

## **HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

### **OVERVIEW OF SURVEY FINDINGS**

#### **SEPTEMBER 2025**

##### **Purpose of the survey**

To determine satisfaction levels with aspects of the Historical Society of the Northern Territory's (HSNT) services and gather ideas for improvement or additional activities.

##### **Method**

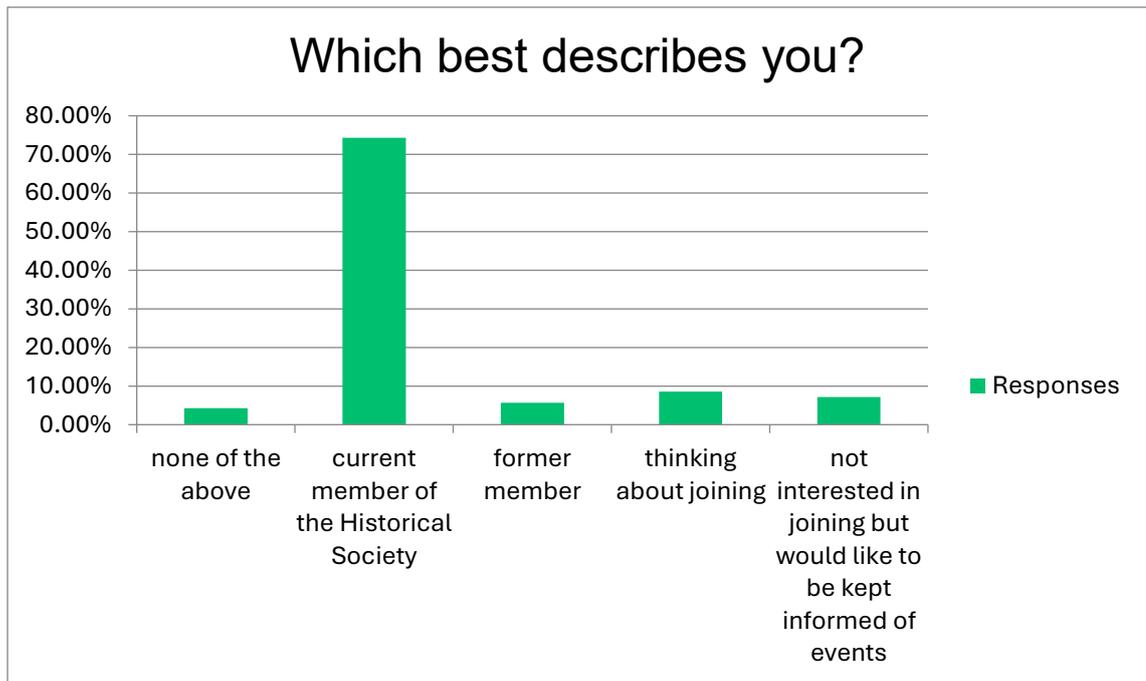
The draft survey was prepared by committee member Dr Jane Munday, approved by the HSNT management council, then piloted before going public between 17 July and 30 August 2025.

Promotion of the survey was by direct email to members, by emailing other historical societies and museums and a random selection of former members and people known to be interested in HSNT activities. It was promoted on the HSNT Facebook page, in the monthly newsletter and by Jane Munday on her personal Facebook and LinkedIn pages.

