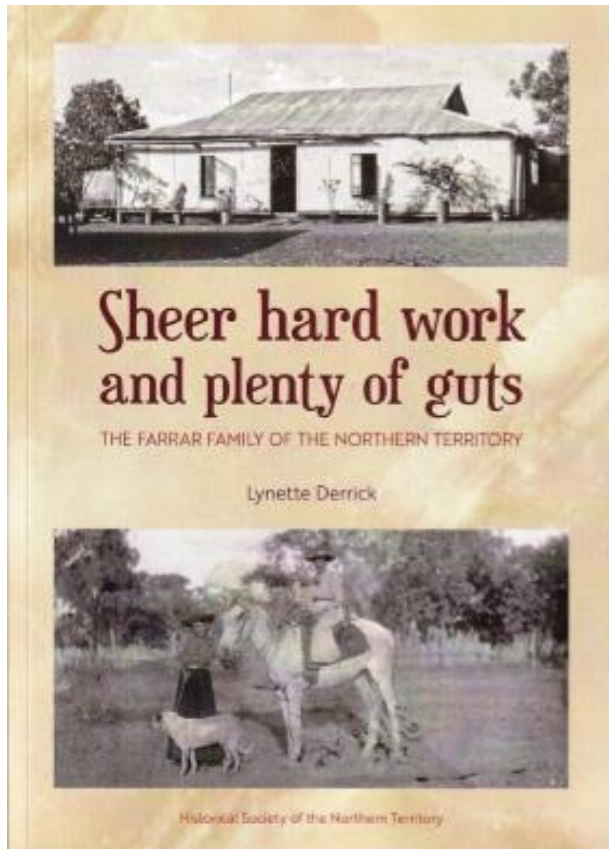


## BOOK REVIEW – Eddie Webber

### SHEER HARD WORK AND PLENTY OF GUTS

#### The Farrar family of the Northern Territory

compiled by Lynette Derrick from her mother's notes  
Lynette and her husband Phillip travelled to other Australian  
states to complete this story



The book is in two sections, the first being of the Farrar family, pioneers in the Roper River and Limmen Bight region of the Gulf of Carpentaria. It fills in a number of gaps in the history of the Gulf Region of the Northern Territory during the period 1883-1890 when John Costello sought to establish the “Valley of The Springs Station” to a later period with the Farrar family’s establishment of pastoral properties, Nutwood Downs, Maryfield, Mainoru and later Ban Ban Springs. The family were pastoralists in the region for over 70 years and certainly did it pretty tough during this time.

The second section deals with the life of the Farrar family from the perspective of Phyllis the mother of the author. It deals with life in Darwin prior to and after WW 11 and life on Ban Ban Springs Station

during this period. While the book can be a little repetitious, it contains a veritable treasure trove of photographs, some never seen before in publications. For those interested in the history of the NT and in particular the Gulf Region this is a welcome addition. However do not expect a romantic saga of the great Australian outback in the finest Ernestine Hill tradition.

The books depicts the hardship, loneliness, suffering and isolation in one of the most remote areas of Australia as just part of day to day living in the family’s struggle to survive.

The title of the book “*Sheer hard work and plenty of guts*” probably says it all.