

## Historical Society of the Northern Territory

### NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY & MARCH 2025

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: Matthew James; Vice President: Bev Phelts;  
Secretary: Libby Siebert; Treasurer: Lyn Reid; others - Brian Reid, Derek Pugh, Clayton Fredericksen & Ian Anderson

### FUTURE EVENTS

**Saturday 15 February - *ACTION! Film and War An Australian War Memorial Touring Exhibition* at the Museum and Art Gallery NT – 11am-12noon and 2pm-3pm**



Join Australian War Memorial Senior Curator of Photographs, Film and Sound, Daniel Eisenberg, on a guided tour of 'ACTION! Film and War' and discover how the moving image has shaped our understanding of the Australian experience of war. Suitable for 18+

**Sunday 23 February at History House at 2-4pm – Book Sale**



The Historical Society is having a secondhand and new book sale. We are slashing the prices of our old stock and there are also many, many second hand books kindly donated by Albert Foreman. If you are into historic wars, battles and religion, we have stacks of books on the subject and also a great range of books on Territory history.

We are also selling new books which are old stock –

BUCKNALL Graeme & GUTHRIE Robert 1996

***The conquest of Distance: Told in the Life Stories of Centralian Pioneer Families***

WAS \$15.00 REDUCED TO \$5

CADOGAN, Jimmy 2012 ***The Book of Harry, Eric and Bronte*** WAS \$20.00 REDUCED TO \$5

EGAN, Ted AO 2017 ***John Anderson Gilruth: A Complex Man***

WAS \$30.00 REDUCED TO \$10

FARRAM Steven 2014 ***A History Written in Metal: Commemorative Plaques at***

***Charles Darwin University's Casuarina Campus, 1972-2013***

WAS \$25.00 REDUCED TO \$5

FORREST Peter & Sheila 2008

***Forty Fine Years: A Celebration of the Pantazis Family and Parap Fine Foods***

WAS \$20.00 REDUCED TO \$5

GIBBS Jack 1995 ***Son of Jimmy*** WAS \$10.00 REDUCED TO \$5

JAENSCH Dean & SMITH Robyn 2015

***Turning 40: The Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory 1974-2014***

WAS \$30.00 REDUCED TO \$5

LING Ted 2015

***Blame and Martyrs: The Commonwealth Government and the Northern Territory Cattle Industry, 1911-***

***1978*** WAS \$30.00 REDUCED TO \$5

REE Gerald Hugo 2015

***Loathsome No Longer: Hansen's Disease (Leprosy) in Queensland 1850-1975***

WAS \$35.00 REDUCED TO \$5

REID Brian ed. 2009 ***Collectors and Museums:***

***Two Centuries of Collecting in the Northern Territory*** WAS \$22.00 REDUCED TO \$2

STREET Edward 2012 Editor Brian Reid

***Distant Settlements: Convicts in Remote Australia*** WAS \$20 REDUCED TO \$10

WELLS Samantha (ed.) 2018 ***Beyond the Far Country***

WAS \$25.00 REDUCED TO \$5

***Northern Territory Historical Studies: A Journal of History, Heritage and Archaeology***

2020 & 2021 Journals was \$10 reduced to \$5

## **Note that we only accept CASH ONLY**

Come along to History House and enjoy our airconditioning and have a cuppa .

We are located in Charlton Court which is on the corner of Bishop Street. Pink Middis building is on the corner. Drive into Charlton Court and turn right at the first street. We are located at the end of the court.

## Sunday 23 March at 3pm - Historical Society's AGM

The Historical Society will be holding its AGM at History House. Please come along and support us. If you are interested in being on our committee, a nomination form along with the agenda are at the end of this newsletter. The Committee meets at History House monthly (except December & January) – every third Wednesday at 6pm. Meetings are short and run from 6pm to 7pm

The AGM Minutes 2024 are attached. The audit report will be available at the meeting. Drinks and nibbles will follow the AGM.

