

# 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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[www.nationaltrust.org.au/nt](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/nt)



Dr Mickey Dewar was a long-term member of the Trust and her contributions to the history and heritage of the Territory have been considerable and valuable.

It is with great sadness that Councillors and members of the National Trust acknowledge her too early passing.



The National Trust of Australia records with sadness the passing of  
ORCHARD SOMMERVILLE-COLLIE, Larrakeyah Branch Chairman and Councillor.

Always cheerful and willing to share his skills and knowledge, he will be greatly missed.

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 – McDOUALL 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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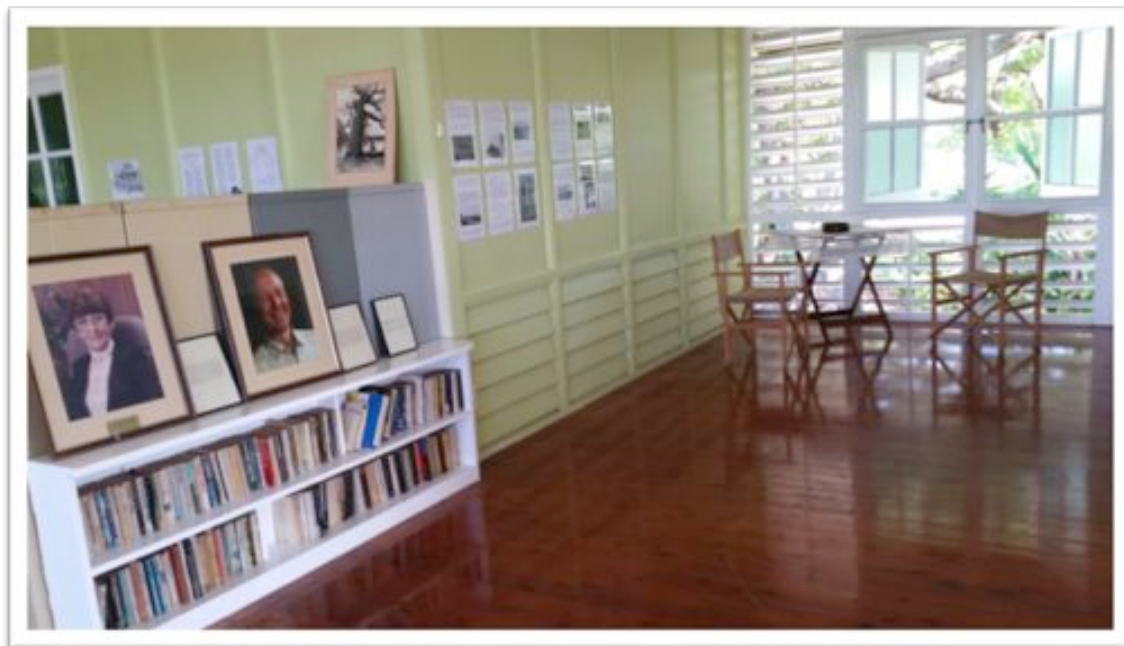
Individual	\$65.00	\$195.00
Household	\$95.00	\$285.00
Senior	\$58.50	\$175.50
Senior Household	\$85.50	\$256.50
Pensioner	\$52.00	\$156.00
Pensioner Household	\$76.00	\$228.00
Joining fee	\$35.00	

*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 on Heritage Festival Open Day 2017

As part of the annual National Trust heritage Festival, Audit House was open for inspection on the 29<sup>th</sup> April. It looked fabulous.



There was the lovely fresh paintwork. More open and airy space was a result of the removal of much of the ugly old office furniture. History bits and pieces on put up on the wall and there was a great feeling of what the house must have been like to live in. Still some things to take out but a good start was made.

Many thanks to those wonderful volunteer Friends of Audit who helped get it into shape...

The painters of bookcases – Claire Martin, Julia Christensen, Lex Silvester, Jo van Os thank you so much. People commented on how great they looked and what a difference it made.

To Mo who made bright new cushions and donated a shower curtain that fitted with the age of the house perfectly - thank you very much.

The House received some wonderful donations to its growing collection as well. Wendy James looked through her shed and found a magnificent planter, and some quaint kitchen pieces including a very fine old Sunbeam Mixmaster. Which she gave to the Trust.

From the home downsizing of the former Patron of the Trust, Austin Ashe and his wife Val came some gorgeous pieces for the future bedroom fit out. Their daughter Wendy has promised a very proper dressing table and bedside chest to come! They will be terrific and we look forward to displaying the small pieces with them.

Jan Hills dropped in some kitchen items too. A bright tea cosy, crocheted heat stand, hand towel and table cloth.



On the day there were about 50 visitors all of whom loved the place. Audit House certainly has a special spot in the hearts of Darwin folk.

Future plans are looking good too. It was always hoped that a small series of events could be held in the House and that plan is now coming to fruition.

There will be three events over the Dry Season – a performance by the Darwin Childrens' Choir, chamber music from the Arafura Ensemble and a dance program. Keep an eye out for the published program – ready soon.





