

RECORDS

TERRITORY

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From the Director

Welcome to Records Territory. Upon reading the contents of this newsletter you will see that the Northern Territory Archives Service (NTAS) has been travelling down a path of considerable change lately, and it will continue to do so over the next twelve months.

Our 20th birthday coincided with the commencement of the Information Act in July 2003. This "legitimised" much of what we had been doing for years, but it also gave us new responsibilities. Over the last few months there has been a major focus on implementing a records management standards framework for government and on establishing archives transfer and access protocols.

The establishment of an archives service in Alice Springs late last year was another milestone for the NTAS and the result of a significant organisational effort by staff. The service in Alice Springs has drawn strong interest from the Central Australian community.

In the immediate future, the NTAS will be focussing on systems. The NTAS manages the government's records management system and will be upgrading the TRIM software for all agencies over the next eight months or so. We are also excited about the implementation of an archives management system over the next year which will finally bring us on line and greatly assist access to and management of the archives collections. Happy reading.


Greg Coleman
Director NTAS

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Spreading Our Wings South

Last year, the NTAS received support and funding to establish a regional office in Alice Springs. This was a result of over fifteen years of submissions and delegations by local people and the NTAS to provide services to the Centre.

It has been a concern for many years that collections have been at risk or lost as a result of the reluctance of donors to send their collections to Darwin, away from their point of origin, thereby denying access to the records for local researchers. The distance between Darwin and Alice Springs has been a significant hurdle (1491 kilometres).

Linda Bell, Manager, Archives Services, coordinated the planning of our new repository in record time. The office was opened in November 2003 and houses records which originated in the Centre. It caters for the local transfer of government archives from government agencies in the Centre, non-government donations, and provides access to the collections through a public search room.

Because of constraints related to the availability of space, the facility has been established in two stages and the current facilities are a bit of a squeeze. Stage 2 will commence around May/June 2004 when more space becomes available. Further renovations will provide a more user-friendly environment

for researchers and additional storage space for archives collections.

Two staff operate the office: A dynamic archivist, Pat Jackson, has been recruited to the position of Archivist and she is now being ably assisted by Gavin McGargill, who has recently been appointed as Archives Services Officer. Refer to page 9 for details of the official opening of the facility.



Pat Jackson, Archivist, Alice Springs



THE NORTHERN TERRITORY ARCHIVES SERVICES – 20 Years old and Legal at Last

On 7 July 2003, the NTAS celebrated its 20th birthday which coincided with another milestone. After twenty years of operating under a Cabinet Direction, the enactment of the Information Act on 1 July 2003 marked the first legislation defining the role of the NT Archives Service in government.

Linda Bell, Manager, Archives Services, provides a brief history below of the last 20 years.

The NTAS was established with three staff in 1983 and now has a more substantial staff of twenty servicing government and the community. The archives collection consists of over 4 kilometres of archives.

The NTAS's role has expanded from mainly providing physical access to the collection to promoting the collection to a much wider audience through our newsletter, *Records Territory*, our web site (www.nt.gov.au/dcis/nta) and regular presentations to a wide variety of groups. Services provided in our two public search rooms have also been enhanced.

Our role in government record keeping has seen a great change. The NTAS was originally focused on storing transfers of both temporary and permanent value records from government agencies, with only a very small number of records covered by disposal schedules. Our role in government now provides strategic focus for records management in government, including the development of records management standards and disposal schedules, management of the whole-of-government records management system and thesaurus.

The focus of our transfer program is now permanent-value records, and follows the transfer in 2001 of approximately 820 consignments or 6.7 kilometres of unappraised and temporary-value records back to government agencies for their management, storage and disposal.

The collection and preservation of non-government archives has remained an integral part of the operations of the NT AS. Other functions, such as the Oral History Program and the NT History Grants Scheme that were transferred from Northern Territory University in 1985, remain activities of the NTAS.

Recent government support has resulted in several strategic projects receiving funding, including a project to implement an archives management system, and the establishment of a regional office in Alice Springs.

The project to implement an archives management system will finally automate access to the collection. The collection has

had limited accessibility due to the use of hard copy series lists, and the implementation of an archives management system will greatly improve access to and control of the collection. The project commenced on 1 July 2003 and includes a substantial amount of re-processing of existing series, and a huge volume of data entry.

The establishment of a regional office in Alice Springs has been an aim of the NTAS for over fifteen years. The distance between Darwin and Alice Springs (1491 kilometres) is a significant impediment to providing services to the Centre. The NTAS has been unable to provide archives collection, preservation and access services to the region, and has been able only to provide limited services in respect of records management training and support. Many archives collections have been at risk or lost due to the desire of donors to have their collections kept locally. Local support has resulted in numerous submissions and delegations to government, which only recently has succeeded in finding support. The office opened in November 2003 with records from the region being repatriated from Darwin, and the employment of an archivist and administration officer to provide services in the region. *See pages 1 & 9 for more information.*

The NTAS has seen many administrative changes, from its initial location in 1983 as a section of NT Library Services, to separation and relocation to the Department of Education, then Conservation Commission, Department of Transport and Works and now Department of Corporate and Information Services. Physically, the NTAS has had many homes and actually has travelled a full circle.

Originally located in the rear of what was the beginnings of the State Reference Library in Cavenagh Street, the NTAS found its first separate home in 1984 when it moved to renovated leased premises in McMinn Street. The NTAS moved in September 1994 (at very short notice)



The staff of the NTAS in front of their new home in 1984

Left to right back: Don Brech, Maureen Wilkins, Barbara Pedersen, Sally Irvine-Smith

Left to right front: Neville Horrocks, Lorraine Baulch

from McMinn Street due to the sale of the building. The collection found temporary refuge with National Archives, and the office moved to the old University site at Myilly point. Six months later, the office moved again, this time to Lindsay Street (to share with Library Services). In September 1996, the NTAS moved into the old State Reference Library building in Cavenagh Street (our original home), which had been refurbished to cater for all NTAS functions, and the collection finally rejoined the office.

The staff have changed over the years and some have stayed on to see many of the changes. Don Brech, the first Principal Archivist, left in 1987 and returned in 1992, to leave again in 1994. Baiba Berzins, the second Principal Archivist, left in 1990. Greg Coleman, who joined the NTAS in 1985, took over from Baiba who returns often to conduct research. Greg is still the boss, but his title is now Director.

Several staff have been at the NTAS for many years. Francis Good (Manager Oral Records), has worked at the NTAS since 1985. Maureen Wilkins, (originally Donaldson), was the original administrative officer in 1983, and has returned several times to work at the NTAS, and is currently working on the project for the implementation of the archives management system. I celebrated my tenth anniversary at the NTAS in 2003, but I still feel like a newcomer in comparison!

The NTAS has come a long way in twenty years, thanks to the efforts of many people. Physically, we have travelled far, but we are still in the same place.