History House is located at 1/16 Charlton Court, Woolner. Charlton Street is off Bishop Street (on the corner is pink Middis Lighting). Turn into Charlton Street then first right into Charlton Court. History House is at the bottom of the court.

## Vale The Hon Austin Asche AC KC

It is with enormous sadness that the Society hears of the passing of our long serving Patron, Austin Asche AC KC. Austin passed away at home surrounded by family on December 14<sup>th</sup>. He was 99 years old.

The Asche family announced his death in a statement:

"It is with great sadness that we announce the peaceful death of The Honourable Austin Asche AC KC on December 14. Loved by so many, particularly cherished by his children Harry and Wendy, daughter in-law Janette, grandchildren Thomas, Rmaan and Zoe, and great grandchildren Austin and Walter."



NT Administrator Hugh Heggie highlighted Austin's distinguished service as the NT Administrator 1993-1997. Austin hosted more than 3000 engagements, was patron to over 80 associations and organisations and he spent 270 days visiting regional Territory centres.

Chief Minister, Lia Finocchiaro states that his "contributions to the Northern Territory and to Australia have left a legacy of service, leadership, and dedication... Beyond his judicial and administrative achievements, Austin was a passionate advocate for education and the community, earning respect for his tireless work".

The list of Austin's remarkable achievements are well documented but we remember him as our beloved Patron since 1993. Austin was a regular guest speaker at our functions with last one being in 2020. His passion and love for history and heritage was infectious.

Now with his beloved wife Val. Austin shall be sorely missed.

The Society extends its condolences to Wendy, Harry, family and friends of Austin.

## **If you haven't paid for your 2025 membership, it is now due -**

### **Membership for 2025 (January to December 2025)**

The fees are –

Concession membership student/pensioner: \$40.00

Individual membership: \$70.00

Family membership: two adults at one address: \$90.00

Institutional membership \$90.00

You can now pay on line via credit card on our new website

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

Alternatively, you can pay via cheque, money order or bank transfer

Bank transfer details: Historical Society of the NT BSB:015 896 (ANZ ) Account No: 228391976

Remember to include your "SURNAME & MEMBERSHIP" against your deposit and email your details to [hsnt@inet.net.au](mailto:hsnt@inet.net.au) if your personal details have changed.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF PAST EVENTS

### Members HSNT Christmas Lunch at History House

On Sunday 1 December, about 40 people attended the Society's xmas luncheon. At the luncheon, Bev Phelts was thrilled to be awarded life membership of the Society.



Libby Siebert & Brian Reid



John & Jenny Krumbeck, Julie Mastin & Freida Evans



Margie Roe & Jan Moore



Penny Baird & Judy Boland





Jeremy Hemphill, Heather Boulden, Christine Tarbett-Buckley & Jan Hills



Penny Baird, Janie Mason & Maureen Reiter



Brian Reid, Wendy & Matt James & Penny Baird



Margie Roe & Maureen Reiter



Mark & Myfanwy Jenkins, Peter & Libby Siebert, Merry Cooper



Earl and Wendy James





Matt James & Bev Phelts proudly displaying her HSNT Life Membership plaque

Photo provided by Libby Siebert



Janie Mason, Jan Richardson & Maureen Reiter



Libby Siebert, John & Jenny Krumbeck



Myfanwy Jenkins, Mark Ames, Mark Jenkins, Merry Cooper & Bev Phelts



## Cyclone Tracy 50 Year Commemoration at East Point

This morning while the rest of Australia was celebrating xmas, Darwin was commemorating the 50 year anniversary of Cyclone Tracy. About a thousand people, many Tracy survivors, gathered at East Point where Tracy came in. We had the pleasure of the Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, the Governor General, Sam Mostyn, and Acting NT Administrator, Chief Judge Elizabeth Morris in attendance. The monument designed and built by local artist represents five frangipanis, each representing 5 decades. The memorial was unveiled by the Prime Minister and the Governor General. The monument lists all the names of those who perished in the cyclone. The event was organised by a dedicated group of volunteers "Remembering Cyclone Tracy Committee" - Chair Richard Creswick and his team of all women. It was a very moving and beautiful commemoration. A job well done - congratulations to the Committee



