

Historical Society of the Northern Territory

Patron: The Hon Austin Asche AC

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2023

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HSNT Committee – President: Matthew James; Vice President: Bev Phelts;
Secretary: Libby Siebert : Treasurer: Lyn Reid; others - Brian Reid, Derek Pugh, Clayton Frederickson, Ian Anderson & Wendy Asche.

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 2 September - HSNT book stall – Parap Markets

Janie will be selling our books at the markets. Drop by and snap up a special.

Sunday 10 September – Trivia Night – RSPCA at the Trailer Boat Club – 7pm start

Join us for a pawsitively fun evening at RSPCA Darwin's Trivia Night.
Test your knowledge while supporting our furry friends.

Grab your team and get ready for a tail-wagging good time filled with trivia, laughter and a chance to win fantastic prizes. Darwin Trailer Boat Club is the perfect location for any event, so make sure you come early to enjoy something delicious off their menu.

All proceeds go towards RSPCA Darwin to help us look after the animals in our care.

Tickets are \$20pp

Tickets available at: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1078548>

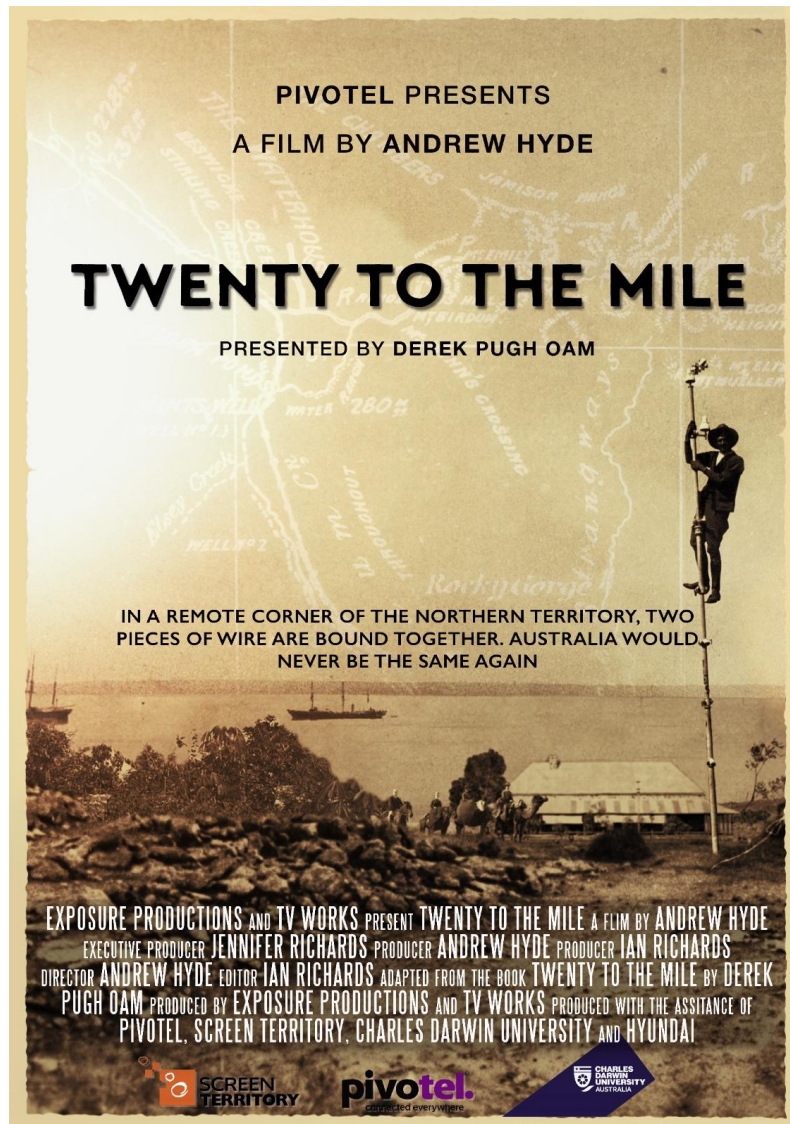
Tuesday 19 September – Trivia Night – NT National Trust - Trailer Boat Club 6.30pm start

The National Trust will be holding a Trivia Night 'Peeling Back the Territory' \$20 per person and includes a Cooper Ale. See attached flyer for more information or contact Julie 0437 391 393

Thursday 28 September *Twenty To The Mile* at the Deck Chair at 7pm

Presented by Derek Pugh. A film by Andrew Hyde, 'Twenty to the Mile' tells the story of the Overland Telegraph Line, which connected Adelaide and Australia to England in 1872.

Tickets will be on sale at the Deck Chair from September 1. A Q&A session will follow the film.



The Historical Society's Annual Journal

This year's issue of the HSNT journal will soon be with the printers. Contributions are now invited for the 2024 issue. Articles up to 8000 words and short reports up to approximately 1500 words are sought on topics relating to Northern Territory history, heritage or archaeology. If you are interested in offering a contribution, please email the journal editor Clayton Fredericksen - clayton.fredericksen@cdu.edu.au

The Overland Telegraph Line - Missing “Sheet 6”

Sir Charles Todd's great great grandson, Julian Todd, plans to follow in Sir Charles' footsteps and travel as faithfully as possible, the original route of the Overland Telegraph in 2024.

With this in mind, he has been searching for copies of six survey drawings prepared in early 1873, entitled: “Plan of Overland Telegraph from Port Darwin to Port Augusta compiled by Alexander Ringwood”.

These drawings were commissioned by Sir Charles for use by SA Post and Telegraphs to manage the ongoing operation of the Overland Telegraph Line and are the best original drawings showing the route of the Overland Telegraph Line completed at the time.

(The NLA catalogue link to Sheet 1 showing Port Darwin is - <https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/1532741>

Look carefully and you'll see Sir Charles' signature endorsing the survey drawing.

The good news.

Dated June 1986, the (NT Surveyor) (Nick) A N Wilson report, “Relics of the Overland Telegraph Line Alice Springs to Port Augusta” references citing and using these survey drawings. Sheets 1 to 4 which show the location of the Overland telegraph north of the SA/NT border have been found at the National Library in Canberra.

A poor quality copy of Sheet 5 – Charlotte Waters to Coward Springs has been found in an archive box by Nick Wilson's widow in SA.

Sheet 6 – Coward Springs to Port Augusta remains lost.

Julian's search for Sheet 6 thus far !

- The National Library in Canberra
- The SA State Library has only a copy of Sheet 1 – ie Port Darwin to Roper Creek
- SA Archives – Gepps Cross – have completed an online search – no copies on file
- The Historical Society of NT
- Telstra Telecommunications Museums – including a physical search of the Bankstown museum (they have conserved and kept the Telecommunication Museum items formerly located at the Adelaide GPO & the Norwood Exchange)
- NT Surveyors Board
- History Trust of SA
- SA Parliamentary Library
- Royal Geographic Society of SA
- SA Freemasons
- SA Land Services
- SA Surveyors Association
- SA Survey Operations Dept for Trade and Investment

Does anyone have an insight as to where Sheet 6 might be located !!

If you can solve the mystery, please contact Julian on 0414 448 855 or email: jtodd@backvintage.com.au