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A Territory Government initiative



NORTHERN TERRITORY LIBRARY
Celebrating Thirty Years



Celebrating Thirty Years

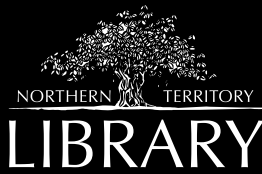
Prepared by Mickey Dewar, Historical Research Consultant
for the Northern Territory Library in conjunction
with staff from the Northern Territory Library.

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Historical material may contain slang or language which is not
considered acceptable or appropriate today. This material has been
included as part of historical reference only as evidence of attitudes
and values of a former era and is not to be seen in any way
as endorsement or indicative of those attitudes or values.



Diary, 13th 5⁰⁰

Sunday 13th Pater sent Mr Mack Rostie in with the Buggie, this morning, to get some things. Mrs Freeman came with her trunk here. Mrs Freeman came with diary to Woolgigie. Mr McRostie started with a horse for a ride. Down and Mr Horn

Monday 14th

Mr Kelsey sent the cricket set up to the school. Pater went out with Charles Black for a ride on the ferry and saw Bill Johnson. Louie came in from Woolgigie to dairy.

Tuesday 15th

none of us went to school. The horses boudah went for the first time. Pater brought two loads of manure. Took a sheet of iron of the shed mother sent. I went to school.

Wednesday 16th

Playing cricket. Mr Dow and Louie called. Pater putting bar to school and met Mr Dow with a horse and met Mr Dow with

H. S. Giles

I am proud to present this publication and I am prouder still of what it represents. It is a physical representation, a symbol, of several broader concepts.

Firstly and most obviously, it is a symbol of the human effort that has led to the creation of this book and the Treasures exhibition; the researching, writing and curating work that Northern Territory Library does so well.

Next, it is a symbol of the Northern Territory Library's thirty years. Thirty years ago the State Reference Library opened its doors and declared its mission to collect, preserve and disseminate the documentary history of the Territory. This mission continues to drive the Northern Territory Library, today and every day. The Northern Territory Library also aims to foster and encourage the use of its collections by providing programs for literacy and lifelong learning.

However, this publication has a greater significance as a symbol of the 'newness' of the Northern Territory. Most of the Treasures are more than thirty years old, but they exist in our collections as records of the recent past and will be preserved until they become records of the distant past.

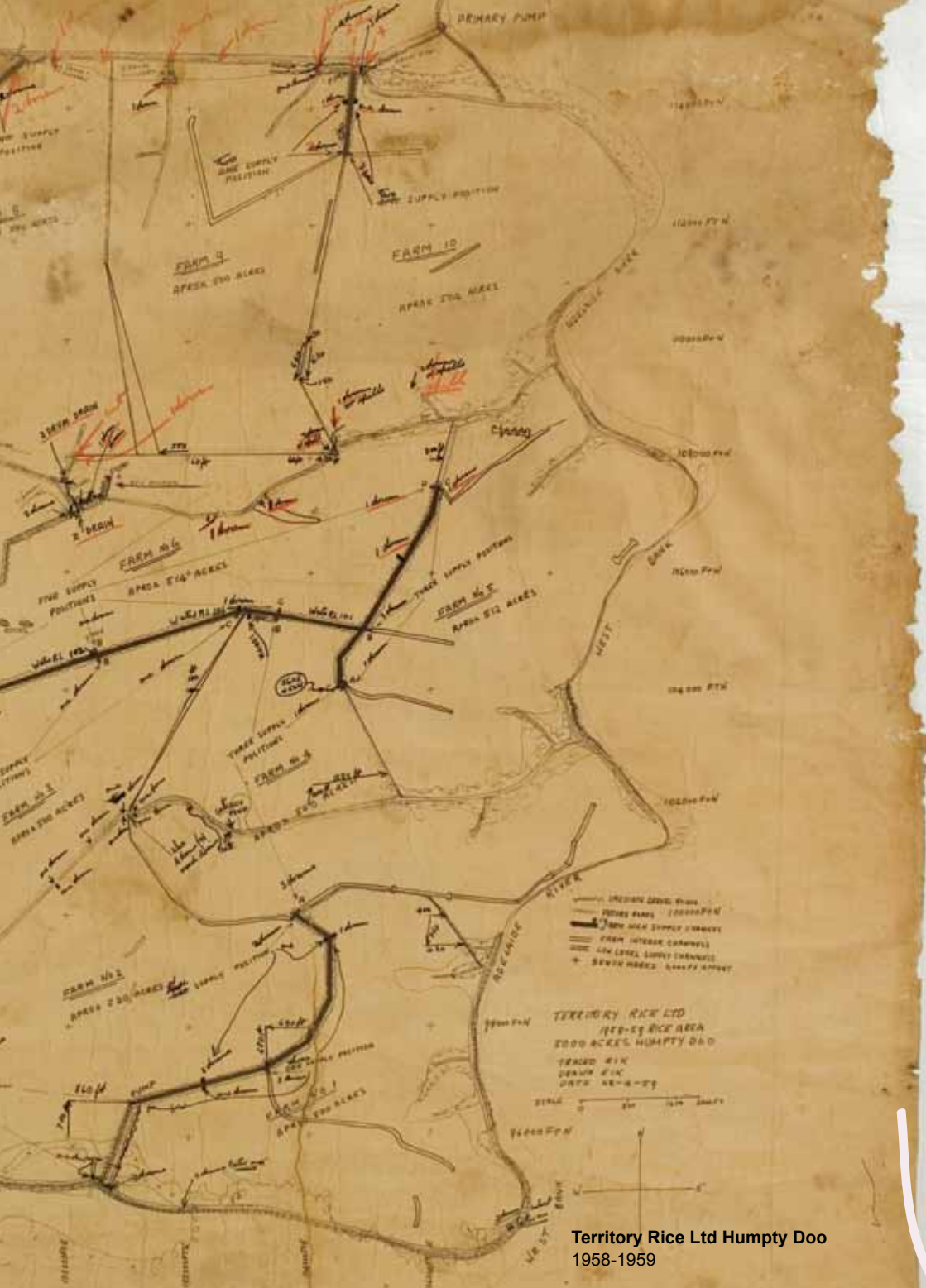
The Treasures themselves should be celebrated for what they are - elements in the ongoing story of the Territory. The fact of their inclusion in a cultural institution is also worthy of celebration. That they have been identified as important, collected, preserved, catalogued, digitised and shared is definitely worth celebrating. We hope it sets a precedent for the next generation of librarians to revisit in ten, twenty, thirty, one hundred years. Libraries are about access and discovery, and the digital age is broadening the scope of where, when and how library collections can be accessed.

Libraries are responsive to societies in a way that truly reflects who we are, where we've been and where we're going. Libraries use books and documents as a living record of the past and the present, in order to inform the future.

Jo McGill

Director, Northern Territory Library and Northern Territory Archives Service
Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport
Northern Territory Government





Territory Rice Ltd Humpty Doo
1958-1959

The Northern Territory Library is quite simply, a model library. It is a library that helps change a life every day. That's why, in 2007, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation honored the library with its Access to Learning Award.

The Northern Territory Library was selected from a record number of Access to Learning Award applicants from 69 countries around the world for its innovative approach to connecting remote Indigenous communities to information and knowledge through free computer and Internet access.

Recipients of the Access to Learning Award are leaders for libraries around the world, and their projects are widely recognised as best practices for how to deliver meaningful technology services to people especially those who would not otherwise have access to the benefits of technology tools.