SEARCH ROOM

An Act of Reconciliation – two laws, two cultures and two families coming to terms with the past

The Caledon Bay killings in the early 1930s in the Northern Territory have been well documented, particularly in Ted Egan's book *Justice all their own: the Caledon Bay and Woodah Island killings 1932 - 1933*. It is the story of a senior ceremony man from Blue Mud Bay in North East Arnhem Land, Dhakiyarr Wirrpanda (also known as Tuckiar), who was charged with the murder of Constable Albert McColl. The precise circumstances of the killing remain controversial, but it is clear that Dhakiyarr was convinced to travel to Darwin to tell his side of the story only to be arrested, tried for murder and sentenced to death on 7 August 1934. However, an appeal to the High Court was successful and his conviction was quashed. He was released, but never made it home. His descendants believe his bones remain in Darwin, where he was last seen alive, and they feel empty without the strength those bones contain.

Seventy years on from his death, Dhakiyarr's descendants made a proposal to the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory that a Wukidi ceremony be held in Darwin and that mortuary poles be erected as a permanent memorial. At the request of Dhukul Wirrpanda, the family/descendants of Constable McColl were invited to receive an apology and a gift to 'heal the wounds'. The McColls made an appropriate symbolic response and the Chief Justice of Australia was also present to accept, on behalf of the High Court, the thanks of the Dhakiyarr's family for overturning the decision of the Supreme Court.

This powerful and moving gathering included approximately eighty Yolgnu



NTRS 234, CP 8470_20, Mahony Collection, Blue Mud Bay, meeting at 2 parties, Round Hill Island, 1933, Arnhem Patrol. Whites L-R: Stewart McColl, Vic Hall, Ted Morey

people who travelled overland from Arnhem Land to conduct the ceremony. Part of the ceremony involved the unveiling of memorial poles which will stand permanently in the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory as a symbol of reconciliation and a monument which lays to rest the spirit of Dhakiyarr.

Activities in our Search Room related to this topic included freelance journalist/film maker, Tom Murray, and various members of the McColl family who had travelled from interstate to attend the ceremony. Tom was in the process of making a documentary about Dhakiyarr, and the McColl family were researching the life of their relation, Constable Albert McColl. One of the

members of the McColl family also hopes to make a film. See Research in Progress page 15 for more details.

Please note that the documentary Tom Murray was directing went to air on the ABC on Wednesday 5 May 2004 at 9.30pm as part of an ABC history series called Untold Stories. The film also premiered at the Real Life On Film festival in Melbourne on 4 May 2004 and Sydney on 11 May 2004.



Joan and Alan McColl in the NTAS Search Room, Darwin



NTRS 234, CP 468_1 Mc Kinnon Collection, Constable A S McColl starting his last camel patrol in May 1932 prior to transfer north. He was speared by natives on 1.8.1933 while patrolling on Woodah Island seeking murderers.

ABORIGINAL ADVISORY GROUP (AAG) on access to NT Government Records:

It has been a busy time for the AAG since the last newsletter with two Records Forums, two AAG meetings, an informal meeting with the Council of Federal, State and Territory Archives (COFSTA) and the launch of the COFSTA Statement of principle: Access to records of Indigenous Australians affected by past separation policies which was held at Government House, Darwin.

Records forums: The first one was held in Alice Springs in August 2003 where representatives attended from the Alice Springs Town Council, the Strehlow Research Centre, the Central Lands Council, the Hermannsburg mission and the Uniting Church as well as members of the AAG. The Darwin forum was held in November 2003 where a total of 29 people attended. These included representatives from government and non-government agencies as well as the local community. Government agencies in attendance were the National Archives of Australia, the NTAS, Territory Health and Adoption Services, Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages and Northern Territory Library. Mission and church groups were the Church Missionary Society, the Uniting Church and the Catholic Church. There were also representatives from Link-Up, Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Education, Retta Dixon Corporation, Kahlin Association, Croker Island Association, Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation, the Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and members of the AAG. The purpose of these forums is twofold:

- to bring people together to share information about records or information they have that might be useful for Aboriginal family history and
- to collate this information into a resource that archives, individuals and link-up organisations can use to assist with the location of records that are useful for Aboriginal family history.



*Some participants at the Records Forum held at Darwin
Left to right: Father Frank Brennan (Catholic Church),
Pauline Baban (Larrakia Nation), Barry Butler (Church
Missionary Society)*



*Left to right: Margaret Furber, Valerie Day, His Honour Mr Ted Egan AO Administrator of the NT, Janet Prowse,
Rosie Baird, Heather Shearer at the launch of COFSTA Statement of principle: Access to records of Indigenous Australians
affected by past separation policies.*

A New Minister for Archives



The Hon Paul Henderson MLA

In late December 2003, the Hon Paul Henderson MLA was appointed to the portfolio of Corporate and Information Services. Our new Minister has already briefly visited both archives offices and we look forward to return visits where we can provide a more extensive introduction to the services we provide and the range of archives we have in our custody.

The NTAS is grateful to the departing Minister, the Hon Dr Peter Toyne MLA, for his support for the archives program over the past couple of years including the opening of the long awaited archives office in Alice Springs.

TRIM SYSTEM MANAGEMENT

It has been a busy time in the TRIM support area since our last report was published in the May 2003 edition of Records Territory.

Contract Extension

One of the main achievements has been the signing of the extension of the contract between IBM and the NT government (NTG) for the recordkeeping solution. The official sign-off was achieved on the 6 August 2003 and the contract has been extended until 30 June 2006. The main change in the contract extension has been in the management of licences for TRIM and Content Manager. The NTG has moved into a concurrent licensing model (was per seat). This will offer more flexibility for agencies in the deployment of TRIM to desktops and should prove to be a more cost-effective model if concurrent usage is managed well. The change is also beneficial as it offers an easy transition from TRIM Captura 4.3 to TRIM Context V5.2 for licences.

TOWER Software

We were fortunate to have a couple of visits from TOWER Software during 2003. The first visit was in May (Jesse Edwards, Account Manager) where TRIM Context functionality was presented to various audiences (TRIM Users, TRIM/Content Manager technical support team, IT managers, IT directors and the cross-agency committee reviewing candidate systems for the Freedom of Information tracking system). This visit also provided an opportunity for the TRIM/Content Manager technical support team to ask more in-depth questions related to the technical architecture for TRIM Context relevant to the NT government's implementation. The TRIM technical support team has the challenge of defining the technical architecture required to support TRIM/Content Manager users over a Wide Area Network covering sites in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs and Nhulunbuy. This is a key issue to be resolved prior to the rollout of TRIM Context.

The second visit from TOWER was to discuss the technical aspects only for TRIM Context. Thank you to TOWER for making available Rory Kleeman (Research and Development Manager), whilst he was travelling around Australia on long service leave, to conduct this session. There is still a lot of work to do in this area.

Training

Our commitment in training users on TRIM has continued and the NTAS System Support and Training Officer, Helen Barnes, has delivered basic user TRIM training to 275 people since January this year.