Anthony Albanese speaking at the event



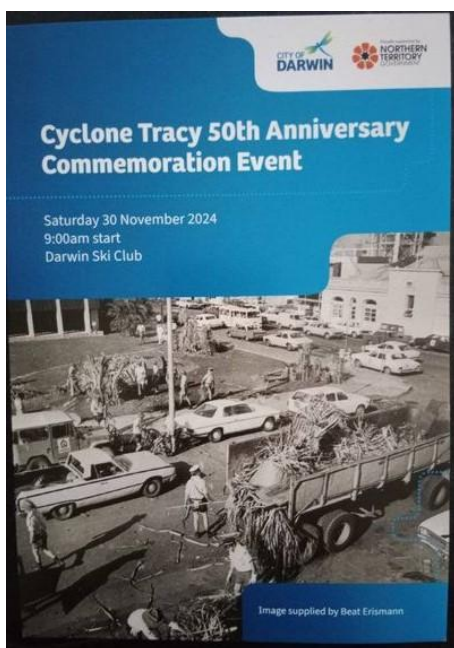
Anthony Albanese with fiancé Jodie Haydon





## Cyclone Tracy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration

On Saturday 30 November, the Darwin City Council and the NT Government held a Cyclone Tracy 50th Anniversary Commemoration Event at the Darwin Ski Club. Addresses were given by the Chief Minister, Lia Finocchiaro, the Administrator, Hugh Heggie, Federal Minister for Emergency Management and Cities, Senator Jenny McAllister and Darwin City Councillor, Mick Palmer. Our own Dr Brian Reid along with Salvation Army Colonel, Winsome Merrett spoke about their personal experiences of Cyclone Tracy. Other dignitaries in attendance were Member for Solomon, Luke Gosling, past Administrator, Vicki O'Halloran and NT Police Commissioner, Michael Murphy. After the formalities, there were displays to view followed by a delicious morning tea. Congratulations to the Council and NT Government on such a beautiful, moving event.



NT Administrator, Hugh Heggie and Ms Ruth Jones



Brian Reid speaking at the event

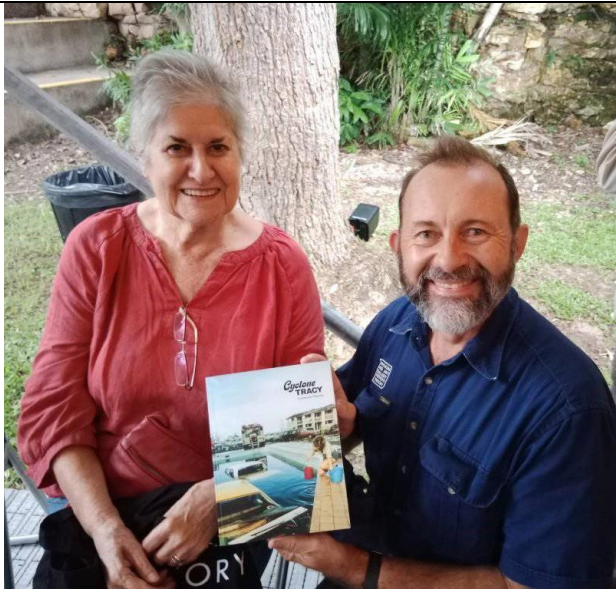


Luke Gosling, Lia Finocchiaro, Jenny McAllister, Hugh Heggie, Ruth Jones and Mick Palmer.

## The unveiling of the revamped Cyclone Tracy Exhibit at the Museum and Art Gallery on 6 December 2024

What a great night to catch up with Tracy survivors, donators and the fabulous curators who had been working hard to get the exhibit up. The highlight & focus of the exhibit is the replica Torana. Curator Jared Archibald donated the Torana which was "fixed up", painted the same red colour and complimented with new hubcaps. John Garner, the original author who painted "Tracey you bitch" on his Torana was invited to repaint the same words on the replica. Also a highlight of the night, was the launch of the museum's new book *Cyclone Tracy* authored by Jared Archibald and Paige Taylor.

