

From the Director

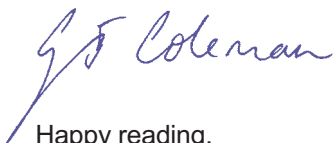
Welcome to Records Territory.

The spotlight for this issue is on aspects of life in Darwin in the 1950s. This is to complement the theme selected by the National Trust for the recent Heritage Festival.

In this issue we also bring you features about some of our fascinating archives collections, and we focus on current projects and activities under way in our Darwin and Alice Springs offices. There are also features about the interesting range of research which our clients are undertaking and some of the success stories encouraged by the NT History Grants program.

On the government recordkeeping front, we provide information about initiatives achieved or in the planning stages for continuing delivery of the electronic document and records management system.

As I write this, an administrative reorganisation of the NTAS is impending, and we'll tell you all about that in the next issue.



Happy reading.
Greg Coleman

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Northern Territory History Grants

We congratulate the following recipients for completion of their research in the last few months for which they received part or total assistance from the NT History Grants Program.

See page 14 for details of the 2007 History Grants recipients and their research.

Barry M Allwright, *Rivers of Rubies, the history of the ruby rush in Central Australia*

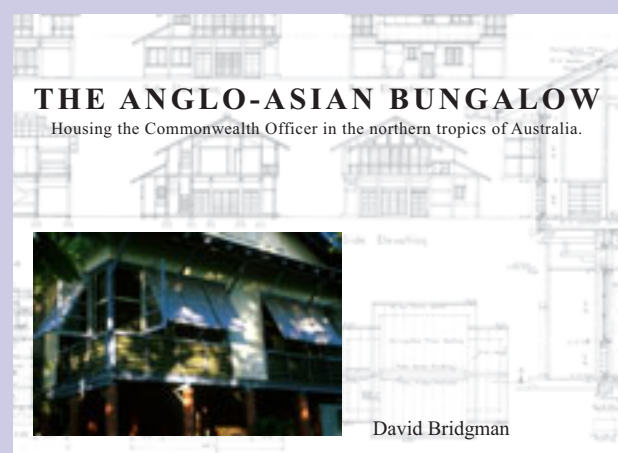
Pam Oliver, *Empty North: the Japanese presence and Australian reactions, 1860 to 1942*

Judy A Cotton, *Borroloola, isolated and interesting, 1885 - 2005*

Colin De La Rue, "...for the good of His Majesty's Service" *The archaeology of Fort Dundas, 1824 - 1829* (thesis 2006)

Gayle Carroll, *Virgins' retreat, a terrific tale of intrigue and manipulation*

David Bridgman, *The Anglo-Asian bungalow. Housing the Commonwealth Officer in the northern tropics of Australia* (thesis 2006)



The *Anglo Asian bungalow* is not published but it is available at the Northern Territory Archives Service, at the Northern Territory Library and at the Charles Darwin University Library.

Australian Society of Archivists' Conference

Alice Springs 22-25 August 2007

The planning and preparation for this conference is incredibly time consuming and challenging but we're pleased to say that it's all coming together very well.

This year's Australian Society of Archivists Conference has a deliberately local flavour - a celebration of what Australia and New Zealand have to offer in archival practice and theory. It's also a showcase for Northern Territory history and archival resources. We've lined up several speakers who are discussing a wide range of topics including Aboriginal involvement in Australian Rules football; creating an exhibition on the history of mining in Tennant Creek through a child's eyes; the history of tourism in the Northern Territory with a focus on Connellan Airways and the legacy of Hedley Finlayson and his recordkeeping.

We have tried to cater to a wide array of archivists, recordkeepers and to those who use the products of our labours. We've also thrown in some topics into the mix that haven't worn an ASA jersey for a while, such

as Sporting Archives, Business Records, Scientific Records and Oral History.

There are also papers on government recordkeeping, indigenous records and recordkeeping and discussions on what is happening in different regional collections. Our plenary speakers will seek to challenge us, to question who we are, where we are going and what we can do to develop the profession. They will consider how we can meet the demands of the present and that of the future.

The theme of this Conference is **Initiatives, Ideas and Interaction, Sharing our Story**. You could easily add **Identity** to this theme as many of the papers consider who we are and where we 'fit in' to businesses, government, schools and society.

If you wish to find out more about the conference (and get to see our Archivist in Alice Springs in a tiara) go to <http://www.archivists.org.au/>.

About one of the images used for the conference



For the Australian Society of Archivists Conference that's being held in Alice Springs in August, we're using two images from our Central Australian collection that we think nicely sum up the conference theme of *Initiatives, Ideas and Interaction: Sharing Our Story*.

In this issue we'll feature the first image which comes from the James White Collection.

John Douglas of the Australian Broadcasting Commission with Horace, one of the Brunette [Downs] stockmen, 1953

James White (OBE), NTRS 370, Correspondence, press cuttings, diaries, and photograph album concerning the White family and Brunette Downs Station, 1919 – 1970, item 108

As you can see from the photograph an ABC journalist is interviewing an Aboriginal stockman. The journalist is holding an old style microphone connected to a reel-to-reel tape recorder.

The stockman and journalist appear relaxed and engaged with each other. In the background is a crowd watching the Brunette Downs races. There are no trees in sight and no grass on the ground.

This photograph was taken as a series of images documenting the first Shorthorn Cattle sale in Australia where cattle were flown in to be sold. This cattle sale and the subsequent dance and race meeting drew people from remote cattle stations in the Northern Territory, Queensland and New South Wales. Paul Hasluck (as Minister for Territories) also attended. Aboriginal workers, essential to the growth of the cattle industry, are depicted in this series.

We've used this image as it is symbolic of communication and interaction. The act of interviewing someone complements discussions about oral history. The presence of an Aboriginal stockman reflects the emphasis on Indigenous recordkeeping and history at our conference. You also get a sense of the physical isolation of Central Australia and the importance of community.

Work experience - Tamblyn family collection

Darwin High School student excels in her first attempt at arranging and describing an archives collection.

Rosie O'Reilly came to NTAS for a high school work experience placement in April 2007 and spent two days listing the contents of one mysterious packing box as an introduction to the arrangement and description of personal archives. Rosie's lists led to the creation of 19 new series and one new consignment which translated as 22 boxes of series relating to the Tamblyn family and historically significant business records of the mining industry in the Northern Territory. Thank you, Rosie, for all your hard work.

