



## Historical Society of the Northern Territory

### NEWSLETTER APRIL 2026

PO Box 40544, Casuarina NT 0811

Mobile: 0473446201      [www.historicalsocietynt.org.au](http://www.historicalsocietynt.org.au)

Email: [hsnt@iinet.net.au](mailto:hsnt@iinet.net.au) Newsletter Editor: Bev Phelts  
HSNT Committee – President: Derek Pugh; Vice President: Bev Phelts; Secretary: Libby Siebert; Treasurer: Clare Corfield. others - Brian Reid, Clayton Fredericksen, Vida Goodvach, Rosemary Cameron & Peter Siebert

## FUTURE EVENTS

### **Saturday 4 April - Parap Markets HSNT Book Stall**

Drop in and say hello to Janie who is running the book stall

### **Sunday 12 April at 3pm at History House– Motorbike Ride Around India**

Derek Pugh will be talking about his recently completed trip on a motorbike around India taking in sections of the Old Silk Road and heritage sites.



Kumbhalgarh, India

### **Sunday 10 May at 3pm at History House– Film Showing– *Twenty to the Mile***

In a remote corner of the Northern Territory, 150 years ago, two pieces of wire were bound together, and Australia was instantly connected to the world. In this documentary to mark the Overland Telegraph's 150th anniversary, Derek Pugh retraces the line, unearthing stories of remarkable endurance, survival, massacre, and courage. The Film had previously been shown at the Deck Chair in 2024 to a packed out audience.

## **Tuesday 12 May – International Nurses Day Charles Darwin University - 3 to 5pm**

Introduction by Jared Archibald OAM, Curator Museum and Art Gallery NT

Launch of Janie Mason's book *Bravery & Ambition: A Family History of Contribution to NT & South East of South Australia: Harold & Eileen Elcock* by Honorary Sally Thomas AC

The book will be on sale for \$20 cash only.

The event will be held on Beagle Deck [Library – Red 8 building]

RSVP: 8946 6385 & leave a message or email: [janie.mason@cdu.edu.au](mailto:janie.mason@cdu.edu.au)

See attached flyer for more information

## **Tuesday 26 May at 3pm at History House**

Special guest Amanda Lovitt JP, Funeral Celebrant, Public Speaker and Heritage Researcher from Perth. For the past 5 years Amanda has been researching passengers from the ship named *Anna Salen* that made multiple trips to Australia from 1949 until 1955. To date Amanda has covered over 9000 passengers. The connections made between passengers and between families and friends from all over the world has been amazing. Many of these post World War 2 migrants from Europe went to the Northern Territory.



*The Anna Salen*

## **Centenary of Katherine Township**

On 1 July, Katherine turns 100 and the town has plans to celebrate. There will be exhibitions, various community activities, performances and sporting events.

The celebration will begin around Territory Day and Gazettal Day, marking 100 years since Katherine was officially proclaimed a town on 1 July 1926.

The Katherine Town Council has a program of events at this site  
*2026 Centenary of Katherine Events » Katherine Town Council*

## HSNT 4WD trip – Darwin Show Weekend – 24 & 25 July

Darwin Show Day 24 July marks the 164<sup>th</sup> anniversary when John McDouall Stuart and his party reached the northern shore (Pt Stuart). It is planned to meet at the Pt Stuart carpark approx. 9am and make our way to the site. We will hold a small reenactment which includes speeches of the day, raising the Union Jack Flag and a toast.



Afterwards, there will be a visit to the artistic granite rock carvings done by Japanese sculpture, Mitsuaki Tanabe.

Mitsuaki went back and forth between Japan and Australia for 10 years, carving insects and lizards into the granite. Unfortunately he died before he finished his sculptures, but his son continued with his work.

The carvings are located 10kms from the Bark Hut.

On Saturday, we will take Hardies Track and visit Hardies Billabong. The Track and Billabong is named after Frank Hardie who was the first to build in the area. Hardies Track will be subject to a reccie run in June to check on conditions of the track. A high clearance vehicle is needed to access both sites.

Interested members who wish to participate on both Friday and Saturday can book accommodation at the Bark Hut - cabins and camping are available.

### **Mystery \$40 Deposit**

Still, no-one has owned up to the \$40 deposit which was received into the HSNT ANZ bank account on 13 Feb without a name attached. This is believed to be a membership renewal. The member concerned is asked to let us know who they are via email.

### **NT History Book Award**

The Award is now open and will close on 6 April.

To apply for the Northern Territory History Book Award your book must be all of the following:

- a work on Northern Territory history
- published in English or one of the First Nations languages of the Northern Territory
- offered for general sale published between 1 January and 31 December 2025 and
- you must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident to enter.

For more information, go to  
<https://lant.nt.gov.au/northern-territory-history-book-award>

## **AGM Outcome - The Society's new Committee Members**

The following members were elected unopposed -

President: Derek Pugh; Vice President: Bev Phelts; Secretary: Libby Siebert; Treasurer: Clare Corfield.  
others - Brian Reid, Clayton Fredericksen, Vida Goodvach, Rosemary Cameron & Peter Siebert.

We thank outgoing Committee Members, Matt James and Jane Munday for their valuable contributions and wish them well following their interstate moves.



At the AGM, President Derek Pugh presented Jared Archibald his Federation of Australian Historical Societies Fellowship Award.

Fellowships are awarded in recognition of an outstanding and sustained contribution to the community history and heritage movement at the national level.

## **NT History Book Award**

The Award is now open and will close on 6 April.

To apply for the Northern Territory History Book Award your book must be all of the following:

- a work on Northern Territory history
- published in English or one of the First Nations languages of the Northern Territory
- offered for general sale published between 1 January and 31 December 2025 and
- you must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident to enter.

For more information, go to

<https://lant.nt.gov.au/northern-territory-history-book-award>

## **Moran Award for History of Science Research – now open**

We have a funding award called the Moran Award for History of Science Research. It's aimed at early to mid-career historians and provides up to \$10,000 to one researcher every two years to support projects relating to the history of science in Australia. The funding is to support researchers in accessing archives by paying for travel and related costs.

Applications close 1 June 2026.

Kira Scaife, Awards Manager, Program Delivery  
Australian Academy of Science, Ian Potter House, 9 Gordon Street, Acton ACT 2601  
GPO Box 783, Canberra ACT 2601  
(02) 6201 9467 | [kira.scaife@science.org.au](mailto:kira.scaife@science.org.au) | [science.org.au](http://science.org.au)

## HIGHLIGHTS OF PAST EVENTS

The Society's AGM.



Allan Mitchell & Mark Ames



Brian Reid & Jared Archibald



Jan Moore & Fiona Scott



Jeff Swann & Derek Pugh



Janie Mason & Clare Corfield



Merry Cooper & Jan Richardson



Kevin Coonan, Derek Pugh & Ian Anderson



Marnie Cameron, Elaine Hellyer & Frieda Evans



Vida Goodvach, Allan Mitchell & David Swift



The audience