Jessica Dorr

Senior Program Officer
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Global Libraries

Congratulations to the Library on reaching thirty years of great service to the Territory. Over many years I've carried out extensive research in Australian and overseas libraries; libraries that furnish the cultural base of civilisation.

The Northern Territory Library has always provided me with a courteous, professional service that matches the best. Without that service and staff knowledge of the NT Library's extensive holdings, I could not have written my Territory history books, or the many articles, conference papers and talks that I have produced during the last thirty years; and the Library has been equally essential to the work of my students over that period. Reference Libraries are the essential guardians and promoters of the knowledge that underpins our society. More power to the Northern Territory Library in carrying out that role so well!

Alan Powell

Emeritus Professor of History, Charles Darwin University
Author of Northern Voyagers: Australia's Monsoon Coast in Maritime History,
Far Country: A Short History of the Northern Territory,
The Shadow's Edge: Australia's Northern War,
The Third Force: Angau's New Guinea War, 1942-46,
War by Stealth: Australians and the Allied Intelligence Bureau, 1942-1945,
Patrician Democrat: The Political Life of Charles Cowper, 1843-1890.





1. Log of HMS Alligator kept by Francis Meynell, midshipman, 1838-1840, manuscript.

Since the seventeenth century, the Dutch had exercised a highly lucrative trading monopoly in Southeast Asia, the envy of other colonial powers. By the first half of the nineteenth century, the British had established Singapore and Hong Kong, and looked to set up another trading base in northern Australia as a means to attract some of the wealth of the region.

In all, the British made three successive attempts: Fort Dundas on Melville Island, Fort Wellington at Raffles Bay and the Victoria Settlement at Port Essington, all located on the coast of the modern-day Northern Territory.

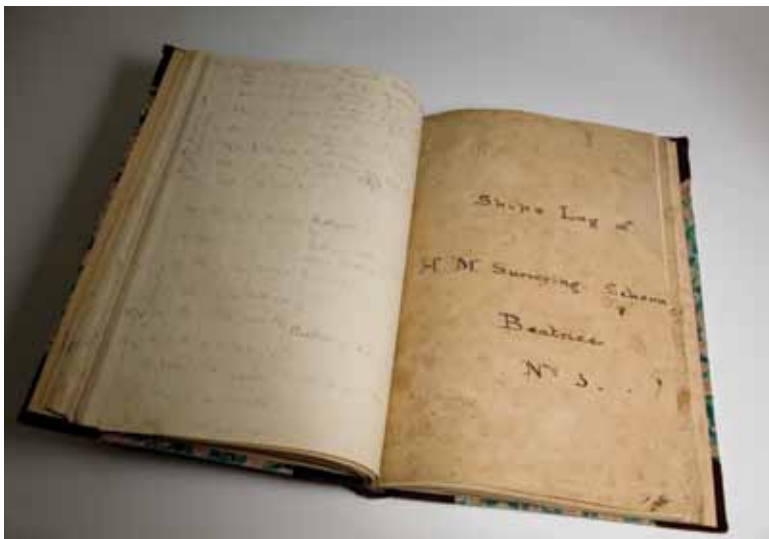
In March 1838, the HMS Alligator set sail from Plymouth with stores and crew, as well as a detachment of Royal Marines under the command of Captain John McArthur. In South Australia the Alligator took on further passengers, including the wives and children of some of the marines. The Alligator reached Port Essington in October of that year.

Of the 45 passengers who left Britain on the Alligator, only 29 returned home safely. Four men died and 12 were invalided-out. The Alligator avoided the cyclone in 1839 that destroyed the small community at Port Essington – all things considered, it proved to be a lucky ship.

Victoria did not become another Singapore. Port Essington, in common with the other nineteenth century British attempts at settlement in north Australia, was abandoned in 1849 when trade failed to materialise.

The ship's log, in faded Indian ink, detailing the voyages to and from the north, illustrates both the hopes and realities faced by the British in establishing a trading and strategic base in north Australia.





2. Log of the Surveying Schooner Beatrice by John Hutchison, 1864, manuscript.

The HMS Beatrice was a two-masted wooden schooner built in 1860 at Newhaven in Sussex. In 1862 she sailed for Australia under the command of Captain F Howard. Between 1862 and 1873 she surveyed close to 3,000 kilometres of coastline, mainly in north Australia. In 1864, the Beatrice was designated the supply ship for the first South Australian settlement in its Northern Territory.

Escape Cliffs, at the mouth of the Adelaide River, was the site chosen for the settlement by Lieutenant Colonel Boyle Travis Finnis in 1864. The settlement, officially called Palmerston, was to prove short-lived. Finnis was recalled to Adelaide and the settlement abandoned in 1867.

Handwritten by the second in command on the Beatrice, John Hutchison, this account covers the period 9 April to 14 December 1864. The log reports regular engagement with the Aboriginal people. In June, near Whitestone Billabong or Mulwayi, sixteen tall strong Aboriginal men came on board the Beatrice and 'were soon dancing jigs and polkas with the men'. Surveyors on the ship recorded the Aboriginal names for places on the Adelaide River that are still in use today.

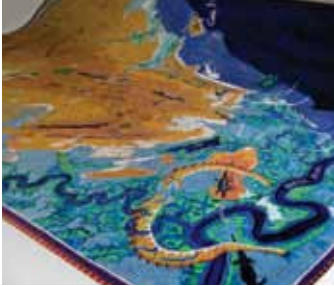
Finnis' decision to site the northern capital at Escape Cliffs was not without dissenters. Many preferred a site at Port Darwin some 75 kilometres away. Finnis' brutal policy against the Aboriginal people exacerbated tensions within the community and argument and disputation characterised internal relationships.

The survey log of the Beatrice, provides information about the Escape Cliffs settlement, but also details the wider exploration that would support the final and successful attempt at permanent settlement, Darwin.



The Treasures

3. Marranbala Country, Simon Normand, 2009, art maps.



Artist and author Simon Normand first came to Ngukurr in Arnhem Land in 1996. In the course of his friendship with the Marra people, the traditional Aboriginal owners of the area, Normand was told the history of their places and their lives. Norman used the information as a way of recording some of the traditions of the Marra people. 'I believe,' he wrote, 'Everyone treasures an old map. Since 1996, the last time the Mermaid story was sung in Ngukurr, I have been collecting, sorting and discarding items to complete a map...'

More than fifty different individuals and families contributed to the information contained in these maps as well as his co-author of the accompanying book, Maureen Marrangulu Thompson. Traditional knowledge, history, exploration, spirituality, belief and spatial construction, map the past and present and form a comprehensive record of a region and the histories of the people who live there. These unique maps document some of the stories and spaces of the region. They offer insights towards a better understanding of the history of the Marra people and of the events that have shaped their lives and community over time.

4. Cost Analysis of Pisé Dwelling Mussen, Mackay & Potter, 1953, monograph.



Darwin in the post-war period enjoyed unprecedented growth as the town's population quadrupled between 1947 and 1957 from about 2500 to 10 000. A Northern Territory Housing Commission would not be established until 1959 but in the meantime, the Commonwealth Government came under immense pressure to solve Darwin's accommodation crisis.

The Department of Works and Housing tried prefabricated housing as a quick solution and

popular designs included the Tropical Type A and the Hawksley. Conventionally built houses were more expensive to build but were considered cooler and more pleasant to live in. This decade saw the start of the now-famous C and D series housing, distinguished by their elevation on piers, with internal and external walls made up of banks of louvre galleries to facilitate air flow.

These documents illustrate another, less well known, alternative for Darwin housing in the detailed 1952 hand-drawn report by Melbourne based architects and engineers, Mussen, Mackay and Potter. They provide a project cost analysis for the construction of pisé and aluminium dwellings in the Northern Territory. In addition to plans and drawings, the report also included information about wage and transport costs for Darwin.

