

December 2024

National Trust of Australia

Northern Territory



E Newsletter

It has been a busy year for all branches across the Northern Territory. The wet season is here, mother nature is putting on some spectacular light shows, the long grass is thriving and the Mosquitos and March Flies are fierce, take care by wearing your repellent, drinking plenty of fresh cool water and keeping sun smart. In this edition of NT Trust E-news, please enjoy a final years message from the president, a personal Cyclone Tracy Story and final reports from our NT Branches.

Happy Holidays!

National Trust of
Australia (Northern
Territory)

Audit House, 2
Burnett Place,
Larrakeyah

NT 0820

P: 08 8981 2748
admin@ntnationaltru
st.org.au





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FROM THE PRESIDENT

The festive period is on us again with the accompanying rumble of thunder and the promise of rain and some relief from the stifling heat and humidity. With the wet also comes the lightning and while fascinating to watch the results can be extremely destructive as we have found out over the years at Myilly Point. Sewerage pumps, air conditioners etc. are all fair game it would seem.

The scheme to build the multi-story flats at Little Mindil has not been approved by the Development Consent Authority due to the developer not providing the required information within set timelines. This decision is three years in the making, and I suspect that this is only a reprieve as most development proposals in Darwin seem to be recycled every so often in line with the state of the economy. Advocacy is defined as “active support for a cause” and there have been many over the years, some successful such as the Pine Creek Repeater Station, Myilly Point houses while others not so, such as the Hotel Darwin.

The preservation of Wesleyan Church, now Eva’s, at the Botanic Gardens was another long-term battle. We continue to make comments and submissions on behalf of our members whenever necessary. Some of the more recent ones being, the Esplanade, Khalin compound and Little Mindil, Wilkinsons Cottage, Anzac Oval and Cobourg Sawmill site just to name a few.

We finished the 2023-2024 financial year cycle with a marginal surplus. We received two Heritage Operational Grants (2023-2024 and 2024-2025) within the financial year artificially inflating out income for the 2023-2024 financial year. Our operational grant is normally paid six months in arrears. Although the money was paid earlier than normal it does not mean that there will be any additional funding, and we will need to stretch this until November/December 2025. So good on one hand in that we have certainty for the coming year, however the downside is we really do have to control our spending to ensure we do not run out prior to receiving our new allocation late 2025. At present over 90% of our operational funding is committed to non-discretionary expenses. Apart from a paid Administration officer the Trust is managed solely by volunteers. Without these people there would not be a National Trust (NT).

The Annual Report and Audit have now been completed for the 2023-2024 financial year. The Auditor had not flagged any issues. O’Keeffe House has had a makeover funded largely by the NTG CBF grant scheme plus donations from the Katherine Club. The building should be good for another few years with a lot of the defective Cypress pine scantlings being replaced.

This is the 50th year since Cyclone Tracy and Roddy Calvert was good enough to share her story with us in the last edition of e-news, so it seems only fair that we continue with another Cyclone Tracy survivor story.

I take this opportunity to offer my gratitude to NT Trust members, supporters and volunteers for their continued support in the past and into the coming year. I would also like to extend out heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who have contributed to the maintenance and upkeep of our properties across Northern Territory and keeping our doors open as without you the NT Trust wouldn't survive. Take care while on the roads this Christmas and make sure you have a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Thanks for your ongoing support

Eddie Webber director@nationaltrust.org.au 0490817552

Use of recorded music at NT National Trust Properties

In Australia the Copyright Act 1968 makes it a legal requirement to first seek permission to play music in a business/commercial setting regardless of what industry you operate in or how you play music. If your event or function is a public event, then you do need a license. If your event or function is a private event then you do not need to have a license. It doesn't matter what device you play music from in your business, id that music is protected by copyright, then you will need a license to permission to play it from the owners of the copyright. If you play copyright music from a radio, TV, video or a digital music service (such as streaming) you still require permission or a license to play it to the public. This includes playing music as a background sound.

In Australia, the various rights that are required to 'publicly perform' copyright protected music are bundled together in a single license, which provides a one-stop shop to use the vast majority of a world's music in your business. Obtaining a license is quick and easy through OneMusic Australia.

What does this mean for running events at any of our NT National Trust properties?

It's simple, if you have a private function or event, you do not need to get a license. This may include a Speaker's Night, booked Devonshire teas, Christmas Parties, Weddings, Volunteer events, any parties that are booked as private events.

If you are running an open house type event where you may make some money for the Trust, then you need to contact OneMusic and organise a music license for that event, if you wish to play background music. If you choose to not play music at a public event, then you do not need to obtain a license.