Edwin Tonkin Tamblyn (1863-1928) migrated to Australia with his mother and brother in 1874. The family settled at Moonta, South Australia, where Edwin and his brother, Harry, worked at the mines. At the age of 23 Edwin Tamblyn arrived in Palmerston (Darwin) and set off to work at the Daly River copper mine. He was a successful miner and had moved from labouring to management by the 1890s, and was then appointed to the Mining Board in 1897. By 1901 he was the manager of mines for the Associated Financial Corporation with his headquarters at the Cosmopolitan Mine in Pine Creek. Tamblyn remained in Pine Creek for 20 years. He married Mabel Bell (1874-1958) in 1908 and they had three children; Jessie, Mary and Norman. In 1921 the family left the Northern Territory and moved to Perth where they built a stone house and ran an orchard. After Edwin's death in 1928 Mabel ran the orchard until her death in 1958.

The packing box contained records created by Edward Tamblyn, Mabel Tamblyn (nee Bell) and Mary Tamblyn. Most of the business records of Edwin Tamblyn were referred to as research material for Mary Tamblyn's book "Mines, Money and Men: Northern Territory mining, 1895-1921". There is also family history material, including copies of the diaries of Elizabeth Bell, mother of Mabel and founder of the Hamley Bridge School in South Australia with an annotated typescript, "The diaries of Elizabeth Ann Bell of Hamley Bridge, 1878-1880" written by Mary Tamblyn (NTRS 2963).

The series are:

TAMBLYN, EDWIN TONKIN

- NTRS 2945, Diaries, 1897-1917
- NTRS 2946, Letterbooks, 1900-1919
- NTRS 2947, Cash books, 1896-1908
- NTRS 2950, Code books, 1893-1905
- NTRS 2951, Correspondence, 1901-1924
- NTRS 2952, Scrapbooks relating to mining and agriculture, 1897-1920
- NTRS 2953, Bank books, 1897-1919
- NTRS 2955, Notebooks, 1890-1923
- NTRS 2956, Annotated land map, 1884-1884
- NTRS 2959, Cash account book, n.d.

TAMBLYN, EDWIN TONKIN/TAMBLYN, MABEL BEATRICE (NEE BELL)

- NTRS 2948, Cash books, 1907-1958
- NTRS 2957, Photographs, c1900-1930

TAMBLYN, MABEL BEATRICE (NEE BELL)

- NTRS 2949, Photograph album relating to Darwin, Singapore and Penang, 1924-1924
- NTRS 2954, Notebook, 1938-1941
- NTRS 2958, Postcards, c1908-1929

TAMBLYN, MARY HILLSON

- NTRS 927, Draft manuscripts, "Mines, Money and Men Northern Territory mining, 1895-1921", c1988-c1988
- NTRS 2960, Correspondence files relating to "Mines, Money and Men: Northern Territory mining, 1895-1921", c1952-1990
- NTRS 2961, Publications relating to the history of the Northern Territory, 1913-1965
- NTRS 2962, Research files relating to "Mines, Money and Men: Northern Territory mining, 1895-1921", 1833-1988
- NTRS 2963, Copy of Elizabeth Bell's diaries and research file, 1878-c1982



The Rosie O'Reilly interview

1. Why did you pick the Northern Territory Archives Service for your work experience placement?

I've always been interested in history, and I saw the Archives as one of the few places I could learn more about it.

2. What did you find out about Archives that you never knew before?

That they are totally awesome! And I never knew the sheer amount of stuff they have down there, it's amazing.

3. What was the best part of your work experience placement with NTAS?

Working through the Tamblyn collection was amazing.

4. Any downsides to working in Archives?

Well, I wasn't used to eight hour days, but I got over it...No, it was fantastic, I had a great time.

5. Is Harry Potter going to die in the last book?

NO!!!

Northern Territory Archives Service

Research in progress

This is a selection of research projects conducted with the help of the Northern Territory Archives Service collections in the last few months.

Judy Boland, Teacher at Darwin High School and President for the Fannie Bay History and Heritage Society - *Pioneer aviators*

Judy is currently looking for images of pilots and their planes up until approximately 1935. The Fannie Bay History and Heritage Society has been given an anonymous donation to provide framed photos of aviators and their planes for Darwin High School and Parap Primary School.

Jill Bough, PhD candidate, The University of Newcastle, *From Value to Vermin: a history of the donkey in Australia*.

Although the role that other draught animals played in the opening up and economy of the colony has been recorded, that of the donkey has not been systematically researched before. The history of Australian donkeys is difficult to uncover because they have largely been overlooked. The first three donkeys arrived in New South Wales in 1793 but they came into wider use with the opening up of Central and Western Australia in the 1860s and were extensively employed right up until the late 1930s, for freight haulage in the more inhospitable areas where horse and bullock teams perished. When the motor car finally took over, the teamsters simply set their donkeys free as they had no wish to shoot them. Ironically, the conditions were ideal for the donkeys to prosper in their feral state. They are now classified as vermin and shot in the hundreds of thousands. The PhD thesis will consider the social, economic, environmental and ethical issues involved in the introduction, use of and eradication of donkeys in Australia.

Sophie Couchman, PhD candidate, Asian Studies, La Trobe University, *The representation of Chinese Australians in photographs...*

Her thesis aims to explore the ways in which Chinese Australians embraced photography and used it to represent themselves, often as modern Australians. It contrasts this with the ways in which Chinese Australians were photographed by white Australia. It draws on photographs taken from the introduction of photography into Australia in the 1840s up until the 1940s. One chapter investigates photographs taken of Chinese in the Northern Territory.

Dr Heather Douglas, University of Queensland and **Dr John Chesterman** University of Melbourne, *Policy of assimilation in the Northern Territory*

Both have been utilising the materials at the Northern Territory Archives Service in researching the policy of assimilation in the Northern Territory. In 1953 the government drafted legislation that would cease to

discriminate against Aboriginal people on the basis of their race, but would instead discriminate against Aboriginal people whose social status rendered them wards. This reclassification process ultimately affected almost every Aboriginal person in the Northern Territory. However, the assimilation policy could not be implemented until a census had been undertaken of all Aboriginal people in the jurisdiction to determine which people would be listed as wards. The full implementation of the assimilation policy was delayed as the census took over four years to complete. The Government employed patrol officers whose role included locating, naming and registering all Northern Territory Aboriginal people. Many obstacles confronted the patrol officers and the administrators in the completion of the census. Heather and John, in their research, are seeking to tell the story of the census.

Michael Flanagan, *The Sea Fox Saga*.

In mid-1959 a leaking American yacht, the Sea Fox, limped into Darwin from Singapore. Amongst those on board were a Hollywood actor/magician, a beautiful show-girl from Manila and a fully-mature bad-tempered chimpanzee. The yacht remained for a couple of weeks and then set sail again. They ran into trouble in the Arafura Sea... Michael is still looking for anyone who might have been involved in the saga. Contact Mike Flanagan by phone 89851955 or by e-mail mikeflanagan@ozemail.com.au

Peter and Sheila Forrest.

