a display of historical items](#) included in the [Curtin Springs Paper Tour available to tourists](#). These tours are held daily at 10.30am and 4pm. So, if you are interested, check their website at [www.curtinsprings.com/](http://www.curtinsprings.com/)

More articles and photos can be found on Trove and at the Northern Territory Library





# LARRAKEYAH BRANCH NATIONAL TRUST HISTORICAL SOCIETY NT



## Speaker's Night at Burnett House

### Larrakeyah Branch News – Personalities & Power Plays



A lively responsive audience attended the Larrakeyah Branch/HSNT lecture on 24 March when Kathy De La Rue gave a glimpse into the conflicts, which raged among the White community in Darwin during the years of the Commonwealth administration.

In her talk, Kathy spent most of the time describing living conditions and power plays conducted by Darwin's citizens during the first decade of Commonwealth rule when Dr John Gilruth was the Administrator. This was, she claimed, the most contentious period during the years between 1911 and 1978. Gilruth's feuds with his staff, his bitter disputes with the local Council and Board of Health, and his generally disdainful attitude towards the people of Darwin caused a great deal of tension in the town. This was exacerbated by inappropriate or unpopular government policies and the

interference of bureaucrats in Melbourne who managed to obstruct development in the Top End.

After providing details on many of the disputes during the Gilruth era and later fights between another Administrator, Aubrey Abbott and the populace, Kathy gave a very brief run-down on some of the other causes of disputes in the town. She then invited the audience to reminisce on incidents they remembered from this time.

The people attending the talk generously shared their memories of personalities and incidents of note during that period of Darwin's history and such a lively discussion ensued that the evening's MC, Brian Reid had some difficulty bringing the evening to a close.



## Gulf Branch News

The Gulf Branch Survived Cyclone Katrina with minor damage a number of trees blown over, no major damage to houses or buildings or injuries the major damaged was caused to Rocky Creek bridge which joins the town of Borroloola from the Top to the Bottom end where the Old Borroloola Police Station lies on the Bank of the Rocky Creek.

The Bridge has now been repaired, for a period of time locals who had four wheel drives used the old Rocky creek rock crossing, otherwise and to drive around the cemetery road and down the haulage road and back into Borroloola, locals can now follow their normal daily routines.

Glen our Caretaker has been away most of January whilst down in Tasmania, and has been enjoying viewing all the National Trust Properties in the Apples Isles, he was ably backed up by local Adrian O'Reilly with opening and closing and cleaning of the Old Police Station whilst Michael Whitnall kindly mowed the lawns and sprayed the Branch is most grateful for his work.

Planning is underway for the 2017 Open Day on the 13<sup>th</sup> May with the Territory Remembers 75 Years, memorial to the B 24 survivor's Panels, the National Trust NT Gulf Branch acknowledges the kind support of the **Territory Remembers Grant Committee** for the their financial Support, Eddie Webber who gathered the information for production of the panel and Graphic Artist Leonie Richards of Graphics 'Il Doo who weaved her magic, the panels are be unveiled, to acknowledge the involvement of Local Borroloola and gulf Peoples in the rescuing and saving of downed American pilot Sgt Grady Gaston, Local Nor force Commander and head Parks Ranger Peter Sainsbury is organising a Trooping of the Colours, whilst local Gulf Member Annette Bradford is organising a Pony Trial Ride following the Borroloola Heritage Trail from the Old Police Station along the Mc Arthur River and out to the Rodeo grounds , with various local organisations running stalls and display's , and local dancers doing the Aeroplane dance .



Aeroplane Dance Performed by Borroloola Dancers 2001

Photos by: Karina Hart



In 2001 Lieutenant General Peter Cosgrove came to the Borroloola Warrawulla festival to present Centenary of Federation "Defender Awards" in recognition for people involved in the search and rescue of the downed airmen.



Australian Government



NATIONAL TRUST



# AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

## Having a Voice!



*Open doors...*



*... eyes*



*... and minds*



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# AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL



18 APRIL - 21 MAY 2017

## Darwin Region Events:

Palmerston Rail Trail Walk  
Cemetery Ghost Walk  
History & Heritage Tour & Barbecue  
The Heritage Debate  
The Genealogical Society NT Open Days  
From Bombers to Batchelor  
Roadmasters House Open Day  
Barbara James Memorial Lecture  
Heritage Quiz Night at Burnett House  
Myilly Point Heritage Precinct Open House Day  
Goyder's Town Car Rally

## Alice Springs Region Events:

Official Opening & Welcome to Country  
Music Heritage Roundtable  
The Voice of Local Government  
Doreen Braithling Memorial Lecture  
Twilight Walk along Todd Street  
Long Timers Morning Tea  
Youth Forum  
Open Days for  
Pitchi Ritchi Sactuary, Totum Theater, Bond  
Springs, Telegraph Station and, the Old Lutheran  
Church & Mission Block  
Art Exhibitions \* Poetry \* Plays \* Fashion Parade \*  
History Mystery \* Bus Tours and More

[www.australianheritagefestival.org.au](http://www.australianheritagefestival.org.au)