User Forums

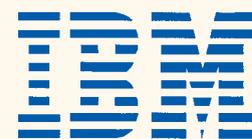
Celina Hodge has conducted three TRIM User Forums (TUF) so far this year. These have been well attended by agency staff and we also have attracted participation from organisations external to government who are also users of TRIM in the NT: Charles Darwin University, Centrelink, Danila Dilba, ATSSIS, Menzies School of Health and Northern Land Council. The user forum is valuable for information sharing and networking.

Records Systems Projects Update

Budget funding was approved for the upgrade of TRIM to Context, Content Manager (electronic object store) and DB2UDB (underlying database) in 2003/2004 for the planning and 2004/2005 for the upgrade. As part of the upgrade project, the servers (currently 3 production and 1 development server) that support 37 agency TRIM databases will be upgraded before December 2003. The Charles Darwin University will also be upgrading in line with the NT government as a related but separate exercise. This is a major project with a number of stakeholders, including all agencies, service providers for the desktop support (CSC and CSM), and service providers for the technical support (IBM and DCIS-DCS). A draft project plan has been completed for the upgrade. This project will be the major focus for the support team at the NTAS as it also requires a significant re-development of all the training material developed for the NTG implementation. TRIM users will need to be trained also in the changes from Captura to Context, additional features / functionality and how these changes will affect them.

Celina and Helen both attended the TOWER Software - TRIM User Forum (TUF) that was held in Melbourne in September 2003. Helen stayed on to attend the RMAA Conference as well. The TUF forum in particular is an invaluable forum for networking and the sharing of information about, and issues with, the TRIM product from sites around Australia. Celina and Helen have returned to Darwin armed with valuable information relevant to the pending upgrade of TRIM in NT government agencies.

For further information, please contact the System Manager, Jeanette Collins, or the TRIM System Support Officers, Celina Hodge or Helen Barnes.



ORAL HISTORY IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

The range of oral history interviews that the NTAS has in its custody relating to Central Australia is extensive. Francis Good, Manager - Oral History, details below the areas covered and provides extracts from two of these interviews.

Recollections about life in Central Australia form a very large part of the oral history collections of the Northern Territory Archives. Discussion can occur in interviews with a wide cross-section of interviewees, sometimes only as part of life-stories that could cover many other parts of the Territory, but often also from people who have spent all or a major part of their lives living and working in the Centre.

Interviews can include many detailed recollections. Some of the topics are very common, such as: the pastoral industry (including stock work, droving and station management); tourism (both from tour operators, accommodation proprietors and consumers); health matters (which includes medical practice, nursing and ambulance work and services, and of course the first aid and other care provided by non-professionals to family and community); experiences of life and work either in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek or in remote areas (including many predominantly Aboriginal communities); and transport (including rail, road and air services). Interviews with former police officers can be a veritable goldmine of information about many aspects of life in the Centre, as they are for any area in the Territory. (See Records Territory, No. 26 September 2002)

Often, many of these topics are intertwined within individual life experiences. Reflections on health matters can appear in the context of Alice Springs or Tennant Creek, in remote settlements, or simply 'out bush'. There is much information on the history of the establishment and development of remote communities in interviews with a very wide range of people – such as medical and other professionals and para-professionals, managers or workers in mining, administration or pastoral enterprises. Interviews about life in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek, as well as remote areas, can reflect aspects of other broad categories as well, such as development and change in the built environment, services, lifestyle and values. Over the past, police in the Northern Territory had a long list of roles and responsibilities, and many got around Central Australian localities far more than most people. Following are interview extracts from two of these topics.

Pastoral Industry. Many interviews provide a wealth of recollection and information about Central Australian cattle stations, although not all properties are necessarily covered, and often the interviews will give detailed insight to only a particular slice in time. Typical subject matter will include the history of ownership, descriptions of country and its change and development, evolution of management practices, types and numbers of cattle, how handled and where marketed, the development of waters and fencing, disease control, weather



NTRS 234, CP 51_12, S. Cawood Collection, Bonney Well on overland stock route about 250 miles North of Alice Springs (This is a well with a whip similar to the one described below in Margaret Hall's oral history interview)

patterns, station buildings and facilities, including the revolution in communications over the years and its impact on the lives of people living there, as well as station operation, and much information on both native and feral animals.

Margaret HALL (1991), NTRS 226, TS 668.

Glen Maggie Homestead relic and Ryan's Well (about 100 kilometres north of Alice Springs on the Stuart Highway).

In the extract below Margaret Hall, who was born in 1910 in Alice Springs, describes some aspects of life at Ryan's Well where her parents took the family to live in 1914. The interview was recorded by Francis Good at Alice Springs in 1991.

Dad [Samuel Foreman Nicker] got the lease of Ryan's Well, as it was called then, and he named it Glen Maggie. ... They travelled there in 1914. It must have been early in August 1914, because they were crossing the Burt Plain – I've worked all this out – with a few sheep and goats and cows, and the buggy and the horses, and a man called Dickson – that's a well-known name in the Territory, or in the Centre; he had Waite River Station after – Ted Dickson caught them up, travelling with pack-horses and travelling much faster, and told my father that the war had been declared. That was the first we knew. They all knew that it was imminent, so it must have been somewhere very early in August 1914.

There was nothing there [when they arrived]. Their intention was not to camp where the old ruins are now, but on the way up, they had a dray with the goods there [and] a few possessions, and the buggy, and the dray horse bolted, ran into the back of the buggy and damaged the dray wheel and broke the buggy wheel. So the buggy had to be abandoned and all possessions packed onto the

ORAL HISTORY IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

dray, which meant there was no room for anyone to ride on it. And from then on we walked or rode. I was probably taken on the front of my brothers' [horses], or my mother or somebody on horseback. And it was just travelling as best you could. But they were very short journeys, because of these sheep and goats, and the animals, so they were not hard days....

The water at old Ryan's Well was not good. We children could drink it because we grew up on it; my parents couldn't drink it, it upset them. Drinking water had to be carted from a rockhole about eight or ten miles away for them, but we drank the water there because it didn't worry us. And I suppose life was fairly basic. ... My father had wells put down, you know, within a hundred yards or half a mile, but it was all bitter-sweet, it was not drinking water. So for the period of time they lived there, we had a rainwater tank, but tanks had to be carted by camel teams or built on the place, and they only had, I think it was about two thousand gallons. So for the period of time that you ran out of rainwater, the water was carted in drums on the buggy about eight or ten miles from a rockhole....

There was a windlass on top [of the wells], and there was a whip if it was deep. It was drawn by horses and two people – one leading the horse and one landing the buckets on top of the well, that came up. ... [There was a thirty-five gallon tank and] a landing trough on top. The buckets came up and then you slid this landing trough that was on a slide underneath, and let the bucket down on it, and you pulled a chain which released a valve in the bottom, and into the trough. And that then ran into a tank. All those tanks were put in by the telegraph department. ... It was not until I was an adult before windmills and things like that came to the Centre – and engines. I was really grown up when they came....