"We have recently made intensive use of NTAS collections to help with some of our current projects. These include the writing of a history of Somerville Community Services, and we are very fortunate that the Uniting Church and Margaret Somerville have given their collections to Archives. The Church materials must be one of NTAS' largest collections, and while it has taken me quite some time to look at files which I thought would be of interest, I have found a lot of material which will really add human interest to the Somerville story. Margaret's collection comprises diaries and hundreds of letters she wrote to her family while she worked on Croker Island – they give us a wonderful picture of the joys and trials and tribulations she had during her time on the island.

We have also been looking for images of Dunmarra and the Healeys who established and ran the roadhouse there. We have our own photographs and materials about the Healeys, but I found some nice descriptive pieces in oral history interviews."

Elizabeth Ganter, PhD Student, History program, Research School of Social Sciences, ANU, Working title: *Indigenous Senior Officials in the Northern Territory Government: How compelled are they by the accounts of a representative bureaucracy?*

By its own accounts, the Northern Territory Government

is increasingly representative of Indigenous people. How compelling are these accounts for its Indigenous senior officials? This research is an interview-based and documentary study of the Northern Territory Government's relationship with those Indigenous people who participate in its bureaucracies as senior public servants. The research will compare the NT Government's representative self-account over the major political periods since Northern Territory self-government with the views of these Indigenous officials about who, what and how they 'represent' in their work.

Sister Anne Gardiner, *The Flame in the North*

"In 2006 I applied for a Northern Territory History Grant in order to write a story, not a history, which would celebrate 100 years of service in the N.T. by the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. (1908 - 2008)

I felt it was a story that had to be told. Therefore I contacted all the sisters who had ever lived and worked in the Territory. The replies were wonderful human stories of their impressions, mainly on what they experienced upon their arrival. The book will contain many photographs illustrating the stories told. Throughout the memories it will not be difficult to discover the lightness, gaiety and simple joy, experienced in the lives of the sisters who coupled these qualities with balance, harmony and unity."

Dr Victoria Haskins, *University of Newcastle Domestic Subversions: Race, Maternalism and Domestic Labour in Cross-Cultural Histories.*

This Australian Research Council funded research project considers the varied and complex historical relationships between Aboriginal and white women in the arena of domestic service. Addressing key connections between the private space and personal experiences and public policies, the study approaches interconnections of race, gender and class, by examining the role of white women in the removal and, from the late nineteenth century, the indenturing, of Aboriginal girls and women to domestic service. Research is based upon the extensive state and territory archives held around Australia and in this regard the oral history collection in the NT Archives Service is a unique and invaluable resource, yielding rich insights into the lived experience of both employers and workers. The project is to be written up as a book.

Joy Hicks, *Biography of Rev. Arch Grant*

Joy, who is Rev. Arch Grant's daughter, is writing his biography. Rev. Arch Grant's association with the NT includes working with the Australian Inland Mission in Tennant Creek from 1939 to 1941, in Darwin as one of the first two ministers of the United Church in the NT from 1946 to 1949, and in Alice Springs as one of the first two ministers at the John Flynn Memorial Church

continued...

Charles and George Lambrick , England

George Lambrick's time spent at Port Essington 1844 – 1850 ca

This is ongoing family history research into their great - grandfather, George Lambrick, filling in details and following 'leads'. George Lambrick served under Captain John McArthur during his time at Port Essington. During this time George also suffered the death of his wife and two of his children.

Charles and George travelled to Australia with their wives, Fiona and Camilla, and Charles and Fiona's children, Venetia and John late 2006/early 2007. A surprising discovery in their early research has meant that there is a double family connection because Camilla's great grandfather was Thomas Huxley who met George Lambrick when the ship Thomas Huxley was aboard, HMS Rattlesnake, visited Port Essington in 1846. There is reference in Huxley's diary to George Lambrick entertaining him to lunch.



The Lambrick families in Palmerston visiting streets named after their relatives.
 Left to right: John, Fiona, Venetia, Charles, George and Camilla

Whilst in Darwin they consulted relevant archival material in the NTAS Darwin search room such as John McArthur's diary, Sibbald diary and Peter Spillet's papers relating to Brother Confalonieri. They also travelled to the Cobourg Peninsula some 300 kms north of Darwin by plane so they could spend a few days in the area and visit the ruins of Victoria settlement, Port Essington. This was no mean feat as this time of the year is particularly hot and humid. The families also took the opportunity whilst in Darwin to visit the various streets in Palmerston named after their relatives.

Research in Progress continued...

from 1956 to 1959. He was also an Army Chaplain in Darwin and Adelaide River. He wrote a number of entries in the NT Dictionary of Biography and several books about prominent NT personalities of the past. He also fought for the preservation of the old Melville Church building, now located in the Darwin Botanical Gardens. He died in 2005.

Jennifer Isaacs AM, editor, writer and curator. *The Tiwi - an Aboriginal Art Series*

Melbourne University Publishing and The Miegunyah Press are planning to publish a landmark series of beautifully illustrated books on the Aboriginal art movement. Jennifer Isaacs, a leading expert in this field, will oversee the project as the series editor. The first book to be commenced is "The Tiwi"- to be written/compiled by Jennifer Isaacs at the invitation of the Community Art Centres on Bathurst and Melville Island. The series will run over the next 5 years taking a regional approach and will become a key reference contributing significantly to the contemporary and historical information currently available.

Each volume will be generously illustrated and will explore the history, growth and development of community art centres, provide historical information, artists' biographical details, illustrations of paintings and photos of artists of each era. The books will also explore art styles, media and motifs as well as look at the origins and influences of the paintings. The structure of the series will allow for the communities to be actively involved and recognised. The voices of the artists and community leaders will form a strong linking text to explain and introduce their culture and arts.

Claire Lowrie, PhD candidate, Centre for Asia Pacific Social Transformation Studies (CAPSTRANS), University of Wollongong, *A History of Domestic Service in Darwin, 1900 - 1942*

My project is a history of domestic service in Darwin from 1890 to 1942. I am interested in both Chinese and Aboriginal domestic servants working for European employers. This project is part of a comparative PhD thesis on domestic service and colonialism in Darwin and Singapore from the 1890s to the 1930s.

