

Historical Society of the Northern Territory

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2025

PO Box 40544, Casuarina NT 0811

Mobile: 0473446201 www.historicalocietynt.org.au

Email: hsnt@iinet.net.au Newsletter Editor: Bev Phelts

1/16 Charlton Court, Woolner

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

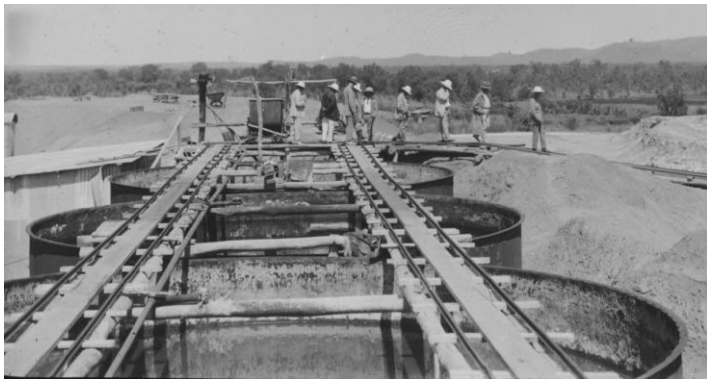
Saturday 1 November & 6, 20 & 27 December – HSNT Book stall at Parap Markets

Janie Mason will be selling our books at the markets.

Sunday 9 November – HSNT 7th Annual Oration at History House – Speaker Dr Wendy Garden

Wendy obtained her doctorate from the University of Melbourne. She is Head of Audience, Education & Learning at the Museum & Art Gallery of the NT and is President of the Australian Museums & Galleries Association, NT Branch. Her research and writing interests have focused on photographic portraiture in India and Australia and the photomedia reinterpretations of nineteenth century photographs by contemporary artists.

Wendy's talk is titled "Capturing time past and present: the McArthur River Mine in visual representation"



Gerald Hill, Men inspecting mine, Barclay-Macpherson expedition to the McArthur River and Gulf of Carpentaria regions, Northern Territory, c1912. National Library of Australia



Unknown photographer, Early Drilling at McArthur River Mine, c1930s

The expansion of the McArthur River mine cut the tail of the Rainbow Serpent in half, poisoned the surrounding waterways, the town camp water supply and caused the death of 400 cattle.

Aggrieved by the contamination of his ancestral lands, Garrwa elder Jack Green created confronting paintings that brought attention to the environmental damage caused by the mine. He enlisted Darwin based artist Therese Ritchie to create portrait photographs of people from Borroloola who were affected by the ecological threat. The exhibition *Open Cut* opened at the Northern Centre for Contemporary Art in 2017 followed by the online exhibition *Lead in My Grandmother's Body* in 2020.

This led to collaborations between Green, Ritchie, Garrwa/Yanyuwa artist Nancy McDinny, Garrwa/Gangalidda artist Stewart Hoosan and anthropologist Sean Kerins. Their exhibitions drew upon oral histories of settlement to contrast the fast violence of colonial dispossession with the slow violence of environmental poisoning.

With the permission from the artists, Dr Wendy Garden will discuss and show a selection of the photographs.

Our Oration will be held at History House, 1/16 Charlton Court, Woolner at 3pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Nibbles and drinks will follow the talk.

History Talks - Carole Miller is trialling a series of history talks for November. The talks will be held on Wednesdays at 2pm in the Fong Lim Community Room, 65 Stuart Highway, Stuart Park (Tanzil Rahman's offices at the intersection of Westralia Street/Stuart Highway). There will be a small charge which will cover tea/coffee and bikkies.

Wednesday 5 November – The history of Stuart Park by well known local historian, Peter Forrest

Wednesday 12 November – The History of Constantinople by Carole Miller

Wednesday 19 November - Garth Abercrombie will be "Searching for Aphrodite"

Wednesday 26 November - Laine Caldwell will tell us about those extraordinary women who willingly went into NAZI Europe during the Second World War.

Everyone is welcome to attend.



Sunday 23 November - HSNT Christmas Soiree at History House – 3pm-5pm

Members are welcome to attend. Finger foods, soft drink, champers & orange juice will be available and good company.

If you are coming, please let us know by Wednesday 19 November

Bev - email: hsnt@iinet.net.au or 0417868827 (leave a message)

Saturday 29 November - Museum and Art Gallery Theatrette -Talk - Survivor Stories - Tracy's Echo – 11am-noon

Hear the untold stories of Aboriginal survivors of Cyclone Tracy

Saturday 6 December - Museum and Art Gallery - Curator's Talk- Tracy's Echo – 11am-noon

Join Joanne Nasir for a tour of the exhibition of Tracy's Echo: 50 Years of Resilience

11 & 16 December – Museum and Art Gallery Theatrette – A guided walk through the Tracy Exhibition –11am start

MAGNT's much-loved Cyclone Tracy exhibition showcases the resilience of Darwin and its people following one of Australia's worst natural disasters. MAGNT has long been the home of the Cyclone Tracy story and refurbished this much-loved exhibition in 2024.

Join one of MAGNT's Territory History Curators for a walkthrough of the exhibition and hear some of the extraordinary stories behind the images and objects on display.

Membership for 2026 (January to December 2026) is now due

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 pay on line via credit card on our website 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@iinet.net.au if your personal details have changed.

This will be the last newsletter for the year. The Historical Society Committee wishes all our members a happy, healthy and safe Christmas and New Year. We shall see you all in 2026



HIGHLIGHTS OF PAST EVENTS

History Colloquium: History Talks held 25 & 26 October



Janie Mason, Libby Siebert & Paige Taylor



Katherine Sheedy, Sam Wells & Fiona Paulson



Jan Richardson, Julie Mastin. & Wendy Beresford Maning



Margie Roe & Jan Moore



Martin Thomas & Christine Tarbett-Buckley



Sam Wells, Matthew Stephen & Bev Phelts



The Historical Society Committee with Federation of Australian Historical Societies President, Dr Rosalie Triolo



Steve Farram, David Carment & Clayton Fredericksen



Janie Mason, Ruth Kerr & Brian Reid



David Carment & Matthew Stephen



Nick Drew & Pamela Statham Drew



Jane Munday selling HSNT books