Events that would need a license could include Open Days where you sell goods, Devonshire teas, where the public can walk in and join without a booking, open events that a third party have requested use of a NT National Trust Property where they make some money, Open House Tours (if you wish to have music) where people pay to view the property.

Remember, if you do not have any background music playing then you do not need a license. This information is current as of November 2024.



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Remembering Cyclone Tracy

Cyclone Tracy 1974-2024



Our Story – by Eddie Webber

The night of Tracy was frightening at times for us and absolutely freezing out in the rain, but it could have been a lot worse as was the case for a lot of people. Both Beverly and I had grown up in remote locations and you learned to deal with whatever was in front of you, vehicle rollovers, broken bones, fingers stitched back on etc. I suspect the seriousness of the situation only started to kick in a few days later. The family unit of myself, wife Beverly and 5-year-old son Stuart came out physically unharmed. We were living in an upstairs house in Butter Street Moil. Opposite the park with a fenced in lane way down the eastern side. Beverly's aunt in Sydney had taken a turn and was not expected to live. So, she and Stuart had spent the preceding two weeks in Sydney, returning Christmas Eve 1974 to Darwin.

I was working for Forestry unit of the Northern Territory Administration at the time and had spent the three weeks prior at Murguella, returning to Darwin a few days before Christmas. Cyclone Selma had tested the rain gauges in the Cobourg Peninsular region with heavy showers and gusting winds up to around 120km per hour, reaching category two, I think. Nothing unusual or anything to write home about. The lead up to Christmas Day had been pretty hectic, as there was a number of obligatory social gatherings to attend around town. I undertook the shopping for Christmas Day lunch as there were a number of outstation people in town and a number were expected to gather at home for a drink or five if not to eat. I picked up the family from the Darwin airport on Christmas Eve. Entry at that time was from the Stuart Highway opposite the Shell airport service station. We had a bit of a yarn about the cyclone emergency warning on the radio. The warning blasted out every hour or so, pretty hard to miss. We went through the basics without too much conviction on my part, convinced that this would be another storm not unlike Selma. Things like house keys and car keys were secured and could we consider the bathroom as a bolt hole as according to expert advice it was the safest room in the house. Opening the louvers on the lee side of the house to lessen pressure build up in the house, canned food, torches etc. What could go wrong we had enough food to feed an army. By around 11.00 pm the house was starting to shudder with wind gusts and water shooting through the closed louvers on the Northern side of the house. Water was squirting to the centre of the room, and we moved the furniture out of the direct rain spray and placed old towels to soak up some of water.

The Christmas tree and decorations were a bit of a lost cause, and we thought not much point doing anything with this now. Everything should settle down soon and when the storm passes, we can sort this or better still leave it until morning. Presents from under the tree were stacked away in the hall room cupboard. By this time there was a continuous roar of the wind howling as it channelled around the corners, accompanied by the drumming of the Aralias on the wall of the house until they beat themselves to death. Occasionally there was a rise in pitch almost to a scream, and I wondered if this could be the wailing of the Banshee often referred to by my maternal grandmother admonishing me and my siblings when we were kids and running amuck.

The power had gone off earlier and everything was dark apart from lightning flashes. We were joking about the whites of eyes in the lightning flashes. We moved Stuart into our bedroom and had just gone through the hundred questions including, *do houses blow down, will Santa know where to come, where is our dog will he be alright*. Of course not, a few trees may blow down or lose their leaves, but houses like ours are built to last, yes Santa will know, he has elves to help

him, and our dog who had disappeared sometime the day before, would at this moment be nice and safe somewhere as animals know these things. By midnight we were starting to settle when there was a huge crash as something hit the end of the house followed by a loud tearing noise as half of the roof lifted off. We decided to test the safest room in the house theory, so into the bathroom. The roof had taken the rear wall with it so there was not a great deal to be gained by standing in the open by the bathtub in the extremely cold driving rain and when the eye passed over, we could be in for a bit of a pasting from the other direction. So, plan B, into the storeroom under the house.

The back wall was laying across the backstairs handrails, so on hands and knees backwards down the stairs with someone hanging on not unlike a Koala. Downstairs was a little less windy as the storeroom door was protected by a besser block alcove and wash trough. Only trouble was where were the keys? There was no way I was going back upstairs to look for them. I had recently reinforced the door with a barrel bolt top and bottom as someone had broken in while we were away. Fortunately, I had been in a rush to repair and had only put a couple of screws in until I could get some Cup Head bolts to do the job properly and fortunately, the screwdriver was still in the nearby wash tubs. Something to be said for being slack, occasionally.

