

# RECORDS

## TERRITORY

Northern Territory Archives Service Newsletter

October 2001 No.24

A Branch of the Department of Corporate and Information Services

ISSN 1039-5180

### FROM OUR ACTING DIRECTOR

Welcome to the latest edition of the newsletter of the Northern Territory Archives Service. We hope you enjoy reading, or just browsing through, the variety of articles that reflect the functions of a modern, vibrant archives.

A report on the upgrade of the NT Government's records management system includes information on developments in electronic records management in a number of agencies. Further enhancements to the classification system used across the whole of the NT Government based on corporate and agency-specific thesauruses will improve retrieval of records in both the short and long term. Outsourcing of the storage and servicing of secondary records (as opposed to archives - those records to be retained forever) entered a new phase with the NT Archives Service divesting itself of its secondary records store and transferring the management of these records to individual agencies in partnership with the private sector.

The acquisition of a collection of personal records from a former wartime entertainer is an important addition to our holdings. A list of research carried out recently, especially into the NT pastoral industry, highlights the diversity of topics handled in our search room. An ongoing commitment to research is reflected in the increase of the annual grants, the NT History Awards, which assists research to be carried out into the history of the Territory. The Oral History section is also very active within the community especially in relation to workshops conducted in remote areas to train individuals to assist in capturing the oral record of the NT. There are also articles reflecting our support role to archives near and far - a visit to the Never Never Museum at Mataranka and a visit by delegates from the National Archives of East Timor.

Our Director, Greg Coleman, is presently the Acting Director of the NT Library and Information Services pending the permanent filling of that position and I'm the Acting Director of the NT Archives Service until Greg's return.



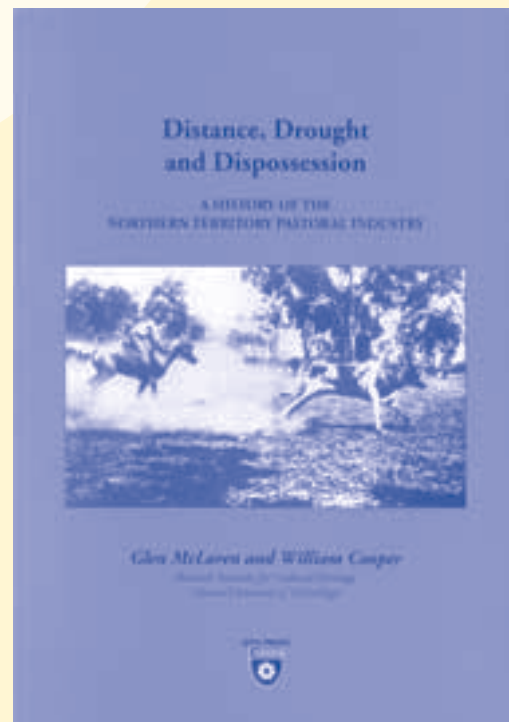
Barry Garside  
Acting Director NTAS

### NT History Awards

We congratulate Glen McLaren and William Cooper on the publication of their book *Distance Drought and Dispossession: a history of the Northern Territory pastoral industry*. Glen received an NT History Award to assist him in the research of this work.

Our Spotlight feature for this issue is also on the pastoral industry in the Northern Territory and can be found on pages 8 to 10.

Details of the successful recipients of the NT History Awards for 2001 are provided on page 2.



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## NT History Awards 2001: an increase in funding

The NT History Awards for 2001 were announced on August 1. The \$50 000 allocated was an increase of \$20 000 on previous years and congratulations are extended to the following recipients of this year's Awards.

**William & Susan Emilsen** of Sydney: \$2,000 to research a history of the Northern Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia, 1977-2001.

**John Mulvaney** of Canberra: \$2,500 to research and edit the letters of Patrick Cahill to Baldwin Spencer, 1912-1921.

**Suzanne Parry** of Darwin: \$4,200 to research a history of the East Arm Leprosarium.

**Beverley Phelts** of Darwin: \$1,950 to research the history of Water Development in the Northern Territory.

**Peter Thorley** of Alice Springs: \$2,500 to research a history of floods in Central Australia.

**Ian Hillock** of Katherine: \$2,500 to research the history of farm settlement in the Northern Territory.

**Liam Campbell** of Yuendumu: \$3,000 to record life stories with Darby Jampijimpa Ross of Yuendumu.

**The Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory** : \$2,750 to research Timber Creek, Victoria River, Wave Hill and surrounding districts Deaths, 1856-1994.

**Michael Davis** of Canberra: \$3,950 to research European-Australian representations of Indigenous Cultural Heritage in the Northern Territory.

**Jack Frawley** of Gunbalanya: \$1,280 to research the Melville Island Enquiry into Joe Cooper, 1914.

**Pamela Oliver** of Melbourne: \$2,670 to research the history of Japanese influence on Northern Territory affairs between the two world wars.