[The relic of the building that is beside the main road now was built] I think about 1916 or '18. ... We hadn't been there terribly long when Dad had that built, because I remember the quarrying of the stone to build that. ... The two rooms that are standing were built by an ex-telegraphist – telegraph operator, they referred to then – [who] developed T.B. and had to take other work. He was an amateur, but he and his wife came up and he built those two rooms. His wife taught us in a tent – my two brothers and I. ... [The stone was quarried locally], about three or four miles away to the east. An Aboriginal man and Mum quarried it, and my brothers – we all helped as much as we could. It was carted in by buggy and horses. Then, Bob Purvis had a wagon ... and Dad got him to come, and he carted the remainder of the stone, and also the lime which was quarried at Connor's. Just out of Connor's Well, there's a very good deposit of [limestone]. There's two sorts of limestone: one can be used – you burn it and then slake it – for building; and the other one is a different type of limestone. But the good limestone was quarried just out from Connor's Well....

[The roofing material was] galvanised iron. That was carted up from Oodnadatta on camels, and it was all galvanised iron, was the roofing. But it was quite a few years before the ridge-capping came, and it had rubberoid – the old ridge-capping – for a year or two until we finally got the ridge-capping on. ... The flooring to begin with was clay – that was all, just an earth floor, clay. ... There was very good clay at the back of that old place, and we had a clay pit and the clay came from that. My brothers and I used to get it and work it with our hands, and make little animals out of it and let them bake in the sun. It was actually a good quality clay. They were never put in a furnace, but they baked in the sun to make them strong enough to play with them for quite a while, before they were broken or fallen to bits....

We got the public telephone on because we were on the telegraph line. We were right under the old O.T. line, or close to it – the Overland Telegraph line – and Dad applied for a phone. And to have it, you had to accept, receive and send telegrams, or deliver them if they were in a reasonable area, which they were not. So sometimes when you thought it was important, you sent them with a blackfeller – footwork – paper-yabber they called them. Normally there was a split in a stick, or a piece of board, and they put the telegram or the letter in that and they carried that. And that gave them safe journey, too, from other Aboriginals, or being molested, if they were carrying this paper-yabber. Yabber was talk – they said yabber. And if they were carrying that, it gave them safe conduct through. And that was done quite a lot.

Health Services. There is a significant group of interviews recalling the old Alice Springs Hospital, as well as recollections from nurses and doctors elsewhere in the Centralian outback. There is a group of interviews with former staff of aerial medical services Territory-wide, several of whom worked in the Centre. And there are recollections of nursing in the outback, both in clinical and informal situations at missions and other communities. There has been a project on St John Ambulance work Territory-wide, and this included the development of Central Australian services, augmented by some recollections from ambulance work out of the Alice Springs hospital in earlier times.

Lois JOHNSTON (2003), NTRS 226, TS 1106 Alice Springs Hospital (1960s).

In the extract below Lois Johnston describes, with some humour, some interesting aspects of life at the Alice Springs hospital in the 1960s. The interview was recorded in September 2003 at Perth, WA by Francis Good.

[The operating theatre], well, I mean, that had to be seen to be believed, certainly in 1963. It was over behind the X-ray department on the northern side of the campus. It was wedged in-between two toilet blocks. One side was the operating theatre and the other side was [a ward with] kids with their gastro, and what-have-you. It was just a big square room. ... To the left was the clean-up, set-up, autoclave room. Now anyone today, hearing about cleaning-up and setting-up in the same room would be appalled, but I mean that's the way it was done in those days. The autoclave was in there. It was a steam-under-pressure autoclave. To get it fired up you had to go in behind the toilet block outside, and turn the steam valve on and that put steam into the outer jacket. None of these automatic things, you know, where you press 'Go' and the whole cycle goes, and it records it on a graph, and you know whether it's sterile or not....

We didn't have a central sterilising department in the hospital back then. That didn't come until sort of the end of about '64-ish. So we had these big metal drums, ... and it had holes in the drum itself, which allowed the steam to penetrate. Then when it came out of the autoclave you'd close it up, and that sealed it. And they used that in the wards for, you know, all the dressings and what-have-you. ... The wards used to bring these big drums around, and they'd pile them up in the vestibule. There was a table there, but I mean, sometimes it was on top of the table, and under the table, and coming out the doors to meet you, right opposite the door to the gastro ward. Sometimes, they'd sit there all weekend waiting for the theatre staff to come on on Monday to do the autoclaving....

We had an electric sucker there if it was needed, and portable oxygen bottles, and that was about it. The suction was interesting. We had electric suckers, and the power supply was fairly reliable,

Continued...

ORAL HISTORY IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

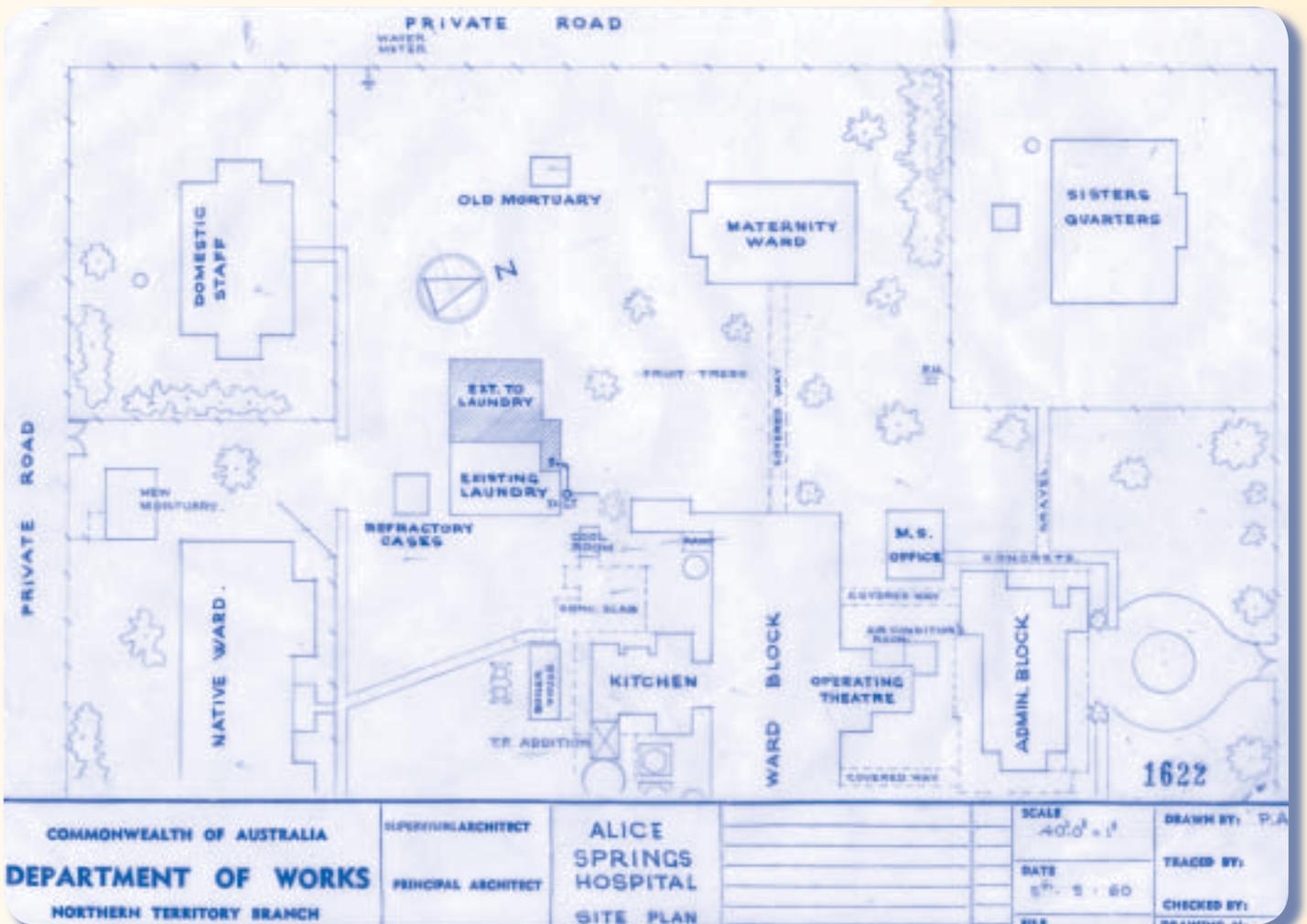
but not invincible. So in case the power went off when you were in the middle of an operation, underneath the scrub sinks there was a tap with a little pipe coming out, and this was a water sucker. You used to have to crawl on your hands and knees under the sink, and put the rubber pipe onto where this tap was, and then you'd turn the water on. And the water rushing past the end of the pipes created the suction, which was enough to get you out of trouble, if a patient needed sucking out while the power was off. Also if the power went off, of course, the lights went out. On the northern side of the [theatre] was a big window, and it had canvas roller blinds outside. If the power went out somebody was dispatched outside to pull the blinds up post-haste, so that the team in the theatre could have enough light to finish the operation. So that was the operating theatre—fairly interesting things there....