By torch light I soon had the retaining screws out and we were out of the wind and rain. It probably only took a couple of minutes, but it seemed much longer. Inside the storeroom was most of my bush gear, swag, truck tarpaulin and half a dozen ex-army ammo boxes filled with the usual paraphernalia such as tinned tucker, flagging tape, recovery gear, ropes and chains etc. We threw out some of the useless or should I say less resourceful items such as a turfer winch, exercise bike, spare tyres and built a wall of ammo boxes and lined it with the swag and pulled the tarp back over us. Once inside we started to warm up and my teeth stopped chattering. The driving rain was immensely cold. We remained like this the rest of the night listening to the banging, clanging and the incessant undulating roar of the wind. A long night indeed.

The eye passed over and I was tempted to go out and have a look at the damage, but I was being held in a death grip and Stuart became really agitated when I tried to disengage. Daylight slowly dawned and the wind had well and truly eased and I started to doze off. The storm had passed, and we were warm if not entirely dry in the storeroom. While dozing I thought I heard someone calling out and clambered out to see four straggly characters going from house to house checking if anyone needed help. I knew one of the group and thanked them for their effort, confirming that we were alive and uninjured. They carried on their way, and I started to survey the damage which could succinctly be described with one or two words. Nothing of the house above the floorboards had survived. This was one of the older houses with a good-sized back yard which was now littered with torn roof sheeting, shattered walls, splintered roof trusses, clothing and rubbish. It was still heavily overcast with drizzling rain. We wandered around the back yard gathering clothing and anything else we thought useful. Not much I'm afraid. The hardest thing was going to be how to get things if not totally clean then dry. Whose shirt is this? Don't worry if it fits it is yours.

It was around lunch time by this, and we hooked up the primus camping stove to the gas bottle and heated a can of cream of mushroom soup followed by a piece of fruit cake salvaged from somewhere, misshapen and a bit soggy but edible. Following Christmas lunch, I had just walked to the front yard to have a look up and down the street and saw my younger brother head down walking away. I yelled out and he stopped and turned around with an astonished look on his face. His first words were "*how the bloody hell did you get out of that I thought you lot were just grease spots*". Don't sound too disappointed about it, you know only the good die young was my reply. The dog had disappeared sometime the day before and I thought we would probably never see him again. However, a couple of days later, much to the delight of Stuart, the dog came

wandering back looking extremely pleased with himself. And after much face licking and hugging the dog and child became inseparable for the next couple of days. The fire hydrant across the road had been broken off at ground level and we had our own water fountain in the street. Good for lathering up but not very conducive to drying out as the water shooting into the air was dispersed by the occasional gust of wind creating a misting effect. I cannot remember when it was shut off, but it ran for a couple of days at least.

It is hard to describe the street. All the overhead power lines were laying on the bitumen with all sorts of timber, iron and cyclone debris with screws and nails littering the roadway. The power poles were leaning at all different angles i.e. those that were still standing interspaced by the occasional wreck of a motor car. Hard to even work out what model or make they were. When driving down the street you had to weave or zig zag from one verge to the other, hopping out at intervals to remove obstructions. Access gradually became better, with increased traffic, over the coming days as obstructions and debris was gradually removed. The big issue still being punctures from the many nails and screws littering the ground.

Over the next day or so we cleaned up what we could, buried the contents of the refrigerator and freezer and tried to make the place as liveable as possible. By this time people had started to wander around and the Chinese whispers had started. Evacuations, looting, speculation on the number of deaths and injured, Darwin was doomed, while several people we knew were of the opinion it was a good time for renovations and perhaps they needed a new car anyway. Black humour probably got us through the worst of it in the next few days.

The rain continued intermittently all day, and the floorboards were totally saturated and dripped water incessantly making it hard to get anything dry and or warm up. My brother had a flat in the old Ross Smith Hostel in Parap. These flats were largely untouched apart from some water damage. After some discussion we decided to go back to the flats in Parap for the night and dry out. Right next to the Parap pool, which we and a considerable number of other people were using for the daily ablutions. Better than the pipeline on the Stuart Highway initially. One afternoon we passed the Marrara Hotel which was open with a fair contingent of Federal Police in attendance. There were also two or three NT policemen, easily discernible as their khaki uniforms stood out from the blue of the Feds. We wheeled in just to see what was going on probably more than anything else. Nothing like getting info from the horse's mouth so as to speak. No one challenged us, so next, order a drink at the bar as it seemed to be operating and reasonably busy.