**Cameron Taylor** of Melbourne: \$1,600 to research the history of the Mackay Aerial Reconnaissance Survey Expedition of Central Australia, 1930-1937.

**Bill Bunbury & Geoffrey Bolton** of Perth: \$5,000 to research the history of Northern Australia as it related to the rest of the Continent.

**The Historical Society of Katherine**: \$3,000 to continue researching the history of the Katherine Airstrip and Radio Control Building.

**Maisie Austin** of Darwin: \$2,300 to research the history of Northern Territory Women in Sport.

**Kathy Mills & Di Koser** of Darwin: \$2,000 to research the achievements of Jack McGuinness in his quest for social justice for Aboriginal people.

**Rosemary Plummer** of Tennant Creek: \$3,800 to record Aboriginal Oral Histories in the Barkly region.

**Julie Wells** of Darwin: \$3,000 to research a history of the Media in the Northern Territory, 1952-1962.

### EILEEN FITZER

Our condolences go to the family and friends of Eileen Fitzer who passed away 27 August 2001.

Eileen was born in Darwin in 1902 and was a well known Territorian due to the many aspects of her extraordinary life, most of which was spent in the Northern Territory.

Eileen's memory will be upheld through three separate oral history recordings which are preserved at the NTAS as well as copies of extracts from letters written by Eileen and her second husband Tas about police work and life in remote areas of the Northern Territory from 1939-1955.



NTRS 1734, Fitzer collection, copy of feature in The Australian Womens Weekly vol 17, No. 41, 18 March 1950 "Aborigines sing constable and his wife home".

## NEW ACCESSIONS - WAR TIME ENTERTAINER

Anne (Aynslie) Dawson (née Steeles) joined the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) in October 1942 and was discharged in 1946. During her time with the AWAS Anne served in Alice Springs (1942-1943) and Adelaide River and Darwin (1944-1945). She was trained in signals and was one of the first signals women posted to Alice Springs. As Anne had studied singing before joining the army she performed in Alice Springs and Darwin in shows such as "Wheels within Wheels" and "Blue Horizons".

In February this year Anne donated a copy of her extensive photograph collection and scrapbooks relating to her time in the AWAS in the Northern Territory. The collection shows the places Anne performed, the friends and colleagues she met, the performances, and includes newspaper clippings and programs from performances. Also included are photographs taken more recently during return visits to the Northern Territory and during the 1995 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary March of Ex-servicewomen in Adelaide (NTRS 1961/P1, No.216).

Among the photographs are pictures of picnics with other servicemen and women around Alice Springs in 1942-3 (including in the dry river bed of the Todd River, NTRS 1961/P1, No 38), a race meeting in Alice Springs in 1943 (NTRS 1961/P1, No. 64); and rehearsals for the "Blue Horizons" Christmas show performed in Darwin 1944 (NTRS 1961/P1, Nos 150-161).



NTRS 1960/P1, album 2, Page 85b, part two of Japanese surrender document.



NTRS 1960/P1, album 6, Xmas Greetings booklet from 69 AWAS Barracks, NT [Adelaide River, 1944] (20pp).



NTRS 1960/P1, album 2, p82. Section of program of Northern Picnic Racing Club anniversary meeting, 17 Aug, 1944.



NTRS 1960/P1, album 2, p12. Cover of The Australasian showing cast of "Wheels Within Wheels"

Anne played the lead singer in "Wheels within Wheels" the first all Australian army written, directed and produced musical comedy. It was performed in Alice Springs for crowds up to 7,000 a night over 4 nights in mid-1943. Amongst her collection are an autographed program, newspaper clippings and a fan letter relating to the show (NTRS 1960/P1, Album 1, pages 2-25). Also included are musical scores and lyrics to songs performed (NTRS 1960/P1, Alice Springs Wheels within Wheels Extras)

Anne maintained a diary of her time in the Territory and also documented her reminiscences. Among these was her involvement in the opening of Darwin's first Radio Station 5DR, for which she sang (1<sup>st</sup> May 1945) (NTRS 1960/P1, Adelaide River and Darwin).

Examples of some other items collected by Anne are a Japanese surrender document (NTRS 1960/P1, Album 2, page 85); a program from a Race Meeting 1944 (NTRS 1960/P1, Album 2, page 82); and a program for the Victory Ball 1945 Larrakeyah Barracks (NTRS 1960/P1, Album 2, page 91).

Thus unique collection is a valuable addition to our personal records relating to World War 11 in the Northern Territory.

## EAST TIMOR DELEGATION VISITS NT ARCHIVES SERVICE

Maria Martinez from the National Archives of Transitional Administration in East Timor (E.T.T.A) recently organised a study visit for two newly appointed senior East Timorese archivists, Orlando do Carmo and Ernesto Sarmiento. Maria and the two archivists were accompanied by a translator, Nor Janati Ibrahim, who is an archivist from the National Archives in Malaysia.

