

Historical Society of the Northern Territory

NEWSLETTER AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2025

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HSNT Committee – President: Derek Pugh; Vice President: Bev Phelts; Secretary: Libby Siebert; Treasurer: Clare Corfield. others - Brian Reid, Clayton Fredericksen, Matthew James, Jane Munday, Vida Goodvach & Peter Siebert

Saturday 2 August – HSNT Book stall at Parap Markets

Janie Mason will be selling our books at the markets. Drop in and say hello and score a discounted book

Wednesday 6 August - Vincent Lingiari Memorial 5.30-7.30pm–Speaker Charlie King

Gurindji man Charlie King OAM AM invites you to gather round the campfire for an evening of truth-telling, storytelling and song.

He'll share the emotional journey of walking in his mother's footsteps and the challenge of living in two worlds; alongside a short video of the Country she was taken from.

From the legacy of Vincent Lingiari to the communities that raised him, Charlie reflects on a life dedicated to building safer, stronger futures.

Featuring a special performance by ARIA Award-winning artist Sara Storer, and a moving song by his 17-year-old niece, Sky Nelson

The talk will be held at the CDU Casuarina Campus - Orange 7 Amphitheatre.

Saturday 9 August – Wangka Walytja – NT Library/CDU Building, Level 2 at 10am

Library & Archives NT and Artpack NT warmly invite you to join the public program celebrating *Wangka Walytja: The Life and Times of the Papunya Literature Production Centre*.

Join us for a tour of the exhibition with artist Kuḷaṭa Dennis Nelson Tjakamarra, and a panel discussion with artists from Papunya Tjupi Arts and the Wangka Walytja curatorial team. Together the panel will share insights on the exhibition and history of the Papunya Literature Production Centre. In-conversation with, Karen McDonald Nangala, Roslyn Dixon Napurrula, Vivien Johnson, Samantha Disbray.

Wednesday 13 August – Stella Day Out – NT Library/CDU Building, Level 2 at 5.30pm

Stella Day Out is a free literary festival that celebrates and promotes the outstanding contributions of women and non-binary writers to Australian literature.

Hear from Darumbal and South Sea Islander woman, Amy McQuire, shortlisted for the 2025 Stella Prize for her book *Black Witness*. Amy is a prolific Aboriginal affairs journalist, academic, writer and commentator. She was nominated for a Walkley Award and won Meanjin's Hilary McPhee Award for brave essay writing. She is an Indigenous postdoctoral fellow at the Queensland University of Technology.

Friday 15 August – Speaker Trevor Menzies - National Trust talk at Burnett House - 5.30pm start

Trevor is the Curator of the Roadmasters House Museum and was the Northern Territory Surveyor-General 1991-2000. Trevor's talk title is 'The Evolution of the Borders of Australia's States and Territories (1788 – 1911)'. See attached flyer for more information

Meet at Burnett House for a cool drink and nibbles at 5:30 pm. Talk starts at 6 pm. Entry \$5.00.

Wednesday 27 August – Speaker – Fiona Earl, Heritage Branch

Fiona's talk will be held at Saltwater Café, Museum & Art Gallery 8.30-9.30am

This is an Australian Museums and Galleries Association free event

1 – 6 September – History Mining Conference held in Broken Hill

The 30th anniversary of the Australasian Mining History Association will be celebrated in Broken Hill with its annual conference being held in week-long celebrations in September.

This is the second conference the association have held in Broken Hill, with the first being in 2003 and it will run from September 1 to 6 with a reception evening on August 30.

The three-day conference and three days of field trips will highlight the significance of the Broken Hill ore deposit, and its influence on mining technology and social history of the area.

Speakers include Leigh Clifford, former CEO Rio Tinto, Gordon Toll and Robert Williamson from Lodestone Mines, Jeff Nixon, Rob McLean, Patrick Walta, Broken Hill Mines and many more.

Former geologist and association member Geoff Hudson said the group's interest is in mining history from Australia and New Zealand.

"Our members range from people who are academic historians at universities and other institutions to retired mining industry people," he said. There are also people who just have an interest in mining or have their historical roots in the mining industry. The conference will be held at the Civic Centre with field trips being taken in surrounding areas. We will have people giving papers on various aspects of mining history and current mining. We produce a little book of the abstracts of those papers, the proceedings of the conference and we also run the field trips around and in Broken Hill. We're going to be going to Silverton and the Living Desert National Park, Line of Lode and the Pinnacles. We will also visit the historical buildings of Broken Hill.

Registration to attend the conference is available for the three days of the conference or for single days at: <https://amha.tidyhq.com/public/schedule/events/71224-29th-annual-conference-broken-hill>

One-day registrations are available for \$75 including morning and afternoon teas and lunch.

Tuesday 2 September – Gallery Talk: Curating Creation - NT Library/CDU Building, Midpul Gallery – 11am - 11.30am

Presenter Professor Jennifer Deger and the artists of Miyarrka Media. Join Miyarrka Media as they walk you through these two exhibitions to discuss how they came together

Tuesday 16 September – Museum and Art Gallery – Talk on Cyclone Tracy – 11am-12noon

A guided walkthrough of the new Cyclone Tracy exhibition.