Professor David Watters, University of Melbourne, *History of Surgery in Papua New Guinea*

My work is on the history of surgery in Papua New Guinea from the early 1800's to the present. In the first chapter which is called "First Sight" I discuss the first view and encounters of Papua New Guinea by the ship's surgeons. British Whaling ships carried surgeons as did the Royal Navy. The HMS Fly expedition visited Papua New Guinea and gave the name of the ship to the River (Fly). A Scottish Surgeon Alexander Sibbald was aboard the Fly and it was his journal that I wanted to access in the Northern Territory Archives. Sadly the journal located in the Northern Territory Archives did not include any of his PNG trip but I learned much about Sibbald, the earlier aspects of the HMS Fly expedition and also about his family history (other documents available in NTAS). I had to be patient in

terms of reading them as the journal is only available within the Archives. I waited until I was the surgeon in Dili over Christmas and New Year 2006/2007 and afterwards in mid-January was able to spend a day in the Archives in Darwin on my journey back to Geelong from East Timor.

Dr David Welch, *Gerry Blitner's autobiography*

David is assisting Gerry Blitner with his autobiography and hopes to publish his story, along with material obtained from the Northern Territory Archives Service collections. Gerry, born in 1920, was with the first group of half-caste children taken from the Arnhem Land mainland to the new mission on Groote Eylandt, in 1924. He has fond memories of the missionaries and the NTAS holds records - photos, diaries and notes - of some of those missionaries he knew. These record some of the events Gerry remembers from childhood and include photos of him. One event was when the mission boat "Holly" was caught in a cyclone and swept high up the beach. It took weeks to gradually inch the boat back down the beach by digging dams around it in the sand. David discovered photographs documenting this incident in the NTAS collections.

Kym discovers the Archives of Athens

While on holiday in Greece, Kym Muller (note the pencil as a mark of respect to our Archives forebears) enjoyed finding what was left of the Metroon, which was established as the Archives of Athens in 410-405 BCE.

A computer generated reconstruction of the Metroon can be viewed online at <http://www.xtec.net/~sgiralt/labyrinthus/zeus/olympia2.htm>



Spotlight on aspects of life in Darwin in the 1950s

with an emphasis on the social life.

The National Trust, Darwin, recently had a 1950s day as part of their Heritage Festival and so it seemed a good opportunity to highlight some items in our collection relating largely to the social life in Darwin in the 1950s. Nina Cameron's unpublished research essay titled *An insight in social life and conditions in Darwin, 1946 – 1959*, provides an excellent overview of this topic and was sourced extensively for the preparation of this feature. Another useful source is Maise Austin's book *The Quality of Life: a reflection of life in Darwin during the post war years*.

For at least a decade after the end of the Second World War, Darwin was in a state of turmoil with several buildings, businesses and houses still suffering from war damage and neglect and

The oral history extracts and photos below demonstrate that these rather primitive living conditions did not deter Darwin's inhabitants from having an active social life and being involved in a range of activities.

HOWARD TRURAN, NTRS 226, TS 520

Howard came to Darwin in 1954 to work for the government as a dental technician.

What date was it that you arrived in Darwin?

That was Tuesday the 11th of May 1954. It's hard to explain what Darwin was like then because it was still in war ruin. This was only x amount of years, seven years after the war, or roughly - you went down town there was still bombed buildings and bombed houses, and Cavenagh Street was a vacant paddock except for a few old buildings. Smith Street even had vacant paddocks. The New South Wales bank was just four



Bank of new South Wales [bomb damage], 1950
NORTHERN TERRITORY ARCHIVES SERVICE
NTRS 234, Photographic proof sheets, RG HENRICK Collection

overtaken by vegetation. Some of the challenges facing the people of Darwin at this time were the lack of accommodation, food shortages, particularly fresh food, and for all those people not lucky enough to have a septic tank, the "flaming furies" toilets. Government employees were usually housed in hostel accommodation in town and a large number of other people were living on the fringes of town in ex-Army camp areas. These consisted largely of Sidney William Huts. One such camp was the Parap Camp located in what is now known as Stuart Park. Although Darwin had an impressive multicultural population for that era, Aboriginal people were still subject to a number of restrictions in their daily lives, including an 8pm curfew in town, which inevitably resulted in a stratified society.

walls with trees growing out of it. here was old bombed buildings and vacant paddocks everywhere with weeds and that growing out of them.

JOY COLLINS, NTRS 226, TS 566

Joy arrived in Darwin in December 1952 to work for the government. Her initial memories were:

Long grass; little tracks across them; wrecks around the harbour; shattered buildings.

CATHIE (CATHERINE) NICKELS, NTRS 226, TS 1169

Okay. So we'll just commence the interview and see where that takes us. Cathie, when did you first arrive in Darwin?

My family came up here from Derby, West Australia, in 1950. My father worked for the Lands and Survey Branch, so that's how we came up here.

What was Darwin like when you first came here? How old were you?

As a nine-year old I - we lived at Fannie Bay at my uncle and aunt's place and then we moved into Parap Camp, and Parap Camp became a fixture for us for two-and-a-half years and then we moved into Gardiner Street where NAALAS now stands.

In those days we lived in a, you know, the Sidney William huts in what we call now a primitive condition, but the community of Parap had Greeks, half-castes, whites and other people and we all became a very big family in friendships. Friendships arose and we still continue with that today.

What were the earliest memories of Darwin?

Well, housing, let's say. Dad was a government worker so we got an upstairs house. If you were a blue-collar worker you got a Housing Commission, a small house. And naturally there were many Greek people who built the houses here.

Spotlight on aspects of life in Darwin in the 1950s

HOWARD TRURAN, NTRS 226, TS 520

Howard describes below his accommodation at the hospital on his arrival in Darwin in 1954.

Anyway, we moved in to the clerical quarters, which was very nice. It cost us one pound a week, for full board and our own room, and laundry was done at the hospital for six pence an article, which is five cents today. I had my own room overlooking Kahlin Bay [now known as Cullen Bay]. It was up on stilts, and there was a laundry downstairs and upstairs there was an ironing room on the balcony and then you went into the showers, bathroom and toilet and then you went down a broad passage with the rooms off either side.

There was ten rooms. You had your room with a built-in wardrobe and everything, and then you had your bed. You walked through the door and out onto the balcony, which you had your bed out there. No air conditioning, it was never heard of in Darwin then. You were lucky to have a fan. We had a mosquito net. They were the high hospital beds, and you could lay in your bed and look out over Kahlin Bay through the banana palms. You know, really lovely. You walked down the passage and then you came to our lounge room, which had nice cane chairs and dart board and that. And then we had two long tables in our dining room which overlooked - while you were having lunch or your meals you could overlook Kahlin Bay.