At the NT Archives Service they were interested in the structure of the organisation, the regulatory framework, the difference between archives, libraries and museums and the qualifications

and experience of the staff. They were also interested in all the facilities in the search room, the oral history area, and also visited the outsourced records storage provider, Pickfords.

Their visit provided them with information for the establishment of an operational archives in East Timor where the infrastructure is very limited at present. They intend to contact us again near later in the year and may be looking for assistance with staff training.



*L-R Orlando do Carmo, Ernesto Sarmiento and Nor Janati Ibrahim translating the use of the microfiche/film reader in the NTAS Search Room.*

## Archives in the Never Never

In June and July, Linda Bell our Archivist, Records Services, visited the Never Never Museum in Mataranka to assist the museum officer, Marg Minnette in managing the archival material donated to the museum. The Never Never Museum has a collection which reflects the local history of the Mataranka region including the residence of Mrs Jeannie Gunn, author of *We of the Never Never* (hence the name of the museum), through to the building of the railway line and army stationed in the area in World War II.

The visits were instigated as a joint project with the Regional Museums Coordinator for the Museum and Art Galleries of the NT, to ensure that the archival collections held in small museums were identified and managed appropriately. It is intended that procedures will be developed for the management of archival collections in small museums in the Northern Territory. As most

small museums in the NT are run by volunteers or part-time staff, the procedures will be supported by training by the NT Archives Service and will include information about donation agreements; storage of collections; and the arrangement and description of collections in a variety of formats.



The Never Never Museum will be the first museum to trial the new procedures. It is hoped that the procedures used to manage the objects in the museum and will not create a burden of additional work on the staff in these small museums. Local museums are a natural donation point for a lot of private collections that complement the objects in these museums or form part of a larger collection of both objects and archival material. It is hoped that the procedures will assist small museums in the management and preservation of these valuable records.

*Linda Bell appraising the Never Never Museum's archival material. (photographer Sue Harlow).*

# ORAL HISTORY

## Working with the community:

Part of the role of the NTAS Oral History Unit is to assist both communities and individuals in their oral history endeavours. This is done at various levels—providing advice and training for people to embark on recording projects themselves, or undertaking the recording and subsequent transcription of interviews; it may also include provision of archival storage and preservation of the interview materials, and ongoing managed access to them.

In April, a workshop on interviewing technique and project management was provided for staff of Parks North at Kakadu National Park headquarters. Kakadu staff plan to consolidate and develop on past interview work carried out in the park, mainly with traditional owners and their families. In May, interviews were recorded in the Ti Tree region in Central Australia, at the request of the Anmatjere Community

Government Council. This was supported by some funds from the Rona Tranby Trust in NSW.

April also saw the successful launch of *Under the Mango Tree*, a book of stories from elderly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from the Top End, compiled from interviews recorded by Peg Havnen, condensed for the book by Leonie Norrington, and published by the NT Writers' Centre (see *Records Territory* No. 23, February 2001). Recording equipment was provided by the NTAS, and all the original recordings and full verbatim transcripts will be lodged in NTAS collections for access by researchers.

Over the years, assistance has been provided to many communities, including those at Ngukurr, Yuendumu, Lajamanu, and Yolngu outstations in north-east Arnhemland. At present, interviews being recorded by individuals for research projects that are being transcribed by archives for deposit in our collections

(together with the sound recordings) include histories of the St John Ambulance and TIO (both being undertaken by Dr Bill Wilson), the Menzies School Of Health Research (interviews recorded by Dr Brian Reid), and NT railways (Jane Munday).



## Conferences:

The bi-annual national conference of the Oral History Association of Australia (OHAA) was held in Canberra at the National Library of Australia, August 30 to September 2. There were 2 presentations from the Northern Territory, and a range of papers on current work in Australia and overseas. The 2001 OHAA *Journal* is now available, containing articles from some of the participants. See [www.geocities.com/oha\\_australia/](http://www.geocities.com/oha_australia/). The 2003 conference will be in Perth.

The International Oral History Association (IOHA) is calling for contributions to their on-line newsletter (<http://www.bcn.es/tjussana/ioha/>). Contact Joanna Bornat ([j.bornat@open.ac.uk](mailto:j.bornat@open.ac.uk)). The next IOHA conference is at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. If the correct web-address for the conference is not properly linked on the IOHA web site, go to: <http://www.hs.unp.ac.za/ioha2002/>

"Bearing Public Witness: Documenting Memories of Struggle & Resistance" the (USA's) Oral History Association

conference, was on 17–21 October 2001, St Louis, Missouri. It considered the challenges of collecting and documenting memories and histories that reflect trauma, genocide, violence, or social/political disorder, a theme that will have significant current resonance in the light of recent tragic events in the USA. See <http://www.dickinson.edu/organizations/oha>. A conference program is available

for perusal here at the NTAS.