In 1963, there was no vet for domestic pets and things like that. There were vets attached to the Department of Agriculture, and they used to do a half-day clinic, I think, once a week to see pets, if they needed seeing, but they certainly didn't do any operations. If any pets needed operating on, John Hawkins used to do them in the operating theatre, but only on Saturday mornings, unless it was an emergency—some dog got run over, or what-have-you.

I mean he was passionately fond of dogs. There's a million stories about John Hawkins. He was a lovely man. He had a dog called

Snoopy, a golden Labrador. John acted as medical superintendent [at] one time, and Snoopy used to be in the office underneath his desk. You'd be sitting in the office with John Hawkins, you know, having a conversation with him, and you'd hear this gnawing and you'd look down and here's Snoopy having a gnaw on the leg of your chair. Yes, so we were all very sad when Snoopy died. But anyway, he did operations on animals in the operating theatre, and using the instruments that we used for the people during the week, but they were all well-cleaned and autoclaved. So that happened in 1963.

And also, the Department of Agriculture was doing some sort of survey on dingoes. I don't know any more about it than we had all - - you know, Saturdays were fairly interesting at the hospital. Between the operating theatre and the X-ray, there was this big wide verandah, and you'd come round the corner, and you'd trip over all these anaesthetised dingoes—they were all laid out. They'd anaesthetised them to X-ray their skulls. After they'd had their X-rays taken, they were all put out on the verandah, and here's all these yellow dogs with their tongues hanging out the side of their mouth, all laid out on the back verandah. I mean, you had to be careful you didn't fall over them then. What was the interesting thing was when they started to wake up, and get a bit mobile—you know, that was fun and games for all to see.



NTRS 73, Department of Transport & Works, Building plans, 1943-1977, item no 1622, Alice Springs hospital, 1960

OFFICIAL OPENING OF ARCHIVES IN ALICE SPRINGS

Dr Peter Toyne, Minister for Central Australia (and then Minister for Department of Corporate and Information Services), officially opened the new archives facility located in Minerals House, 58 Hartley St Alice Springs in November 2003. Many long-term Alice Springs residents attended and several speeches were presented, including one by the recently appointed Archivist, Pat Jackson. Here are some extracts from Pat's speech:



The Hon Dr Peter Toyne MLA, and Fran Kilgarriff, Mayor of Alice Springs, look on with other guests as Mrs Pat Miller, Deputy of the Administrator, cuts the ribbon at the entrance to the repository at the new Alice Springs archives office.

On a personal note, I am thrilled to be here and to be the archivist with the responsibility of working within such a unique archival environment that is the Northern Territory Archives Service, Alice Springs.

I have been struck, almost overwhelmed, by the sheer enthusiasm of the people of Alice Springs for the establishment of this archives service. I am quickly learning that Central Australians feel passionately about telling their story and having their story kept where they can trust that it will be appreciated and be available for others to learn from and to share.

To me, archives are about acknowledging the past, present and the future, They are about acknowledging the people who have gone before us, no matter what their background. Archives can provide the link between generations that have gone and those that are yet to come. The research process provides this important link.

Personal records, including oral histories, are an invaluable part of this collection and it's this that sets the Northern Territory Archives Service apart from other government archives. Personal records are a rich and valuable resource for the community because they are the story of members of that community. This archives will collect personal records from the community and I look forward to being involved in that process.

Archives are also about humanity and about life. An inclusive archives has

records that can cause pain and joy. There are records that deal with the agony of separation, as the Aboriginal Advisory Group well knows. And there are records that deal with the joy of discovery. An archives is much more than records in boxes: it is above all about people, about humanity, about government, wars and all.

When I won this job I jokingly signed my last email to my work colleagues as Patricia Archives Queen of the Desert. When I think about it now, in some respects it is a fitting title. 'Priscilla Queen of the Desert' was a movie about a journey, about discovery of people and the outback, about challenges and rewards. I am absolutely positive that is what this archives is all about. However, I cannot promise to dress up in sequins and put on a tiara. But you never know, I might be tempted.



Archives that have been transported by refrigerated truck from Darwin being moved to their new home in Alice Springs

Spotlight on.....Central Australia

With the opening of our regional office in Alice Springs in November last year, we thought it was an appropriate time to highlight some of the records in our collection that relate to Central Australia.

The Red Centre – as Central Australia is often called – is the heart of the Australian outback and is one of the most readily recognised and distinctive regions of Australia. Its isolation, remoteness and magnificent scenery have all contributed to a certain romanticism about this vast geographic area. The story of the Centre, like that of other regions of the Northern Territory, often involves the relationship between the indigenous people and the incoming settlers and includes such activities as mining, transport and other types of communication, tourism, missions, health services and the ever-present government officials particularly the police.

Pat Jackson, our new Archivist in Alice Springs, focuses below on the importance of transport to the region and highlights some of the archival records relating to camels and cameleers.

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Our list of records holdings relating to Central Australia is available on our website and in our search rooms. For the purposes of this list, Central Australia includes the area between the Barkly Tablelands and the South Australian border.