Darwin Hospital

PAULA DOS SANTOS, NTRS 1163, Personal photographs, negatives of Darwin and friends, ca 1950s

JOY COLLINS, NTRS 226, TS 566

Joy arrived in Darwin in December 1952 to work for the government. Joy was met by two government employees and driven to a place called Marrenah House which was defined as a hostel for women employed by government departments.

It was on the waterfront, along the Esplanade, and then I think there might have been 50 odd women there. ...I was shown a wardrobe to hang my clothes up in and they had these light bulbs all burning in the bottom of the wardrobes which I learnt afterwards, you know, it's a very damp air and it saves on the mildew.

The Dry season was the season for balls and dances. The venues included the Catholic Palais, the Hall at the Belsen Camp, the RSL Club, the Sunshine Club, the Hotel Darwin, the Seabreeze and the Fanny Bay Hotel.

JIM SOUEY, NTRS 1989, TS 982

Jim came to Darwin as a 17 year old from Western Australia in the early 1950s.

Tell us what the place was like in those days. How big was it?

In those days it would be about four to six thousand people, around about that area. Everyone knew one another and there was no such thing as black and white. There was either Aboriginal or native, white or coloureds, and everyone got on extra well because we used to go to their parties, they used to come to ours. They used to come to our dancing.

We had a club called the Sunshine Club. A lot of people think it was because we weren't allowed to go to other dance clubs. We did go to other dances. The women were going to [inaudible], to the Green Terrace, which is Buffaloes there, then we had the Town Hall, then we had the Palais, which is where the Catholic school is now, St Mary's School... There was some good dancers there, you know, that could really dance. I never missed a dance when I come to Darwin. Someone said: 'Where did you learn to dance?' We used to have a dance hall there [Port Headland], you know, the Half-Caste Association, long before you had one here... We had a Filipino. We had a local band up here. There was Tim Angeles and there was Peter Cardona, guitarist. He also played the electric steel guitar, which he was very good at. I don't think I'd ever seen him dance because he was too busy playing the guitar. There was a violinist, Rusty Ray Perez, and there was...

Were there the Hazlebanes?

Hazlebanes, Seaman Dan, Herman Pond, Steve Abala.

HOWARD TRURAN, NTRS 226, TS 520

I'd like to ask you a little bit about the social life in Darwin in the 1950's.

Ah, yes. There was quite a bit of social life when you think of it although the population was not very large. People used to make a lot of their own fun. There was always dances and turnouts - like every Friday night, without fail, was Norm Yeend's band playing at the RSL, which is in Smith Street - which is now The Mall - on the site of where Paspalis Centrepoint is now. That was the old RSL - it was built up on stilts originally when it was opened, then it was closed in. Well upstairs was the bar down one end and tables and chairs, and there was a dance floor and a little bandstand. Well that was a great night for every Friday night

Spotlight on aspects of life in Darwin in the 1950s

Then there was always Friday nights out at the Parap Hotel. That was just a pianist and a drummer - Georgie Hunter on drums and May Moore was on piano, and they used to just play there. And there was the lounge part in the beginning, in the front of the stage, and the saloon bar over on the right, then you looked out onto the open air dance floor, with the coconut palms overhanging the dance floor. It looked very nice. I used to go out there - that was quite popular - you could sort of drive out.

So when you went to all these balls, did you have to dress up quite smartly?

What was commonly called on invitations, if they were sent out, at the bottom 'Darwin Rig'. Now Darwin Rig in those days - they dressed better in those days than they nearly do today. Although the ladies always dressed very nicely. They were always - either sent south or went to Helena's or a couple of the frock shops there and got a nice dress - ballerina or [whatever] it was in the day. But the men wore Darwin Rig, which was white pants, black shoes, white shirt and a maroon tie. Now it either had to be a straight maroon tie or a bow tie. Now that was Darwin Rig and that was quite nice in the tropics.



Exterior view of Hotel Darwin, 1951

PAULA DOS SANTOS, NTRS 1163, Personal photographs, negatives of Darwin and friends, ca 1950s

So you had those sort of turnouts and then the Works would put on a ball, and the Health Department would put on a ball, the Red Cross was a big ball - the Red Cross Ball. Then the Qantas Ball was one of THE balls. You had to try and really wangle an invitation to that, because being Qantas, they used to air freight all the food, all the lobster, crayfish, oysters - all the stuff was air freighted up from Sydney for the ball. They used to hold the ball out at Berrimah... In those days the flights to London were a lot longer (and Darwin was a stopover) and the passengers were bussed to Qantas - what would you call it? Like a holiday camp and they



Norm Yeend's band at the "Catholic Palais", 1951

PAULA DOS SANTOS, NTRS 1678, Photographic copyprints of droving and Darwin, [Gilpippie Station, Alice Springs, Dos Santos family], 1920 - 1952



Howard Truran performing at the Seabreeze "Nite Spot", August 1958

HOWARD TRURAN, NTRS 1112, Personal photographs and negatives of Howard Truran

had their rooms and they stayed overnight and got on the plane and flew off to Singapore and wherever on their way. They had a beautiful swimming pool but it

Spotlight on aspects of life in Darwin in the 1950s



Qantas Pool, Berrimah, Darwin, 1952

TOM HUGHES, NTRS 1414, Copyprints of Darwin including old race course, 1940 - 1952

was restricted - you couldn't just amble in there. Then also the staff of Qantas - ground crews and all that - they lived there as well. Well they used to hold the Qantas Ball out there. They had the dance floor set up around the pool and they used to put water lilies in the swimming pool and had them floating and they had all coloured lights lit over the water and you danced around the pool, with the band. I played there one night for a gig. That was the Qantas Ball.

All the different departments and as I said, all the services had their balls, so every Friday night you could go to a ball. You got a crowd together and off you went.

JOY COLLINS, NTRS 226, TS 566

You spoke of it being a friendly community. What sort of lifestyle did you lead once you were in Darwin?

... You had to live in the hostels and you'd race home and have lunch, you'd race back to work, and the same after five. Then possibly we'd go swimming, or tennis. We had lots of old asphalt tennis courts. And sport, basketball, used to attract the crowds. The whole of Darwin used to go up to the RSL. They had a basketball court. But one of the lunchtime chores at Marrenah House was to race home, grab your clothing, and there must have only been about four, or three or four, coppers, and you put your clothes into soak in the copper and that meant that that was your copper for when you came home to do your washing. The old yardman, you'd bribe him, I think, to light it up for you about half past. Nine minutes to five we'd knock off then and he'd light it up for you so when you got home, your copper was boiling and then you hung your clothes out. Our dresses were all starched. It was a case of hot iron and the starching. God, when I look back now, I must say we were all so well, well dressed and immaculate in

our starched frocks. Of course, we wouldn't do it now would we? [laughs]

Was that a uniform you were wearing?