## Katherine Branch News



Line up of the vintage cars outside School of the Air

On Saturday morning 29th April observers might have thought that Katherine had returned to an earlier era as old restored vehicles lined up along Riverbank Drive outside O'Keeffe House. Their presence signaled the annual Heritage Tour of Katherine's historical sites.

The Katherine Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts' Club members once again supported this event and Katherine Branch is extremely grateful for their ongoing support. Our sincere thanks are also extended to Mr Les Cox who once again delivered his extremely knowledgeable commentary as the participants arrived at each point of interest.

All who went on the tour reported that they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and some long time residents commented that they had learned so much history of our area previously unknown to them.

Following the tour everyone was able to enjoy morning tea in the cool shade of the trees at O'Keeffe House, view the House and pavilion, stroll around the garden and purchase plants and handcrafts.

The 1926 Railway Station has opened for the season and the wonderful volunteers will have the Book Exchange open at the following times from May until October (Wednesday to Friday: 11:00AM – 1:00PM and on Saturdays from 10:00AM- 12:30OM).

O'Keeffe House has also opened for the season and we are hoping for some more volunteers to allow us to keep the property open on a regular basis.

We look forward to the next event when we will host the Katherine Seniors Citizens' Association for a morning tea on Wednesday 10th May from 10:00AM. Amongst this group are keen supporters of our functions so it will be a pleasure to welcome them once again.

As most of our members like to support Ted and Bess Hart at their annual, Biggest Morning Tea for cancer research on the first Saturday of May our next monthly meeting will be held on the 13th of May.



Les explains how the Katherine Railway building was built



Daisy Cutter, bomb and crater

at Gallon Pub, Knotts Crossing

Site where one person was killed during WWII



Shrapnel marks can be seen on the rocks



Old Gallon Pub, Knotts Crossing

# McDouall Stuart Branch News

## The National Trust 2017 Heritage Festival – Having a Voice

The Blacksmith



Thanks to Kevin Diflo for organising the Heritage Festival in Alice Springs this year. There were excellent attendances at many of the events such as the very popular Heritage Day at the Telegraph Station where around 2,500 people attended. People came on foot, bicycle via the new walking track from town and the cars were parked almost back to the Stuart Highway. Games for the children and the blacksmith shop, which had the fire, stoked and the noise of hammering on hot iron, proved very popular.

Children's games



at the Telegraph Station

Left to Right:



Stuart Traynor, Ken Johnson, Des Nelson, Dick Kimber and Dave Frederiksen

The Doreen Braitling Memorial Lecture given by Ken Johnson AM and titled *Mammal Fauna of Central Australia: Scientist Studying Change Over Time* was a very interesting and well-attended talk. The talk was videoed if anyone missed out on attending. Present at this year's lecture were 4 past presenters of the Doreen Braitling Memorial Lecture: Dick Kimber 1990, Des Nelson 2014, Stuart Traynor 2015, Dave Frederiksen 2016.

Ken Johnson presenting



Doreen Braitling Lecture

The Alice Springs Library held three events two of which centered on Frieda Strehlow. Stuart Traynor and Alex Nelson added their considerable knowledge to the festival with a Twilight walk along Todd Mall and a Heritage Bus Tour of lesser-known historical and significant sites around Alice Springs. Some new events created a lot of interest. McDouall Stuart Branch thanks the organisations that held events during the Festival.

← Thanks to Damien Ryan for the photo.



John Strehlow presenting at the Library



People who attended *The Voice of Local Government in Alice Springs Today*



Pat Ansell Dodds at Pitchi Richi



### **The Digitisation of images Project**

The project to digitise images in the McDouall Stuart Collection is continuing and there have been some wonderful images found. At the same time, more documents have been added to the items already scanned from the Hartley Street School Library with the complete set of Inland Reviews now scanned and added to the collection. Thanks to Alex Nelson for sharing his copies to complete the collection and Peter Jones for the scan of the missing cover.

### **Visitors to The Hartley Street School Museum**

We were pleased to meet with Caddie Brain from the NT Library who visited the Hartley Street School and Stuart Town Gaol last week. Visitors to Hartley Street School this month have included some young women whose grandmothers attended the school. They were very happy to find photos of their relatives and see their names in the attendance register and an American visitor who had attended the Alice Springs Primary School was very excited to visit her old school. We are hopeful that she will be able to contribute more photographs of the school from her parents' collection.

### **New Volunteers**

The branch welcomes the new volunteers who are helping to keep the school and the gaol open to visitors.



The Northern Territory Library collects documents and images of historical significance about the NT.

Our collections can be accessed online at

<https://territorystories.nt.gov.au/>

We are seeking the help of members of National Trust with an interest in NT history and culture to provide feedback on our system and what we might be able to do better.

Please take our survey at

<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3542474/Territory-Stories>

NB: If you received this newsletter via email - the survey link is accessible in the body text. Alternatively, you can find the survey link on our Facebook Page!