I'm writing this article not long after watching the first freight train leave Alice Springs station for its trip up to Darwin. The whole event was an amazing initiation into Central Australian and Territorian life. I knew that the train was important but it wasn't until I saw the crowd at the closed gates waiting in the hot, bright sun that I got a proper inkling of its true meaning.

The diversity of people reflected its importance. There were locals, pushing wheelchairs and pushing prams, families with their kids on bikes, older folk with walking sticks. There were representatives from the oldest white pioneering families and representatives from the Arrernte people. There were tourists on holiday no doubt bemused by the experience.



NTRS 234, CP 50_05, S. Cawood Collection, Breakfast on the roadside



NTRS 627, Somerfield Collection, item no 3

Now what has all of this to do with an archives in Central Australia, I hear you ask. In my mind, a great deal. The Alice Springs office of NTAS is about community, government and above all people. It is about the interconnectedness of people, through business, personal relationships, leisure pursuits and their interaction with government, either as participants in government or as clients. It is about history and individuals' differing interpretations of history. It is about the good, the bad and the ugly, whether a government action, that of a community, or an individual.

At the celebration of the first freight train, speeches were made that talked about the train making history as it left for Darwin. The symbolic act of a cameleer handing goods to a representative of the freight company for transportation to Darwin was made doubly meaningful when you discovered that the goods were a bowl of bush tucker from the Arrernte people to be handed to the Larrakeyah people. One of the camels carried an Australia Post sack, a reminder of the significance of communication and transportation to the people of the Centre.

Our archival collection here in Alice Springs has many examples of the importance of transportation, whether for goods or people. As I am going through a bit of a camel phase at the moment, please bear with me as I illustrate a sample of the range of material we have in our collection that includes references to camels.

We have many photographs of camels working, camels sitting, and camels just being camels. One of my favourite captions is from the Joe Somerfield collection, (NTRS 627, Item 3). It's only a small photograph in weathered condition depicting a man bareback upon a camel. But the caption gives an indication of the reliance of people in the outback on the ships of the desert as it reads: "When railway line came [sic] 1927 to Alice Springs, I rode this camel 14 hundred miles to Queensland at the ripe old age of 17. It was a sad day when I left him behind to be shot as vermin." This caption says much about the relationship between

Spotlight on.....Central Australia



NTRS 573, J.Davis Collection, no 63, A load of oats and chaff for the horses (Camel Dray)

man and beast, and the fact that one person's friend and companion is another's feral nuisance.

Where else do mentions of camels appear? They are mentioned frequently in our oral history collection including those of Sallay Mahomet (NTRS 226, TS 276), Tim Langdon Japangardi (NTRS 226, TS 248), Amelia Kunoth (NTRS 226, TS 257), Taffy Pick (NTRS 226, TS 669), Harry Moss (NTRS 226, TS 288/2) and Bill McKinnon (NTRS 226, TS 789). Perhaps the most unusual use of a camel by-product is discussed in Reg Harris's oral history (NTRS 226, TS 859) where he tells the story of being presented (as a joke) with a mayoral chain made of dried camel turds strung together. I am ever so thankful Reg has not deposited that object into our collection!

Camels were used for police patrols. In early police journals the names of camels and distances they travelled are recorded. In series F 255, Police Station -Alice Springs 1888-1889, there is an entry that compares the distances travelled by the police horses and the camels. The most a horse travelled was 45 miles, while our camel mates, Hadji, Delhi, Mammoth, Shah and Khan travelled 185 miles each. Apart from camels, the police journals are a great resource for researchers as the early police functioned as the administration in many towns. They documented birth, life and death with many variables in between.

Ron Agnew-Brown was a mounted policeman (also known as Brownie of the Finke) who donated a range of material to the

Archives. In the collection we have a hessian backed camel patrol map that outlines the routes he took during his police patrols (NTRS 855,) and a ration list (NTRS 876, Item 1) of the supplies he needed (rum and Vegemite are annotated by hand on the typed government list). Agnew-Brown (along with Robert Darken, NTRS 226 TS 188 and TS 768) featured in a London Illustrated News article of April 23 1949 on mounted police. There is a copy of this article in Agnew-Brown's collection (NTRS 876, Item 6).

Camels are no longer needed for transportation and communication, yet they remain part of Central Australian life. There is the negative side; such as the fact that camels can be a feral pest that cause environmental degradation. There are also the positives: they are part of the tourism industry (where my camel phase has its origins), they provide entertainment at the Camel Cup, and can end up on your plate in the form of a camel pie at a local pub. I hope in the future that these other stages in the development of the role of camels in Central Australia make it into our collection, although I'd only want the recipe for camel pie or a menu it featured on, not an actual sample.

I hope I've been able to show you some of the range of material we have on this virtual camel patrol around the Archives holding in Alice Springs. I'm glad it's only a virtual tour, as I don't think I can fit a camel in the repository. However, humans, in the form of researchers and potential donors, we are only too happy to see.



NTRS 1, Purvois Collection, item no 143, Camel race in front of Parsons St police station, 1925

NT HISTORY GRANTS

The annual Northern Territory History Grants were advertised in 2004 and applications closed on Friday 7 May 2004. It is expected that the announcement of the successful recipients for this year will be made in July 2004.

Congratulations are extended to the following recipients of last year's grants

Alan Powell of Darwin: \$5,000 to continue research on the American Army Engineers in the Northern Territory, 1942-1944.

Christine Gordon of Glasshouse Mountains: \$3,000 to research a history of Wadeye (Port Keats).

Glenice Yee of Darwin: \$3,000 to research Chinese migration in the Northern Territory, 1874-2003.

NT Police Museum & Historical Society: \$4,000 to continue recording oral histories of NT Police members and their spouses.

David Bridgman of Darwin: \$3,000 to research the history of tropical colonial architecture in Darwin.

Klaus Neumann of Melbourne: \$2,000 to research Darwin's response to Deserters and Deportees, 1961-1962.

Colin De La Rue of Darwin: \$2,000 to research the military presence and activities at Fort Dundas, Melville Island.

Dennis Foley of Brisbane: \$4,000 to research a history of Governance in Indigenous Business Enterprises in the Northern Territory.

Peter Monteath of Adelaide: \$2,000 to edit the diary of Emily Creaghe and research her involvement in the Favenc expedition of 1883 through Northern Australia.

Robert Gosford of Nowra: \$3,000 to research a bibliography of Arnhem Land Ornithology, 1803-1964.

Linda Clack of Alice Springs: \$3,000 to research Olive Pink's experiences in the Northern Territory and her perspective on anthropology and policy in Indigenous affairs.

Andrew McMillan of Darwin: \$4,000 to research a history of the Roper River region.

CAAMA Productions of Alice Springs: \$3,000 to research the life and times of Gurindji man Kumanja Wilson Jupurrula.

Megg Kelham of Alice Springs: \$2,500 to continue to research and document the Pine Gap Peace Camp of 1983.

David Roberts of Armidale: \$1,500 to research a history of western Arnhem Land through the documentation of Aboriginal rock art sites.

Genealogical Society of the NT: \$2,000 to research Centralian deaths at Hermannsburg, Arltunga, Stuart Town Cemetery, Winnecke Depot, Horseshoe Bend and Mount Riddock.

