

June 2017

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.



NEW and RENEWING Memberships



At a saving of \$35 there is no better time to join us in caring for the NT's heritage!

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Myilly Point Heritage Precinct
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Last Drinks for Orchard Somerville-Collie at Burnett House

Orchard Somerville-Collie, Chair and Branch Representative of the Larrakeyah Branch of National Trust (NT) lost his battle with Cancer in April 2017.

Orchard managed the small Committee with great skill and patience. He called us 'his team'.

I would often look at him when we were discussing an issue, sometimes rather vigorously, and he would be rolling his eyes, waiting to bring us back to the point in question.

Orchard was known for his humour and would end the Committee meetings with one of his special jokes, which would send us off with a laugh and that wonderful feeling of companionship.

Orchard, we will miss your company, good humour, your voice of reason and for your many and varied skills.

Orchard's wife Amanda rang me to tell me of Orchard's last wish. He asked to have "Last Drinks at Burnett House".

A gathering of some 30 people assembled on the lawns of Burnett House on a beautiful dry season Sunday to raise their glasses "To Orchard"



Orchard and Amanda at Government House

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
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.

Heritage Festival – Darwin Region: 18 April to 29 April 2017

The National Trust Heritage Festival was organised by the Larrakeyah Branch Festival Committee. Orchard Somerville-Collie, Trevor Horman and Judy Richardson with the assistance of the many hard working volunteers of the Larrakeyah Branch.

Palmerston Rail Trail Walk

Peter Poole was leader of this walk along the old Palmerston to Pine Creek railway corridor. Peter talked about the survey in 1884 and the engineering designs, Mitchell Creek at 15-mile post and all points of interest as we followed along behind him. A mini bus was arranged to transport walkers back to their cars. Thank you Steve Hall for transporting a few tired walkers back to their cars.



Cemetery Ghost Walk

Always a popular event at the old Goyder Road Cemetery: Christine Millowick, Lillian Smith and a few ghosts guided us around the cemetery telling the tales of colourful citizens of yester year. The ghosts of Edward Hopewell, John George Knight, Sarah Lee hang Gong, Thomas Crush and George McLachlan popped up to have a bit of a chat with us as we strolled past their graves.



History and Heritage Tour and Barbeque

This tour, led by Peter Poole, started off from the 1934 Qantas Hangar. We visited many sites in and around Darwin with lots of chances to hop off the Bushside coach and listen to Peter telling stories of the past. Members of Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts arranged the BBQ and told the stories of the old Hangar.



Heritage Debate

The subject of this debate was "Should Government House join AirBNB".

The team 'for' included: Sally Thomas, Karen Martin-Stone and Janice Warren. The team 'against' included: Martin Carroll, Tami Grealy and Gerry Wood.

Clare Martin was co-ordinator who had to keep everyone in order. It was a great laugh with lots of booing and shouting so we were not too sure who won.

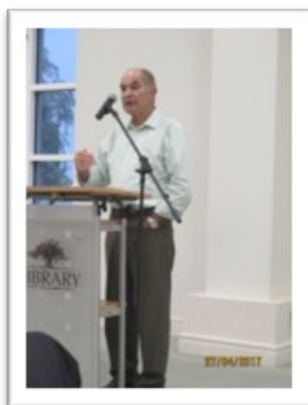
Bombers to Batchelor

Tour started at Burnett House with Bushside Coaches picking us up and heading down the track. We visited many WW2 sites, visiting Fighter strips and Medical Receiving Station and hearing about Douglas McArthur. We had lunch at Batchelor and journeyed to Coomalie where we met up with Richard Luxton who had many tales to tell about this old Bomber airstrip.



Roadmasters House

Trevor Menzies open Roadmasters House for the day and welcomed visitors and related stores from the past. Pearl Ogden gave a talk on the 2-½ mile.



Barbara James Memorial Lecture

In the absence of Malarndirri McCarthy Bob Beadman gave the lecture of the theme of "Having a Voice". Bob has had a long involvement with Aboriginal struggles through the years.

Heritage Quiz Night at Burnett House

We had intended to set up on the lawns of Burnett House but it looked very like rain so we transported all our chairs and tables to underneath Mines House. Our quizmaster was Andy from the Casuarina Club who did an excellent job and Sue Dibbs was kept

busy marking answer sheets. All had a great night and the questions were many and varied. Too many heritage questions were banned!



Myilly Pont Heritage Precinct Open House Day

All four houses at Myilly Point were open for viewing. Our volunteers manned the houses to greet the guests and tell the stories of the people and the houses. Our resident folk band provided the music, which wafted thru the grounds making for a very pleasant afternoon. Tea and Coffee was served.

