

March 2024

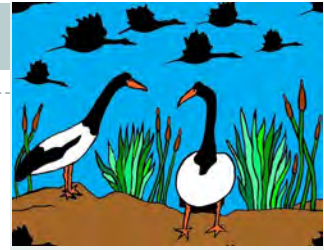
National Trust of Australia

Northern Territory



E Newsletter

Looking forward to a year full of success, fun and beautiful places. All branches need lots of volunteers to share the load, so spread the word and share some fun with friends in 2024.



Please check out the attached "Trust News" from December 1999 which was focused on the 25 year anniversary of Cyclone Tracy. How time flies as we are now 50 years since Cyclone Tracy.



Did you know:

Volunteering allows you to be constantly going about, keeps you busy, and highly active.

Research has shown that volunteers have a lower mortality rate compared to those who choose not to.

What is the most rewarding part of volunteering for you?

A Making a difference in someone's life

B Meeting new people

C Learning new skills

D Feeling a sense of accomplishment

FROM THE PRESIDENT

We hope that members and volunteers have had a happy and healthy break over the festive season and planning is underway for the **“2024 Heritage Festival - Connections”**.

In November last year, I visited O’Keeffe House with Katherine Branch members and contractor John Forrest, to discuss repairs that were proposed by heritage architect David Bridgland and in line with National Trust NT expectations. Subsequently, a quote to carry out the work was received from John Forrest, a grant application was lodged with the NT Community Benefits Fund and an application for approval to carry out the work was submitted to Heritage Advisory Council for consideration. We hope something positive may eventuate.

Late last year, I met with NT Heritage on how the National Trust NT could proceed to become more financially independent and be able to employ a property manager and the administration position and afford our property insurance. We were advised that a new Business Plan needs to be developed. After ongoing discussion with Robyn Secrett from NTG, a list of four potential consultants was provided to assist us in developing our new Business Plan. We have contacted their recommended consultants and discussions are continuing.

Early in 2024, we received a five year NTG Operational Grant Agreement which we signed and lodged with the Heritage Advisory Council. There was no increase in budget allocation and by the end of this agreement we will have received no increase across a ten year period. With our property insurance debt at over \$49,000 per year, which is about half of our annual grant, there is limited flexibility. Please note though that NTNT Council Exec members are investigating other insurance options including potentially cutting insurance on some of our properties.

Remedy of the long running issues with Mines House sewerage is at hand with the

NTG approving funding to undertake the necessary sewer line upgrade. This will now go ahead, weather permitting. There has been a long running issue with the sewerage systems at Myilly Point. In 2015, the overall system at Myilly Point Precinct was linked to a pit and pumping system. The connections from individual houses to the pits however, were not. We have sought to have these connected as funding becomes available.

The Australian Institute of Metallurgists and Miners (AusIMM) launched their Stage 1 website on the Pine Creek Miners Park and Geotrail in Darwin on 25 January 2024. The Geotrail linked to Miners Park in Pine Creek continues to go from strength to strength.

After some heavy wind conditions across Darwin in January, a cleanup at the Myilly Point precinct removed fallen branches and tidied up shrubs especially the bougainvillea. Thank you to those who gave their time in particularly hot and sticky conditions. Noting that the precinct will require a few more cleanups as the wet season progresses.

There have been a few resignations from the NTNT Council recently including the Darwin Branch representative and the Secretary. We thank Sarah and Frieda for their input to the NT Trust over the years. The Mates of the Murrarji are in the process of becoming an incorporated Not for Profit organisation and we look forward to our continued involvement with their working team for Newcastle Waters heritage listed precinct.

We have a number of outstanding matters ongoing for the coming year which we expect to progress including the finalisation of Katherine Railway Station Land Tenure (ongoing for 7 years), certification of Myilly Point sewerage system (legacy problem since 2015) and the status of the NT National Trust Collection lodged with Archives in 2020.

I look forward to working with you all in 2024 to ensure the National Trust of Australia in the NT continues to thrive.