Antbed had traditionally been used in the Territory for flooring and tennis court surfaces but less commonly for house construction. It is not known if any of these houses were actually built, but the plans and costings of the various designs offer a tantalising glimpse of a different architectural direction for Darwin.



5. Ryko Collection, Edward Reichenbach, 1900s, postcards.

Edward Frederick Reichenbach, son of German immigrants Ludwig Carl Reichenbach and Alma Johanna, was born at Woorak, near Nhill in Victoria in 1892. 'Ryko', the name he was universally known by, became famous for his bicycle travel throughout the Territory, and the photographic records of his journeys.

Ryko arrived in Darwin in early 1915 having come overland by bicycle from Adelaide and a contemporary recalled:

Ryko is one of the most energetic and capable men I know. I first met him at Pine Creek in August, 1914, when he was engaged in lowering the overland bicycle record across Australia from Adelaide to Darwin ... He is a photographer and turns out fine work. The next time I met him was at the latter end of 1916 ... In Darwin he opened a shop in Cavanagh [sic] Street as a Photographer. He made frequent trips into the country ... cycling hundreds of miles across country carrying his camera and necessaries with him. He thought nothing of take trips of 600 or 700 miles [more than 1,000 km].

Ryko's habits of travel and photography during this period of the First World War brought him under suspicion from Australian Intelligence authorities who concluded that he was a spy. Authorities found it particularly relevant that he arrived in Darwin just after another famous photographer Paul Foelsche who was of German extraction had died. Despite the paranoia about German agents infiltrating the Northern Territory, in Ryko's case at least, the fears were rapidly recognised as groundless.

The personal summation of his achievements is recorded on each of his postcards: Ryko 'The N.T. Out-Door Photographer' with 'over 2500 rare photographic postcards of Australian tropical remote and native life to select from.' Nearly a century later his postcard collection remains a priceless legacy of Territory and photographic history.



6. Fancy Dress Ball Dance Program, Palmerston Town Hall, 1895, program.

In the 1890s, the social life in the town of Palmerston was a hierarchy constructed around racial identity, position and work, probably in that order. At the apex was the Government Resident followed by the international and then overland telegraph staff, other senior government officials, and finally the traders and retailers. Palmerston high society was small but select.

That said, the town of Palmerston was sprawling, cosmopolitan and multicultural. Its residents included Indian, Sri Lankan, Malaysian, Southeast Asian, Pacific Islander and Japanese townsfolk who together with the large numbers of Chinese and Aboriginal people made up the majority of the population of the wider town. Probably none of these would have been welcome at this Fancy Dress Ball, except perhaps as servants or wait staff. Nonetheless, reports of the period suggest that then as now, most of the people of Palmerston knew how to have a good time one way or the other.

But on this occasion, even the Government Resident was dazzled by the display and the dancing continued until the small hours. Justice Charles Dashwood, resplendent as William Tell, declared *'his surprise at seeing so fine a spectacle'*. *Despite the hot September night, a jolly time was had by all:*

With the solitary exception that the night was extremely sultry, the most captious critic could hardly find fault with the Fancy Dress Ball which took place on Wednesday night under the auspices of the Dramatic Club. Mr Price had all his arrangements perfect as usual, and the Hall was a picture of colour and tasteful adornment...

The old Palmerston Town Hall lies in ruins, destroyed in 1974 by Cyclone Tracy, but today preserved as memorial to commemorate the disaster. This rare piece of nineteenth century ephemera offers us a narrow portal revealing some of the ghosts of a glorious and romantic past who still dance in the space.

The Treasures

7. The Northern Standard, Vol.1, no.1 (first issue), 1921, newspaper.



In Darwin in February 1921, the North Australian Workers Union began its own newspaper, the Northern Standard. Don McKinnon was the printer and publisher and Fred Thompson, formerly of the Northern Territory Times and Gazette, became editor. For more than a decade the Times and the Northern Standard ran side by side as bitter rivals. Between the years 1921 to 1932 it is possible to read accounts of the same events from both sides of politics.

In 1932, owners of the Standard took over the Times, which became defunct leaving the Standard as the only Territory newspaper until 1941. During the 1930s, the Territory, and particularly Darwin, became synonymous with radical Communism and extreme union activity. In the military build up to the Pacific War, the Standard faced an unlikely opposition. In October 1941, the Army News began publishing a weekly newspaper in Darwin. When the city was bombed on 19 February 1942, the Northern Standard ceased publication and the Army News filled the gap as the only Darwin newspaper until peacetime.

In June 1946, the Standard renewed publication and continued until its closure in early 1955. It only lasted two years against the newcomer, the Northern Territory News.

This first issue of the Northern Standard is a poignant reminder of Darwin's long-forgotten radical past where crusading editors and newspaper-owners faced gaol sentences and ran passionate campaigns for left-wing causes.



8. The Bushman's First Aid, Mervyn J. Holmes, 1913, monograph.

In the nineteenth and early twentieth century, the possibility of successfully maintaining the health of white men in the tropics was a matter of serious scientific debate. Much Northern Territory literature of the time included advice about how best to maintain health while living north of the Tropic of Capricorn.

The reality of sustained manual work in extremely isolated areas, where professional medical assistance was unavailable, meant that bushfolk had to be resilient or die. They had to be able to look after their own physical needs, which in an emergency could include setting broken bones, reducing high fever or extracting teeth.

Basic medicines were supplied in early bush medical kits, along with a small manual that advised on their use. The advice in these manuals, more than the physical contents of the kits, gave people the confidence to manage sickness and injuries that in normal circumstances should have required professional intervention. By the 1930s, pedal radio and the Royal Flying Doctor Service, with its 'Mantle of Safety' offered the men and women living in remote communities greater hope of professional medical assistance.

But the Bushman's First Aid, which continued to be updated and published throughout the first half of the twentieth century, was often the first and sometimes the last resort in case of accident, illness or emergency in the outback.



9. Stephen Calder's flying log book (Second World War) and medals, 1939-1945, manuscript and medals.



Stephen Calder

In 1916, Stephen Edward Calder was born in Toorak, Melbourne. He was educated at Melbourne Grammar School. As a young man he played all sports well, excelling at tennis, and enlisting in the Citizen Military Force (CMF). By the mid-1930s he worked for the English Scottish and Australasian Chartered Bank.

At this time, Calder made two friends who would be instrumental in shaping the way his life unfolded, Eddie Connellan and Damien Miller. Calder and Miller learned to fly and they went to Alice Springs to join Connellan's new airline venture.

War broke out and both Calder and Miller joined the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). Calder was part of the Empire Air Training Scheme and joined the 182 Squadron and later appointed to the 247 Squadron. In all, he flew more than 100 missions over 22 months and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC).

Nicknamed 'Silent Sam', this pioneer aviator and former war hero was a founding father of the Country Liberal Party and Member for the Northern Territory in the House of Representatives. Calder famously crossed the floor in 1974 to vote to secure Senate representation in the Territory.

Aviation, public office and a passionate commitment to the Territory were features of Calder's public life. His war record and medals bear testimony to his bravery and military service which were the foundation for his later career as parliamentarian.

10. Access to Learning Award: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, 2007, plaque.

In 2004, the Northern Territory Library launched a program to actively collect, record and preserve the history, language, images and stories of Aboriginal people throughout the remote Northern Territory. They began their work through the public libraries in 22 remote communities.

The Northern Territory Library trains and equips local library staff to assist Indigenous people to build comprehensive and inclusive digital archives of their cultural material.