Karen Hughes of Adelaide: \$3,000 to research Ruth Heathcock and her relationship with Aboriginal women in the field of remote health in the Northern Territory in the 1930s.

Obituary Stan Cawood

Our condolences go to the family and friends of Stan Cawood who passed away on 17 October 2003, aged 96 years.

Stan was born in NSW in 1907. He was a son of J. Cawood who was appointed the Government Resident for Central Australia in 1926. In 1927, Stan spent a brief period as a stock worker on Lake Nash station and then moved to Alice Springs where, in 1928, he became involved in tourism in Central Australia. Stan, a pioneer of great renown, played a major role in the early days of the tourism industry in the Centre as well as in the transport industry. He was involved also in the earliest search for the lost aviators, Hitchcock and Anderson, and their aircraft, the Kookaburra, which was located in very isolated desert country in 1929.

Stan's memory will be perpetuated through several collections at the NTAS, including two oral history interviews. The first interview was recorded by Harry Giese at Darwin in 1982 (NTRS 226, TS 173), and the second was recorded by Francis Good at Palm Cove, Queensland in 1991 (NTRS 226, TS 702). Stan also donated a large number of photographs to the NTAS (NTRS 234 CP43-55).



Stan and Ethel Cawood

STAFF NOTES

Kym Muller has returned to her home town of Darwin after some time with the National Archives in Canberra to take up the position of Archivist, Collection Management. This is a new job established to meet our archival responsibilities assigned by the Information Act.

Pat Jackson, another recruit from the National Archives in Canberra, has been appointed to the position of Archivist Alice Springs (or Archives Queen of the Desert). Pat's role is to manage the new office and archival services in Alice Springs.

Gavin McGargill joins Pat in the Alice Springs office as the Archives Services Officer. Gavin's position has been created to provide community access and archives management services in the Alice Springs office.

Lauren Thompson has taken up the position of Records Policy Adviser - Thesaurus. Lauren brings considerable experience to

this job which involves the provision of advice and assistance to agencies in records classification and disposal.

Barry Garside is yet another recruit from the National Archives in Canberra. Barry has returned to the NTAS after a couple of years absence to take up the position of Records Policy Adviser - Standards and Training.

Maureen Wilkins is another former staff member who has returned home. Maureen has taken on a two-year job in providing project support for the implementation of the archives management system.

Nerisha Cabales is the most recent staff arrival at the NTAS. Nerisha has joined the Archival Heritage program as an apprentice working under the Structured Training Employment Program.



Kym Muller



Gavin McGargill



Lauren Thompson



Barry Garside



Maureen Wilkins



Nerisha Cabales

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS:

One of the joys of working in the search room at the NTAS is the variety of research projects undertaken by researchers. We asked some of the researchers who used the Northern Territory Archives Service since the issue of the last newsletter to write to us about their projects. The following responses were submitted.

Priyachari Chakravarti NT News journalist, project coordinator - **The history of the Indian people**, a project of the Indian Cultural Society of the NT under a grant from the NT Government Office of Ethnic Affairs.

The project is about the history of the Indian community in the NT from the colonial era to the present. It incorporates subjects like the arrival of the community in the colonial era, the community's impact on the Northern Territory's development, the community's integration into life in the Northern Territory, community members who have been

recognised for their services, and the Indian community's contribution to multicultural advancement.

The project incorporates archival research, including the oral history collection, and a literature review. Priyachari Chakravarti describes his discoveries with a great deal of enthusiasm:

"The work so far has unearthed some amazing aspects of the NT's history that relate to the Indian community and many are crying out to be brought into the public domain. I

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS:

can assure you it goes way beyond cameleers from present day India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. We had no idea how much people from India have contributed in shaping the NT and Australia overall until we began delving into the NT Archives and the Northern Territory Library. We have obtained a vast variety of documents, correspondence, photographs and other material of tremendous historical value. However, much of this would not have been possible without the tremendous support and guidance from Françoise and her amazing team. We are just a couple of months away from publishing our work."

Nicola Fearn from Business Unusual Theatre describes her use of archives for her current project.

"The NTAS is rich in material from diverse cultural groups including Oral History transcripts from workers in the pearl-shell industry, government documents and photographs showing luggers and crews.

'The Pearler' will be a physical theatre show using full-face character mask, visual imagery and a Bunraku puppet which will be the diver underwater. The show will look at the lives of pearl-shell workers in the 1930's and 1940's in Darwin through the eyes of the wife of the master pearler. The show covers the bombing of Darwin, the internment of the Japanese, the death of Yamasaki in Tatura internment camp and the return to Darwin of women and families from internment to discover their homes and belongings looted and destroyed. It also incorporates the racial attitudes of the times. There will be projected text relating to the industry a Business Unusual Theatre d experiences of the divers and some voice-overs. The company will use projected imagery of the sea, war and bombing of Darwin."

Associate Professor Raelene Frances, School of History, University of New South Wales - History of Prostitution

Professor Frances is researching the history of prostitution in Australia since 1788. The Northern Territory research will be especially relevant to an examination of the role that prostitution played on the maritime, mining and pastoral frontiers. As well as documentary sources, Professor Frances will draw on the oral history collection at the Archives. The results of this project will be published as a book as well as a series of articles in academic journals.

Dr Jack Frawley, Australian Catholic University - "Colour story: community based adult education and Aboriginal art"

"The motivation for this research has emerged out of my experience of working as an adult educator in the Nguui community on Bathurst Island for five years during the 1980s, and then my continued work in Aboriginal adult education over a period of eighteen years. This project is placed within history, art and adult education research environments. The research investigates the connection between adult education programmes and the development of the Northern Territory Aboriginal arts industry. One of the many aims of the project is to identify Aboriginal communities where art programmes were delivered and subsequent art centres were established.

The project investigates the connection between adult education in remote Northern Territory Aboriginal communities and the growth of the Aboriginal arts industry during the 1950s to the early 1990s. This research is potentially of considerable value to educationalists trying to mount the argument for a return to a community based adult education and away from the current exclusive focus on an industry driven Vocational Education and Training approach to Indigenous adult education".

Karen Hughes, research scholar, Flinders University - "Ruth Heathcock and the Aboriginal Women Domestic Workers at the Roper Bar and Borroloola Police Stations 1928-1942"

Karen Hughes is preparing a projected biography of South Australian nurse, Ruth Heathcock, a former AIM sister. Ruth married Mounted Constable Ted Heathcock and was stationed at Roper Bar and Borroloola. The Aboriginal women domestic workers she employed at the Police Station became her teachers, co-workers, extended family and closest friends. During her husband's long absences on patrol Ruth and the women ran a covert operation to administer medical treatment to people who had been hiding out in the bush, suffering from leprosy, avoiding detection for fear of being isolated on Channel Island under the Northern Territory Leprosy Ordinance of 1928.