Eddie Webber

2024 Australian Heritage theme – Connections

Connections: encourages the community to celebrate the rich and diverse stories of our nation, strengthening cultural and historical ties and forge new bonds. The 2024 theme acknowledges our link to people, places and the past and the enduring connections that will shape the future of heritage.

Katherine

National Heritage Festival will be from 18 April through to the 19 May 2024.

On the May 19, the Katherine Motor Vintage Vehicle enthusiasts will gather at O’Keeffe House.

Please come along and check out their amazing vehicles if you are in KTown that day.



Alice Springs

National Heritage Festival will be from 20 - 28 April 2024. Weekend at Arltunga Gold Field Ranger Station.



Darwin

National Heritage Festival will be from 4 – 18 May 2024.

There will be a variety of events (keep your eye out for details) including:

- ⇒ Sat 4 May - Myilly Point Heritage Precinct Open Day. There will be food stalls in the garden plus the NT Historical Society will have book stall as well.
- ⇒ Sun 5 May - Burnett House event at the Deckchair Cinema (book early)
- ⇒ Sun 12 May - High Tea at Burnett House for Mother’s Day
- ⇒ More events being finalised - keep your eye on the Facebook page for updates

KATHERINE BRANCH

UPDATE

2023 Christmas lights evenings at O'Keeffe House and the town's markets were well attended by lots of families and occasional rain showers. Donations of themed cakes and sweets from numerous locals including Merriel, Bess, Nicki, Jamie, Kerry & Gary, Pat, Barbara & Lisa sold well.

The incredible job of hanging decorations and taking them down is completed - again Katrina/Gary, Caroline, Brian & Jacqui have done a great job.

Good falls of rain and subsequent plant growth has Caroline working hard with weeding, pruning, spraying - and still smiling.

Our small committee met in February to plan 2024 dry season jobs & events.

Without more volunteers, we may need to reduce our number of Devonshire teas to Saturday mornings only.

Plant sales will still happen Wednesdays and Saturdays.



50 YEARS SINCE CYCLONE TRACY

Severe Tropical Cyclone Tracy was a small tropical cyclone that devastated the city of Darwin, Australia, in December 1974. The small, developing, easterly storm was originally expected to pass clear of the city, but it would turn towards it early on 24 December. After 10:00 p.m. ACST, damage became severe, with wind gusts reaching 217 km/h (134.84 mph) before instruments failed. The anemometer in Darwin Airport control tower had its needle bent in half by the strength of the gusts.

Residents of Darwin were celebrating Christmas, and they did not immediately acknowledge the emergency, partly because they had been alerted to an earlier cyclone (Selma) which passed west of the city, not affecting it in any way. Additionally, news outlets had only a skeleton crew on duty over the holiday.

Tracy killed 71 people and caused \$837 million in damage (1974 AUD, about \$7.69 billion in 2022), or about US\$5.2 billion (2022 dollars). It destroyed more than 70 percent of Darwin's buildings, including 80 percent of houses. It left more than 25,000 out of the 47,000 inhabitants of the city homeless prior to landfall and required the evacuation of over 30,000 people, of whom many never returned. After the storm passed, the city was rebuilt using more stringent standards "to cyclone code". The storm is the second smallest tropical cyclone on record (in terms of gale-force wind diameter), behind only the North Atlantic's Tropical Storm Marco in 2008.



Map plotting the storm's track and intensity, according to the Saffir–Simpson scale



The base of a steel electricity pole bent by Tracy



House in Nakara after Tracy



Darwin devastated

DARWIN BRANCH UPDATE

February saw the reopening of Burnett House to visitors and already donations and positive responses have been received from those people seeking to relive the beauty of a past era of architecture. Thanks to our house sitter volunteers and co-ordinator Maxina Parkes who ensure that Burnett House is open to visitors from 10:00am – 1:00pm on Monday – Saturday.