The Association for Recorded Sound Collections (ARSC) & the International Association of Sound & Audiovisual Archives (IASA) held a joint conference: "Why Collect?" 23–27 September 2001 in London UK. See <http://www.arsc-audio.org/>

## New web site:

Watch out for a site showcasing oral histories from a range of Territorians compiled by Glen Dimond for the Multicultural Council of the NT, and launched recently by the Minister for Ethnic Affairs, Hon Kon Vatskalis. The site should be available to browsers in October. Further details are available from Francis Good at the NTAS.

## Workshop:

The NTAS will be mounting an oral history workshop for interviewers in Darwin in mid-November. If you would like to participate, please contact Francis Good.



## Agency Thesauruses Accessible to all Employees

New software is now available to all NT Government agencies for the automated production and presentation of an array of thesaurus documentation. There are a variety of documents, including a web enabled version, designed to meet the diverse needs of thesaurus users.

A set of short lists of terms, through to a full alphabetical listing and classification guide, can be created in minutes using a new thesaurus formatter macro working on a thesaurus export from the government recordkeeping system, TRIM (Total Records & Information Management). These documents can be used to assist employees to choose titles for operational records, facilitate thesaurus training and thesaurus reviews, and also provide a formal printed record of the thesaurus, including details of the origin of terms.

NT Government agency thesauruses are all based on the NT Government Corporate Thesaurus of Administrative Terms, which is the State Records NSW Keyword AAA with some customisation to suit the particular business needs of the NT Government. Then, each agency has added functional terminology defining the unique business functions of the agency, to create an integrated agency thesaurus that

can be used to title the full range of agency business records.

Perhaps the most exciting development for end users is the availability of a template that enables any NT Government agency to present an interactive version of its thesaurus via the agency intranet. Building on work done by the Department of Corporate and Information Services - Executive Support Unit, the NT

Archives Service template can be copied and used in any NT Government agency with a minimum of agency customisation required. The template is a Lotus Notes database, populated with a text version of the thesaurus that is created using the thesaurus formatter macro. The Intranet Thesaurus has a search engine, can be linked to an electronic new file request form, and best of all can be accessible to all agency employees.



## Ownership Of Government Records

One important lesson the NTAS learnt in the recent vacation of its Winnellie secondary records storage facility was the need to maintain adequate control over ownership of government records.

Following administrative changes that accompany elections or general portfolio reshuffles, some agency functions may be chopped and changed and reallocated to another area or department within government. If this has happened a number of times (as was the case with some of the records that were previously stored at Winnellie for many years) it can be difficult convincing agencies that certain categories of records they had no hand in creating are actually now their responsibility - including responsibility for paying storage costs!

The NTAS is issuing guidelines to agencies to highlight recordkeeping requirements following such changes.

For further details, please contact the Records Retention & Standards Coordinator, Barry Garside.

## New Corporate Thesaurus Version Released

At long last, the updated version (Version 2) of the NT Government Corporate Thesaurus of Administrative Terms is being rolled out to NT Government agencies.

The work is progressing on a one to one basis with Agency Records Managers, incorporating: a technical update to TRIM desktop installations to address issues arising from the TRIM Captura upgrade; installation of new thesaurus formatter software; and on the job training in thesaurus amendment and the production of thesaurus documentation.

Importantly, the new version of the thesaurus includes new terminology intended to achieve the easy classification, titling and disposal of personnel records that have traditionally not been managed through agency records management units. Other changes consist chiefly of minor corrections, including improvements to scope notes and new linkages between terms.

For further information please contact Beth Moloney, Records Policy & Training Coordinator, Northern Territory Archives Service.

# TRIM SYSTEM MANAGEMENT



L - R Celina Hodge, Jeanette Collins and Simon Rice.

## TRIM Version Upgrade

The upgrade of TRIM to Captura and the underlying database (DB2 Universal Database) commenced in February 2001 with the last agency being upgraded on the 10 May 2001. The Captura upgrade encompassed 31 NT Government agency TRIM databases with the inclusion of Darwin Port Corporation into the whole of Northern Territory Government's recordkeeping solution. The major challenge for the Project Team was the upgrade of around 1200 desktops in agencies across the Northern Territory (Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs and Nhulunbuy) with varying technical environments (Windows NT, Windows 95/98 and Metaframe).

The successful completion of the Project can be attributed to the dedication and professionalism of the Project Team:

Greg Coleman, Director, NT Archives Service. Project Sponsor;

Jeanette Collins, System Manager, NT Archives Service, Project Manager

Celina Hodge, TRIM System Support Officer, NT Archives Service. User liaison and support, provided assistance to the Project Manager.

