

RECORDS TERRITORY

NORTHERN TERRITORY ARCHIVES SERVICE NEWSLETTER

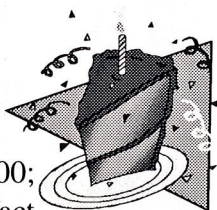
No. 15

SEPTEMBER 1997

ISSN 1039-5180

Editorial

Happy birthday to NTAS. No we're not 100; we're not even 50; we are in fact a baby in bloom. NTAS is celebrating its first year in its new premises. After six years of temporary accommodation we believe having your own home is something worth celebrating!



The past year has proven a very positive and productive time with the holdings being relocated and finalised; the recommencement of training courses and the issuing of various new brochures and disposal schedules to name just a few.

At NT government level the NTAS has been heavily involved with some major projects including the Records Management Strategy, the Records Storage Outsourcing proposal and the recently approved 'Protocol for Access to NT Government Records by Aboriginal People Researching their Families' (refer page 2). I'm not going to bore you with an exhaustive list of everything we've been doing but, as you can see, we've been rather busy, though enjoying it in Territorian style.



As times change, so do staff, and quite a few new faces have been seen in various roles around the archives. We've said a sad farewell to some old faithfuls and welcomed some new friends (refer page 2 for most recent changes).

Hope you enjoy the new, glossy look of Records Territory.

Sharon Keay

Contents

	page
Editorial	1
Staff Notes	2
Stolen Generations Protocol	2
Research in Progress	3
Work Placement	3
Wilson Inquiry	4
ASA Conference	5
Outsourcing	5
NT History Awards	6
ASA Conference	7
Proceedings 19967	
Revised Lending & Transfer Procedures	7
RM Strategy	7
Tours	7
Disposal Schedule Training	8
General Disposal Schedule for Schools	8
Oral History Conference	8
Who's Who at NTAS	8



Department of Transport and Works

Northern Territory Archives Service

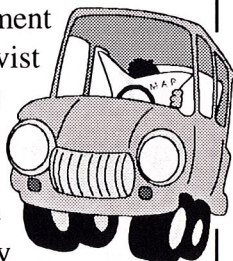
STAFF NOTES



Since the last edition of *Records Territory* we have lost the services of two of our long term staff members:

Former Administration Officer, **Maureen Wilkins**, recently returned with her family to settle in her home state of South Australia.

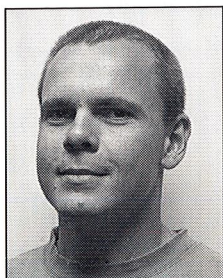
Maureen commenced working with the NTAS in 1984 and, after an extended stint of maternity leave in the late 80's, returned in 1994. Principal Archivist Greg Coleman concedes that Maureen basically ran the organisation and that she will be sadly missed. We wish Maureen and her family all the best for their new life in the south.



Another stalwart who has deserted us is former Oral History Transcription Officer, **Pauline Schindler**. We have valued Pauline's ever reliable services for about six years now and she will also be sadly missed. Pauline also has returned to her home state and we wish her and her family well for their new life in Tasmania.



We would also like to thank **Anne Marshall** who has been doing an excellent job as Acting Administration Officer since Maureen Wilkins' departure and; **Byron Edwards** who did a superb job filling in as Records Lending and Courier officer while Chris Spicer was on leave.



PROTOCOL FOR ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT RECORDS BY STOLEN GENERATIONS RESEARCHERS

Cabinet recently approved the *Protocol for Access to Northern Territory Government Records by Aboriginal People Researching their Families*. The Protocol, in some part modelled on the Commonwealth's Memorandum of Understanding from Australian Archives, was developed jointly by the Territory Government, the NT Stolen Generations Combined Reference Groups, KARU Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care Agency and the Central Australian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (CACCA).

The Protocol is a whole-of-Government approach which establishes a consistent means for Northern Territory Aboriginal people affected by past government separation policies to access Territory Government information about their families. The Protocol is consistent with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families.

The Protocol provides information about relevant records in various Territory

Government agencies. It also provides procedures and a code of ethics for researchers, and facilitates the NTAS as the first port of call for any Stolen Generations Researchers wishing to have access to government records.