Plans are underway for a busy dry season at Burnett House, commencing with a High Tea on 10 March to celebrate International Women's Day. Our guest speaker will be well known local Janie Mason AM, who will enthral attendees with stories of the connection between the Myilly Point Heritage Precinct and the Old Hospital. This event will see the commencement of fortnightly Sunday afternoon Devonshire Teas in the grounds of Burnett House, always well attended by locals and visitors alike.

May will be a busy month for the Darwin Branch. The Darwin Heritage Festival will be held from 4 – 18 May, with a variety of events currently being finalised in order to attract a large percentage of locals and interstate visitors coming to Darwin during that time. Further suggestions are welcome.

Close attention has been paid recently to preparing Burnett House for the Dry season. Thanks to a heritage grant from the Northern Territory Government, the external stairs (see photo) will be revitalised and a new exit door built to further protect the infrastructure. We have also begun the process to assess and repair damage by concrete spalling to a beam and column.

It was disappointing to recently receive resignations from two of our hard working Darwin Branch committee members, including the Treasurer. A big thank you to them both for their past commitment to the National Trust NT. Subsequently, a call out for new committee members and volunteers has had a promising response. Excitingly, ABC Darwin have agreed to interview the Chair of the Darwin Branch in the near future, to canvas the local population in a bid for more volunteers.

The Darwin Branch is committed to supporting access to the Myilly Point Heritage Precinct for locals and visitors interested in the beautiful gardens and heritage buildings. Please contact the Chair, Dr Helen Spiers on 0417 828 449 for further information and especially if you would like to be one of our greatly appreciated volunteers.



PLANNING A SPECIAL EVENT ?

Our beautiful heritage NT National Trust properties are an ideal place to make new memories (after all they hold many memories from over the years).



Contact admin@ntnationaltrust.org.au or call 08 89812848 for details of properties and/or a copy of the Myilly Point Heritage Precinct venue hire brochure.



Spargo-Peattie Wedding 2023 at Myilly Point Heritage Precinct, photos by George F.



A birthday, an anniversary, a christening, a wedding, a family reunion, a business event or even a simple get together with friends. A beautiful venue can enhance the whole occasion.

GULF BRANCH UPDATE

The Gulf Branch is currently isolated by flood waters, from Cyclone Lincoln as it cut across the Tablelands Highway on its journey from the Gulf through to Western Australia. Road crews are on the road trying to start repairs as sections start to dry out, but it is still a massive task ahead from major wash outs.

Ted Firkin, our caretaker has been kept busy with the constant rains helping the grass to grow even more rapidly than usual, and the constant battle with the weeds.

Fortunately, our first Outback Tour Group booking for the season isn't until early May and hopefully Highway Number 1, via Burketown, will be passably by then. To date we have 20 tours booked for the 2024 Tourist Season.

Local branch members are hoping to undertake a spring clean of the Old Borroloola Police Station in late March or early April, pending weather conditions. We are also hoping to attract new members with new employees coming to town. Unfortunately, our current member numbers are down due to people leaving the region.

Gulf Branch Members were excited to see we received a NT Government Community Benefit Fund grant to design and prepare for "Borroloola Shared Stories" – Book 3 for publication in 2024. This project is a combination of current and historical stories over the years.

When we secure additional funding for printing, members are hoping for a public launch and "Open Day" in the dry season at Borroloola and in Darwin.

There are still many untold stories in the Gulf to be told.



VALE CAMILLE FOGARTY

It is with great sadness that we farewell long time member and supporter of the NT National Trust Camille Fogarty (17.5.1934 - 9.2.2024).

An NT pioneer, Camille was passionate about historical records, buildings, artefacts and collected many of the items that were on display in the Timber Creek Police Museum.

She was the instigator and organiser of most of the displays in the old police station, when still living at Timber Creek . With assistance from Lloyd and the family, each year they would pack up the museum and move it up to higher ground, in case of floods.

She was born in Perth (nee Stiles) and her dad was a prospector and in her younger years the family camped all over the NT.

Camille had not long been living in Darwin when she passed. Prior to that she lived at Auvergne Station and Timber Creek.

Camille was awarded a NT National Trust Life membership to acknowledge her passion and dedication to the Timber Creek Police Station Museum.