Simon Rice, IBM/CSM, Specialist Technical Resource. Solution advice and development of desktop installation kits for agency

Captura rollout.

Wojtek Stanczew, DCIS/ITMS. Specialist Technical Resource. Quality Assurance of documents developed for the technical implementation of the solution in agencies. Key resource for coordinating the technical rollout in agencies and liaison with the support people in agencies.

Oscar Parian, DCIS/ITMS. Specialist Technical Resource. Upgraded all agency TRIM databases to DB2 Universal Database V7 and ensured all backup and recovery procedures were updated

and tested.

Charlie Rennie, IBM, Technical Advice. Provided strategic advice to the Project Team on the solution and any implementation issues/problems encountered.

The project would not have been as successful without the support and cooperation of the TRIM System Administrators in agencies who were responsible for planning, with the IT Support staff in the agency, the desktop rollout.

## IT Outsourcing and TRIM/Content Manager

With the onset of the outsourcing of IT services, particularly the agencies desktop and server support, a number of Service Level Agreements (SLA) are being negotiated between the Northern Territory Archives Service and service providers and the NT Government Agencies and Service providers, to ensure that the application TRIM/Content Manager is properly managed. The transition phase for the handover of these services to the successful Tenderer (Computer Science Corporation) commenced on 1 July 2001. The NT Archives Service has been working with affected agencies to ensure that an appropriate SLA regime is in place for the ongoing management of the Government's

recordkeeping solution

## Records Systems Projects Update

Whilst the Captura upgrade was progressing we were involved in the planning of some agency funded projects:

**Webdrawer** - The implementation of Captura has enabled agencies to consider the web interface to TRIM for enquiry users. The NT Power and Water Authority were the first agency to set up this access for users to their Agency's TRIM database. Some other agencies are well progressed in their planning for the implementation of Webdrawer

**Electronic Document and Records Management (EDRM)** - Two Agency funded Projects have been approved and have commenced.

- A. Department of Transport and Works - EDRM Pilot. The Pilot is progressing with a small Unit in the department. Pending the outcome of the Pilot, full EDRM may be implemented throughout the agency.
- B. Department of Corporate and Information Services - Territory Health Services Human Resource (HR) Records. This project has commenced and includes the establishment of a new whole-of-government corporate TRIM database. The project involves records conversions from a system previously used and the importing of imaged records into the TRIM database. The database will have the potential to manage all NT Government Agency's HR records etc. pending the success of this project.

Both projects utilise the governments recordkeeping solution - TOWER's TRIM and IBM's Content Manager (as the electronic object store).

For further information, please contact the System Manager, Jeanette Collins or the System Support Officer, Celina Hodge.



TOWER  
SOFTWARE

October 2001



## Spotlight on.....Pastoral Industry in the Northern Territory

Pastoralism has often been cited as one of the great industries of the Northern Territory. It has certainly also been an important part of the Northern Territory's identity. The mid 1860s to 1895 was a time of large scale pastoral settlement and development in the Northern Territory. Immense runs were taken up, huge sums of money invested and hundreds and thousands of sheep, cattle and horses were overlanded to stock the new properties.

For Aboriginal people this development was often a story of invasion, dispossession and exploitation. For the pastoralists in the early stages it was often a story

of physical and financial hardship, tremendous isolation, poor country, scarce white labour, small local market, lack of infrastructure, stock diseases and uneasy relationships with the Aboriginal people on whose land they now occupied. Ironically Aborigines became an indispensable component of the Northern Territory pastoral industry until the introduction of equal wages in the late 1960s and the introduction of aerial mustering when numbers rapidly fell.

Overall it has largely been a story of constant boom and bust and in the process, changing from the packhorse era to road trains and beef roads, aerial mustering and two-way radio

and satellite communications.

Our *List of holdings relating to the pastoral industry in the Northern Territory* shows that government, non-government and to a larger extent personal collections including oral histories are well represented. They provide a wealth of information to help paint a picture of what life was like for pastoralists and Aboriginal people at the pastoral frontier in the Northern Territory.

This list of holdings is available on our web site and in our search room.

Examples of some of these records are given on the following three pages.

## ORAL HISTORY - MIRIAM HAGAN

NTRS 226, TS 569

Miriam was born in Katherine in 1940. In this interview which describes her interesting and full life, she talks about her grandfather, Timothy O'Shea, her mother, Mary O'Shea, her father, Alfred Ulyatt, who was born in 1903, and took up Muckaty station, which is about one hundred and fifty kilometres north of Tennant Creek, in 1939.

Miriam describes the many aspects of her life on the station from childhood to 1989.

*The following extract describes how as a child Miriam and her siblings assisted with station work from a very early age.*

So how old were you when you first got involved in rounding up cattle and branding them?