Armed with cameras and computers, voice and video recorders, scanners and printers, community members are engaged in a dynamic program to capture old and contemporary art, maps, songs, photos, and lessons in their local language. They film events and record interviews and traditional practices. Then they store the digital content with user-friendly software called Our Story.

In 2007, this work was recognised by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, winning the Global Libraries Access to Learning Award. Prize money of US\$1 million was awarded to Northern Territory Library.

This international award recognises the role played by the Northern Territory Library as the leading cultural institution for preservation and collection of the history and culture of all communities, and for its commitment to Indigenous training programs in the regions.



Presentation of the Access to Learning Award, during the World Library and Information Congress International Federation of Library Associations' General Conference, 21 August 2007, in Durban, South Africa.



Left to right: Martha Choe, Director of the Global Libraries Program, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Jo McGill, Director, Northern Territory Library; Jacqueline Bourke, Community Library Officer, Pirlangimpi Library and Knowledge Centre, Tiwi Islands; and Cate Richmond, Assistant Director, Public Libraries and Knowledge Centres, Northern Territory Library.

The Treasures

11. Federal Parliamentary Party Visit, 1912, photograph album.



On 1 January 1911, the Commonwealth officially took over control of the Northern Territory, which, since 1863 had been administered by South Australia.

The takeover marked a short but intense period of Commonwealth interest in the region. Former Chair of Melbourne University's Veterinary Pathology Department, Dr John Gilruth was appointed to the new position of Administrator replacing the former South Australian position of Government Resident.

Professor Baldwin Spencer, also from Melbourne, was made Protector of Aborigines, and he formulated the policy which segregated Aboriginal people from towns and placed Aboriginal children, who had non-Aboriginal fathers, into institutional care.

The Commonwealth was most enthusiastic about the Territory's mining, agricultural and pastoral potential, characterising the failures of the past as 47 years of South Australian economic stagnation.

It was a brief period of optimism. Within two years the First World War would begin. In less than a decade Gilruth himself would be forced to leave after prolonged conflict with unions and the general populace over policy and directions for the Territory. During the 1920s, the economic hopes for the Top End would slowly fade soon to be followed by the full onset of the Great Depression.

But this was all to be in the future. In 1912 the Commonwealth saw the potential of the Northern Territory as limitless. This album is emblematic; part photographic record of outback adventurers in pith helmets and part prospectus for southern investors.

12. NT Times Almanac & Directory for 1886, V.L. Solomon, 1886, monograph.



In 1885 Vaiben Louis Solomon purchased the Northern Territory Times and Gazette which he also edited until he sold the paper in 1890. As well as the Times, Solomon also produced an annual almanac, or yearbook, detailing the vital statistics of the Northern Territory.

Solomon was a great entrepreneur and promoter of the Territory as well as Palmerston's most popular resident. When the Territory gained political representation in the South Australian Parliament in 1890, Solomon received

the most votes. Following his defeat of the Kingston government he led South Australia's shortest-lived government, 1-8 December 1899.

During the first decades of the South Australian administration of the Northern Territory the region was viewed mainly for its economic potential. In 1886 hopes were still high. Within twenty years of this publication, South Australia would be negotiating to divest itself of its Northern Territory 'White Elephant'.

But for now, publications such as this one celebrated the Territory's achievements and potential, which seemed limitless.

The Treasures

13. Australia, c.1870, map, hand-drawn.



In 1860 John McDouall Stuart began the first of his three attempts that would eventually lead to the successful transcontinental crossing of the continent. Each foray pushed further north until eventually he reached the coastline of northern Australia in July 1862 at a place that would be named in his honour, Point Stuart. Travelling in a good season on his triumphant return to Adelaide in December, Stuart extolled the fertility of the

country he passed through, christening it Alexandria Land.

Despite his exceptional skill as a bushman and his unique achievements as an explorer, Stuart did not enjoy prosperity or receive enduring recognition. Four years after his return from the successful continental crossing he died in London, unrecognised and impoverished. His own name for the Territory soon became symbolic of the archaic, the useless and the wasted and by 1882 this would be disparaged in the newspaper as:

Our contemporary forgets that our Northern Territory is 'Alexandria,' and that in the future we may take a very prominent, if not a leading position, among the Australian colonies... This is the land for which no representative is thought necessary: a land for which they want a name. Well, let it be called 'No-Man's-Land' or 'Anybody's Land,' or, better still, 'Hap-Hazard-Land!'

This hand-drawn map is a rare example of nineteenth century Australian children's schoolwork. The borders and shading illustrate the geopolitical construction of late colonial Australia and reflect the brief period of use of Stuart's name for the Northern Territory.



14. Diary, Tom Burstow, 1942, manuscript.

Thomas Burstow moved to Darwin in 1940 to work as a draftsman with the Lands Department. When the war began Burstow mapped air to ground bombing ranges and drafted plans for gun placements. He became an Air Raid Precautions (ARP) Warden and witnessed 19 air raids while in Darwin before joining the army as an engineer surveyor.

This handwritten diary begins with the first Japanese bombing raid over Darwin on 19 February 1942 and continues up until 26 March of that year. More than 300 people lost their lives on that first day.

The diary describes the damage to the ships in the harbour, buildings and numbers of people killed, missing or wounded. The diary also documents the capture of the first Japanese prisoner of war on Australian soil.

The air attacks continued over the Northern Territory until November 1943 with more than sixty bombing raids over the Top End. Although the build up to the war in the Pacific and strengthening of Darwin's defenses had been ongoing throughout the previous decade, the events of 19 February 1942 represent a day of loss and devastation that have formed a defining moment in the history of the city, to this day.



15. Goyder stereoscopic images, George Goyder, 1869, photographs.

George Woodroffe Goyder, the Surveyor General of South Australia, is remembered nationally by Goyder's Line, a notional boundary separating land in South Australia in the south, deemed to receive sufficient rainfall to sustain agriculture, and land in the north which was suitable only for light grazing. In the Northern Territory, though, Goyder is remembered as the founder of the modern city of Darwin.

In 1869 he, together with a team of men, was given a task to undertake the surveying of a site for a northern capital and lands beyond. Goyder, a man known for his austerity and efficiency, completed the work in record time, including mapping the town that recognisably shows his design influence today.

For Palmerston, as Darwin was known at that time, Goyder chose the conventional grid pattern. He envisaged a town that looked to the sea. Within a few short years, the submarine cable to Java joining the Overland Telegraph Line from Port Darwin to Adelaide would be operational, linking Australia telegraphically to Europe.

Goyder also surveyed sites beyond the city grid, recognising that more space would be required with population increase. He surveyed the town of Southport, on Middle Arm, and the towns of Daly and Elizabeth, which were never developed.

Darwin's waterfront area today is alive with tourists and locals enjoying the restaurants, accommodation, wave pool and deckchair cinema. It is difficult to reconcile the modern images of activity and urbanity with the faded sepia tones showing a ghostly past of men, tents, bush and buggies, where it all began.

image: Ms Lynette Aitchison, NTL Manager Heritage Services, with stereoscopic viewer





16. Frank Flynn's Ophthalmoscope, 1930-1990, object.

After the war ended Flynn remained in the Territory working on the problem of trachoma. He was appointed adviser to Professor Fred Hollows, when after years of urging, in 1976 the Commonwealth government undertook an official Australia wide survey on trachoma amongst Aborigines. Flynn and Hollows remained good friends until Hollows' death in 1993.

Flynn spent some time in Port Moresby before returning to Darwin in 1977. In his later years, although troubled by failing eyesight, he remained charming company until his death in 2000.

