

# Historical Society of the Northern Territory

## NEWSLETTER MAY 2026

PO Box 40544, Casuarina NT 0811

Mobile: 0473446201 [www.historicalsocietynt.org.au](http://www.historicalsocietynt.org.au)

Email: [hsnt@inet.net.au](mailto: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, Vida Goodvach, Rosemary Cameron & Peter Siebert

### FUTURE EVENTS

#### Saturday 2 May - Parap Markets HSNT Book Stall

Janie is running the book stall and will be offering discounted books.

#### Tuesday 12 May – International Nurses Day Charles Darwin University - 3 to 5pm

**CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY**  
Nursing Museum & Historical Photographs Collection

Our Heritage  
Northern Territory Nursing Museum

Patron: The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO

&

Australian College of Nursing

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation

HESTA

### **International Nurses' Day**

With Charles Darwin University Nursing Museum

From 3 to 5pm Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Beagle Deck [Library – Red 8 building]  
Charles Darwin University– Casuarina

With support of  
Australian College of Nursing [NT]  
Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation  
Health Employees Superannuation Trust Aust.  
Historical Society of the Northern Territory

3 to 3.30pm Arrive

3.30 to 4pm Welcome

GREETING & WELCOME  
Bernadette Royal and Professor Natasha Franklin

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY : 2026 THEME  
**OUR NURSES – OUR FUTURE**  
**EMPOWERED NURSES SAVE LIVES**  
Professor Natasha Franklin

BOOK TO BE LAUNCHED  
"Bravery and Ambition" tells of Harold Victor Elcock  
and Eileen Mary Elcock née Neenan MBE [S20]

INTRODUCTION – Jared Archibald OAM

FROM THE FAMILY – Brian Tyquin and Kate Quon  
Remembering Uncle Harold and Aunty Eileen  
Presentation of MBE miniatures

LAUNCH – The Hon. Sally Thomas AC

4 to 5pm Afternoon Tea

Other books out of the Nursing Museum also for sale  
CASH PREFERRED

RSVP: 8946 6385 & leave a message  
OR [janie.mason@cdu.edu.au](mailto:janie.mason@cdu.edu.au)

**Sunday 10 May at 3pm at History House– Film Showing– *Twenty to the Mile***

In a remote corner of the Northern Territory, 150 years ago, two pieces of wire were bound together, and Australia was instantly connected to the world. In this documentary to mark the Overland Telegraph's 150th anniversary, Derek Pugh retraces the line, unearthing stories of remarkable endurance, survival, massacre, and courage. The Film had previously been shown at the Deck Chair in 2024 to a packed out audience.

**Wednesday 13 May – 5.30-7pm – Book Launch at NT Library- *Decades in Darwin Vol2***

In December, David Hancock launched the second instalment of his *Decades in Darwin* series. While the first book captured his work in news and current affairs from 1986 to 2001, Volume 2 shifts focus to his career as a magazine photographer from 2000 to 2020, documenting remote locations and remarkable people across Australia. David will share the stories behind the images and the making of the book.

Book sales and signings will be available on the night.

This is a free event however bookings are essential.

<https://events.humanitix.com/book-talk-decades-in-darwin-volume-2-david-hancock>

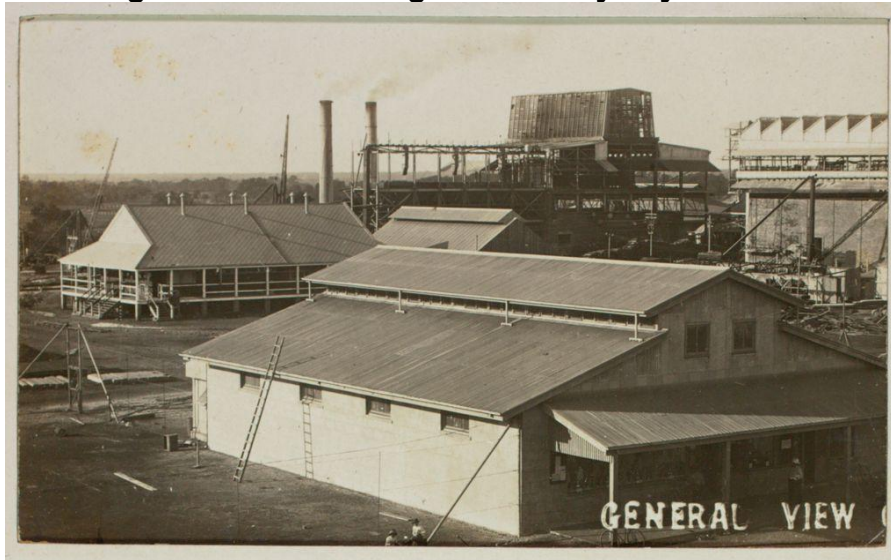
**Thursday 21 May – 5.30-7pm – Book Launch at NT Library- *The Framing***