The NT Secretariat and the Darwin Branch recently held a small thank you function for local organisations and business who volunteered their time and materials for the fit out of the Amenities block and painting of the downstairs in Burnett House.

Staff from Ventia, BARPA Shiva Makams, ACOR Consultancy, Roy Stanton and construction Joshua Fin were invited for a small evening event in Burnett House gardens. Thanks also to Julie Mastin and Emma bell for coordinating the renovations.

TRUST HOUSES CLOSING AND OPENING DATES

Audit House:	NT Secretariat: open 9-2pm, Monday to Friday
Burnett House:	February 2024 - December 2024
Roadmasters House:	March 2024 - November 2024
O'Keefe House:	closed for the wet season - open in the dry season
Tuxworth House:	closed for the wet season - open in the dry season
Jones Store:	open all year round pending access
Hartley Street School:	4 March 2024, Mon-Fri and some Sat (10.30 - 2.30)
Stuart Town Goal:	reopens in the dry season
Old Borroloola Police Station:	open all year round

The best way to
find yourself is
to lose yourself
in the service
of others.
-Mahatma Gandhi



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2024 HERITAGE THEME CONNECTIONS

Don't forget to keep an eye out for the Heritage Festival happenings in 2024 near you - expected to be during April and May 2024.
If you are keen to be involved please contact your local branch to get involved.

Membership:

Individual Membership options from \$40 and Household options from \$80 - annually. This includes free entry to all our NT sites and National Trust Properties across Australia.



TRUST NEWS

NORTHERN TERRITORY NATIONAL TRUST

Vol. 16 No.4

Trust News

Print Post Approved pp 545 393/000 24

December 1999

25 Years since Cyclone Tracy

On Christmas Eve 1999 it will be 25 years since Cyclone Tracy ravaged the city of Darwin. Many heritage buildings in Darwin were damaged by Tracy, but fortunately they were salvaged and repaired for us to enjoy today. These buildings are: the Old Court House (Administrator's Office); Brown's Mart, Wesleyan Church, Government House and the Victoria Hotel. The Town Hall

housed the NT Museum at the time of Cyclone Tracy and the ruins were preserved as a monument.



- 25 December 1974 -

children Peter and Catherine, I lived in the house at 4 Kahlin Avenue Myilly Point for the four years preceding Cyclone Tracy. We were all together in the house at the time of its collapse, along with my husband's parents who had arrived the previous day to spend

Christmas with us. Fortunately, none of us suffered more than a few cuts and scratches, and apart from Max who had his work to attend to, we were all evacuated to Adelaide a few days later.

During the last few days leading up to Christmas 1974 the sky was overcast and the atmosphere unusually heavy. Although we noted and took

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Unfortunately one house in the Myilly Point Heritage Precinct was not so fortunate. The house situated on 4 Kahlin Avenue (Lot 1100) was substantially damaged by Cyclone Tracy and subsequently demolished. The house was a Type 'E', identical to Mines and Magistrates houses. The adapted story as told by Mrs Dawn Chadwick, a former resident after she visited Darwin in 1995.

"Together with my husband Max, and our two

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heed of the frequent Cyclone warnings being broadcast, it was only in hindsight that we appreciated the cause of the eerie quiet that seemed to prevail. There were no birds in the trees. My husband arrived home earlier than expected on Christmas Eve, commenting that nobody had any real enthusiasm for the usually boisterous office party and that the food was untouched.

By seven o'clock that night the wind had picked up quite a lot and by eleven it was up to gale force and raining heavily. During the evening we continually checked to see that everything was secure and that there were no loose objects under the house. All the pictures and ornaments had been removed from walls and stowed away in drawers as recommended, the refrigerator and freezer were full of our wet season supplies which had arrived a day earlier, and the bath was three parts full of fresh water. There really wasn't much else we could do but wait.