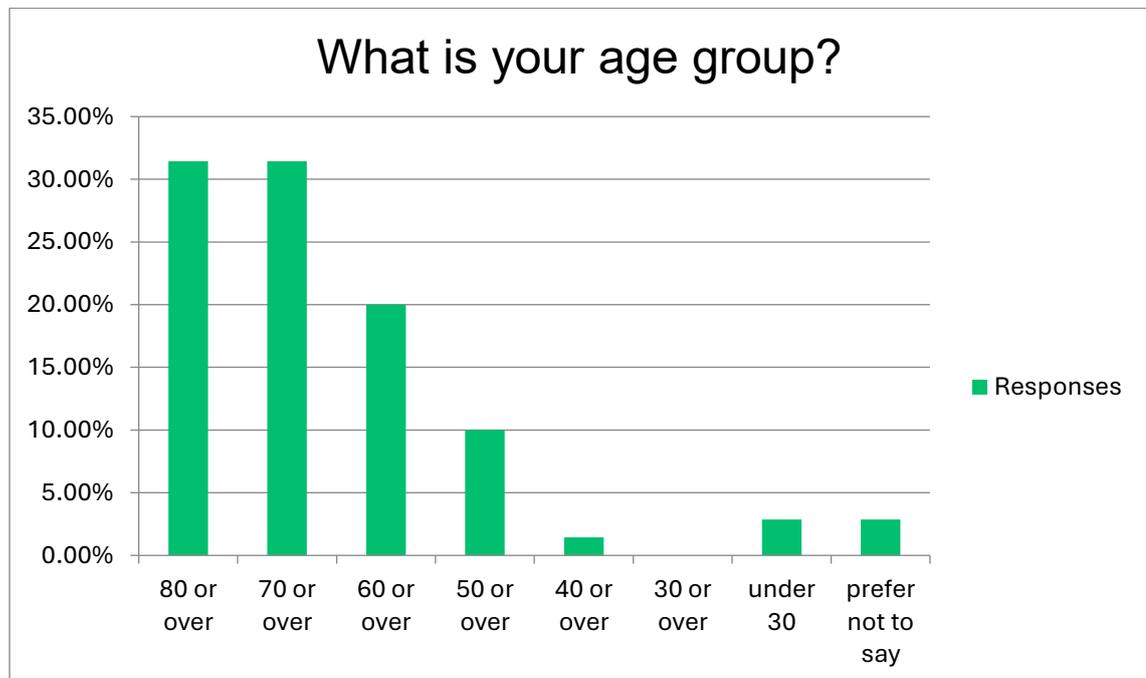
The survey was conducted on Survey Monkey with technical support from True North Strategic Communication.

##### **Summary of results**

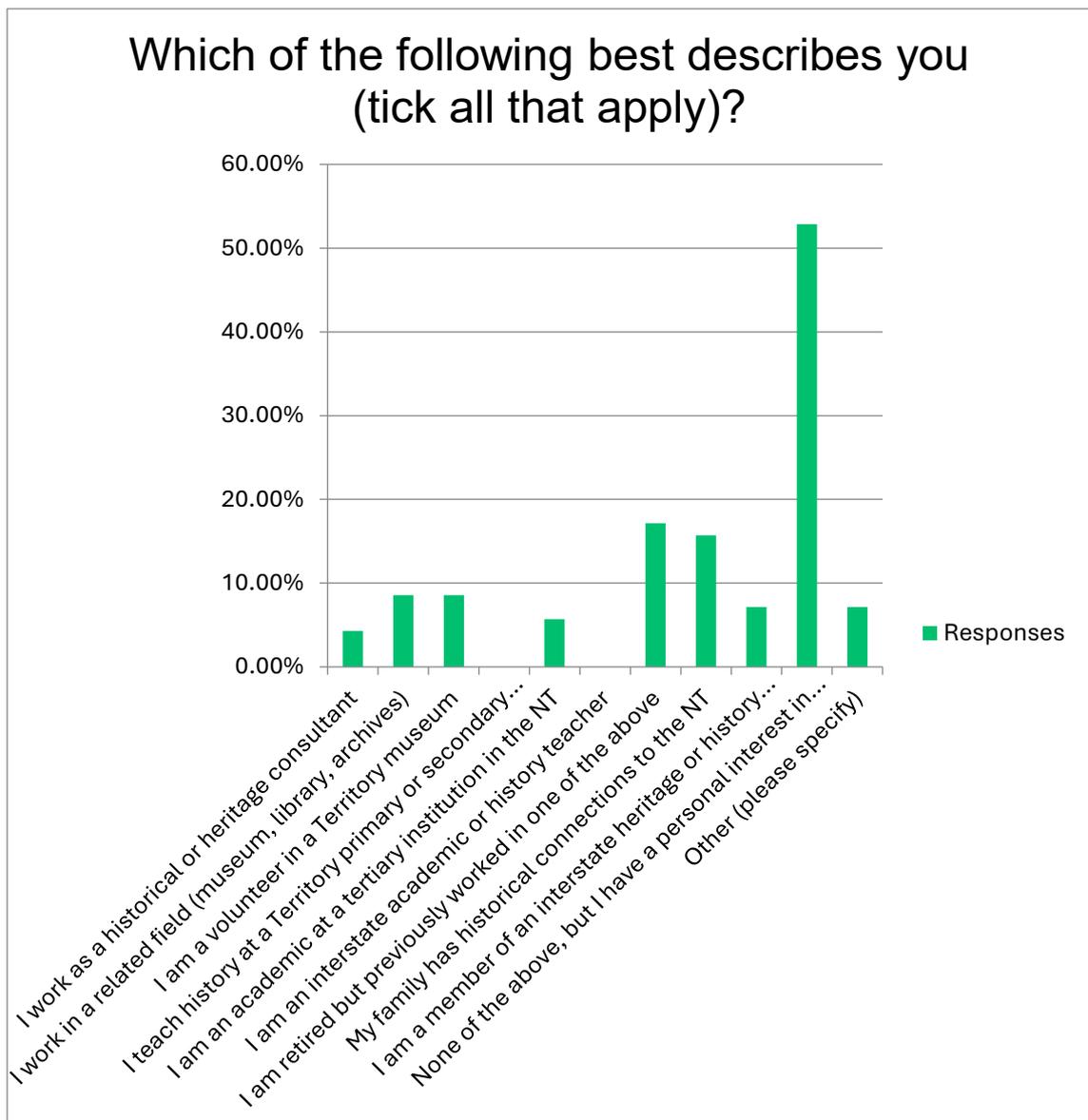
- 70 people responded, a great result given the HSNT had 95 financial members when the survey was distributed.
- Of these, 74.29% (n=52) were current members, 8.57% (n=6) were thinking about joining, and 5.71% (n=4) were former members.