Before Flynn left Darwin for Papua New Guinea, the Northern Territory News editorial noted:

Somehow we believe the place won't be quite the same without the sight of the big-framed one-time footballer, priest, eye specialist, anthropologist and author, moving jovially among crowds at socials – or standing silent, taking in another's problems – or beaming as he tells one of his famous yarns... A good bloke, Frank Flynn.

In his lifetime Flynn received many honours, literally too many to list in this space, for his work as an ophthalmologist, but he was also a popular and successful writer and a spiritual man. His ophthalmoscope reminds us of the man, his life and his great contribution to the people of the Northern Territory.





17. List of Darwin Evacuees after Cyclone Tracy, Department of Social Security Darwin Office, 1974, typed document.

Telephone Directories before and after Cyclone Tracy, 1974-1975, directories.

Tropical Cyclone Tracy tracked over Darwin on Christmas Eve and the next morning townsfolk emerged from the wreckages of houses, caravans and shelters to find the city almost completely destroyed.

The Acting Prime Minister, Dr Jim Cairns, instructed the Director-General of the National Disasters Organisation, Major-General Alan Stretton to oversee disaster relief. Fearing disease and societal breakdown in the wake of Tracy, Stretton advocated a policy to reduce the population of Darwin to 10 500.

He arrived in Darwin on Christmas night and by 31 December nearly 26 000 people had been airlifted south in addition to the 7 000 who left by road.

Reactions to the policy were mixed and many left reluctantly. More than half those evacuated lost heart and did not return.

These fragile, hand annotated documents powerfully illustrate the scale of the operation and point to the pain of those who left but also celebrate the rare and enduring courage of those who were able to remain and those who came back.

A comparison in phone directories for the year before Cyclone Tracy and the year after illustrates the population changes in the city. The 1974 -1975 phone directory was 480 pages. The director issued on 25 January 1975 was only four pages long.



18. Cookbook, Jim Kenna, 1942, manuscript.

The Victoria Rivers region comprises some of the best pastoral lands in the Territory and the names of stations such as Victoria River Downs, Humbert River, Montejinni, Killarney, Delamere, Innisvale, Coolabah, Avergne and Bullo River are synonymous with the history of the pastoral industry.

In the early period of European land take-up, this region was the Territory frontier. The history of contact between white pastoralists and Aborigines in this area was initially marked by conflict as Aboriginal people found themselves in direct competition with cattle and other livestock for natural resources. A police station was established at Timber Creek in 1898. In time, Aboriginal men and women became indispensable to the pastoral industry, doing most of the physical work.

Station meals varied considerably from the 'homestead' where the structure of formal dining was maintained, to the camp cooking for the mustering and droving parties out for weeks at a time.

Jim Kenna, the former boxer with the Jimmy Sharman outback travelling troupe, became a station and camp cook at Avergne. During his time, he compiled a comprehensive cookbook covering every aspect of food preparation in the bush from the killing to the table. Kenna told Camille Fogarty from Timber Creek of his hopes of publishing his cookbook. This handwritten notebook, the first and only draft, is a corpus of the techniques, tricks and recipes of station life.

The Treasures



19. Plan of Old Darwin Hospital, 1970, Lands Survey Branch, map.

The Old Hospital was located on the site of the former Aboriginal Reserve, the Kahlin Compound. In 1941 construction began on the cleared Kahlin site for an 89-bed hospital fronting Lambell Terrace. The new hospital was occupied on 2 February 1942, just in time to be bombed in the first wave of Japanese air raids on 19 February. The hospital came under Army control in March 1942 and remained a military facility until June 1946 when it became the civilian hospital for Darwin.

The population of Darwin continued to grow, reaching 10,000 by the mid-1950s and by 1966 was well over 21,000. The original plans for the Darwin Hospital were based on a population of 4,000, so extensions and modifications to the site became a feature of the post-war period.

The temporary wards and some other site elements were damaged by Cyclone Tracy although the hospital continued operations throughout this time, with staff often working 24 hour shifts and longer. A major repair program was completed in 1977 but the new facility at Casuarina became fully operational on 20 May 1980 and the 'old' Darwin Hospital closed.

These documents illustrate the layout and plans of the Old Darwin Hospital in the most complete form known to exist. The Old Hospital, some have argued, represents a genuine architectural response to the tropical environment and a more appropriate cultural environment for Aboriginal patients.

20. Frank Laver Album, photographer Frank Laver, 1919, photograph album.



Frank Laver's parents immigrated to Australia in the nineteenth century and Frank was one of seven surviving brothers. Young Frank was born in 1869 and educated in Castlemaine, in Victoria. After leaving school he worked for a time as a clerk for the Law Department and later for his brother, Ralph.

In 1887, he joined the East Melbourne Cricket Club. Tall, thin and physically well coordinated, he proved a rapid success as both a bowler and a batsman. In the 1892-93 season he was selected for Victoria and in later years was often captain. He played for Australia and toured England in 1899, 1903-04, 1905 and 1909. He was popular and inspired great loyalty amongst team members.

Frank married Katie Major in 1914 and had two children, a son and daughter. In 1919, Frank, together with his brother Alfred, travelled to the Northern Territory, to visit family properties. A friend, Dr Rolly Pope and surveyor, Horace Trower, accompanied the brothers. Unfortunately Frank became ill during the trip and died in September, soon after his return home to East Melbourne.

Trower assembled this album from the photographs taken by Alf Laver, Rolly Pope and himself on that last journey. The album was presented to the members of the Johnsonian Club of Brisbane: 'as a memento of Frank Laver, a great sportsman, an author and a gentleman'. The album remembers a great sportsman and elite athlete but also provides a unique photographic record of the Territory at this time.



21. Northern Territory Times and Gazette (final issue), 1932, newspaper

The Northern Territory Times and Government Gazette, often called the Times, was the first newspaper printed in Darwin. Publication began in November 1873 and the Times went on to be the major newspaper in the Territory for more than sixty years.

A number of individuals were associated with the paper including its first editor, Richard Wells. Charles Kirkland purchased the Times, together with George Mayhew in 1890, amalgamating it with its smaller rival, the North Australian. Kirkland was responsible for hiring Fred Thompson as editor and during this time fiery campaigns publicised some of the wider social issues of the town and Territory. In particular Thompson used the paper to attack the Gilruth Administration. In 1921 he left the Times to join the more radical Northern Standard.

The Times produced its last paper during Jessie Litchfield's editorship. A writer and political conservative, she edited the paper from 1930 but withdrew in June 1932 when the rival Northern Standard purchased the Times.

Douglas Lockwood wrote of the passing of the Times: *'Anyone who knew its record, must have lamented deeply when what for so long had been a courageous, campaigning newspaper whimpered to a fitful end. The death of a newspaper is always sad, for with it there dies part of the mind and conscience of its community.'*



22. Perriman Photographic Collection, photographer H.L. Perriman, 1921-1941, lantern slides.

'Harry' Perriman was an engineer and missionary, born in New Zealand in 1883. In 1919 he was accepted by the Church Missionary Society (CMS) and in 1921 was instrumental in the building and operation of the Emerald River Mission on Groote Eylandt. He remained in the field until 1941, serving at Groote, Oenpelli, and at Roper River missions as a mechanic and builder.

He was unpopular and struggled to maintain discipline. CMS historian, Keith Cole, described Perriman as a man often frustrated and tormented by inner conflict.

The lives of the missionaries were difficult and harsh. In the pre-World War II period, the Commonwealth Government was content to leave the administration of Aboriginal policy in the Territory to the missions, almost entirely funded through the meagre donations of the Church.