I was about eight years old - seven or eight. Dad brought them in 1945, so 1946/47 - '47/'48 onwards, we used to help our father - Pat and I. And sometimes it would involve going out with packhorses and spare horses, camping out three or four days. And Dad built a little yard here and a little yard there, and found out where all the waterholes were. The cattle mainly used to congregate on these waterholes,

but they used to get very crafty and cagey about being rounded up, so a lot of the mustering was done at full speed.

In 1946/47 he got a couple of part-time Aboriginal men who used to come and help him, so between the four or five of us, we used to go out and manage to round them up. A few occasions, before Dad built this little yard at a place we have called Koolalungu, we used to walk them into the government bore here at Muckaty bore - old Muckaty bore; the big yards were in operation there for the drovers, and we used to walk them in. And quite often we'd get in there about nine or ten o'clock at night. And kids, being very young and used to bedtime around eight o'clock, we used to start nodding off on horseback [laughter] and had all sorts of problems. But it was a good experience, I guess.

*This extract gives us an insight into the difficulties faced by women trying to feed their families without the convenience of refrigeration and running water.*

...we had a very good kitchen, which was just adjacent to the homestead house.

And what sort of cooking stove did you have there?

We had a little Metters wood stove. And the kitchen was a big airy kitchen. It had two high windows and two access doors, and a big concrete floor - built up probably about thirty centimetres off the ground level - and a great big scrub deal table with a couple of work benches.

And in 1948, perhaps one of the most important purchases of our lives was a little kerosene fridge - refrigerator. Before that, Mum had never had a fridge, and we used to just - we never had perishable food, and any other food we just kept in a flywire kind of safe construction.

We used to always have cold water because we had a big urn, like a big milk urn, with a tap at the bottom. Dad had built a big charcoal case to surround it. It had charcoal and wire mesh and he built this big square frame around it and then we'd fill the thing up with water and occasionally throw a bucket of water over the charcoal, and with the breeze blowing through it - we used to have it just outside - we always had very cold water, and that was good.

The flies were always a problem, so everything had to be put in meat safes and flywire safes, things like that.



## Spotlight on.....Pastoral Industry in the Northern Territory

### ORAL HISTORY - JUDITH ROBINSON

NTRS 226, TS 667

Judith was born in 1931, a descendant of the Nicker family who were pioneer Centralians. Judith's early years were spent with relatives at Undooyla station, and in Alice Springs at three different schools. In this interview she describes these experiences and growing up in wartime Alice Springs, as well as going bush with her father to bore-drilling camps, life as teenager when her parents were establishing Ooratippra station and later her life as an artist.

*In this extract we are introduced to life on Ooratippra station in the late 1940s.*

Father had by then taken up Ooratippra because Mum had grown up of course at Ryan's Well and she'd also spent a lot of time at Undooyla. And she'd married Rex and by the time he got it, had given away the mining and got onto drilling - she had become quite sick of travelling around the bush with drilling rigs and mining camps. And of course she wanted to get back on the land, so they managed to take up Ooratippra.

By then I was about sixteen or seventeen, and I came home just before I turned eighteen in time to go with them to bring the first mob of cattle onto the property. I think we picked up about eight hundred breeders at Aileron or Ti Tree - Aileron I think - and we'd picked up another few hundred along the way at another property, from Ted Dixon - a few hundred heifers. *(in another section of the transcript there are more details of this droving trip describing several hair raising and humorous incidents)*

Nowadays I look back and think that was

one of the highlights of my life, that big droving trip; but in the middle of that droving trip it wasn't a highlight at all. You went days and days without access to enough water to have a bath. It was a winter trip and it was a wet winter. You ate a lot of dust. You suffered a lot of sweat blisters. You got very saddle-sore. You did a lot of walking. You never never enjoyed a full night's sleep because you had to turn out to do your watch or the cattle would rush. Every day is a new day - a whole new chapter of incidents.

But now I'm sorry that my children never had the opportunity of doing a droving trip or involving themselves in those events. They never had - they never saw the real outback. They're all - I mean my daughter at the moment is obviously planning her camel and wagon trips - going to be away six months with the children. So she's going to know what its all about. But its sad that these events that - its not available to children these days - to young teenagers, because by the time you finished a trip like that, you do begin to realise that there's really nothing you can't cope with. ...

#### **Could you elaborate on that kind of work that was needed to establish the station?**

In those days - fortunately we didn't have the covenant to meet, which is a bit of a problem for people starting now. Nowadays you have to more or less start out with a homestead. We didn't. We lived in the bough sheds. We had to go away and bring our own cattle onto the property - that was before Kurt

Johannsen's big cattle transports - it was just on the edge of that time. Once we brought the cattle onto the property, we had to track-ride because we didn't have fences, which meant that every day we had to be riding outside the tracks of all the stock that we had on the place, which meant south-east, because you know cattle always walk into the prevailing wind.