No, no. I can recall even wearing strapless - Cole of California frocks were in and the shirred bodice and the strapless tops, to go to work in. I guess the length... there was nothing up the top but the length down the bottom would have been almost down to the ankles, I guess, but we didn't wear stockings. Sandally type shoes, I guess. There was always lots and lots of night life and plenty of dances and things like that. They were fun days, though.

For more on Marrenah House see the recently launched book: "Virgins' Retreat, a terrific tale of intrigue and manipulation" by Gayle Carroll.



The "Catholic Palais" hall at St Mary's, Darwin, 1951

PAULA DOS SANTOS, NTRS 1678, Photographic copyprints of droving and Darwin, [Gilpippie Station, Alice Springs, Dos Santos family], 1920 - 1952

KEN FREY, NTRS 226, TS 630

Ken and his wife Sheila came to Darwin in the early 1950s. Ken's position in the government was the Works Department Architect.

Now you were telling me about the flaming furies.

Yes, well we had to burn these off - and that's where they get their name, flaming furies; there was a flue at the back, and you could always tell when somebody was burning off - but you'd burn them off about every three days. You could get free sump oil from garages; the garages would clean the sumps of cars but they had nowhere to put the waste oil, and it found a very good use in this area. With a little bit of paper and tinder you could light these. If you didn't use enough oil, and plenty of tinder and paper to get a really good fire going, it'd sometimes smoulder for some days, as my wife found out at one stage. I was able to go at work, of course, but I'd come home to find her almost hopping around, saying: 'Its alright for you to laugh, but its hot sitting over that hole!'

Trim System Management

It is already mid year and the contract between the NT Government and Tower Software has been operational for twelve months. Under the contract Tower was required to open a local office in Darwin. The office is now open and we welcome Rick Steley as the Darwin Office Manager. Rick has been introduced to all agencies as part of a meet and greet exercise. The meetings with agencies also provided the opportunity to discuss future directions for TRIM in the NT Government and for agencies to raise any issues. Future upgrades to TRIM Context

The proposed and endorsed upgrade path for TRIM Context (as stated in Records Territory No 31) is:

- Stage 1 – Upgrade from V5.2 SP3 to TRIM Context V5.2 SP5
- Stage 2 – Upgrade from V5.2 SP5 to TRIM Context V6.2

Stage 1 was expected to be completed by August 2007 however this has been delayed until after another whole of government project is completed later this year. The business case has been endorsed for this upgrade.

Stage 2 has been endorsed pending the approval of a business case. A consultancy has commenced to develop the business case which on completion will be presented to the NT Government Information Management Committee for approval and to seek funding for the upgrade project.

The Contract

Under the contract with Tower Software, NT Government agencies are able to engage the services of Tower certified business partners to undertake specific projects/consultancies related to the EDRM solution.

A number of consultancies specific to agencies and to whole of government have been completed, are in progress or are planned. The ability to tap into the expertise and knowledge of the certified business partners is currently working well in delivering the best outcome for agencies with their EDM initiatives and records migrations.

TRIM Training

The contract opened the way for the NT Government to engage Tower Software accredited trainers to meet the needs of agencies for training in TRIM. Tower Software was engaged to conduct four TRIM Administrator training sessions in June. Twenty four agency staff attended this training. A schedule for

future training will be developed with Tower Software input so that a more formal process can be in place for agency staff and trainers to be available for appropriate sessions.

Staff

Helen Barnes, our Information Management System Analyst - Training & Promotion Officer, has now left Government having decided to take up a permanent position with Tower Software. We wish her well in her new career and know that she will excel at Tower. Helen's position has been advertised as a permanent vacancy and the recruitment process to permanently fill this position has commenced.

We have welcomed Warren Hoffmann to the TRIM Support Team. Warren has taken over from Wilma Carlow who is currently on long service leave. We have also welcomed Natalie Bennett who has been filling the gap left in TRIM Support by Helen's move to Tower.



Natalie Bennett



Warren Hoffmann

For further information, please contact myself or member of the team. Contact details are on the back page of this newsletter.



New accessions - Darwin

Our Archivist Kym Muller provides us below with details of recently donated material.

Please note: These series may contain images of Aboriginal people who have since died, which may cause sadness and distress to their relatives. No offence has been intended by making these images available. Please view these archives with care.

LOCKWOOD, KIM

NTRS 2600, Photographs relating to Palmerston (Darwin), and Darwin Public School, ca1875-1921

Kim Lockwood, son of Douglas Lockwood, visited Darwin and donated three photographs of local interest. A photograph of Darwin Public School in 1921 includes 106 children, with 4 adults; all unidentified (if anyone can help it would be greatly appreciated). The photographs of Palmerston in the 19th century include a street scene featuring the English, Scottish and Australian Chartered Bank, and a view of Fort Hill with two ships in the harbour.

PRATT, EDNA JOYCE

NTRS 2611, Photographs relating to buildings and sites in the Top End, c1978-c1979

Edna Pratt, a regular researcher in the Darwin office, donated a photograph album containing 125 colour photographs of buildings and sites across the Top End. Included are photographs of Murganella, Snake Bay, Jabiru, Nourlangie, South Alligator, Nelson Springs, Gunn Point, Berry Springs, Howard Springs, Yarrowonga Zoo, Katherine Gorge, and Edith Falls. Edna took the photographs while collecting information for the assets register of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission in the early days of the Northern Territory Government.

HOOD, JAMES MASSEY

NTRS 2619, Correspondence relating to Nutwood Downs Station, 1953-1955

Mrs Mary Hood donated this correspondence conducted by her father-in-law, James Massey Hood. He worked for Vestey's managing Nutwood Downs Station from 1946 to the late 1950s, and then Manbulloo Station until his retirement. The correspondence includes letters regarding the administration of the station, and ongoing work such as fencing, bores, pumps, supply of cattle, staffing, overseas trade, and the Nutwood Downs aerodrome.

WRIGHT, DEBRA ANN

NTRS 2620, Scrapbook relating to Cyclone Tracy, 1952-c1994

Debra Ann Wright started keeping a scrapbook about Cyclone Tracy when she was living in Adelaide. Included are newspaper clippings detailing the damage caused by the cyclone, evacuation and rebuilding efforts, and the Red Cross lists of evacuees. Also included is a copy of the first edition of the Northern Territory News dated 8 February 1952, commemorative supplements

from the Northern Territory News published in 1994 on the 20th anniversary of Cyclone Tracy, a copy of a report by the Northern Territory Housing Commission "Construction and restoration proposals for Housing Commission dwellings in Darwin", reports on planning options for Darwin by the Cities Commission, and a copy of the Women's Weekly featuring a special report on Darwin in 1975

HARVEY, ELSPETH

NTRS 2625, 8mm films relating to Cyclone Tracy, 1975
NTRS 2626, Master DVD copy of 8mm films relating to Cyclone Tracy, 1975

NTRS 2627, Reference DVD copy of 8mm films relating to Cyclone Tracy, 1975

Elsbeth Harvey donated her 8mm films taken in the aftermath of Cyclone Tracy in Darwin. The footage includes street scenes of damaged houses, the exterior of Fannie Bay Gaol, the Qantas hanger in Parap, a helicopter flying overhead, and the interior of a house.

