

The Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory Inc.

Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

After the upheaval of the move from the premises at 84 Smith Street, Darwin city, to a location in the northern suburbs at "Harry's Place", Willeroo Street Tiwi, activities slowly resumed as members found their way around a new office and library layout. Although the move was accomplished with much hard work, meticulous organisation and attention to detail from the volunteers, some of the Society's items (desk, microwave etc.) remain missing or damaged. We also had damage to storage cabinets and a book shelf that went to the dump. Our efforts to remedy this situation have met with a disappointing response from those in a position to help us.

Thanks to the dedicated work of Patsy Hickey and Keven Young, the updated burial list for the Palmerston Pioneer Cemetery in Goyder Road has been passed on to the City of Darwin Council for forwarding to the Heritage Unit who are employing a Consultant to look at the signage issue for the Goyder Road Cemetery.

Unfortunately we are in dispute with our IT Service Provider. From the installation of our server at Tiwi, we have had issues. Although they were supposedly fixed, nothing seemed to last. Repairs lasted a few hours or a few days, and has become an ongoing issue. Despite our calls, the IT Company started not logging our jobs, and not answering queries. We tried to contact the owner of the business, but our calls were never returned. Requests for an appointment to talk about our issues were ignored. Four invoices had issues that we would have liked to discuss. Approximately six weeks ago we were advised that the IT service would hand over our information to another provider. As yet, we have not sourced one.

At the end of January 2023 we hosted a visit from the Hon Lauren Moss MLA, Minister for Equality and Inclusion under whose portfolio the Society comes. The visit was most successful with Minister Moss saying that she was very impressed by the breadth and depth of our research facilities. She said that she would promote the Society whenever it was appropriate to do so.

In February, the Society was approached for help by The Italian Club of the NT, a respected community organisation fostering Italian culture and traditions. The Italian Club are anxious to compile a list of "The Forgotten Northern Territory Italians 1845 – 1945". Ruth Sheridan, our Librarian/Lead Researcher has been working on the Italian project, whilst June Tomlinson manages the Library and has an administrative role in the Italian project.

We continue to receive interstate requests for help from people who believe their distant relatives may have lived or worked in the Northern Territory. Thanks to the efforts of Ruth, June, Gail and Julie Andrew, we are able to accommodate such requests.

May saw the annual 'Seniors' Expo', organised and conducted by COTA (Council of the Ageing) NT at Marrara. Although our volunteers received many queries, none resulted in new members. Thanks to June Tomlinson, Julie Schuller, Gail Macgregor, lone and Theresa Jolly who manned the GSNT stall.

Where would we be without our volunteers? GSNT has no paid staff and relies heavily on our volunteers, who do our research, staff our Library all day Monday and Tuesday, Wednesdays evenings for three hours and Saturdays from 1.00 to 5.30pm. We are deeply indebted to Julie Andrew, Ruth Sheridan, Julie Schuller, David Boys, Pat King, Gail Macgregor, Joan Angeles, Leticia Charrington, Marcia Charrington, Peter Jolly, Theresa Jolly and lone Jolly.

Dianne Tessmann is the Editor of *Progenitor* and Jeanice Levez is our Web Master. Both Dianne and Jeanice now live in Queensland, so we are very lucky to have these two dedicated and talented members. Jeanice has been challenged many times with our website. She has learnt three different web programs until we got WordPress. Then we had a massive problem when journals from exchange societies throughout Australia started appearing in Google from our website. Jeanice solved the problem; however it was very labour intensive for her. Dianne fills *Progenitor* with a wide range of interesting articles. She enjoys retirement travelling in her caravan and we are fortunate that she continues to be the Editor of our Journal. Meanwhile Burniece Cross, despite health issues continues to provide us with a steady stream of craft articles that are readily snapped up by both members and visitors.

Where would we be without Eddie Webber and Janet Leather who do a thorough clean and dust of our premises every fortnight, unseen and unheralded?; their efforts are very much appreciated and we are deeply indebted to them. Thanks also go to Ruth Sheridan our Minute Secretary; lone Jolly who refreshed our Information Brochure and Membership Application form and Elaine Barry who continues to 'beaver' away at Births, Deaths and Marriages in the NT.

Our Pioneer Register continues to grow thanks to the persistent and dedicated work of Julie Schuller, Ruth Sheridan, Gail Macgregor and June Tomlinson. Coordinating all aspects of our work, as well as managing our volunteers and dealing with complex inquiries is June Tomlinson our long serving secretary. June has been at the helm of the Society for more than 40 years, guiding it through good times and bad. We would be lost without her expertise and guidance.

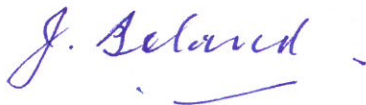
We are indebted to Neville Jones immediate past President, who has handled difficult and delicate negotiations with our IT Service Provider; the Director of Library and Archives NT re our move from Smith Street to Tiwi and our Insurance Agent. Neville also acted as President for an extended period, whilst our President was hospitalised.

Our Family History Library is appreciative of the accommodation grant and continued support received from the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities. Without this grant and support we would not be able to reconnect past and present Northern Territory families.

We are also indebted to the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade through the Community Benefit Fund (CBF) for the provision of funds that enabled the installation of a Fire Wall for our IT system and the Signage at our new location. The CBF receives funds from a levy on electronic gaming machines in licenced hotels. Major community grants provide funding to provide services, leisure activities and opportunities for Territorians...

We thank our Patron, the Hon Austin Asche AC, KC, who despite health issues, continues to maintain a keen interest in our operations.

In summary, the 2022-2023 year has been one of successful genealogical study and family history research, despite some initial difficulties associated with our move.



Judy Boland
President
04 August 2023