The project was coordinated by the Territory's Office of Aboriginal Development and is soon to be launched. Please contact the NTAS if you would like a copy of the Protocol.

Greg Coleman

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

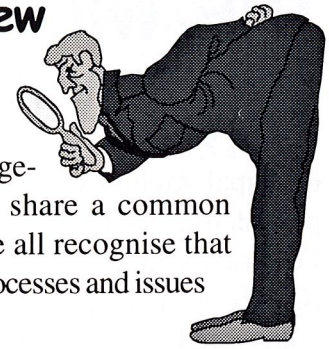
Research projects that have recently utilised the resources available in the NTAS Search Room include:



- PhD thesis 'A Force Apart: A History of Northern Territory Police 1870 - 1926' / *Bill Wilson (NTU)*.
- Video on artwork in the Darwin Botanical Gardens / *Sieglinde Karl*.
- Australian Research Fellowship on Torres Strait contact history awarded by the Australian Research Council, / *Dr Anna Shnukal (University of Queensland)*.
- Research on trade unionism & May Day in Darwin for a book on theatre & the trade union movement / *David Watt*.
- Promotional display on Darwin as a multi-modal transport & logistics hub/ *Sue Hakala (Department of Transport and Works)*.
- Book on Chinese temples in Australia / *Dr Derham Groves*.
- Novel to be published as part of Junior Crime Series by Reed Books / *Dr Jenny Pausacker*.

Andrew Pitt

Birdseye View of NTAS



While records management and archives share a common theoretical base, we all recognise that there are different processes and issues in the two fields.

In July I had the opportunity to spend three weeks working at the NTAS as part of my Graduate Diploma in Archives and Records Management at Monash University. I have worked for the last five years in records management and am currently employed as Records Supervisor at KPMG in Melbourne. The chance to spend three weeks in Darwin for this practicum helped me to develop my knowledge of archival work at a state or territory level.

Greg Coleman had arranged my programme so that I was able to work in all sections of NTAS. This helped me to understand the different areas of archival work.

Working with each of the archivists gave me the opportunity to explore fully their particular responsibilities, the operation of the archive, and its role in Territory life.

It was an eye-opening experience to talk with NTAS and Australian Archives staff about the issues around the implementation of access protocols for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The way in which we deal with these records, and in particular, the way those records can assist the Stolen Generation, is a current and critical issue for the record keeping professions.

I am very grateful for the time, energy, and hospitality of all the staff at NTAS. The practical experience was very important and helped to broaden my understanding of record keeping issues.



What will stick in my mind is that after a few days of 29 degrees, someone at the bus stop said, "Looks like that's the end of the cold snap".

Rachel U'Ren

THE WILSON INQUIRY REPORT

Principal Archivist, Greg Coleman, recently provided a brief report for the Council of Federal, State and Territory Archives (COFSTA) about aspects of the Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families, *Bringing Them Home*, that may have implications for archives. Here is a summary of some of the recommendations.

Chapter 16 of the Report deals with 'Access to Personal and Family Records' and includes several recommendations. There are also two relevant recommendations in chapter 19, 'Responses of Churches and Other Non-Government Agencies'. In summary, the relevant recommendations are:

Recommendation 21. That no records, whether government or non-government, relating to stolen generation individuals be destroyed.

Recommendations affecting Government Archives

Recommendation 22a & 22b. That all government record agencies be funded by their government to preserve and index records relating to stolen generation individuals.

That indexes and finding-aids are developed in such a way to protect privacy.

Recommendation 23. That all governments establish and fund records task forces constituted by government, church, non-government and indigenous representatives.

Recommendation 24. That each government enter into memoranda of understanding with other governments dealing with inter-state inquiries and for the inter-state transfer of records and information.

Recommendation 25. That various common standards be incorporated in common access guidelines.



Recommendation 26. That Freedom of Information (FOI) legislation based on the Commonwealth model be introduced in the Northern Territory.

Recommendation 27. That each government establish an Indigenous Family Information Service to operate as a 'first stop shop' for people seeking information and records from the government and churches.