When Fernanda Dahlstrom was eight, her mother's imprisonment shattered their rural Victorian childhood, an experience she explores in her new memoir *The Framing*, a powerful reflection on trust, betrayal, identity and justice. Join Fernanda in-conversation with ABC journalist, Eleni Roussos as they delve into this compelling story.

This is a free event however bookings are essential.

<https://events.humanitix.com/book-talk-the-framing-with-author-fernanda-dahlstrom>

**Saturday 23 May –Walking Tour of the Vestiges of Vestey's by Jared Archibald–10-11.30am**



Departs from outside the main entry of the Museum and Art Gallery, Fannie Bay at 10:00am.

A walking tour of the remnants of the iconic Vestey's Meatworks at Bullocky Point.

Join MAGNT Curator of Territory History, Jared Archibald, on a walking tour of the remnants of the iconic Vestey's Meatworks. This industrial complex was constructed between 1914 and 1917 on Bullocky Point, demolished in 1960, and is now the site of Darwin High School and the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. Please register at the MAGNT Information Desk in the Foyer from 9:45am. Participants will be walking on grassed and sealed surfaces. This guided walk takes approximately 90 minutes with multiple stops along the way. Appropriate footwear for walking outdoors, hat, sunscreen and water bottles are essential.

## Tuesday 26 May at 3pm at History House

Special guest Amanda Lovitt JP, Funeral Celebrant, Public Speaker and Heritage Researcher from Perth. For the past 5 years Amanda has been researching passengers from the ship named *Anna Salen* that made multiple trips to Australia from 1949 until 1955. To date Amanda has covered over 9000 passengers. The connections made between passengers and between families and friends from all over the world has been amazing. Many of these post World War 2 migrants from Europe went to the Northern Territory.



The *Anna Salen*

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

Darwin Show Day 24 July marks the 164<sup>th</sup> anniversary when John McDouall Stuart and his party reached the northern shore (Pt Stuart). It is planned to meet at the Bark Hut in the morning and make our way to Pt Stuart. We will hold a small reenactment which includes speeches of the day, raising the Union Jack Flag and a toast. BYO own lunch to have at the site.

After lunch, there will be a visit to the artistic granite rock carvings done by Japanese sculpture, Mitsuaki Tanabe.

Mitsuaki went back and forth between Japan and Australia for 10 years, carving insects and lizards into the granite. Unfortunately he died before he finished his sculptures, but his son continued with his work.

The carvings are located 10kms from the Bark Hut.

On Saturday, we will take Hardies Track and visit Hardies Billabong. The Track and Billabong is named after Frank Hardie who was the first to build in the area. Hardies Track will be subject to a reccie run in June to check on conditions of the track.

Participants meet Friday 24 July morning at the Bark Hut. Time to be announced. The Bark Hut will be used as a base. Participants will need to book accommodation for Friday night – we return home on Saturday afternoon. Bark Hut has cabins and camping sites. Book early as it is a long weekend.

High clearance vehicles are needed.

If you wish to join the trip or participate as a passenger and willing to share petrol costs, please email the Society Email: [hsnt@inet.net.au](mailto:hsnt@inet.net.au) or phone Bev on 0417868827.

More details will follow in the next newsletter.

