

## Historical Society of the Northern Territory

### NEWSLETTER JULY 2026

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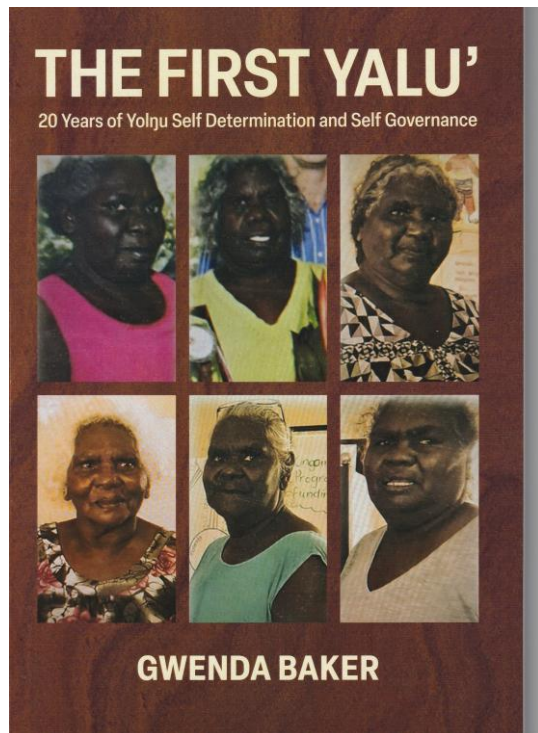
### FUTURE EVENTS

#### **Saturday 4 July - Parap Markets HSNT Book Stall**

Drop in and say hi to Janie who will be operating our bookstall.

#### **Sunday 5 July at 3pm – The launch of *The First Yalu* at History House**

Gwenda Baker's latest book will be launched by Dr Jan Richardson



The Society has just published *The First Yalu: 20 Years of Yolngu Self Determination and Self Governance* by Dr Gwenda Baker.

The book is a tribute to the women who set up and managed a highly regarded organisation in Galiwinku, Elcho Island, NT. Yalu Marnugithinyaraw, the first Yalu operated for 20 years from 1999. The women created a space in a post mission town to run Yolngu education programs for Yolngu children. A positive story of self-determination and self-governance ended by a Balanda takeover in 2019.

The book will be available for \$35 – CASH ONLY

#### **Friday 10 July from 11am to 1pm at the Bookshop in the Mall –**

If you missed our book launch of Gwenda's book, you can catch her out the front of the Bookshop signing her new book.

#### **Saturday & Sunday 4 & 5 July**

The Chung Wah are celebrating their 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

See attached flyer for more information

## **HSNT 4WD trip – Darwin Show Weekend – 24 & 25 July**

See the itinerary at the end of the newsletter

## **The National Trust NT is running the Heritage Festival from 4 July to 11 July:**

### **Saturday 4 July - Open Day Myilly Point Heritage Precinct - 2 Burnett Place - 1.00pm – 4.00pm**

All four National Trust houses at Myilly Point will be open to the public.

Come and see how senior public servants lived last century and enjoy afternoon tea and a game of croquet in the gardens!

Coin donation for entry. Afternoon Tea for sale

### **Sunday 5 July – Darwin Heritage Car Rally from Burnett House - 3.00pm – 5.00pm**

Gather your team and get ready to drive to obscure places around Darwin that you may never have known existed. Work out your strategy and follow the clues. Finish up with a BBQ at Burnett House.

\$30 per car (maximum 5 people per car)

### **Wednesday 8 July – Darwin History Walk - Roadmasters House, 1 McMinn Street, Darwin City - 9.15am for a 9.30am start - finish approx 11.30am**

Join our guided walk around Darwin City's historic sites led by renowned history buff, Trevor Menzies. The route will be a circuit from Roadmasters House over approximately 2 kms including some steps. Walkers are advised to bring sunhat, water and wear comfortable shoes. A maximum of 15 people for this tour.

\$15 per person

### **Thursday 9 July - Heritage Quiz Night at the Darwin Trailer Boat Club - Registration 6.30pm for 7.00pm start**

Are you well read, have a good memory for trivia, know your sports, lover of music, world wise or the best person to scribe? Come along and try your hand. If you can gather a table of 6, even better. And yes, there will be a few Darwin history questions included!

\$10 per person

### **Saturday, 11 July – Gardens Cemetery Picnic - Gardens Cemetery, off Chin Quan Road - 10.00am – noon**

Reviving the tradition of cemeteries being used for social gatherings, Belinda Mawby will provide a potted history of Darwin history through the lens of people buried in Gardens Cemetery. Afterwards you will be given information sheets to explore the graves at your own pace.