- 75.71% (n=53) of respondents were from the Greater Darwin Region, 17.14% (n=12) were from interstate, 4.29% (n=3) were from regional NT and 2.86% (n=2) were from overseas.
- 62.73% of respondents were aged 70 or over, with only 4.03% (n=3) aged under 50.



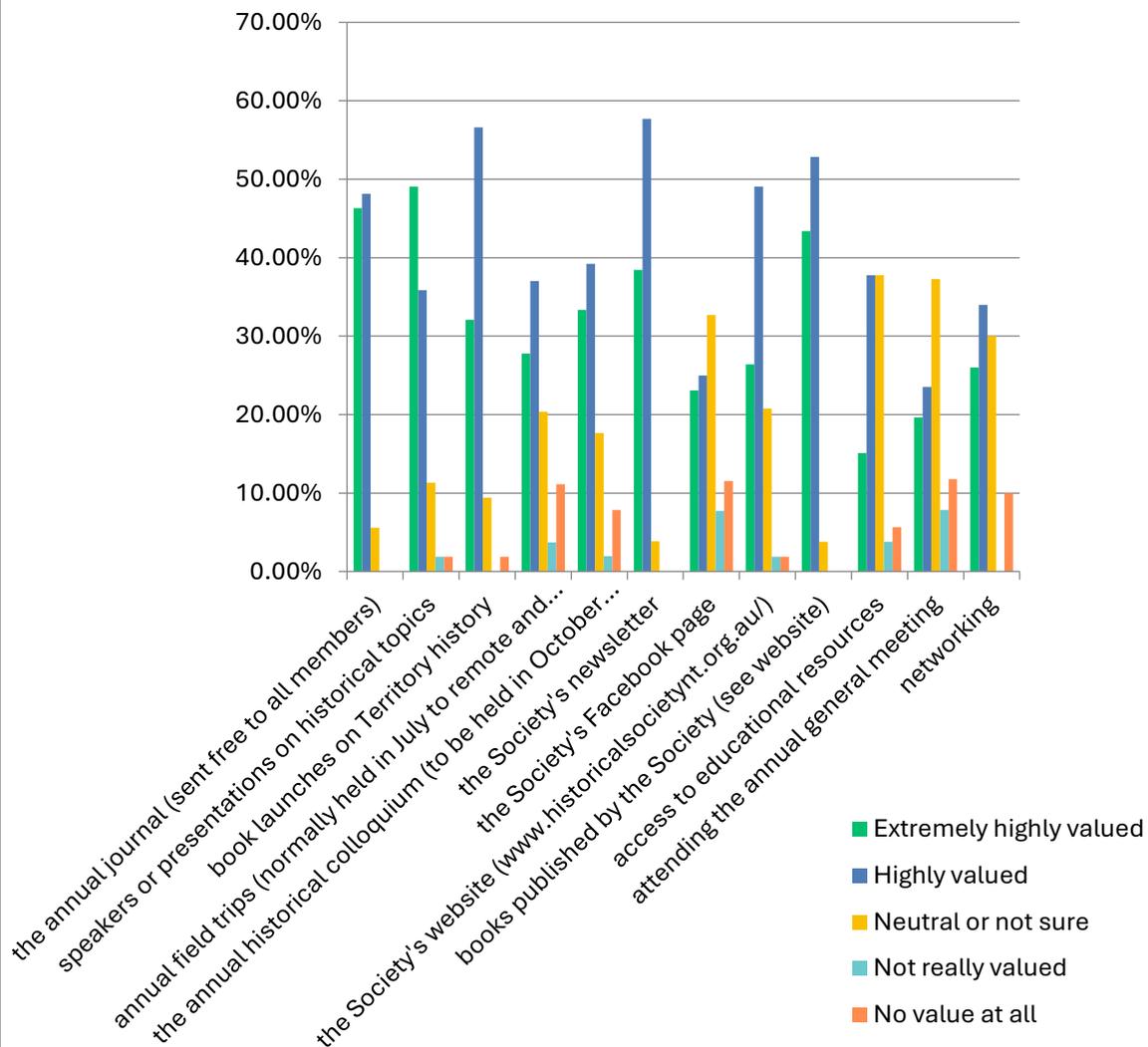
- 85.45% of respondents hold personal membership, with 4.55% holding institutional membership.
- Asked which best described them, 52.86% of respondents nominated a personal interest in the Territory's history, 17.14% (n=12) were retirees who previously worked as an historian, academic, or staff member at a museum, library or archives; while 15.71% were interested in the HSNT primarily because of family connections to the Northern Territory. None taught history in either the Territory or interstate, although 5.71% identified as Territory academics.



