

## **The Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory Inc.**

### **Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2024.**

The Genealogical Society has now been accommodated at Harry's Place in Tiwi for almost two years and as we grow accustomed to our new surroundings, like a pair of new shoes we are now starting to feel comfortable. We are remembering where files are now kept, rather than having to search for them.

This has allowed us to be more involved in promotional and marketing activities.

- In July 2023 Julie Andrew made a presentation of Family History Awards at the Darwin Show.
- Weekly research workshops were presented by Julie Schuller and Ione Jolly during Seniors' Month activities in August.
- An Information stall was provided at the Caladium Festival in November.
- 'Trove' workshops were also held during November.
- We embarked on advertising through the COTA (Council of the Aging) Information Network
- The society participated in the monthly History/Heritage talks on ABC Radio in February and May 2024.
- The Society was represented at the National Archives of Australia (NT) Consultative Forum in March and
- Provided an Information Stall at the Seniors' Expo in June 2024.

All of these activities were undertaken whilst maintaining normal operations. During the period under review

- we handled 1056 visits from members of the public;
- attended to 557 research inquiries from both local and interstate;
- had nine researchers
- provide 837 hours of research assistance

Topics ranged from persons wishing to establish Indigenous status to questions of an historical nature about the life their ancestor might have lived in the Territory including rice farming, Cyclone Tracy, World War II, Chinese, Aboriginal and Russian lifestyles, early NT Teachers, peanut farmers, Gulf crabbers, life at the Parap Camp and at the Police Paddock.

While this was happening, we changed our IT Services provider. Our new "go to" service provider is Territory Technology Solutions, who to date are providing a very good service, and at the right price.

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 grants that enabled us to purchase much needed library equipment. The CBF receives funds from a levy on electronic gaming machines in licenced premises. Major community grants provide funding for services, leisure activities and opportunities for Territorians.

We were able to obtain a Seniors' Grant to assist us with the activities offered for Seniors' Month in August 2023, and thank the Hon Luke Gosling OAM, MP for putting us forward as an eligible organisation to apply for the Federal Government's Volunteer Grant to support our efforts in the community. We were also the recipients of a Nightcliff Community Enterprises (Bendigo Bank) grant that enabled us to replace aging and non-functioning computer screens. We thank Jeff Watson, Manager of the Nightcliff branch of Bendigo Bank for inviting us to participate in this scheme.

The backbone of our society is our volunteers. GSNT has no paid staff and relies heavily on our volunteers, who do our research, our cleaning and staff our Library all day Mondays and Tuesdays, and on Wednesday evenings. We are deeply indebted to Julie Andrew, Ruth Sheridan, Julie Schuller, Pat King, Gail Macgregor, Joan Angeles, Leticia Charrington, Marcia Charrington, Peter and 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 such dedicated and talented members. 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.

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 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 2023-2024 year has been one of successful genealogical study and family history research.

Judy Boland  
President  
04 August 2024