Recommendation 28. That each government establish traineeships and scholarships for the training of Indigenous archivists, genealogists, historical researchers and counsellors.

Recommendation 29a & 29b. That, on the request of an Indigenous community, the relevant Records Taskforce sponsor negotiations between both government and non-government record holding agencies for the transfer of historical and cultural information relating to that community and its members. That the Council of Australian Governments ensures that Indigenous community centres have

Homes Are Sought For These Children



the capacity to serve as repositories of personal information as required by individuals in those communities.

Recommendations affecting Church Archives

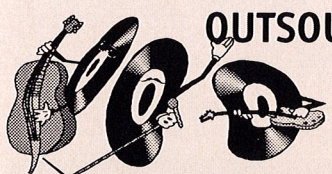
Recommendation 38a, 38b & 38c.

That every church and non-government agency which played a part in the care of Indigenous children forcibly removed, transfer historical and cultural information to an Indigenous community centre when requested. That churches and non-government agencies identify records of relevance to stolen generations and arrange for their preservation, indexing and access in a relevant government library or AIATSIS. That churches and non-government agencies which played a part in the care of Indigenous children forcibly removed provide detailed information about their records to the relevant Indigenous Family Information Service.


Recommendation 39. That churches and other non-government agencies implement the national minimum access standards (Recommendation 25) and apply the relevant common access guidelines (Recommendation 23).

These recommendations present huge challenges for archives around the country, and are being given considerable attention. The big issues are, as usual, the level of available resources. The Territory has moved some way in the right direction with the recent issue of the *Protocol for Access to Northern Territory Government Records by Aboriginal People Researching Their Families*.

Greg Coleman



OUTSOURCING RECORDS STORAGE

To all NT Government departments and agencies awaiting advice about secondary records storage facilities and services, *stay tuned* just a bit longer. I know  that we said this in the last newsletter but this time an election fell in the way of Government considering the matter. We will be advising all agencies about this very soon.

GC



AUSTRALIAN

SOCIETY of

ARCHIVISTS Inc.

Conference

Greg Coleman and Andrew Pitt attended the annual conference of the Australian Society of Archivists Inc. in Adelaide from 24-26 July. The conference was attended by delegates from all States and Territories of Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Vietnam.

Andrew attended a pre-conference session hosted by the Council of Federal & State Archives Reference & Access Working Group. Some interesting and informative topics included: digitising archives, service charters, the 'stolen generation', and web-sites as reference tools.



Convenor

Ian Sutherland

Greg and Andrew also participated in other illuminating sessions on electronic records, reform in government and large archives and managing the records continuum.

The special interest group session on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander records was particularly useful as it related closely to N.T. Archives involvement in the drafting of protocols on access to records for the 'stolen generation'. The session provided an invaluable opportunity to discuss the many issues relating to these records with interstate colleagues.

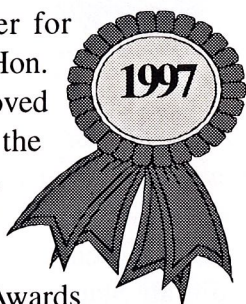
The keynote speaker was Dr. Michael Sullivan of the University of Adelaide whose topic was 'A Decade of Reform'. Other speakers included former S.A. Premier John Bannon who drew attention to the need for archives to market their services to their customers and for their facilities to be as accessible as possible.

The convenor, Ian Sutherland, advises readers to keep an eye out for the conference papers.

Andrew Pitt

NT HISTORY AWARDS

During July, the Minister for Transport and Works, the Hon. Barry Coulter MLA, approved the recommendations of the NT History Awards Committee for the 1997 NT History Awards. The recipients of this year's Awards are as follows:



Glen McLaren, Bill Cooper & Geoffrey Bolton of Perth: \$2,000 for documenting the skills of the early northern cattle industry.

Bill Wilson of Darwin: \$2,500 for researching Northern Territory Police leaders Paul Foelsche, Nicholas Waters and George Dudley.

Peter Evans of Sydney: \$1,000 for researching the history of the RAN Fairmile ships based at Darwin during World War II.

Lyn Riddett of Darwin: \$700 to document weddings in the Northern Territory, 1869-1969.