Bill Harney remembered:

Groote Eylandt Mission looms up before me now, the story of people who went out to help the weak, yet, being untrained for that tough job, were as beaten straw in the hands of the people they were out to assist. The same old story – lack of funds....

The lantern slides, are more than just a record of the work of the CMS mission. They also represent the key elements of the sponsorship program that directly funded their work. Governments gave leases of land but funding for the Northern Territory missions came from the church.

Lantern nights were, social occasions, attended by parishioners in southern churches. Viewing projections of the transparencies, they had a first hand opportunity to see the work of the missionaries in Arnhem Land.

The Treasures



23. Letters from Frederick Bradshaw to John Bradshaw, 1904-1905, letters.

Joseph and Frederick Bradshaw came to northern Australia at the end of the nineteenth century. Together with their kinsman, Aeneas Gunn, who was to become famous as the 'Maluka' of Jeannie Gunn's *We of the Never Never*, they established pastoral holdings in northern Kimberley and Victoria River regions. It was Joseph who gave his name to a beautiful and distinctive

Aboriginal rock-art he observed, the Bradshaw style.

Frederick was older by two years. Like Joseph he became interested in exploration and charting of land and waterways. He named a vessel the *Bolwarrah* after one of his parents' properties in Victoria. With the exception of a visit to Melbourne in 1901, after taking up land near Victoria River in 1895, Frederick remained in the Territory.

On Christmas Day 1905, Mounted Constable Kelly from Darwin found Frederick's body, along with three other Europeans also dead, near Cape Scott. Frederick apparently died of spear wounds to the body. Reconstructing events, it appears that Frederick and the others landed ashore in the *Bolwarrah* to find fresh water when an Aboriginal party attacked them. Joseph oversaw the 'burial' of his brother high on a bluff overlooking the Victoria River. Some years later, photographer 'Ryko' would photograph himself next to the coffin weighed down by stones with the caption: *At rest on the 'tomb' Victoria River – Fred Bradshaw.*

The letters here represent some of the last ever communications made by Frederick to his family. They form a detailed and vivid reconstruction of life on *Bradshaw's Run* at the turn of the century.

24. Diary, Harold Giles, 1900-1901, manuscript.



Harold Giles was born in March 1890 at Springvale Station in the Northern Territory, the third of four children. Four years after Harold's birth the family moved to Bonrook Station homestead just out of Pine Creek.

This diary is a childhood account of life in the Northern Territory in the Federation period. Soon after this was written, Giles, would be sent away to boarding school in Adelaide.

Growing up in the bush, Harold was a good shot and excellent bushman. He became a policeman and enlisted in the First World War, although he was found to be medically unfit and he rejoined the police force. When posted to Maranboy, Harold met and fell in love with a young nurse from the Maranboy Inland Mission Hospital. They married in 1924 and went on to have three children. He retired to Queensland in 1954 after managing Elsey Station and eventually died in Brisbane in 1960.

This diary offers a rare opportunity to read a first-hand account of a child's life on a pastoral station in the Territory at the beginning of the twentieth century.

The Treasures

25. Brunette Downs Letter Book James Cobb White, 1914-1917, manuscript.



Brunette Downs Station is one of the legends of the Northern Territory's pastoral story. Located on the Mitchell grass plains of the Barkly, 350 kilometres north-east of Tennant Creek, the station was first taken up in the pastoral boom of the first half of the 1880s.

James White had held leases in the Brunette Downs area since 1878 but it was not until the early years of the twentieth century, that he, and his brother Francis took up their holdings at

Brunette Downs. In 1912, the Whites went into partnership with Alfred Cotton and invested £20,000 in improvements and an upgrade of the herd. In 1928 the White brothers bought out Cotton.

Brunette Downs is today famous as the home of the Brunette Downs Races, a tradition that has continued for a century. In 1910, three cattle stations, Alexandria, Brunette Downs and Creswell Downs, formed the ABC Amateur Race Club, taking their name from the first letter of each of the station names. The Club held meetings each year attended by visitors from far and wide, before eventually setting up the track on the Brunette Downs Station.

This letter book provides a record of the business of the station conducted by James White during the years covering the First World War. Within the accounts of station business, are the records of successful pastoral holding that continues to play a vital part in the Territory economy today.

26. Ellen Kettle diaries and 'Register of Births', Ellen Kettle, 1960-1997, manuscript.



Ellen Kettle began work in the Northern Territory in 1952 and spent the next five decades working in health in Territory Aboriginal communities. She recalled her first visit to Yuendumu:

Ted Egan, a forthright young man not lacking in initiative, had taken over as Superintendent at Yuendumu shortly before my visit. A predecessor, a man who reveled in glorious clean-ups, had disposed of the records established by Wally Langdon, including the register

of baby births. The remains of the register were found at the hospital, where the trained nurse currently employed was using it as a scrapbook in which to write-up her daily notes. At no one settlement during that year was a superintendent able to provide me with a full record of the babies born there...

Her handwritten diaries, kept between 1959 and 1997, are a record of her work and the health of the people in the communities where she nursed. Through the methodical collection of medical records she accumulated a body of evidence she used to advocate for reform of the Aboriginal health system. Sister Ellen Kettle died in Darwin on 2 August 1999, aged 77.

These records form not only a history of Sister Ellen Kettle's service to the Northern Territory community through her commitment to health, but also are iconic as the records of a generation who in decades to come would be looking to understand their own relationship to land, community and place.

The Treasures

27. Territory Rice Ltd, Humpty Doo, 1958-1959, maps.



Fogg Dam is now the location of the greatest concentration of natural biomass of predators and prey in any ecosystem on the planet. The dam originally began life as part of a project to develop wet rice agriculture in the north.

In 1956 an agreement between the Australian Government and an American-Australian Company Territory Rice Ltd, gave an option to lease over 300,000 hectares of coastal plains for rice growing. In addition, the company would have the right to select further land for agricultural development leases with at least half to be subdivided and sold to individual farmers or share-farms. Fogg Dam was built in 1956 to provide fresh water for the rice crop and Harrison Dam, with three times the capacity, was built nearby in 1958.

Despite the best efforts, and some celebrity endorsement – one of the directors was American television personality Art Linkletter – by the end of the 1950s, it became apparent that this project was not going to succeed. Magpie geese were blamed but the problems for Territory Rice Ltd were structural. Distance, insufficient funding, as well as other technological and transport issues combined with management spread across nations and continents all contributed to the failure.

Throughout the life of the project, Territory Rice Ltd implemented a number of different redesign phases before its closure in August 1960. These documents with their hand-drawn additions and labelling represent some of the last hopes and dreams for rice growing in the Darwin hinterland.

28. Images of Albert Namatjira, 1939; c.1950s, Charles Barrett, photographs.



The Aboriginal artist we know today as Albert Namatjira probably remains the most famous Aboriginal artist our country has ever known. The stories of his skills in sketching, watercolour and poker-work are well known. His life, which embodied both spectacular success and great tragedy, reflected the failings of Australia's Aboriginal policy of the time.

His work, which encapsulated both spiritual relationship to country within the modern idiom of watercolour style received great popular acclaim but was not truly recognised by the art world until long after his untimely death in 1959. Namatjira began an art movement that continues to produce, influence and evolve, to this day. The prominence given by his work to his life, and death, brought a political focus to national Aboriginal policy.

These photographs honour the memory, work, traditions, country and sadness of the difficult short life of a great Territorian.