Saturday & Sunday 25 & 26 October – History Colloquium: History Talks – NT Library

This year's colloquium will be held in conjunction with the National Professional Historians Association (PHA). The PHA conference is a great way to share all aspects of the Association's work as professional historians, showcasing the diversity of the work they undertake and explore the challenges faced. This year, the conference will run for two days and is open free to the public. Morning and afternoon teas will be provided. However if you would like to show off your masterchef culinary talents, a plate of homecooked nibbles would be very much appreciated.

Saturday 25th October topics

- Work in the NT as a professional historian
- The Mystery of the Moruya
- The Sunshine Club at Parap Camp
- Clever men
- Evlampia and Ludmilla Holtze: Pioneering Women of the Northern Territory
- Pioneer overland cyclists in the Northern Territory
- The Northern Territory Greeks and Their Experience of the Second World War

There are more topics to come.

The program is still in draft but the list of presenters and their topics for Sunday 26th is available at

<https://www.historians.org.au/2025-conference-program>

Members are encouraged to make our visitors feel welcome and chat with them during the breaks.

Appointment of a new Treasurer – Clare Corfield

The Committee is pleased to announce that we have appointed a new Treasurer. Clare is an experienced bookkeeper and a wiz with our accounting software – Zero. We welcome Clare to the fold.

HSNT Survey

The Society is conducting a survey of our membership to better understand what services you value, any suggestions for improvement and how we might attract new members.

Please complete this quick survey by the end of August 2025. It should take 5-10 minutes to complete.

All responses will be treated as confidential and anonymous. The results of the survey will be published in our newsletter.


To partake in the survey, copy and paste this link


<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/historical-society-survey>


Northern Territory History Grants


The Northern Territory History Grants Program provides up to \$7,000 to support original research about Northern Territory history.

Projects previously funded include:

 Published work (book, journal article, written guide)


 Unpublished or self-published work


 Radio program

 Video/film or theatrical play

 Website

 Oral history interviews

 Applications are now open and close Wednesday 6 August.

 For more information and to apply: lant.nt.gov.au/northern-territory-history-grants-program

HIGHLIGHTS OF PAST EVENTS

4WD trip to the NT/WA border – Rosewood & Argyle Stations

The purpose of this 4WD trip was to replace the missing NT plaque on the NT/WA border obelisk. Thanks to Earl James who arranged and paid for a new plaque to be erected. For more information on the trip, go to www.historicalsocietynt.org.au/news-and-events



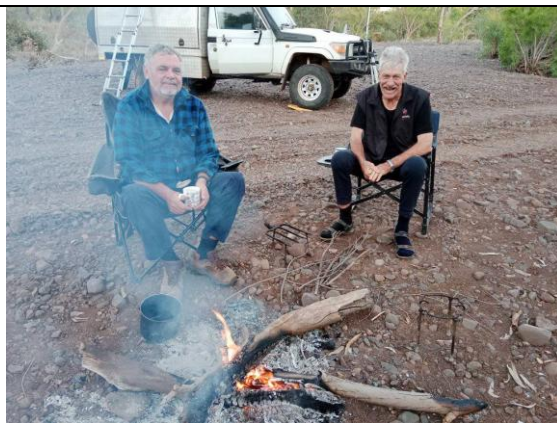
From left front: Ian Anderson, Jim Leach, Derek Pugh, Bev Phelts, Andrew Barker (Kununarra Historical Society), John Krumbeck, Ian Archibald, Allan Mitchell
At the back: Harry & Roy Pugh, Jared Archibald
Photo courtesy Derek Pugh



Ian Archibald, Bev Phelts & Jared Archibald at Sam Croker's grave, Auvergne Station



Allan Mitchell & Jim Leach



Derek Pugh & John Krumbeck



Ian Anderson & Allan Mitchell



Around the campfire telling big tall stories
From left: Derek Pugh, Jim Leach, John Krumbeck, Bev Phelts & Jared Archibald
Photograph courtesy Allan Mitchell

Northern Territory History Book Awards

The Award recognises the most significant book about NT history published in the previous 12 months. To be eligible books must be a work on NT history, written in English or one of the First Nations languages of the Northern Territory. The Awards are judged by a panel of industry experts including academics, historians and/or curators working in the field of Northern Territory history. The winner of the Award receives \$1000 in prize money.

The Society had four publications entered in the Award –
Gwenda Baker's *The Peacemakers: Three Wangurri brothers*
Chris Haynes' *The Bureaucrat and the Man in the Creekbed*
Allan O'Neil's *Midwives, Merchants and Miners*
Robyn Smith's *Licence to Kill: Massacre Men of Australia's North*

The awards were held on 16 July and the Historical Society is pleased to announce that Robyn Smith's book, *Licence to Kill* was short listed. Her Award was presented by Jinson Charls, Minister for People, Sport & Culture



Robyn Smith & Minister Jinson Charls



Paul Davey, Minister Jinson Charls & Jan Richardson



Christine Tarbett-Buckley, Claire Smith & Jane Munday



Jared Archibald, Derek Pugh.& Bev Phelts



Paul Davey, Jan Richardson & Wendy Beresford-Maning



Robyn Smith & Derek Pugh



Robyn Smith & Minister Jinson Charls



Paul Davey, Samantha Wells & Jan Richardson