## Monday 10 August – Mates of the Murrnji – Centenary Celebrations

On 4 June 1926, the Commonwealth of Australia gazetted the 'Northern Australia Act' which saw the Northern Territory split into two regions – Central Australia and North 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.

The gazetted 'Capitals' of each region were Alice Springs the capital of Central Australia and the capital of North Australia being Newcastle Waters (at the expense of Darwin).

This Act of Parliament was rescinded some five years later.

Further, on 19 August 1926, the then Governor General of Australia, Lord Stonehaven, accompanied with his wife, flew from Longreach in Queensland to Newcastle Waters in the first Australian-built Qantas De Havilland DH50 airplane.

Centenary Celebrations will be held on Monday 10th August at 2.00pm at the National Trust – owned Jones Store. It is hoped that Barry Coulter's new book will also be launched. The book is on the history of the Murrnji Track, and Newcastle Waters along with profiles of the many drovers who made history facilitating the movement of cattle from the Kimberley to Dajarra in Queensland - at its time the largest cattle trans-shipment place in the world, bigger than Abilene in Texas.

The planned Celebration Muster will be a low-key event, but worthy of your attendance any way and we are hopeful that you can join us.

As always, we encourage you make your accommodation arrangements (see more information below) as a matter of priority or be prepared to dust-off your swags.

### Accommodation Options:

#### Daly Waters Historic Pub

Booking enquiries can be made via their website or call (08) 8975 9927

#### Hi-Way Inn at Daly Waters (Located 134km from Newcastle Waters)

Booking enquiries can be made via their website or call (08) 8975 9925

#### Renner Springs Hotel (Located 120km from Newcastle Waters)

Booking enquiries to be made via their website.

#### Dunmurra (Located 82km from Newcastle Waters)

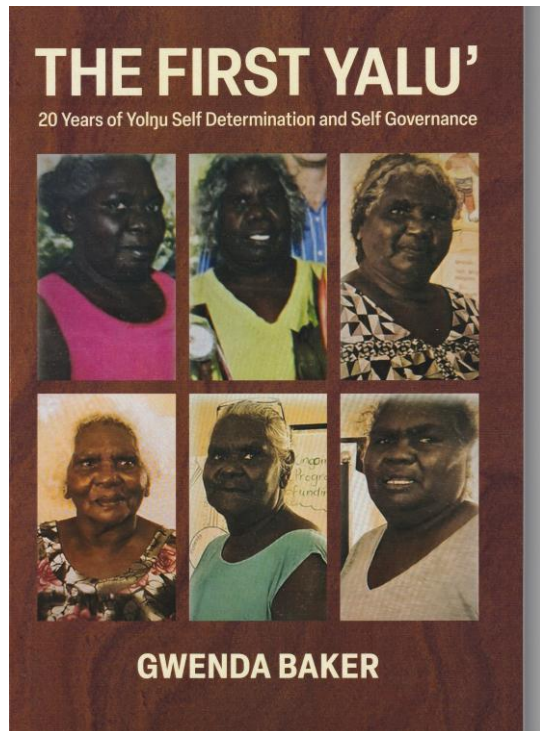
Phone (08) 8975 9922

## **Australasian Mining History Association Conference – 20-26 September 2026**

The Association will be holding its annual conference in Smythesdale (near Ballarat VIC) Although the conference will be held in the small town of Smythesdale, activities and tours in and around Ballarat will be included in the program. If you are interested in presenting, the call for papers will be advertised soon. For more information on the conference and the draft program –

Go to: Next Conference - Australasian Mining History

## New Society Publication – The first Yalu



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 is available from the Society for \$35 plus postage.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF PAST EVENTS

Derek Pugh's talk on his motor bike ride around India



Allan Mitchell & Frank



Elaine Hellyer & Frieda Evans

## HIGHLIGHTS OF PAST EVENTS

Derek Pugh's talk on his motor bike ride around India



Frieda Evans & Julie Mastin



Heather Boulton, Mark Ames, Merry Cooper & Jeremy Hemphill



Allan Mitchell & Frank



Derek Pugh & Rosemary Cameron



Jeff Swann & Clayton Fredericksen



Ron Innes & Marnie Cameron