29. Farewell Smoke Social Program to the Fourth Northern Territory Contingent, 1915, silk program.

Bill Harney recalled his enlistment in the First World War:

So they decided they'd give us a party, to go away... I was eating cakes and drinking tea – with milk in it too, you know. It was a great thing in those days. You very rarely got milk. I was drinking this and I thought, well, what a wonderful job! And everybody's hitting me on the back and saying 'You're going for a good tour; I'd like to be with you, only of course I'm too old and I've gotta look after me place'. They had excuses; apparently, they were a bit too cunning. I woke up after. Well, they've all sung, and they march us all down to a bit of a jetty that was on the wharf.... Then, finally, as the boat was throwing off the hawsers, they all start singing...

We headed out to sea and there was a bit of a head wind or something. There were some seas rocking in, and the next thing, the boat's lifting to this thing, and all these cakes in me and all the tea in me – boy, was I crook! Sick as a dog! I thought, blimey, this is no good to me. First time I get off I'm getting out. But a bloke said, 'You can't get off; you've enlisted for the war, and if you run away now they might shoot you'...

I said, 'Blimey, this is not good to me'.

This unique and charming program is a powerful illustration that, farewelled with pomp and ceremony, neither the cheering crowds waving good-bye, nor the young men heading off to adventure, quite recognised the grim realities that they would be facing in the trenches of Europe.



30. Dr J. Donaldson's Albums, 1941-1942, photograph albums (2).

The poignancy of these albums lies in the contrast, vividly documenting life on board the hospital ship Manunda before and after war. The cool images of ship's wards and operating theatre are relieved by shipboard antics of fancy dress and amusement underlying the sense of unity and esprit that adversity would reveal.

His Majesty's Australian Hospital Ship Manunda was among those ships in Darwin harbour on 19 February 1942. In the first Japanese air raid the Manunda was bombed twice. Twelve people on board were killed and a further 58 wounded. The crew had to fight seven separate fires on board, one of which took nearly an hour to extinguish; yet the ship remained ready and able to accept casualties with skilled medical staff on board to offer treatment to those wounded. On the day of the raid, the Manunda took 76 patients, and a further 190 the next day.

Douglas Lockwood summarised: *The coolness and competence of the medical staff was the result of months of training for just such an emergency, but that this should have been so in the chaos ... reveals an outstanding example of devotion. Matron Claire Schumack ... was the first matron appointed to a hospital ship... later awarded the Royal Red Cross.*

War had come to Australian shores, but in these albums, which provide details of the ship and life on board, we can celebrate not only the history of the boat but also the bravery and dedication of the staff of the Manunda in such a time of crisis.

The Treasures Catalogue



1. Log of HMS Alligator

The HMS Alligator was closely associated with Sir Gordon Bremer's second attempt to form a northern Australian settlement at Port Essington. Port Essington settlement was finally abandoned in 1849. This is a major historical document, chronicling the beginnings of the most important and longest-lasting early attempt to settle in the Northern Territory.

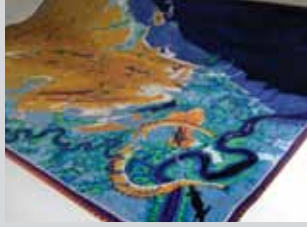
Status: Unique



2. Log of the Surveying Schooner Beatrice

The voyages of HMS Beatrice are significant both in terms of European exploration of the Northern Territory and in relation to the poorly documented attempt at European settlement at Escape Cliffs in the same period. HMS Beatrice was charged with the task of surveying the coastline and played an important role in the nomenclature of the Northern Territory.

Status: Unique



3. Marranbala Country Maps

Two very large hand-painted maps examining Marranbala country, in the Roper River region, Northern Territory, from an Indigenous perspective.

Status: Unique, Indigenous



4. Cost Analysis of Pise Dwelling

Prepared by architects and engineers Mussen, Mackay and Potter in about 1952. This monograph includes numerous architectural plans and eight full colour-page original highly-finished watercolours of the various houses in their proposed environments plus an original watercolour titling-wrapper and a very large folding cost analysis sheet with floor plans in colour.

Status: Unique



5. Ted Ryko postcards

An extensive set of original Ted Ryko postcards recording his time with Aboriginal people on the McArthur River. They are an excellent example of the pathetic representation of the western idea of 'the savage' in the early 20th century. Edward Reichenbach (Ryko) was one of the few producing commercial photographs out of Darwin in the early 1900s.

Status: Rare



6. Fancy Dress Ball Dance Program

Simple hand drawn and coloured-in dance program. Palmerston Dramatic and Musical Society organised the Ball. Advertisement and reporting can be found in the NT Times and Gazette for 1895.

Status: Unique



**7. Northern Standard
Vol.1, no.1 (first edition)**

The North Australian Workers Union began its own newspaper in Darwin called The Northern Standard, edited for most of its pre-war period by journalist, Don McKinnon. In mid 1932, the Northern Territory Times closed its doors and the Standard became the only Territory newspaper until 1942, when the Army News began. In June 1946 the Standard renewed its publication and continued until its closure in 1955, by which time the Northern Territory News had begun publication (1952).

Status: First issue



8. The Bushman's First aid

A short set of instructions for the prevention and treatment of disease in bush districts for the guidance of those in charge of government medicine chests. Published by Department of External Affairs, Melbourne, for the Northern Territory Public Health Department.

Status: Rare, only two other copies known to be in existence.



9. Sam Calder's flying log book

Sam Calder was a decorated pilot during the Second World War before going on to become a successful Territory politician and businessman. He was an aviation pioneer with Connellan Airways which flew throughout the Northern Territory. Calder was also one of the founders of that uniquely Territory political institution, the Country Liberal Party. Elected to the House of Representatives as the Member for the Northern Territory in 1966 he held the seat until his retirement in 1980. He died aged 92 in 2008 and was given a State Funeral.

Status: Unique



10. Access to Learning Award

Northern Territory Library's 2007 Access to Learning Award: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Status: Unique



11. Federal Parliamentary Party Visit

This album provides a photographic record of the Federal Parliamentary Party Visit in 1912. The party departed Sydney on board the SS Eastern and visited Brisbane, Cairns, Thursday Island and then Darwin. Several photographs depict the buildings in 1912 and include the party's visit to the Government Residence and associated Garden Party. From Darwin they visited Pine Creek, Darwin River, Batchelor (in particular the Research Farm), Adelaide River, Katherine, Daly River, Bathurst and Melville Island.

Status: Rare



12. NT Times Almanac & Directory for 1886, V.L. Solomon

This rare Almanac was first issued in 1885 and was published annually until 1899 when the name changed to Northern Territory Year Book. The Almanac includes two folding maps, 1) Northern Territory, 2) Town of Palmerston.

Status: Rare

The Treasures Catalogue



13. Australia map

A hand-drawn map probably by an Australian school child in the mid 1870s. It features the region Alexandra Land (Northern Territory) a name which was in disuse by the 1880s.

Status: Unique



14. Diary, Tom Burstow

Unpublished diary of Thomas Burstow commences 19 February 1942 with entries up to 26 March 1942. His diary describes the bombing of Darwin by the Japanese, including damage to ships, the Darwin harbour and those buildings damaged or destroyed in the town. It also lists the numbers of killed, missing and wounded.

Status: Unique



15. Goyder stereoscopic images

George Goyder; Surveyor-General from the South Australia Department of Lands and Survey, was sent to the Northern Territory in 1869 to complete a land survey and select a site for the capital.

One hundred and fifty men were selected for the expedition and within six months they had surveyed 269,683 hectares, identified further land for growing tropical products and recommended Palmerston as the site for the capital.

Status: Extremely rare



16. Frank Flynn's Ophthalmoscope

Father Frank Flynn used the ophthalmoscope from 1930 to 1990, which is housed in a black travelling case. Father Flynn was a well-known Roman Catholic priest, ophthalmologist and author in the Northern Territory.