We had no refrigeration, but we had goats. Every second or third day we had to kill a goat to provide meat for the Aboriginals and ourselves. That was about as long as we could keep them without refrigeration. I reached the point where I could skin and gut a goat in six minutes, because it was sort of an ongoing job. Whoever was available had to go up and kill a goat. We also milked our own goats and we made our butter - goats' milk butter and goats' milk. We had a little bit of a vegetable patch. It had to be away from the bore and the trough, so we had to roll forty-four gallon drums of water up every night for Mum's vegetable patch, which was not an easy job.

#### **What sort of vegies were you growing?**

Cabbages and lettuce and tomato and beans - things that were fairly quick to grow and would grow between seasons. She didn't always have a lot of luck because frequently the goats got in. There were grubs and grasshoppers. It was a continual fight. She was always throwing soapy water over them for some reason. I wasn't very interested in gardening at that point.



NTRS 341, No 53, Carl. E. Schultz collection, Horseshoe Bend New Well.



NTRS 1744, No 21 Jack Roden collection, killing, cutting and dressing meat at Victoria River Downs.

## Spotlight on.....Pastoral Industry in the Northern Territory

The J.S.White Collection, NTRS 370, consists of correspondence, press cuttings, diaries and a photograph album concerning the White family and Brunette Downs Station from 1915 to 1963.

On June 23, 1953, the Brunette Downs Station hosted the inaugural Show and Sale of Stud Shorthorn Bulls. This event

was organised by the Shorthorn Society of Australia in conjunction with the Australian National Airways.

Cattle and people were flown in from Queensland and from as far away as Victoria and New South Wales. A race meeting and rodeo were also part of the event and a marvellous photo album of 113 photos

provides us with a wonderful record of all these events.

The items shown here are some examples of photos from the photo album, the cover of the Show and Sale catalogue/programme and a Certificate of Registration of distinctive brand and earmark for Brunette Downs cattle and horses.



Bristols on the Brunette Strip (photo No 25, box 1)



(box 1)



Bulls travelled in canvas partitions and were not in any way concerned with their flight. (photo No 38, box 1)



(photo No 33, box 1)



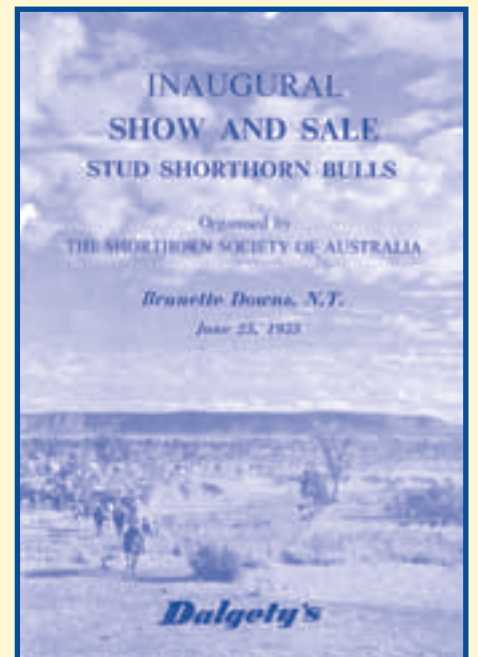
(photo No 81, box 1)



John Douglas of the Australian Broadcasting Commission with Horace, one of the Brunette stockmen (photo No 108, box 1)



(box 1, Correspondence 1919 - 1927)



(box 2, further papers)

## VACATING THE NT GOVERNMENT'S SECONDARY STORAGE FACILITY

Many thanks go to the numerous agencies who assisted with the vacation of the former NTAS secondary records store at Winnellie. Records that were stored at the Winnellie facility have either been transferred to the Darwin contractor (Pickfords), or evaluated in accordance with existing disposal schedules and, where permissible, destroyed. The exercise was a salutary lesson in what happens when records are merely stored rather than appraised and then suitably disposed of (stored at archives, secondary storage or destroyed).

Now that the storage of secondary NT Government records has been outsourced to the private sector – to Pickfords Records & Information Management in Darwin and Centralian Records Management in Alice Springs – the cost of storing records has been realised by those in agencies who have their fingers, ever firmly these days, on the purse strings.

The cost of maintaining the Winnellie facility was borne by the NT Government but few agencies realised this. Now that individual

agencies have taken responsibility for their secondary records – including cost – they are beginning to realise the necessity of full and adequate disposal schedule coverage for their records – why pay money to store records that could have been destroyed years ago?