I knew one of the barmen (a Tickles delivery van driver) who informed me to just order what you want, meals over there, what are you drinking, don't worry about the money side of things, the tab is being picked up by the Feds. A proper sit-down meal with a few drinks, and life seemed a little better. On the way out we had to pass two health sisters. Have you had Typhoid vaccination, can't remember, when did you have your last Tetanus booster, can't remember, Hepatitis, three years ago. Well to be on the safe side it would probably pay you to get vaccinated which arm would you prefer. After receiving the shots we were offered some advice, do not drink any alcohol. Too late and I certainly paid for it that night.

On leaving the Marrara one of the Federal policemen we had been talking to insisted on outfitting Stuart with underwear despite our assertions that we should be right. Stuart had enough singlets and underwear to last him for the next three years, having to grow into some as the range was from five-year-old to nine-year-old just in case. Beverly had an aunt and uncle in Tennant Creek and her cousin who was in the Navy got a message delivered that we would be more than welcome there. Seemed like a reasonable solution to us for the short term. Get Beverly and Stuart to Tennant as the powers to be were advocating evacuation of all non-essential personnel.

On the 29th after procuring two new tyres for our car, we set off with the intention of dropping the family off at Tennant and returning to Darwin. We had three cars in the yard and under the house on the night of Cyclone Tracy. Two belonging to outstation people. One a Mini Moke had a small tear in the fabric canopy and the other a Falcon sedan sustained a few scratches. Ours on the other hand had been sandblasted with blue metal and debris from the road and the two back tyres had been pierced by a single fascia board off one of the buildings.



Fannie Bay Beach

My brother drove his car down to bring me back. I left our car in Tennant for repairs, and it seemed that Sammy's panel works in Tennant could be in for a bumper season. We arrived in Tennant late that night or probably early next morning. While I thought I was dealing with it reasonably well after seeing the state of some of our co-workers who had left Darwin in convoy, it took me two days to uncurl my fingers out of the shape of the steering wheel. All good, don't rush back, you may as well stay for the New Year Eve party. Sounds good two beers and I was done.

Next day I visited the local Police Station explained the situation and obtained approval to travel back to Darwin. Two lines on a half of an A4 sheet signed by the OIC and a handful of coupons for fuel on the way. They could not have been more helpful. The run back to Darwin was pretty uneventful, passing through several Police check points along the way. Back in Darwin one of the main issues was the number of fallen trees and I spent the next three months with a small crew cutting fallen trees into manageable pieces.

Prior to Cyclone Tracy a number of smaller departments had been merged to create Forestry Fisheries, Wildlife, Environment and National Parks (FFWE&NP). After considerable time was spent cleaning up the new North Lakes Golf Course someone amended our logo to FFWE & NP & GC. Our director who was a golfer was not amused. Dr John Lake (Fisheries) was the last man standing after the cyclone and was occupied organising the transfer of the main office to Brisbane for an initial twelve-month period. Anyone wishing to transfer to Brisbane could do so. Many did so and unfortunately did not return to Darwin. We congregated at Berrimah Farm and continued to work from there for the ensuing months and years. Most times there were four or five in our group and from time to time we were given people to assist who had little idea of the potential damage a chainsaw can inflict if the operator turns around with saw still running and someone is standing too close behind. It is not really something you need to experience, and we had several close calls. Some heeded the warning others were reassigned to something hopefully safer which did not require as much common sense.

Some of the places we had to clean up still had locks and chains on the gates, but with fences pulled down by trees. One of the mechanics gave me a two-meter-long set of bolt cutters. His comment at the time was you may have some difficulty with this on your key ring, but I am sure you will manage. Our first challenge was botanic Gardens then Gilruth Neck and onto the Northern Suburbs. One thing that amused us was the postal Institute of the NT (PINT) club on Blake Street where we sometimes had a break for lunch. They had a huge screen which had the ABC test pattern running continuously. Unbelievably dozens of people were seated around watching the test pattern.