Status: Unique



17. List of Darwin Evacuees after Cyclone Tracy and Telephone Directories

Produced by the Department of Social Security, Darwin in 1974, the List of Darwin Evacuees details names, ages, dates and intended destinations of people evacuated from Darwin following Cyclone Tracy in December 1974. The list is organised alphabetically and is a 733-page document.

Status: Unique

A comparison in phone directories for the year before Cyclone Tracy and the year after illustrates the population changes in the city. The 1974 -1975 phone directory was 480 pages. The directory issued on 25 January 1975 was only four pages long.

Status: Rare



18. Cookbook, Jim Kenna

Handwritten book of army recipes. Book was given to Camille Fogarty of Timber Creek by Jim Kenna, camp and station cook. It was used in the Northern Territory during the Second World War.

Status: Unique



19. Plan of Old Darwin Hospital

Produced by the Lands and Survey Branch and donated by Sister Ellen Kettle.

Status: Unique, unknown in other collections



20. Frank Laver Album

Frank Laver's images provide a window to the Northern Territory of 1919, as well as documenting an arduous journey which ended in Laver's untimely death. Laver was an Australian Test Cricketer and a prolific photographer. Based in Melbourne, he, his brother Alfred, friend Dr Pope, and NT surveyor Horace Trower travelled overland to visit land holdings near Powell Creek and Brunette Downs held by the brothers. The images show Darwin, Maranboy, Mataranka and Elsey Station.

Status: Rare, one of only two copies known to be in existence. The other is held by the Melbourne Cricket Club Museum.



22. Perriman Photographic Collection

The photographer, Harry Leslie Perriman, was a pioneer missionary among the Aborigines of Roper River, Groote Eylandt and Oenpelli in Arnhem Land.

Status: Indigenous



23. Letters from Frederick Bradshaw to John Bradshaw

A series of letters written by Frederick Bradshaw while managing Bradshaw's Run (a pastoral lease covering nearly 12,500 square kilometres set on the Victoria River) to his brother John Bradshaw, residing in Melbourne. The letters describe the day to day running of the station and highlights many of the challenges faced by early pioneers; isolation, disease, climate, separation from loved ones and the co-operative spirit.

Status: Unique



24. Diary Harold Giles

An account of daily life by a Top End schoolboy at the turn of the century, 1900-1901. Harold Giles notes daily events where trips to Pine Creek and Bonrook Station are mentioned frequently. Cradling for gold is also a common occurrence, with young Harold telling of his discoveries. The diary is in exercise book format and is handwritten in ink. The diary is in a fragile condition but has been transcribed.

Status: Unique



25. Brunette Downs Letter Book, James Cobb White

Index and carbon copies of outgoing correspondence from James White of Brunette Downs. James, together with his brother Francis, took up a lease measuring just under forty and a half million hectares, a vast area of the Northern Territory in 1903.

Status: Unique

21. Northern Territory Times and Gazette (last edition)

The first machine-printed newspaper in Darwin was the Northern Territory Times and Government Gazette published in November 1873, in the back room of a government office. A young Adelaide journalist brought the first printing press to Darwin to print this newspaper which survived until June 1932.

Status: Last issue

The Treasures Catalogue



26. Ellen Kettle diaries and Register of Births

Ellen Kettle began her long involvement with Territory nursing in 1952 when she commenced work at Yuendumu, a Government Aboriginal settlement nearly 300 kilometres north-west of Alice Springs. In 1966, using data gleaned from the Methodist Missions, she published the first record of weight and height curves for Aboriginal infants and children under 5. She was awarded the MBE for 'Services to Aboriginal Child Health'.

Status: Unique, Indigenous



27. Territory Rice Ltd Maps

These maps relate to Territory Rice Ltd at Humpty Doo in 1958 and 1959. The series includes farm plans, general layout maps and sketches of layouts, water supply and drainage for the Territory Rice Farm at Humpty Doo. The attempt at growing rice in the Northern Territory received public attention and celebrity support.

Status: Unique



28. Albert Namatjira photos

Portrait of Albert Namatjira, 'the famous aboriginal artist of Hermannsburg, Central Australia'. From the Charles Barrett collection 1939 (PH0741/0039)

Albert Namatjira attending an art exhibition in Alice Springs, with Jock Nelson; Rex Batterbee; Harry Griffith; Joy Anderson and Mrs Jock Donellan. From the Alice Springs Collection, n.d. (PH0034/0076)

Status: Unique



29. Farewell Smoke Social Program

The Farewell Smoke Social was organised to send-off the fourth contingent of Northern Territory men to the First World War. The Recruiting Officer, Stanley Bailey, had raised a contingent of more than 40 men and arranged for them to be sworn in the day before the Farewell Smoke Social. The day after the Farewell, the group sailed for Brisbane on the SS Montoro, where they were officially enlisted (20

October on their personal service records) and assigned to military units. Of the men in this contingent who attended the Farewell Smoke Social, four did not survive the war. They were Private Ulic Nolan who served in the 49th Battalion and was killed during the Battle of Messines on 7 June 1917; Gunner Percy Davies who served with the 35th Battery and was killed at Bullecourt on 3 October 1918; Private Matthew Gar who served with the 41st Battalion and was killed on 29 September 1917 during the Third Battle of Ypres; and Private Alfred Seabright who also was killed during the Third Battle of Ypres on 12 October 1917, whilst serving with the 11th Light Trench Mortar Battery.

Status: Unique



30. Dr J. Donaldson's Albums

These albums or scrap books were donated by Dr J Donaldson through Sister Ellen Kettle. The first album includes photographs relating to the Hospital Ship, HMAHS Manunda including photographs of the onboard dispensary, theatre, cabins, laundry. The scrap book also includes menu cards and invitations. The second album relates to the 119 Australian General Hospital at Adelaide River, NT.

Status: Unique

Northern Territory Library Timeline

- 10 November 1980** The State Reference Library of the Northern Territory opened in Cavenagh Street with 26 000 volumes. Between November 1980 and June 1981, the Library answered 1756 reference enquiries.
- February 1991** The Library's official name changed to the State Library of the Northern Territory.
- June 1993** The 'Territory Images' database contained approximately 50 000 photographs. 1982 – 1983 Computer terminals were installed in the Library. Opening hours extended to include Saturdays.
- 25 November 1994** Library closed at Cavenagh Street and commenced the move to the new Parliament House.
- 9 January 1995** Parliament The State Library of the Northern Territory moved to House, State Square and amalgamated with the Parliamentary Library. The combined service was renamed The Northern Territory Library (NTL).
- 22 May 1995** The Northern Territory Library was officially opened by Minister for Local Government Steve Hatton, MLA.
- 4 July 2000** Northern Territory Library launched the new Library Management System, Virtua.



July 2000

Free Internet access was provided at Northern Territory Library.

February 2002

Northern Territory Library became custodians of the Northern Territory Literary Awards.

20 August 2004

The Publications (Legal Deposit) Act was passed in Northern Territory Parliament, requiring all NT published documents to be deposited with Northern Territory Library.

September 2006

Northern Territory Library's Public Libraries and Knowledge Centres Program won the Chief Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Sector Management.

August 2007

Northern Territory Library becomes the first Australian organisation to win the US\$1M 'Access to Learning Award' from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Libraries initiative.

June 2009 - July 2010

1296 reference enquiries were answered in a single month. 146 352 people come through Northern Territory Library's doors.
The Library's website is viewed 800 000 times and 'Territory Stories' now holds over 198 705 items.





The Northern Territory Library thanks
all those involved in producing this publication.

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