

**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY INC**

ABN: 32 688 176 644

*The Family History Place*

**Patron** The Honourable Austin Asche AC QC

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**President's Report to GSNT Inc. AGM 11th<sup>th</sup> September 2021.**

Welcome to the 2021 Annual General Meeting of our Society. A very special welcome to The Honourable Austin Asche AC QC, our revered, long-term Patron.

It is not long ago I mentioned that our Genies library here at 84 Smith Street, Darwin is the envy of many, - with incredible research material and research facilities, capable of servicing the needs of members and visitors. All of that is still true, except that moves are well advanced to have us moved away from 84 Smith Street, to an as yet unknown location. As a volunteer not-for-profit Society, we cannot fund and operate our own premises and for this we rely upon the assistance of the Northern Territory Government. In return, we believe we provide a very valuable service to all, including our indigenous citizens to research their family history. All are very welcome.

On a more positive note, we are expecting to be able to announce a decision to erect a large definitive plan at the Palmerston Cemetery showing the location of the whole of the 904 graves known to have been created within, and to some extent outside, the currently erected boundary fence of this pioneer cemetery. Still a lot of work to do, and no doubt this segment will appear in future AGM reports, but always with some positive progress.

Other volunteers are working on making it possible to search our 18,000+ NT Pioneers online. It seems to be another one of those never-ending tasks, but we expect to launch this during 2022, - assuming of course that we have been able to settle into alternative premises during the next few months.

Once again, on behalf of every one of our members, I offer, to all of those persons who donated money, books, equipment, etc to the Society this year, our heart-felt thanks for helping us to keep going. We expect that the coming year is going to be very difficult, but we will survive.

And without our hardworking volunteers, the road would be even more difficult. It is not easy to describe the work undertaken by these persons, so this year we are adding a separate page or two with this Report, in an effort to more clearly show you what they do, for all of us. Please take the time to read and appreciate their work. Join them.... ?



Keven Young

President GSNT Inc.

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## SOME OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

**Elaine Barry**, despite being sick for a very long time Elaine continues to support our Library.

**Min Regan**, lives in WA, however she still finds the time to do amazing and entertaining Book Reviews.

**Jeanice Levez** Lives in Qld and has done an amazing job of sorting through 3 different Web programs. Two of them turned out to be rubbish however she has stuck with her hard work, to produce our Website which has received compliments from researchers.

**Dianne Tessmann** and **Jeanice Levez** have been sharing the role of editor of *Progenitor* to make our journal one that receives positive feedback about amazing stories and other genie information.

**Joan Angeles** is the daughter of Jack McGinness, Joan has played a significant part in identifying local photographs and her knowledge of "old Darwin" has helped in sorting through Vern O'Brien's personal papers.

**Julian (Julie) Schuller** has been chasing our Pioneers through newspapers, archives, libraries and anywhere else the chase leads to. Sometimes the search is complicated but Julie never gives up.

**Patsy Hickey** has been cleaning up our server and this job is very complex. She also researches Pioneers and Deaths, spending many hours each week in the pursuit of facts.

**Neil Blakeley** started off as a volunteer which he did for a couple of years helping to index various records to make it easier for us to find information quickly. A couple of years ago Neil joined our Library and he has continued in the creation of many indexes. He is currently working on cataloguing Vern O'Brien's photographs. We have many that we cannot put a name to a face and hopefully when others look at the work that has been done they too might be able to add that name that escapes us.

**Gail Macgregor** works quietly in the background. She has worked on our Library Catalogue and various other projects. Her current project is trying to bring order to the Place Name files – this has been a real challenge. We inherited these files and they were not in strict order and most times there are hidden gems in them that really belong in other files.

**Ruth Sheridan** is our Librarian, cataloguing our books, papers and pamphlets. Unpublished works will continue to help us find that important piece of information. In the coming months we will work out a way to publish our catalogue on our Website.

**Judy Boland** Judy volunteers to help staff our Library, we do like to have two volunteers for obvious reasons. If you have some hours to spare on either a Monday, Tuesday, or a Saturday afternoon, please talk to June our Secretary.

**Burniece Cross** does some amazing crocheting work which we sell to visitors and members to raise money for the Society. With Xmas not far away, we will be selling many of her pieces. We all thank you for your skilful contribution Burnie/

**June Tomlinson** What doesn't she do for the Society,- that would be easier to answer. Chief cook and bottle-washer would be a good start, but we all know she is always on the go and *almost* tireless. The important things are always done, then she is around activating the rest of us. Heaps of typing,- like any good secretary, ensuring the required forms and correspondence is always ready for any meeting. Attending to the research enquiries coming in, and generally either doing the research herself, or passing it on to a member to finish off. And you will see how well she will organise the dreaded upcoming move to 'somewhere else' - as yet unknown. Couldn't do without our June, and she has our greatest respect. Onya June.

## ***LDS Volunteers***

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has suspended some of it's activities in the Northern Territory due to Covid restrictions. As a result, and to our good fortune, several members of that Church offered their services to our Society. They gave significant help to us during this year. Some did indexing and one of those indexes was for inmates of Fannie Bay Gaol up to it's closure. The information was in several places and not in alpha order. It was painful to research but we now have those inmates listed and a reference to where they were found. Others moved all the files in the compactus when we ran out of space, and had to rearrange the files so there was "growing space" in each of the cabinets. They moved these files twice this year because we added information to files from Vern's collection. For all of this and more, we wish to acknowledge the valuable work done and to tender our thanks to all.