Bush Fire Councils multi jack cleaning up at McMillians Road



Lee Point Road Northern Suburbs

A few other things that stick with me are the banter while waiting in line at Carba when getting ice, an entertainer falling off the stage at the Berrimah Swinger, slightly charged was the murmur but weren't we all that night, a sailor from the HMAS Stalwart who found me a new pair of work boots and work shirts, ask no questions you get told no lies type of transaction and two out of state police officers doing the rounds asking to see our identification. This is pretty much how I remember things. However little bits and pieces I had forgotten came bubbling to the surface as I started writing, some great others not so memorable. The clean up after I returned to Darwin from Tennant Creek is another story. After four or five months, Beverly and Stuart returned to Darwin and we moved to Murganella for the next couple of years as staff slowly returned. In 1978 we moved back to Darwin and I spent the next five years working on the (three year) Urban enhancement and Darwin Beautification program. Beverly died in 1988 after a long battle with cancer and Stuart lives in Western Australia working in the Pilbara for Fortescue Mining.

Eddie Webber.

Merry Christmas

Katherine Branch 2024

Christmas lights at O'Keeffe House wherein display for 4 nights, commencing with the opening night on 30 Nov. This year the gardens were lit up with many strings of lights and lit-up outlines of reindeer and some Australian animals. A feature inside the pavilion was the information boards giving a short history of pioneers of Katherine. A big thank you to our two local clubs and other trades people who have assisted us over the 2024. We could not exist without your help.

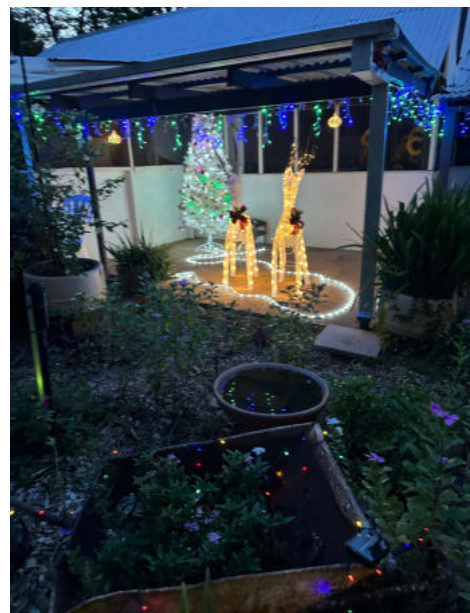
The Old 1926 Railway Station and Book Exchange and O'Keeffe House will be closed for the wet season although plant sales can be made on request. Volunteers will still maintain the gardens so anyone driving past can stop and admire. Estimated re-opening will be after Easter in April 2025.



Bess and Gaye selling baked goods



Barbara selling baked goods



O'Keeffe House gardens and light display

Darwin Branch 2024

The Darwin Branch has been very active in 2024, ensuring that events are planned effectively to provide heritage-value experiences for attendees. A HUGE thank you to our supportive volunteers who are there week after week putting in an immense effort. We need to give them a break now and again, so if you can spare 2-3 hours on a regular or semi-regular basis please make contact, we would love to hear from you!



International Women's Day High Tea at Audit House



Volunteer taking orders

The highlight of the year was the **2024 Darwin Heritage Festival** held between 4-19 May. From the Myilly Point Heritage Precinct Open Day to the fundraiser held at the Deckchair cinema, with the opportunity for supporters to view the film 'The Great Escaper', to our Speaker's Night where author Andrew Crouch discussed his research on his recent book 'Connecting the North', locals and visitors have been supporting in droves. Our volunteers have been amazing with their energy to produce first class events.



Darwin Branch Volunteers at the Deckchair Cinema fundraiser



Her Honor the Honourable Sally Thomas AC

Our annual **Barbara James Memorial lecture**, held in memory of the remarkable, accomplished woman, Barbara James who played a pivotal role in uncovering and protecting the heritage of the northern Territory, was presented by Her Honor the Honourable Sally Thomas AC. This memorable Heritage Festival event was well attended and enabled a good cross section of Darwin locals to discuss heritage matters.

The Festival closed on a high note with excellent attendance at History House on Saturday morning 18 May, where a range of books, publisher or supported by Historical Society of the Northern Territory, were

available for purchase. Likewise, families enjoyed the Open Cockpit Day at the Dawin Aviation Museum the following day.

Dementia Australia Darwin group held their Memory Lane Cafe at Burnett House in June with 47 participants and carers. A more recent example was attendance of 27 members of the Ionian Club to Burnett House for morning tea. On the same day we welcomed 18 participants from Academy Travel for a tour of Burnett House. This interest by tour companies has been gaining popularity this year. We have also has a recent visit by the tour company Botanica Group where participants enjoyed afternoon tea and a tour of Burnett House, concluding with a leisurely stroll through the garden.