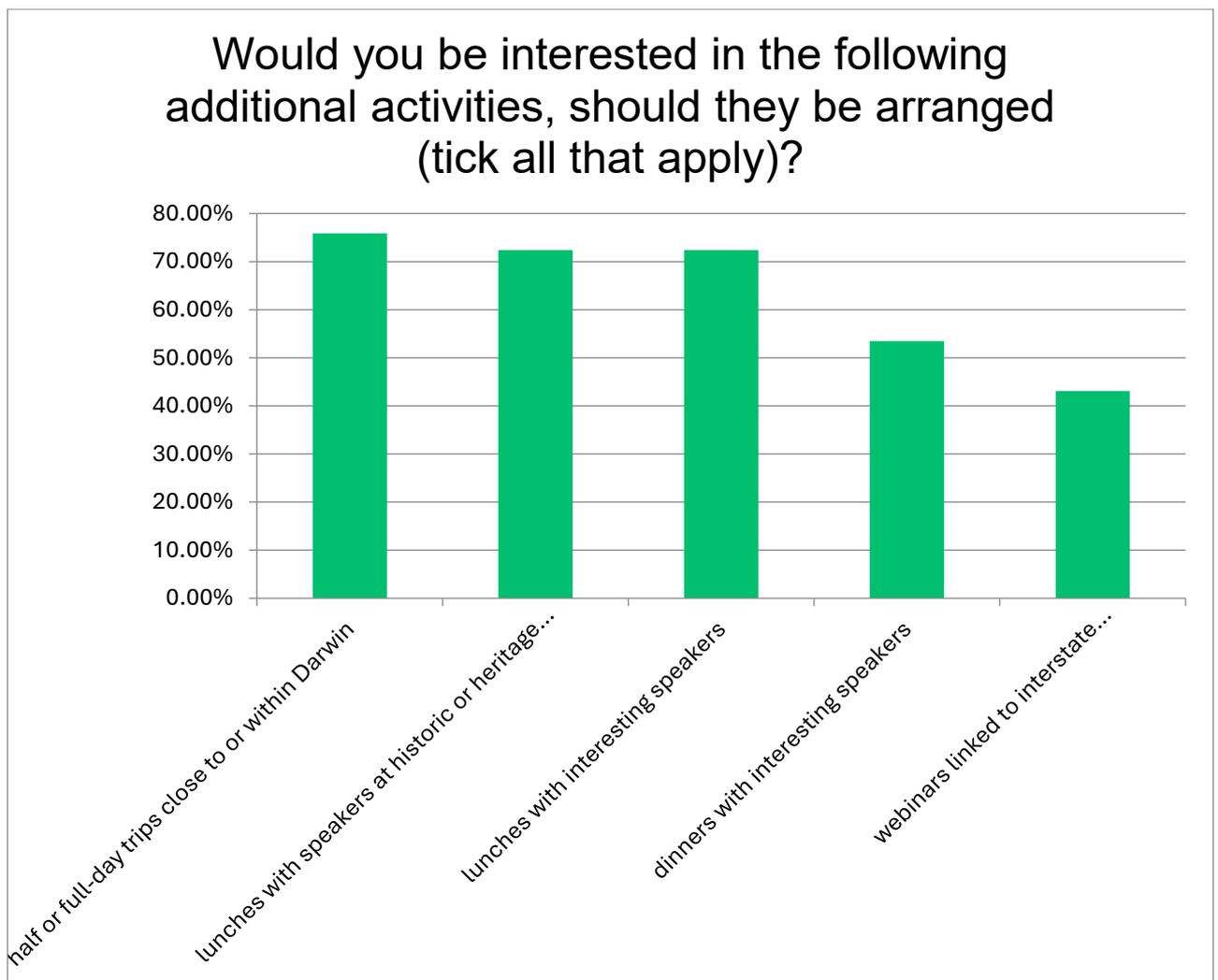
- For members, the services receiving the top ranking of 'extremely valued' were speakers or presentations on historical topics (49.06%), the annual journal

(46.30%) books published by the HSNT (43.40%) and the HSNT newsletter (38.46%). The highest combined score was for books published by the Society (96.23%). All activities were valued, with the AGM and Facebook site the only items under a combined score (extremely and highly valued) of less than 50%.

If you are a **CURRENT MEMBER**, please rate the extent to which you value the following services provided or supported by the Society (non-members and former members should skip to questions 7 and 8):



- For non-members (n=17), the results were fairly similar except (not surprisingly) lower scores for the journal and AGM.
- For lapsed members (n=5), reasons for their decision included no longer doing heritage/history work or having other priorities.
- For all respondents who answered the question on whether long weekend field trips were of interest (n=61), 55.74% said yes, 22.95% said no and 21.31% were unsure.
- Asked about their level of interest in other potential activities, for those who responded (n=59), there was substantial interest in half or full-day trips close to or within Darwin (75.86%), lunches with speakers at historic or heritage places (72.41%), lunches with interesting speakers (72.41%), dinners with interesting speakers (53.45%), and webinars linked to interstate events/presentations (43.10%).



- Asked about the HSNT's membership fees (\$70, \$40 concession, \$90 for family/institutional membership), 86.36% said fees were about right, 7.58% (x5) thought they were too high and 6.06% (x4) thought they were too low.
- Asked for comments or suggestions about how services might be enhanced, the main suggestions were more on Aboriginal history and culture; monthly lectures or talks on history, ancient history or archaeology; and general support for more accessible, short events (to cater for people who can't manage the longer fieldtrips due to time and health constraints, regular weekend commitments or carer responsibilities).
- Suggestions for additions to the HSNT education pages included more on Aboriginal and oral histories, archaeology, sport history, the railway and suggestions that a program be drawn up to talk to students about specific historical periods.
- Of the 70 respondents, 37 wanted to be sent copies of the survey results (but x2 of these provided only a post code as their address).

Jane Munday

September 2025

<https://www.historicalsocietynt.org.au/>