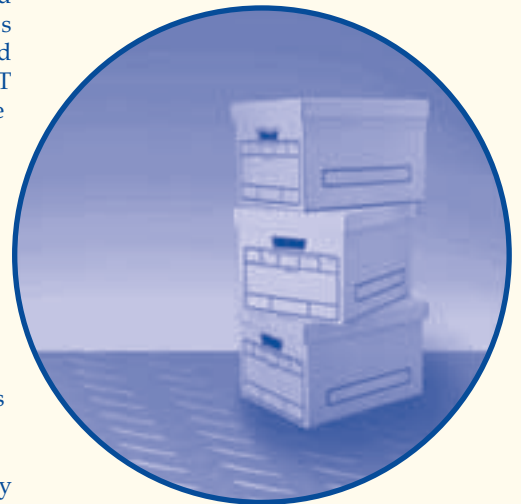
This is the practical aspect to Records Policy RM 10, Records Retention and Disposal, which is one of the policies the NTAS has issued for effective and accountable recordkeeping in the NT Government (available on our website at <http://www.nt.gov.au/nta> follow Government Recordkeeping – Records Policies, Procedures and Guidelines).

The implementation of a disposal regime also improves the control an agency has over its records. It assists in identifying what is really important for business, accountability, legal or ultimately historical reasons, and facilitates easier access by getting rid of the chaff.

Once again, a big thank you to all agency

staff who assisted in this upheaval. A major benefit is that there are now more people within agencies who know what disposal schedules are and are trained to use them.

For more information please contact the Records Retention & Standards Coordinator, Barry Garside.



## Aboriginal Family Research

*Aboriginal Advisory Group - Joint Newsletter*

The two government archives in the Northern Territory, the Northern Territory Archives Service (NTAS) and the National Archives of Australia (NAA) have written agreements that make access to records easier for Aboriginal people (or their agents) who need to establish linkages to family and country because of past separation policies.

Both of these archives have established an Aboriginal Advisory Group to administer their respective agreements and have also recently begun producing a newsletter to

keep people in touch with matters relating to the groups and Aboriginal family research.

*Aboriginal Advisory Group*

The Aboriginal Advisory Group on Access to Northern Territory Government Records held its last meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2001 in Alice Springs. The meeting was held jointly with the Aboriginal Advisory Group for the National Archives.

A key issue addressed at the meeting was the provision of research facilities at the Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages in Alice Springs and Darwin for accredited

community researchers. A project for indexing Territory Government records of use for stolen generations research was also proposed.

The Advisory Group convened a workshop on the following day at the Batchelor Institute campus in Alice Springs. Phyllis Williams from the National Archives and Greg Coleman from the NT Archives Service spoke about their respective government agreements with the Aboriginal community and how to access archives and records for researching their families. Over twenty people attended the workshop and there was lots of discussion and questions answered about researching their families.

A similar workshop was held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2001 in Darwin.

Please contact Cathy Flint or Greg Coleman at the NT Archives Service for further information about Aboriginal research and the *Protocol for Access to Northern Territory Government Records by Aboriginal People Researching their Families*.



## WHO'S WHO

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## RESEARCH IN PROGRESS:

As usual, the range of research projects undertaken by researchers using NT Archive's Collections is marvellously varied and the projects listed below are just a few examples of some that have been undertaken over the last few months.

'General history of the Northern Territory', as it related to the rest of the continent / *Professor Geoffrey Bolton*, in collaboration with *Bill Bunbury*.

Royal Australian Institute of Architects and ACI/Sisilation Scholarship - 'History of Architecture: the Northern Territory Tropics' / *David Bridgman*

'Last surviving member of the Jardine Expedition' / *Margaret Crosbie*

Family history project. Fong Siu Wing (Fong How) who operated the Cavenagh street store Wing Wah Loong in China

Town from 1880 to 1920 and Low Dep who had been a railway worker in the Brock's Creek area and a market gardener in Darwin. *Dr Lyn Fong and Ms Barbara Fong*

Publication on traditional Aboriginal land management / *Bill Gammage*

National Archives of Australia - 'Australian Prime Ministers in the Northern Territory' / *Shauna Hicks*

'Roger Jose and Borroloola, Quest for a Mystery Relative' / *Nicholas Jose, novelist*

PhD topic: History of the Victoria River District. Working title: 'The Hundred Year Frontier' / *Darrell Lewis, ANU*

'Buffalo Culture and Country in the Northern Territory' / *Dr Cathy Robinson*

## STAFF NOTES

We bid farewell to the following staff who have moved on to other pastures in the last couple of months:

- Andrew Pitt, Archivist Information Access, left in May to return to his home state of Tasmania.
- Jenna Lew Fatt, Acting Records Lending Officer, left in April and is now working in the banking world.
- Sue Polden, Oral Records Officer, left in April to pursue her legal career.
- Lisa Keating, Records Lending Officer, was promoted to another position within our department.

We welcome the following staff who have taken up the challenge and joined the team:

- Ryan Rannard started as Acting Archives Retrieval Officer in June.
- Françoise Barr started as Archivist Information Access in June.
- Hank Hofman has commenced with the oral history section on a part-time basis as an audio technician.



Ryan Rannard



Françoise Barr