- December 1970 -

As the wind increased in speed the louver windows couldn't cope with the pressure of the rain and by just after midnight the floors in most of the rooms at the back of the house were awash. One of my most vivid recollections, and possibly the only humorous one, is of my husband and father-in-law boring holes in the floor to let the water escape.

Gradually the wind swung around to the south east and at that stage it took three of us all our time to keep the front door closed while the men were busy trying to batten up the dining room window where a branch from the fig tree had broken through several of the glass louvres. By this time

the house was shaking quite violently and as our battle with the front door came to an end it tore away completely from its frame, throwing us back against the lounge room wall. Both the lounge and dining room were now open to the full force of the wind and it seemed inevitable that the roof would lift off. It was clearly time for us to seek shelter in the bathroom where we huddled together trying to offer each other as much mutual protection as possible. Our only real comfort was the light of a portable gas lantern.

Unlike most of our friend who lived in the northern suburbs, we were not conscious of any significant period of calm as the eye of the storm passed over, just a sudden change in the wind direction from south east to south west. This was the direction to which the house offered not only its broadest face but also its least resistance and it seemed like only a matter of minutes before the

whole structure began to sway in harmony with the wind gusts. I think it must have been about two thirty when the piers finally collapsed, allowing the house to settle, not to gently, onto whatever solid object laid beneath - two cars, the laundry and toilet walls and, where nothing else intervened, the ground. We of course had no idea how the rest of the house had fared, only that we were still alive, very wet from having a bath full of water dumped on us, and protected temporarily by four

walls and a ceiling that were threatening to collapse further at any moment. In the final crash, the mantle of the gas lantern broke but fortunately, the flame continued to burn and give us the benefit of a small flickering light for the remainder on the night.

The wind, which gave me the impression of a steam train racing through the house at top speed, continued unabated for several hours, during which time we could hear sounds of things being torn apart and hurled about, and see flashes of bright light through the small window above the shower recess, which we assumed to be lightning. Then just before sunrise the wind began to abate and by a little

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Continued from page 3

after seven o'clock it had calmed down enough for us to take stock of our situation and try to get out.

Needless to say, the door frame was grossly distorted and the door jammed in place. With some assistance from his father, my husband managed to break open the small window above the shower and with a bit of a squeeze, clamber out. After a quick survey of the situation he managed to crawl under the house and retrieve an axe which he then used to chop a hole in the wall and release the rest of us. It was nearly eight o'clock when we were at last able to stand together outside the house and try to comprehend the scene before us. My first feeling was one of detachment, that I was in a place I could no longer recognise as though I had been transported to another planet. Then I began to wonder how many others had survived and was surprised, but none the less delighted, to hear the voice of a neighbour calling my husband to inquire how we fared.

The most remarkable thing to note about the house was that although its back was broken and most of the external walls severely damaged, the

roof and principal framework remained subsequently intact. Broken glass littered the floors and furniture was strewn all over the place, only the piano and organ which had been securely roped together remaining in almost their original position. The walls and ceilings were literally painted green with chlorophyll from crushed leaves.

Having been fortunate enough to obtain temporary accommodation at a nearby motel we spent the remainder of the day recovering clothing, bed linen and other material items from smashed wardrobes and drawers and hanging them over a makeshift line to dry. Our pet cat crawled out from under the house a day later."

* * * *

The four remaining houses in the Precinct were all damaged by Cyclone Tracy. The original corrugated asbestos cement sheets blew off the roof of Burnett House. Some of the more established plants in the gardens of Audit House survived Tracy however the majority were planted later as a result of substantial damage.

Curtin

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Units of study at Curtin's Research Institute for Cultural Heritage are being offered, for the first time, by distance education.

For information contact the Institute by:

email m.vanbiezen@curtin.edu.au

web www.curtin.edu.au/curtin/dept/rich

telephone 9266 3347 facsimile 9266 3836

mail

Research Institute for Cultural Heritage

Curtin University of Technology

GPO Box U1987 Perth Western Australia 6845

EXPECT THE WORLD



The National Trust of Australia (N.T.) would like to thank the following people for contributing to the Fighting Fund. Without your donations we can not keep fighting to preserve the unique heritage of the Northern Territory.