Congratulations to Jared, Paige, Caddie Brain & the museum on a wonderful exhibition.



Janie Mason & Jared Archibald with his book *Cyclone Tracy*



John Garner who originally painted on the Tracy icon Torana & Bev Phelts



Judy Beard, Bev Phelts & Col Beard

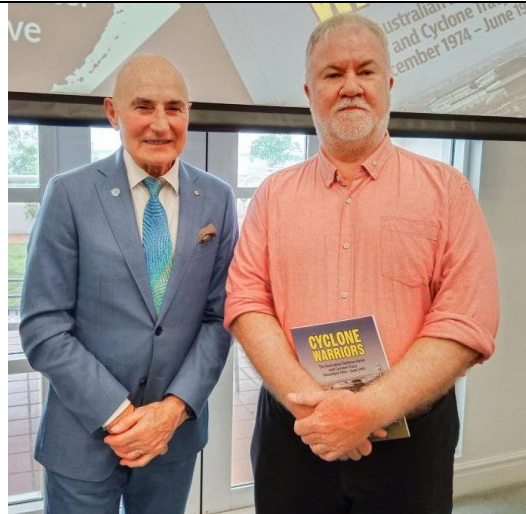


## The Launch of *Cyclone Warriors* by Tom Lewis on 7 December 2024 at the NT Library

Sir Peter John Cosgrove, AK, CVO, MC launched military historian, Tom Lewis' 22nd book at the NT Library on 7 December. Tom's book is about the defence personnel who came to Darwin to clean up and assist after Cyclone Tracy. Over 100 people attended the event.



Tom Lewis with Member for Solomon, Luke Gosling OAM, MP & Sir Peter Cosgrove



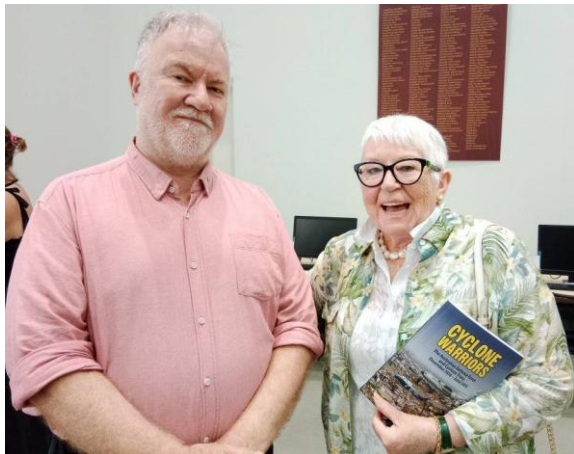
NT Administrator, Hugh Heggie AO PSM & Tom Lewis



Daryl Manzie AM & Luke Gosling



Jane Munday & Allan Mitchell



Tom Lewis & Carole Miller



The audience

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
3pm Sunday 23 March 2025**

**Welcome and thanks**

**Present**

**Apologies**

**1. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 24 March 2024**

**2. Business arising from minutes of AGM**

**3. President's Report**

**4. Treasurer's Report**

**5. Election of Office Bearers**

- **President**
- **Vice President**
- **Honorary Secretary**
- **Honorary Treasurer**
- **Council Members [up to 8]**
- **Public Officer**
- **Authorized Person [ATO]**

**6. Other business**

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**Nomination Form  
Historical Society NT, PO Box 40544, Casuarina NT 0811**

**I, .....  
[please print]**

**hereby accept the nomination for the position of .....**

**.....  
[please print] on the Council of HSNT 2025/2026**

**Signed : .....**

**Nominated by : .....  
[please sign & print]**

**Seconded by : .....  
[please sign & print]**

**Date :**