



Historical Society of the Northern Territory

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2025

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Email: hsnt@inet.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, Matthew James, Jane Munday, Vida Goodvach & Peter Siebert

Saturday 4 October – 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 8 October – NT Library/CDU Building, Level 2 -5.30pm-7pm

Celebrating the launch of a new exhibition *Konrad Winkler: red earth and chalk dust, a retrospective*.

In the mid-1970s, photographer, teacher and artist Konrad Winkler spent three years capturing life in the Northern Territory in all its chaotic glory. Primarily working between Cyclone Tracy (1974) and before Self-Government (1978), Winkler caught the Territory poised between its humble origins and modern development. The vision revealed by Winkler's photography and cartoons is raw, intimate, rebellious, playful, and unique.

Library & Archives NT is proud to present the first showing of this remarkable body of work in the Territory. Hear directly from photographer Konrad Winkler and curator Charlie Ward as they reflect on a turbulent, playful and transformational moment in Northern Territory history.

Saturday 11 October – Museum and Art Gallery Theatre – Seafaring Stories –11am-12noon

Insights into the Colin Jack-Hinton Maritime Gallery. The Colin Jack-Hinton Maritime Gallery harbours extraordinary vessels that tell fascinating stories. Join Assistant Curator of Territory History, Paige Taylor, for a presentation about the Macassan visits to the Top End from the *Hati Marege*, the history of pearling from the *Vivienne*, Vietnamese 'Boat People' from the *Thịnh Vương* and illegal shark fin fishing from the *Tujuan*. End your seafaring adventure with a visit to the Colin Jack-Hinton Maritime Gallery and see the ship-shape collection with fresh eyes

Friday 24 October –National Trust talk at Burnett House - Speaker Dan Baschiera on Who was Bynoe? - 5.30pm start

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

Saturday 25 October – History Colloquium: History Talks – NT Library, Level 2

The Society will be holding a book stall at the colloquium – cash only
See attached draft program

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.

HSNT Survey Results Are In

Thanks to everyone who completed the recent Historical Society survey. It provided valuable insights which are being considered by the HSNT management council. The report is attached.

Vale Dr Lyn Reid by June D'Rozario



Arriving from the UK in 1971, Lyn Reid quickly became a pillar of the Territory's medical community. Her work in Darwin took on new significance after Cyclone Tracy, as she and her husband Brian founded much-needed clinics in Rapid Creek and later in Humpty Doo.

Lyn was instrumental in creating the Family Planning Welfare Association NT, opening its first clinic in 1973. She also provided vital medical support at the Sexual Assault Referral Centre, helping victims of sexual assault.

Lyn's interests reached far beyond medicine. She was a keen birder, an inquisitive mind, and an enthusiastic member of many community organisations which include the Historical Society of the NT. Her homemade brandy sauce/ puddings and pâté were legendary—always a highlight at our Christmas lunches.

Lyn was a cherished member of the Historical Society Committee, remembered fondly for her sharp wit and infectious laughter. Her presence is deeply missed by all who knew her.

A full and lengthy obituary will be published in this year's journal.

Vale Colin De La Rue (1939-2025) by Clayton Fredericksen

It is with sadness I inform readers that Colin De La Rue passed away on 27 August in South Australia, aged 86 years. Through his archaeological work, Colin made a significant contribution to Northern Territory history. He was involved with surveys and excavations on many early historical sites, including the remains of the Pine Creek Chinese settlement, Fannie Bay Gaol historic site, Fort Wellington in Raffles Bay and Fort Dundas on Melville Island. Colin had a special interest in nineteenth century military and industrial technology.

For his MA thesis, Colin focused on the fortifications and military logistics of Fort Dundas, producing a pioneering piece of historical archaeological research that earned high praise from his inter-state examiners. I recall with fondness our countless discussions on all things to do with archaeology, history, technology, politics and theology. Colin will be remembered by all who knew him as a scholar and a gentleman.

Goodbye old friend, you are greatly missed.



Colin De La Rue at Fort Dundas