

The Inaugural Annual HSNT Oration - Sally Thomas AC on Magistrates, Mayhem & Mismanagement in the Territory's Early Years

On 21 November, the HSNT held its first Oration at the Charles Darwin University, Moot Court. It was a full "courtroom" with 50 people attending to hear Her Honour Sally Thomas AC speak about some of Darwin's first magistrates.

Sally came to the Northern Territory in 1978 to take up an appointment as Magistrate. She served as Magistrate and then Chief Magistrate of the Territory from 1986 to 1992. Sally was appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory from 1992 to 2009; the first female Judge in the Northern Territory. In October 2011, she was sworn in as the 20th and first female Administrator of the Northern Territory with her term ending in 2014.

Sally spoke about the broad roles of early magistrates and how some magistrates earned their particular nicknames and reputation. She had us all in stitches about the goings-on in the early days of law and order.

After the talk, refreshments were served on the balcony.



HSNT President, Matt James, introduces the speaker.



A view of the audience.



The speaker keeps a serious face while causing much laughter.



Refreshments on the veranda.