Michael Christie of Darwin: \$2,000 to record the history of the Daly River Copper Mine, 1884-1896.

Robert Alford of Darwin: \$2,500 for researching the history of the 49th Fighter Group of the US Air Force and its deployment to the Northern Territory during World War II.

Velma Leeding of Groote Eylandt: \$3,000 for recording local history of the Umbakumba people.

Julie Wells of Darwin: \$900 for researching the Australian Government's promotion to assimilation and settlement of the Northern Territory, 1951-1972.



Kerin Coulehan of Darwin: \$1,600 for researching the history of the Darwin to Ambon Yacht race, 1976-1997.

Genealogical Society of the NT: \$2,000 for researching the Pioneer register of the Northern Territory.

Tony Austin of Darwin: \$1,000 for researching and recording the history of the Bungalow in Alice Springs.

Barunga-Manyallaluk Community Council: \$1,600 for recording the development of Barunga Community Government.

Elizabeth Mellor of Melbourne: \$1,400 for researching childhood experiences on Central Australian pastoral properties and towns, 1910-1970.

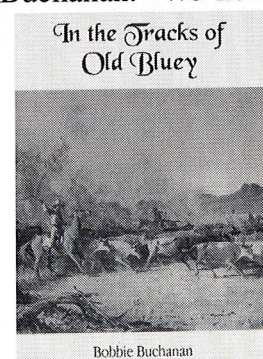
Barbara James of Darwin: \$5,000 for researching a social history of the Pine Creek gold fields with emphasis on Burrundie, Yam Creek and Grove Hill, 1870-1900.

Tony Roberts of Canberra: \$2,800 for researching and recording oral histories of the Borroloola region.

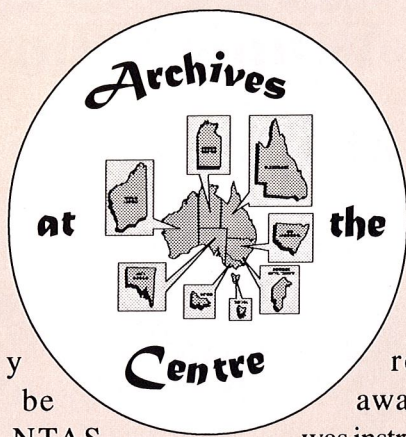
Congratulations are extended to all recipients, and appreciation is also extended to members of the NT History Awards Committee; David Carment, Pearl Ogden and Michael Loos.



In 1995, Bobbie Buchanan received an NT History Award to assist her to research the life story of her great grand-father and legendary pioneer bushman, Nat Buchanan. We now congratulate Bobbie for the recent publication of *In the Tracks of Old Bluey*. Published by Central Queensland University Press, this book represents the culmination of this work.

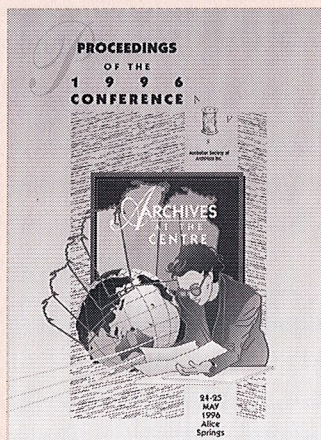


Greg Coleman
Executive Officer, NT History Awards



Many will be aware that the NTAS was instrumental in organising *Archives at the Centre*, the annual national conference of the Australian Society of Archivists, at Alice Springs in May 1996.

The *Proceedings* of the conference have now been released and are available through the Australian Society of Archivists. An order form is available at the NTAS or orders can be faxed to Mr Bob Sharman in Perth on (08) 9291 8201. The price (incl. airmail postage) is \$25.00.



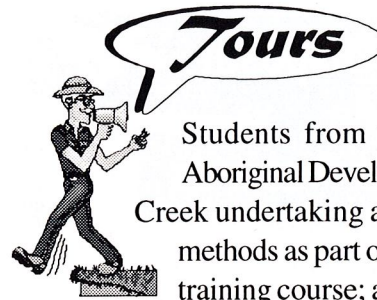
Greg Coleman

Records Management Strategy

Many agency personnel awaiting advice about the records management strategy may be **thinking** that things have gone quiet on this front, but this is not quite the case.