Dementia Australia's Memory Lane Cafe



Christmas Event 2024

A final highlight of our year would have to be our well-planned Speaker Nights. In March, Dr Dave Liddle, an ecologist with a passion for the world of plants, presented a photographic tour of Territory plants of conservation significance. It's events such as these thought the year which remind people of the importance of remembering and paying homage to history and respecting our Northern Territory heritage.

Overall, our branch committee members and volunteers have been working very hard and have been extremely supportive of our events this year but, we have a looming problem. There is concrete cancer in the structural beam on the western verandah of Burnett House. Grants have been received this year and others have been applied for but, costs are escalating as delays due to lack of funding. Two reports have been written by a local architect, in conjunction with a structural engineer. Thanks to those members of the Darwin Branch who have donated towards this cause. I am grateful for your support.

As a result of the much needed repairs, Burnett House will not be able to open in 2025 until the repairs are completed. Hopefully by the time our usual event-filled month of April arrives, Burnett House will be able to open.

Thank you for all your support at our events and as a volunteer. We are taking inquiries for 2025 dry season, please email darwinriver325@gmail.com with your requests for discussion with the Darwin Branch committee.

Dr. Helen Spiers, Chair, Darwin Branch

Roadmasters House Report 2024

Roadmasters House recently hosted a morning tea for a group of retired NT surveyors. The purpose of the function was to enable Stephanie Whitaker, daughter of long serving Territory surveyor, Reg Wilson, to collect material for a family history project. At the function, members of the group reminisced over their office and field experiences of working with Reg over his decades with the Survey Branch.



Image: Google Creative Commons

Reg Wilson 1931-2020

Image: Google Creative Commons

Reg served as a government surveyor in the Territory from 1949 until retiring in 1996 at the mandatory age of 65. His early career was spent on establishing the suburbs of Parap and Fannie Bay out of the prewar aerodrome land at Parap. In the early days survey fieldwork was confined to the towns in the wet and the bush in the dry. He was later involved in the surveying of Darwin's northern suburbs from Nightcliff in the 1950's through to the outer northern suburbs and the beginnings of Palmerston in the 1980's. Apart from urban work he was involved in many rural and pastoral land surveys in the Top End over his 47 year career.

Reg passed away in 2020 aged 89. His generation were the last of the true bush surveyors - working and living in remote places under tough conditions for weeks on end. Their tools of trade - the theodolite and chain, the mechanical calculator and mathematical tables have long been replaced by electronic instruments, GPS and computers. The life of a surveyor these days is vastly different to that when Reg started in 1949.

Reg's brother Nick was also a long serving Territory surveyor having had a career path similar to that of Reg. After retiring, Nick was commissioned by the National Trust in the mid-1980's to survey and document the remains and relics of the Overland Telegraph Line that opened in 1872 to connect Adelaide with Darwin by electric telegraph. The detailed reports of his findings, held in the NT Library have provided valuable information for those with an interest in this milestone project in Territory history.

The Wilson brothers are legendary in Territory surveying circles. Both born and bred Territorians with great affection for the place and its history. Their legacy is a combined 80 years service to develop the Territory through their land surveying and related endeavours.

Operations Report

Roadmasters House closed for the year in September due to storm water drainage works on the adjacent land. The car park had to be closed to enable machinery and work vehicles to access the site.

Visitor number in 2024 were less than previous years. Average daily attendance over the season was down to about four a day to five in the previous year. The best day was 16 but there were a few zeros.

The National Trust's 10 year lease over Roadmasters House is due to expire in 2026 with no provision for extension. The new Government may have interest in occupying the vacant former Stella Maris buildings on the site. The Museum will open in February 2025 but its future beyond next year is uncertain - Trevor Menzies.

McDouall Stuart Branch 2024



This year on 6 October at Hartley Street School Museum we had our McDouall Stuart AGM. It started with our special guest Belinda Seymour discussing the beautiful work and effort that has gone into getting the old Arltunga Pub and Hotel back up and almost ready for visitors and tourists in the very near future. It was a wonderful talk in which many people were very excited on the developments, many also engaged with Belinda after the talk, with many questions of interest.

After the talk there were both Bill Lows Chairman's report and Ian Mann's Treasurers report. The reports conclude five key items. Firstly, the drastic stage we are in as far as the need for volunteers. Secondly, the need to make things much easier for many elderly followers to become members.

The fourth item, is Bills discussion that despite the tough time we had gathering Heritage Week on track this year, with online week to get the plan out, due to Alice Springs Town Council work on the Hartley Street School Museum, we still managed to get 427 people involved in coming to our Heritage events in and around Alice Springs at our 2024 event.