- Ms Jenny Armour & Mr Tony Suttor
- Mr Colin & Mrs Judy Beard
- Professor David Carment
- Mr H Compton
- Dr J.P. Douglas
- Ms Freda Evans
- Ms Yvonne Forrest
- Mr & Mrs Gammon
- Ms Gaynor Maggs
- Mr B.D. Maxwell
- Ms K.M. Withnall
- Mr Bruce Strong
- National Trust of Australia (N.T.) Darwin Branch

What is Heritage?

HERITAGE: *n*

1. That which comes or belongs to one by reason of birth; an inherited lot or portion.
2. The culture, traditions and national assets preserved from one generation to another.

MacQuarie Dictionary. 1991.

Heritage has also been described as "the things we want to keep."

Our heritage is an important part of our lives. Those things which survive can help give us a better understanding of our origins and maintain our links with the past.

OUR HERITAGE - a rich inheritance

Everyone has an individual heritage - an ethnic, racial and family history, and associations with older people, treasured objects and places.

We all have links with the past through social activities and rituals, stories, music, plays, movies, dances, games, arts and crafts and the cultural and natural environments.

Particular items such as buildings, objects and places are important to us as a community and to the nation as a whole.

These may have played an important part in our history or have architectural, aesthetic, social, archaeological or scientific value. Or, they may simply be beautiful to look at, to touch, to walk through, or just to wonder at.

Whether they are rough and ready, vernacular in design and construction, exquisitely crafted, ingeniously built or in their natural state - they are all part of our heritage.

Buildings

Buildings can include huts, homesteads and other houses, police stations and gaols, public buildings, commercial buildings - large and small, warehouses, remote stores, churches, small outback pubs and wayside inns and city hotels. These are just a few of the places that are important for themselves or for the memories which reside in them. In conserving these places we can retain the representativeness of our built environment.

Objects

Objects may be many things - including pieces of crockery or household utensils from other eras, the remains of a kiln or oven, historic equipment used for crafts, shipwrecks, pastoral or mine machinery, fragments of tiles and ornaments, clay pipes and a wide range of personal items such as clothing and jewellery.

Movable objects include such items as wartime relics, road transport and other vehicles, locomotives and

rolling stock and military equipment.

Sites

A site may be a geological site (such as quarries containing fossils or Aboriginal artefacts), an historic cemetery, old roads, remnant bushland, a garden or area of landscape associated with an historic house. Or it may be a natural area that supports rare or endangered animals, birds or plants.

Sites may also include works, which are usually associated with the activities of commercial, industrial, engineering or military development. For instance, they could be mines and associated settlement sites, batteries, power stations, railways, wharves and early bridges. Sites may also be known as places in some instances.

OUR GIFT TO THE FUTURE

Communities, governments and individuals all have a special responsibility to protect and preserve our unique heritage.

In the Northern Territory the *Heritage Conservation Act 1991* is used to legally protect declared heritage places and objects in acknowledgement of their significance to the Territory community and in turn, the nation.

The *Australian Heritage Commission Act* provides for the inclusion of significant places or natural areas to the *Register of the National Estate* in recognition of their value, locally, at State/Territory, or to the nation as a whole.

Governments also provide assistance in the maintenance of our heritage through funding programs, including the Northern Territory Heritage Grants Program and the National Estate Grants Program.

The National Trust in the Northern Territory maintains its own list of significant places in the *Register of Significant Places* which includes places of heritage value in the natural and cultural environments. The Trust also provides an important resource in supporting, and contributing to, both the Northern Territory and Commonwealth Acts.

The National Trust in the Northern Territory is a community based organisation incorporated under an Act of Parliament in 1976, with a charter to preserve the heritage of the Northern Territory.

Membership of the National Trust is open to any individual or organisation concerned to preserve and maintain for future generations, Australia's heritage of buildings, landscapes and sites of heritage significance.

Every day things are being made, built and grown. Many of these may well be considered of heritage significance by future generations.