VRIES, ROBERT

NTRS 2629, Reference DVD copy of 8mm film relating to Cyclone Tracy, 1974

NTRS 2630, Master DVD copy of 8mm film relating to Cyclone Tracy, 1974

Robert Vries' 8mm film was taken on Boxing Day and documents the devastation caused by Cyclone Tracy in Darwin. The footage includes street scenes of damaged houses, shops, caravans, and powerlines; RAAF housing; and the airport, including damaged planes, helicopters, hangars and cars.

ARCHIBALD, JARED

NTRS 2790, Darwin Festival program, 1965

Thanks to a lucky find online Jared Archibald collected and donated a program of the second annual City of Darwin Festival. The program includes details of sporting, arts, and cultural events which took place from 3 July to 2 August 1965.

BROMWICH, ALAN

NTRS 2791, Draft manuscript and correspondence relating to the history of health services in the Northern Territory, 1976-1977

Alan Bromwich donated his personal file containing an unpublished draft manuscript, "History of health services in the Northern Territory" by Judith Baddeley which covers the period 1824-1950 and includes interviews with Dr CEA Cook (Chief Medical

Officer of the Northern Territory, 1927-1939). The correspondence includes a copy of Mr Bromwich's comments to Judith Baddeley about the manuscript.

MCMAHON, GRAHAM

NTRS 2792, Papers relating to the Kakadu National Park fighting committee, 1971-1999

NTRS 2793, Correspondence relating to the recognition of Aboriginal Police Trackers, 1967-2003

NTRS 2794, Papers relating to Barramundi conservation, 1977-2004

Graham McMahon donated his papers about three prominent campaigns he was involved in; the establishment of Kakadu National Park, official recognition of Aboriginal Police Trackers, the first Barramundi licence buy back scheme. All series contain newspaper clippings, correspondence and articles.

KENTISH, LEONARD NOEL (LEN)

NTRS 2795, Photographs and negatives relating to missionary work in the Top End, 1935-1942

NTRS 2796, Master copy of digitised images of missionary work in the Top End, 1935-1942

NTRS 2797, Reference copy of digitised images of missionary work in the Top End, 1935-1942

NTRS 2798, Proofsheets of images of missionary

work in the Top End, 1935-1942

Noel Kentish donated the photographs taken by his father, Leonard (Len) Noel Kentish (1907-1943). The photographs and negatives relate to Len's missionary work in the Top End, mainly on Goulburn Island and in Darwin. Included are images of the Darwin Methodist parsonage, Donald Thomson and TT Webb, Aboriginal people on Goulburn Island, and the aftermath of the 1937 cyclone in Darwin. The photographs captions were compiled by Noel Kentish and Russell Beazley. Access to the reference copy of digitised images (NTRS 2797) and proofsheets (NTRS 2798) are subject to the donor's permission.

RUZAK, JOSEPH JOHN (LT, US NAVY)

NTRS 2799, Pilot log book and map, 1939-1944

NTRS 2800, Papers relating to US Navy Patrol Squadron 22, 1929-1994

NTRS 2801, Copyprints of Joseph John Ruzak and Eleanor Ruzak, 1939-1940

Susan Schwartz donated material about her father's wartime service. Joseph John Ruzak (1912-1998) served as a pilot with the US Navy during the Second World War, including over one year serving in Australia, from January 1942 to February 1943. His log book (NTRS 2799) includes entries relating to the

EYRE, HARRY WENTWORTH

NTRS 2612, Photographs relating to Yirrkala during the Second World War, 1945

NTRS 2613, Digitised copy of photographs relating to Yirrkala during the Second World War, 1945

NTRS 2812, Master copy of digitised images relating to Yirrkala during the Second World War, 1945

Colin Eyre donated photographs taken by his father, Harry Wentworth Eyre during the Second World War. At the request of the donor a digitised copy was also sent to the Buku Larrngay Mulka Centre at Yirrkala.

The photographs relate to Yirrkala during the Second World War. Included are images of Aboriginal people and ceremonies at Yirrkala, members of the RAAF Welfare Mobile Cinema Unit, and views of Darwin, Batchelor, and the Elizabeth River. A reference copy of digitised images is available in NTRS 2613 subject to permission from the donor.



NTRS 2613/P1 - item 14 - Our bus [RAAF Mobile Welfare Cinema]; Don, myself, Les, n.d.



NTRS 2613/P1 - item 82 - [Group of 102 soldiers outside post office hut], n.d.



NTRS 2613/P1 - item 83 - [Eight soldiers with three trucks of the RAAF Mobile Cinema Unit], n.d.

Pearl Harbour attack on 7 December 1941 and patrol flights from Darwin, Perth, Broome, and Exmouth. NTRS 2800 contains newspaper clippings reporting Lt Ruzak's plane being shot down off Bathurst Island in 1942 during the Japanese attack on Darwin.

AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION, TOP END

NTRS 2803, Organising Committee papers relating to the national conference, 1991-1993

NTRS 2804, Minutes and meeting papers, 1976-2001

NTRS 2805, Minutes and meeting papers, 2002-2004

NTRS 2806, Correspondence files, 1978-1997

NTRS 2807, Administration files, 1977-1998

NTRS 2808, Newsletters, 1978-1997

NTRS 2809, Publications, c1980-c1998

NTRS 2810, Sound recordings relating to library practice, nd

NTRS 2811, Video tape recordings relating to library practice and publicity, c1991-1997

The Australian Library and Information Association, Top End, donated their files, minutes, newsletters, publications and audiovisual material. Included are agendas, budgets, reports, branch rules, and notices (NTRS 2804) and two promotional films "Public libraries are yours" and "The book is dead" (NTRS 2811).

GABLE, LEONARD GEORGE

NTRS 2855, Reference copy of unpublished

eyewitness account of the bombing of Darwin, 1942

Leonard Gable was working on the wharf during the bombing of Darwin on 19 February 1942 and witnessed the sinkings of the USS Peary and the Neptuna. He also wrote of his involvement in the rescue operations in the aftermath of the attack. Researchers must apply for permission to view/copy/publish this series.