Fifth and last, is the need for a form of EFTPOS machine in regards to many visitors wanting to pay with card as they no longer carry cash. There were discussions of getting a system which pays with a smart phone without the MCDS being charged fees every month however, this would not work for us as we still need to be able to have both card and phone methods of paying.

We would like to thank a number of volunteers and also in memory of those who have sadly passed away with National Trust NT this last year especially David Hewitt, who's service to the Trust and especially over the years in Alice Springs has been a great loss.

New board members for 2024 and those nominated to stand:

Loraine Brahman has stepped in as Public Officer for the position on board from 2024-2025

Bill Low - Chairperson

Joel Crawford - Deputy Chairperson

Vacant - Secretary however Joel and Bill will share Secretary duties

Ian Mann - Treasurer

Brenda Shields - Board Member.

After the AGM new board voted in for 2024-2025, everyone enjoyed afternoon tea. In all 26 people signed in for the 2024-2025 AGM talk.



Our volunteer Christmas lunch went well on Saturday 01 Dec 24 (see image) we had 12 volunteers in all turn up to a wonderful Christmas lunch, including three ladies who run AI - Anon on Saturday at the Hartley Street School Museum. We chose the Gap View Hotel this year, the same venue as 2022. The meals were great and everyone had a lovely time.

Audit House, Burnett House and Stahl Block



Some National Trust NT properties can be hired for functions and other activities such as workshops and meetings. If you would like to know more, please contact Suraksha at Audit House office on 08 8981 2848 or email admin@ntnationaltrust.org.au and we will put you in contact with the appropriate branch. In Darwin, the location and ambience of Myilly Point Heritage Precinct, you can hire Audit House and Grounds or the Grounds of Burnett House. Stahl Block has drawn many events over the years including art and photography exhibitions, talks, seminars, music and theatre events, weddings, birthday parties, baby showers, bridal showers and Darwin Festival events.

Don't be disappointed - Book your functions for 2025 now!

The current venue hire brochure for Myilly Point Heritage Precinct is found at: <https://www.nationaltrustntstore.com/venue-hire>

Audit House is open Monday to Friday 9am to 2pm. It will be closing CB day on 20 Dec and reopening on 6 Jan 2025.

HERITAGE LINKS:

NT Heritage Register <https://nt.gov.au/property/land/heritage-listings/heritage-register-search-for-places-or-objects>

Library & Archives NT <https://lant.nt.gov.au/>

Darwin City Geotrail <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/525ddf2f92d34edfb8e4792fde889681>

Pine Creek Miners park and Geo Trail <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/9958bd78ef624deeb1531781cc4438a4>

NT Modern <https://ntmodern.org/>



Image: Google Creative Commons

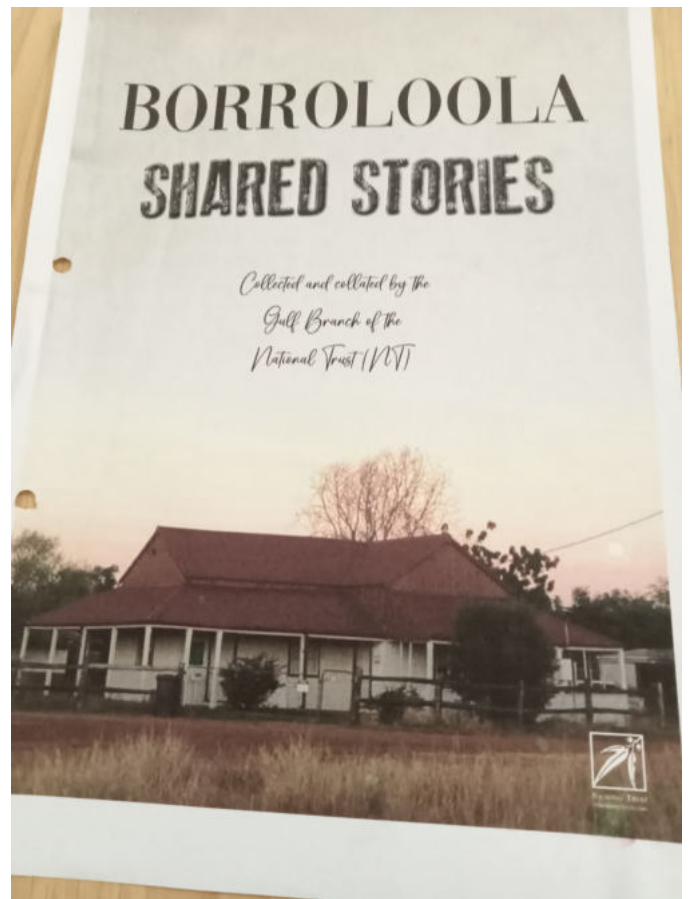
Gulf Branch Report 2024

Gulf Branch members at Borroloola are very excited as the wet season is coming!