\$15 per person (includes morning tea, bring your own hot drink)

### **Devonshire Teas are back at Burnett House**

Every second Sunday until August:

July 12 & 26 & August 9 & 23

Book afternoon tea at: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/156807>

\$20 per person

## Monday 10 August at 2pm – A Centenary Muster

Join Mates of the Murrarji at Jones' Store, Newcastle Waters Historic Township, to recognise and celebrate two centenary events of 1926.

With the support of our sponsors, particularly Great Northern Beer, we also intend to raise a beverage to honour the history of the Newcastle Waters and to also reflect on the lives of absent friends, with special emphasis on the recent passing of the Honourable Ted Egan AO - Foundation Mate, past Administrator of Australia's Northern Territory, founder of the 'Bloody Good Drinkers Club', National Treasure and all-round great bloke!! Through his songs and literature, his passion for Australia and its peoples, Ted's love and generosity provides us with an enduring immeasurable legacy.

2026 represents the centenary of two special events in Australia's and Newcastle Waters history. On 4 June 1926, the Commonwealth of Australia assented the *North Australia Act* which effectively split the Northern Territory into two - Central Australia and Northern Australia.

47. The seat of Government of North Australia shall be established as soon as practicable at Newcastle Waters, and until the seat of Government is so established it shall be at Darwin.

Seat of  
Government of  
North  
Australia.

Alice Springs was to become the capital of Central Australia whilst Newcastle Waters was designated the capital of North Australia replacing Darwin as the seat of Government. The Act was subsequently repealed some 5 years later.

Following this proclamation on 19 August 1926, the Governor General of Australia and his wife, Lord and Lady Stonehaven, flew from Longreach, QLD, to Newcastle Waters, in the first ever Australian built Qantas De Havilland DH50 plane.

## 20-26 September – Australasian Mining History Association Conference – Smythesdale (near Ballarat)

The Organising Committee invites offers of presentations on any topic relevant to mining history, or history of the area.

For general information on the conference please refer to the AMHA website at <https://www.mininghistory.asn.au/next-conference/>

The Call for Papers and the Registration form can be found here:

<https://amha.tidyhq.com/public/schedule/events/60121-30th-annual-conference-smythesdale-vic>

## King's Birthday 2026 Honours



Congratulations to one of our well deserving members, Allan Mitchell OAM who received an Order of Australia for his service to local government and to the community.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF PAST EVENTS

Talk by Amanda Lovitt on a ship called *Anna Salen*



Ian Anderson, Derek Pugh,  
Michael Lovitt, Mark Ames &  
Amanda Lovitt

Rosemary Cameron,  
Fiona Scott & Merry Cooper



Photos courtesy Libby Siebert

## **HSNT 4WD trip – Darwin Show Weekend – 24 & 25 July**

### **Itinerary**

#### **Friday 24 July - Pt Stuart and Rock Carvings**

Participants meet Friday 24 July morning at **8.30am** at the Bark Hut.

This will allow enough time for participants to drive from Darwin (1.5 hours)

Make our way to Pt Stuart

- Bark Hut to Pt Stuart Road turnoff – 16km – 30mins
- Pt Stuart turnoff to car park 1.30 hours

Parks & Wildlife will allow one vehicle to travel over the floodplain to the Cairn in order to take those unable to walk 1.5km and gear.

\*\*\*\*\* Please dress appropriately, wear good shoes, a hat and carry sufficient water & your lunch.

Arrive approx. 11am

Raise the Union Jack, read out the speeches that John McDouall Stuart made when he reached the northern sea, toast and 3 cheers.

Have lunch and a look around.

Leave approx. 1pm

2pm - Afternoon tea stop at “creek bridge” past Shady Camp turnoff – halfway down the Pt Stuart Road. (lots of shade, a creek & parking)

2.45pm – Head off to visit the granite rock carvings which are located 10km from Bark Hut

End of an exciting day

For those who are staying the night – meet in the Bark Hut for dinner/drinks around 6pm

#### **Saturday 25 July - \_Hardies Track**

**9am** – meet out the front of the Bark Hut

Hardies Track has two entrances/exits from the Arnhem H/W– we will be taking the entrance near the Bark Hut and will exit near Corrobboree. From there, we continue back to Darwin and home.

We will lunch/stop somewhere along the Track where there is sufficient shade and parking.