BURTON, JF

NTRS 2924, Diary extract relating to bombing raids during Second World War, 1942

This typewritten diary extract lists the bombing raids in the Darwin region during the Second World War. Included in the chronological listing of raids are numbers of Japanese bombers, times and locations of raids, and damage caused by the bombings.

KORSTICK, ROBERT

NTRS 2970, Digitised copies of correspondence relating to the Second World War, 1944

NTRS 2971, Reference copies of correspondence relating to the Second World War, 1944

Warren Chapman donated copies of correspondence written by US Sergeant Bob Korstick during the Second World War. The letters were sent to Percy and Belle Crowe and relate to general observations of the Philippines, Christmas greetings, and discussions of family and friends.

NT History Grants recipients 2007

The Committee has recommended that 18 grants be awarded, 10 of these to Territorians and 8 to interstate applicants. The recommendations for the 2007 NT History Grants are as follows:

Joy Grant Hicks of Victor Harbour: \$1,500 to research a biography of Reverend Archibald Grant.

Ted Ling of Canberra: \$1,400 to research the impact of Commonwealth Government policies on the Northern Territory pastoral industry, 1911-1978.

Terry Whitebeach of Orielton, Tasmania: \$4,000 to research a biography of Rosalie Kunoth Monks.

Bill Wilson of Darwin: \$4,000 to research the history of the NT Police Special Branch and its successor, the Criminal Intelligence Unit.

Heather Douglas of Brisbane: \$3,000 to research a biography of Justice Martin Kriewaldt

Mickey Dewar of Darwin: \$1,500 to research a biography of explorer, Michael Terry.

Diana Giese of Sydney: \$2,000 to research perceptions and perspectives on the Top End from the 1950s to self-government.

Peter Stanley of Canberra: \$2,500 to research the life of Bill Harney, 1895-1962.

Tim Smith of Melbourne: \$2,000 to investigate Darwin's first photographers associated with the Goyder Survey Expedition.

Matthew Stephen of Darwin: \$2,500 to research and

present Larry Donnison's images of Darwin, 1914-1920.

Ros Jones of Batchelor: \$3,000 to research a biography of Max Sargent.

Elizabeth Ganter of Darwin: \$3,000 to research the role and representation of Aboriginal senior officials in the Northern Territory Government.

Murray Seiffert of Melbourne: \$3,000 to research a biography of Reverend Michael Gumbuli Wurramara of Ngukurr.

Simon Niblock of Darwin: \$1,600 to research a guide to Top End highset houses of the 1950s and 1960s.

Belinda Lang & Sara Boniwell of Alice Springs: \$4,000 to research the life of Jillie Nakamara Spencer of Yuendumu.

Olga Radke of Alice Springs: \$4,000 to research the history and stories of the old Lutheran Church at Alice Springs.

Ken Johnson of Alice Springs: \$4,000 to research a history of early Territorians 1930-1970 through the correspondence of H.H. Finlayson.

Tracy Spencer of Alice Springs: \$3,000 to research and record Indigenous memories and stories about Reverend John Flynn in Alice Springs.

Visit to the Alice Springs repository by records staff

Chocolate mudcake and Archives, they go together so well!

Not that we are advocating the eating of mudcake when researchers visit the search room or when we are processing archival records. Rest assured that mudcake crumbs won't be found in the 1886 Alice Springs Police Station journal (F255) or smeared over John Owen 1960s glass plate advertising slide (NTRS 2241). Instead the mudcake found its way into the satisfied stomachs of agency records people when they visited the Alice Springs repository in February of this year.

Why were we feeding mudcake to agency records people? What better way to share ideas and to network than over morning tea? Before we fed the records staff (who came from the Departments of Planning and Infrastructure; Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts; Corporate and Information Services and the Alice Springs Court House) we gave them a tour behind the scenes of the Archives. This meant they went where not many people get to go, namely behind the closed doors of the repository. As it was a forty

degree day outside no doubt some appreciated the cooler conditions inside!

Firstly we showcased some of our treasures. These include the Heavitree Gap /Stuart Town Prison Register (F 110); the Prison Property Book (F 1039); early police journals (F 255); John Owen's glass plate advertising slides from the Pioneer Theatre (NTRS 2241) and Eleonor Mengel's mounted 1920s photographs of Palm Valley, Jay Creek and the MacDonnell Ranges (NTRS 2343). These series reflect the variety of records that we hold, both from government agencies and private donations.

Secondly we took the opportunity to explain how we process archival records. Essentially this was an explanation of what happens to permanent government records when they are transferred to us and why the Archives has standards that agencies need to follow when it comes to transferring records.

We discussed disposal authorities and schedules and where they could go to for advice (either their records managers based in Darwin or the Archives' friendly Records Policy people), the types of boxes that should be used for transferring permanent records and the government lending process. They also were able to network with each other and share common experiences about the nature of their work.

The feedback from this session was overwhelmingly positive and we will run another session towards the end of the year. After all, the people in government agencies that are responsible for the creation and maintenance of government records also have a responsibility for the archives of the future. What better way to remind them of their vital role than a tour of the Archives and a piece of mudcake?



Staff notes

Matthew Stephen was appointed to the position of Manager, Oral Records following the retirement of Francis Good late last year. Matthew has an extensive background working with Northern Territory history, and a wealth of experience working in the Northern Territory in a wide range of roles. Matthew brings a fresh approach to managing the valuable and heavily accessed oral history collection.



We are pleased to have appointed Marlene Meyers to the position of Archives Access Officer in the Darwin Office. Marlene brings with her valuable experience having previously worked at the National Archives of Australia, Canberra and Darwin Offices.

Staff notes

Research visit from Germany

Earlier in July we had the visit of a PhD candidate from Germany and his wife/research assistant. Oliver and Heike Heis are spending a year in Australia visiting archives and travelling. Oliver's thesis is about the biological absorption policy of A.O. Neville (Chief Protector of Aborigines in Western Australia) and Cecil Cook (Chief Protector of Aborigines in the Northern Territory) in the 1920s and 1930s. These administrators tried to assimilate part-Aborigines into the white Australian population in effect using biological engineering. A focus of Oliver's work is the impact of anthropologists like Cleland, Elkin and Basedow in the work of Neville and Cook. His research also focus on the international context and the possible link or influence of leading European scientists to the Australian anthropologists.

It was great to share Oliver and Heike's enthusiasm about their archival research experience and travels in Australia.



From left to right: Françoise Barr, Heike Heis, Oliver Heis and Cathy Flint in the Darwin search room

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