The fish are biting though the heat a wee bit oppressive. Weeds are going crazy and lawns are a bit of a challenge. A big thanks to Ted and Sharon for keeping on top of the grounds maintenance. The Gulf Branch finally received a quote in our grant printing price range of \$5000 thanks to Roper Gulf Shire for their Community Grant support.

Borroloola Stories - Book Three is now on the production line for sale early 2025. A special thanks to NT Uni Print and all the writers who contributed their stories and photos. Stephen Ashford, Annette Bradford, Gavin Carpenter, Shaun Evans, Janet Leather, Magistrate Elizabeth Morris, Peter Callanan* (dec), The Minister for the Aboriginal Affairs Malandiri McCarthy, Genn Thompson and Eddie Webber.

We wish all members, NT Trust Volunteers and their families a very safe and happy festive season.



Tennant Creek Branch



History Display Room 4 is slowly taking shape, Wednesday 30 Oct the Northern Territory Emergency Service, Tennant Creek Volunteer unit got a preview of the Emergency Service's display made up of Police, Fire and Emergency (SES) dating back to the start of the last goldfish town in Australia, Tennant Creek.

The history of the Police service dates back to the early 1930's followed by the nt Fire Brigade being formally organised in the late 1950's. NTES on the other hand started its life in the 1960's as the Civil Defence Organisation, in Tennant Creek the first Warden (Unit Officer) was Les A Liddell. Les undertook training at the Civil Defence College during the early days, later known as the (Australian Institute of Emergency Management). Mount Macedon Victoria. During 1974 Les was appointed as the co-ordinator of the local counter disaster committee. Christmas 1974 Cyclone Tracy hit Darwin with catastrophic force, Les a volunteer was put in charge of the evacuation operation in Tennant Creek which took many weeks, with Tennant Creek community, mining companies and service clubs such as CWA and Lions rallying behind Les.

The Civile Defence Organisation morphed into the Northern Territory Emergency Service in 1975 and is recognised throughout Australia as the State Emergency Service (SES). Les served as the Unit Officer until 1998 when he retired, during his service Les and the many volunteers attended numerous operations, land search for missing persons, road crash rescue, storm damage and many others.

In 1994 Les was awarded the 15 year National Medal for his voluntary service throughout those many years. The current crop of volunteer members follow in Les' footsteps selflessly serving the community of Tennant Creek and the Barkly. Now for the rest of room 4, the other displays will cover service clubs, schools, sports and many other areas that have become part of our everyday lives.



TRUST HOUSES CLOSING AND OPENING DATES

Alice Springs (McDouall Stuart Branch)

Best contact Joel 0432 826 185 for tours

Hartley Street School: 10:30-2:30pm Monday to Friday and 1-5pm Sunday's

Stuart town Goal: 1030-2pm Monday to Friday

Darwin Branch

Best contact Helen 0417 828 449

Burnett House : 10-1pm Monday to Saturday

Sunday Devonshire Tea's - held regularly during the dry season. Details on Trybookings

Monthly Speaker Night's - usually on Friday night - advertised on Facebook

Borroloola (Gulf Branch)

Best contact Janet 0429 625 832

Old Borroloola Police Station: 7-5pm all year round

Katherine Branch

Best contact Merriel 0429 807 491

O'Keeffe House: 9-12pm Saturday's plant sales, entry \$5 per adult

Available for event hire

Katherine Railway Precinct open Saturday mornings 9-12pm - dry season only

Available for event hire

Pine Creek

Pine Creek Repeater building/library: 9-12pm Monday to Friday

Pine Creek Railway Heritage Precinct: 11-3 otherwise give Barry a call 0411046274

Roadmasters House - Darwin closed until 2025

Best contact Trevor 0418 892 897

Tennant Creek Branch

Best contact Karl 0417 834 447

Tuxworth Fullwood House: Open Monday evenings or by appointment

Please note: days and times may change pending volunteer availability

If you have articles you'd like to contribute to the newsletter, or National Trust events you would like to publicise, please send them to admin@ntnationaltrust.org.au or tours@ntnationaltrust.org.au

Our next Newsletter will be circulated in March 2025



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