The Strategic Services Branch of the NT Treasury, which initiated and supervised the contract to devise the whole-of-government records management strategy, was **relocated** to the new Department of Communications and Advanced Technology (DCAT). Negotiations between DCAT and the Department of Transport and Works (responsible for the NT Archives Service) are underway.

GC



Students from the Institute for Aboriginal Development in Tennant Creek undertaking a unit on research methods as part of a pre-vocational training course; and students from the Northern Territory University studying a unit on the history of the Northern Territory before 1911, visited the Search room.

Part of the tour included outlining the role of the NTAS and the services provided. The students also learnt how to search and request records and had an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the finding aids.

AP

TRANSFER AND LENDING PROCEDURES REVISED



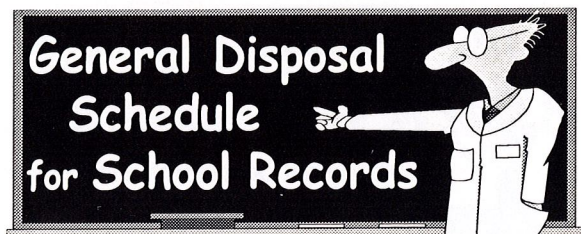
By the end of September, all government agencies will have received the revised version of the NT Archives Service *Transfer Procedures for NT Government Records* (green cover) and *Lending Procedures for NT Government Records* (purple cover). Although the content is substantially the same, a few new pieces of information have been added.

The transfer procedures indicate that agencies can now obtain copies of the Series Consignment List forms in electronic format (Microsoft Word 7.0) which will make the listing of records a lot easier and less time consuming. Agencies can request the forms on disk, or use our new e-mail address (nt archives@nt.gov.au) to get the forms sent by e-mail.

The new lending procedures will assist agencies in training new staff, and will serve as a refresher for existing staff.

Copies of the new procedures can be obtained by contacting NTAS on pH: 89 247 677.

Linda Bell



NTAS, in conjunction with the NT Department of Education is currently undertaking a total revamp of the first version of the General Disposal Schedule for Schools. The new Schedule is very comprehensive covering a much broader range of record classes and functional areas. Practical step-by-step guidelines for secondary storage procedures are presented as a separate section of the schedule. This second section encompasses guidelines for creating findings-aids, boxing and storing, establishing location codes, and it also includes essential records management and archival definitions and concepts.

It is envisaged that the schedule will be issued in October 1997, closely followed by training courses on understanding and implementing the schedule.

Training

On the topic of training, the NTAS recently conducted a series of training courses for the implementation of the recently released 'General Disposal Schedule for Human Resource Management Records' in Darwin and Alice Springs. The course was well received with the practical exercises proving to be very beneficial and challenging, especially for those newly initiated into the concepts. Participants raised some interesting questions and case histories, providing some mind-bending thought and a lot of laughs. NTAS has received very positive feedback concerning both the HRM Schedule and training courses and we are making every effort to continue our training services.

Sharon Keay



Full coverage of the Oral History National Conference:

Crossing Borders

(3-7 Sept) will be featured in the next issue of Records Territory.

Who's Who at the NTAS

Greg Coleman - Principal Archivist
ph. 89247 648

Linda Bell - Archivist (Records Services)
ph. 89247 649

Sharon Keay - Archivist (Records Policy)
ph. 89247 650

Francis Good - Archivist (Oral Records)
ph. 89247 651

Andrew Pitt - Archivist (Information Services)
ph. 89247 652

Tanya Davey - Administration Officer
ph. 89247 677

Cheryl Phillips - Archives Officer (Rec Serv.)
ph. 89247 653

Vacant - Transcriber (Oral Records)
ph. 89247 655

Chris Spicer - Lending Officer/Courier
ph. 89247 654

NT ARCHIVES SERVICE

Residential Address: 2nd Floor

Street

25 Cavenagh Street
DARWIN NT 0800

Postal Address:

GPO Box 874
DARWIN NT 0801

Telephone:

(08) 8924 7677

Facsimile:

(08) 8924 7660

E-mail:

nt archives@nt.gov.au