Goyder's Towns Car Rally

This was a self-drive tour led by Trevor Horman and began at Burnett House. We visited all the areas surveyed by George Goyder including the towns of Virginia, Southport, Tumbling Water and 3 wells.

Ted and Shirley Mumme made the journey in their old ford, which turned many heads along the way.





Larrakeyah Branch National Trust
Historical Society Northern Territory



The Never Never Line

The "All Aboard" was sounded and the passengers at Burnett House boarded Leaping Lena for a nostalgic journey along the old North Australia Railway from Palmerston (Darwin) to Birdum. Trevor Horman, President of National Trust, escorted us along the old Corridor talking of the many triumphs and tribulations of the Victorian era railway until its final closure in 1976. Using historic images taken by Paul Foelsche and the 1912 Federal Parliamentary delegation and other photographers of the era, Trevor provided some idea of how the railway was built and operated and the conditions that obtained for passengers and staff. There were many questions and comments at the end of the



"Picnic Train 1929"

Gulf Branch News

On May 13th 2017 at the Old Borrooloola Police Station Norforce personnel, Police Officers, local Gulf National Trust members, National Trust NT President Trevor Horman and Larrakeyah Branch Sec Judy Richardson and the local community gathered at the Borrooloola Old Police Station to remember



and reflect on the crash of a United States of America Airforce B24 Consolidated Liberator bomber in the Gulf of Carpentaria hinterland. It was the 75th anniversary of the rescue of Downed aircrew member Sergeant Grady Gaston of the 321st Squadron of the 90th Bombardment Group of the USA Air Force stationed at Iron Range on Cape York Peninsular.

Eddie, Janet and Trevor

On the December 2nd 1942 while returning from operations off New Guinea the B24 Liberator "Little Eve" ran into difficulties while trying to evade a severe tropical storm, lost radio contact and crashed into the Gulf hinterland.

Of the 10 aircrew six survived the initial crash by parachuting to safety while four died in the crash.

Two walked east and were found at Escott Station in Queensland fourteen days later and the alarm was raised.

Four of the airmen believing that they were on the east coast walked to Gulf coast and headed in a north westerly direction towards Borrooloola. A decision which was to have fatal consequences for three of the party.

The wet season had commenced in earnest in a huge area of a largely unpopulated area of the Australian mainland and despite a number of attempts to locate the downed airmen, the search was unsuccessful and abandoned.

On the 24th December the four survivors reached Robinson River suffering from exhaustion, malnutrition and total despair.

One by one the survivors succumbed until only Grady Gaston remained alive. On April 21st Jack Keighan owner of Seven Emus Station while mustering with a team of stockmen, chanced to visit one of the old paperbark huts at the mouth of the Robinson River and noticed the presence of others.

Grady Gaston, gaunt, ragged and emaciated, weighing only 45k, half of his normal weight, was repatriated through Borrooloola back initially to Townsville.

Aboriginal communities from Doomadgee, Pungalina and Wollgorang were sent out to search for signs of the missing airmen. The Tiger Moth aircraft searching for survivors initially caused some panic amongst Aboriginal people. They soon came to realise the aircraft were searching for the airmen also and as this was a significant event in their lives composed this into a corroboree with a

some importance. (Aeroplane Dance)
As most of the people from this era have passed away, the dance is only performed on special occasions.

2001 Borroloola Dancers perform the aeroplane Dance at the School oval .



L/RJ Eddie, Major Fletcher, Johnno Keighran, Majorie Keighran, Jefferey Norman



The occasion was commemorated with interpretation panels placed at the Borroloola Old Police Station Museum. The panels were developed and produced with assistance from the NTG "**The Territory Remembers**", grant The panels were unveiled by Major Fletcher and Sgt Norman of Norforce with John and Majorie Keighan descendants of Jack Keighan.

Local Gulf Treasurer Sue Morgan at work in the old Police Station , Thanks also to new Gul member Adrian O 'Rielly for opening and closing the old Police Station whilst Glen has been away and Andrew for Mowing , Roper Gulf Shire Staff and Mabunji Staff for slashing and preparing the Grounds and Commons for the Open Day .





The Friends of Audit House have arranged a small program of three events to be held in Audit House.
The events will be:

1. Performance by a choir of young people trained by Norah Lewis and is scheduled for Friday June 16 at 6 pm. \$10 entry \$8.00 for National Trust Members.
2. Lisa Heath School of Dance will present a program of ballet, singing and contemporary dance and Islander dance by young people aged up to teens. Friday June 30 at 6.00 pm \$10 entry \$8.00 for National Trust members
3. Claire Kilgariff with the Arafura Ensemble will be performing an hour of chamber music from 5.30pm. Friday, August 18. \$15.00 entry \$13.00 for National Trust members.

There will be wine and soft drink available after the performances, served under Audit House.

Contact the office on 89812848 for information.