The combination of archival sources, including police journals, police correspondence and oral history interviews held in the NTAS collection and oral histories held in the memories of the Roper River community at Ngukurr allows this fascinating story to be pieced together. The biography seeks to make known the lives and contributions of the Aboriginal women domestic workers who worked with Ruth Heathcock and whose stories remain largely untold. Ruth is perhaps better known for the 1941 attempted rescue of Horace Foster at Manangoorah for which she was awarded the MBE.

Karen is the recipient of a Northern Territory History Grant. An initial chapter titled "Same Bodies: Different Skin" will be published in 2004 in the anthology "Uncommon Ground: white women and Aboriginal rights", Canberra: Aboriginal Studies Press.

Joan, Alan, Sally and Fiona McColl - Albert McColl (Participants in the Wukidi ceremony for Dhakiyarr Wirrpanda, an act of Reconciliation) see page 3 for more details

Our research at the Northern Territory Archives Service was partly for family history purposes where we were researching aspects of the life of our ancestor Albert McColl which had been unknown to us. Also Fiona was researching Albert's life as background for a movie script which she is writing which has been inspired by the events of his life and the 1930's era in the Northern Territory.

Eva McRae-Williams, School of Anthropology, Charles Darwin University - "Indigenous Museums: Repositories of Culture and the Past on the Tiwi Islands"

"I am a Masters by research candidate with the school of Anthropology at the Northern Territory University. My dissertation is concerned with the development process

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS:

and subsequent function of the Ngaripuluwamigi Keeping Place (Nguiu, Bathurst Island), the Patakijiyali Museum (Nguiu, Bathurst Island), and the Muluwurri Museum (Milikapiti, Melville Island). I will also be documenting the current process of developing a keeping place at Garden Point (Melville Island) and a New Cultural Centre for the Tiwi islands. This research will explore how these places fit within established definitions of indigenous museums, keeping places, and cultural centres as well as community museums and or ecomuseums. The research will also be positioned within a broader context of the purpose and function of similar places within Australia and internationally.

Tom Murray, freelance journalist/film-maker - "Dhakiyarr-v-the King"

Freelance journalist/film maker, Tom Murray, has been involved in the making of a documentary about Dhakiyarr Wirpanda who was a senior ceremony man from North East Arnhem Land who was implicated in the Caledon Bay murders in the early 1930s. -

"The Program will be called Dhakiyarr vs the King and is a Film Australia National Interest Program documentary being made for broadcast on ABC TV early in 2004.

The documentary follows the journey of the family of Dhakiyarr Wirpanda as they prepare a memorial to Dhakiyarr and then travel to Darwin to participate in the Wukidi reconciliation ceremony that was conducted on June 28th 2003 in the Northern Territory Supreme Court. It also documents the events that led to Constable A.S. McColl being speared at Woodah Island, NE Arnhem Land, in 1933, as well as the family's search for answers to the puzzle of what happened to Dhakiyarr following his release from jail after the High Court quashed an earlier death sentence imposed upon him for spearing Const McColl. NTAS material likely to be used includes photos from the Mahony Collection and Dyer Collection." For more information (*see page 3 for more details*).

Dr Klaus Neumann, historian - Darwin's response to deserters and deportees, 1961 to 1962

In mid-1961, large sections of the Darwin community rallied behind several pearl divers, who were threatened with deportation after their employer no longer required their services. Later that same year, three Portuguese naval ratings jumped ship in Darwin and applied for political asylum. Again, Darwin residents protested vociferously against the Immigration Department's plans to deport the men. On 1 May 1962, the government announced that both the pearl divers and the Portuguese sailors could stay in Australia.

Klaus Neumann is researching the government's response to the Portuguese sailors' application for political asylum and to the pearl divers' request for permanent residence status. He is interested in the impact representations made on behalf of pearl divers and sailors had on the government's

decision making process. He is particularly curious about the level of support the men enjoyed in Darwin.

Klaus has been doing research in the Northern Territory Archives and in the National Archives in Darwin and Canberra. He is also trying to talk to participants in the events.

Geraldine Teakle, PhD candidate, Australia National University - Managing for resilience: the case of cyclone-prone communities in Darwin

This study proposes to investigate the social perception of the tropical cyclone phenomena in the context of the environmental effects of past tropical cyclones; historical and contemporary policy response and implementation; current risk and management practices; and future possible impacts. Within this context, gaining an understanding of the degree of adaptation and learning over time (hence community resilience) will be fundamental to the study. The study hopes to inform policy; formal and informal disaster and environmental management arrangements; the community and the literature; and ultimately enhance the resilience and sustainability of the community and the environment in cyclone-prone Darwin.

Sharon Mansell - Early Centralian history and the "Ragged Thirteen"

I am researching centralian history in the 1880's and to be more specific I am looking for details on the "Ragged Thirteen" (a bushranging bunch who roamed the Territory) and James Ogilvy Anderson who went to Fanny Bay Gaol for the manslaughter of Walter Daniel Hammond in 1888.

Mary Flynn - Family history in the Alice Well area of Central Australia

I have been researching the Alice Well police journals of the 1910-1920s mainly for references to my family. Alice Well was in the central/southern region of the N.T. The police patrol (on horseback) went north-west as far as Tempe Downs and Illamurta and east/south-east Horseshoe Bend, Old Crown Point, Finke. The family I was researching were the Somerfields at Old Crown Point. They carried mail and supplies by camel from Oodnadatta to Alice Springs and Hermannsburg in the 1920s. They also had a store at Old Crown Point. The drought and the coming of the motorcar and railway in the late 1920s meant they went out of business.

Jim Goulding - Interrelationship between the public service and the government in the Northern Territory following self- government.

Current research is focussed on the policy development interactions between the politically and organisationally inexperienced ministers of the Everingham administrations 1978-1982 and a new NTPS which comprised a majority of transferred APS members. How did a new progressive political entity deal with a public service it viewed with suspicion and as being 'slow, unwieldy, procedure bound and self-interested'.

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Records Management Standards

In October 2003, the Minister for the Department of Corporate and Information Services approved five records management standards which have been issued pursuant to the Information Act 2002.

The Standards are for:

- Planning and Implementing Records Management
- Identifying and Capturing Records
- Classifying and Titling Records
- Records Security and Access
- Records Disposal

A further document, Using the Records Management Standards, was also issued and is an introduction to the standards.

Information sessions about the standards were presented to senior managers in the NTPS earlier this year. The NTAS is presently developing training for agencies to enable them to comply with the requirements of the standards. There is a specific provision in the legislation (s.134(b)) requiring agencies to comply with the standards, but also a provision (s.140) requiring the NTAS to provide the advice and training to enable agencies to comply.

As well as being issued in hard-copy format, the standards are available from the NTAS website (www.nt.gov.au/dcis/nta) in pdf or html format.

Further Records Management Standards will be issued in the near future and will cover topics such as:

- Records Handling and Storage
- Metadata
- Disaster Planning, Management and Recovery
- Risk Management for Records
- Business Planning for Records Management
- Human Resource Requirements for Records Management.

Please contact the Records Policy Adviser - Standards and Training, Barry Garside, for further information.

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