



ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPONSORED BY ROCKDALE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

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6/9 Austral Street,
KOGARAH 2217

June, 1989

Dear Friend and Member,

The June Meeting will be held as follows:

Date Friday, 16th June, 1989 at 8 p.m.

Place Council Chamber, Town Hall, Princes Highway, Rockdale

Business General

Syllabus Item

Miss Lesley Muir will be Guest Speaker. Subject to be decided

Supper Roster

CAN YOU PLEASE HELP?

LADIES PLEASE BRING A PLATE

Mr. A. Ellis,
President and Research
Officer
587 1159

Mrs J. Price,
Minute Secretary
587 7407

Mrs B. Perkins,
Secretary
587 9164

Mrs E. Wright,
Treasurer
599 4884

Mrs E. Eardley,
Bulletin Editor
59 8078

An Apology

An apology is a friendship preserver, is often a debt of honour,
Is never a sign of weakness, Is an antidote for hatred,
Costs nothing but one's pride, Always saves more than it costs.
Is needed in every home.

Francis Gary
Friendship Book, 1983

A cheerio to our friends who are not so well. Our best wishes to all for a speedy recovery.

SPECIAL NOTICE

ALL BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE

The St. George Historical Society is pleased to announce that the following books, Nos. 1-7 written and illustrated by the late Gifford H. Eardley for the Society, have been reprinted and are now available. Book Nos. 8, 9 and 10 have been compiled by Mrs Bronwyn Perkins.

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|-------|---|----------------|
| No.1 | "The Wolli Creek Valley" | Book Nos. 1-8 |
| No.2 | "Kogarah to Sans Souci Tramway" | \$2.50 each |
| | | plus postage |
| No.3 | "Saywells Tramway - Rockdale to Lady Robinsons Beach" | |
| No.4 | "Arncliffe to Bexley Tramway" | |
| No.5 | "Our Heritage in Stone" | |
| No.6 | "All Stations to Como" | |
| No.7 | "Tempe and the Black Creek Valley" | |
| No.8 | "Early Churches of the St. George District" | |
| No.9 | "Early Settlers of the St. George District Volume 1" | Book Nos. 9-10 |
| | | \$4.00 each |
| | | plus postage |
| No.10 | "Early Settlers of the St. George District Volume 2" | |

ALL BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE AT OUR MEETING, ALSO MEMBERS BADGES

For your copy of the above books, please contact one of the following:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Miss B. Otton | 59 4259 (after 8 p.m.) |
| Mrs E. Eardley | 59 8078 |
| Mr. A. Ellis | 587 1159 |

NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS ARE WELCOME

Have you volunteered for the Supper Roster? More help is needed!!!

SELF-GOVERNMENT - 1978 - 1988.
NORTHERN TERRITORY

- Northern Territory News
1st July 1988.

There are no people quite like the Territorians ...

- Frank Alcorta.

There is no place like the Northern Territory and there are no people quite like Territorians.

Our self-government may be just 10 years old, but Aborigines have been here for thousands of years. Our common language may be English, but the majority of Territorians either have parents whose first language is not English or are themselves not native English speakers.

The Northern Territory is a contradiction in terms. A tropical land with frozen deserts. Wealthy beyond description- but undeveloped. A relaxed lifestyle with a homicide rate several times higher than for the rest of Australia.

We drink and smoke more, eat more fatty foods and exercise less than other Australians, but our general health, particularly heart condition, is better.

Our flag is the only Australian flag without a Union Jack.

Along with the Arctic Poles and Siberia, we remain one of the most unpopulated regions in the world. Our geographical area, 1.3 million sq.kms. is 1/6th of Australia but we make up just 1% of the population.

Darwin is closer to Jakarta than to Brisbane. It is cheaper to fly to Bali for a week's holiday in a luxurious hotel, than a return trip to Sydney. We look out while much of the rest of Australia looks in. They teach French in Melbourne schools. Here we prefer Indonesian.

There is more, there is always more about the Northern Territory, a land that defies easy description or facile definitions. Enough to say perhaps that this is the last frontier, not just in the sense of economic development but, probably just as important, in a political and social sense.

Self-government in 1978, was a watershed in the history of this frontier society. A "bunch of cowboys" (as they were often described) took over the reigns of government under the Chief Minister, Paul Everingham.

There were 19 politicians in the Legislative Assembly, 12 CLP, 6 ALP and 1 Independent. Of the 12 CLP Everingham chose a Cabinet of 5, including himself.

Only the present Industries and Development Minister, Marshall Perron, remains. The original cabinet was made up of extraordinarily disparate personalities who shared one thing in common - they were doers. Everingham, the bull in a china shop,

who drove everyone with relentless energy, Jim Robertson, the best intellect of the lot, Ian Tuxworth, fired by ambition and enormous talent, Roger Steele, charming and with the memory of an advanced computer, and Perron himself, dour, loyal, competent and hard working.

None had any previous ministerial experience. They did not even know how to run a cabinet meeting and had to call a southern expert on parliamentary procedures for advice.

They faced a daunting task. To bring this Territory to self government, promote economic development and take over the mammoth task of administration from the Commonwealth.

Helped by a handful of very able and dedicated senior public servants, they succeeded. The Territory entered into a five year growth-phase unsurpassed in Australia.

The key was one word - build. Roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, giant tourist infrastructure such as Yulara, new office blocks, whole new suburbs sprung like an endless cornucopia of goods.

Perhaps more important, Everingham helped develop a spirit of Territorianess, an intangible belief that to be a Territorian was good in itself, because here the sky was the limit. A sense of belonging, of excitement almost in building a society that differed from the rest of Australia and indeed the world, in many significant ways.

Optimistic, confident, full of faith in the future, visionary and strong are adjectives that come to mind easily. It seemed as if Darwin's changing skyline, Alice Springs' intense vitality and the architectural marvel of Yulara symbolised the kind of things Territorians represented.

Of course, there were mistakes. The decline and most of our present ills, started after the December 1983 CLP landslide victory at the polls. Everingham became a lame duck Chief Minister for 9 crucial months. Federals were kicked out of the casinos. The Sheratons were built under guarantees costing Territory taxpayers several million dollars every year. Myilly Point was bulldozed.

We took a deep breath and waited for the sky to fall. It did.

Between 1984 and 1986, the Memorandum of Understanding, our financial agreement with Canberra, was reduced to a worthless piece of paper.

The earlier momentum carried us forward and there were still some visionary projects that came on stream.

The gaspipeline from Centralia to Darwin was completed in 1986/87 and the new Channel Island Power Station replaced Stokes Hill.

But Territorians, accustomed to great loaves of bread, now had to be content with crumbs. Or, if not crumbs, at least circuses. Lindy Chamberlain was released from Berrimah

Jail early in 1986 and the N.T. Government commissioned a Federal Court Judge, Justice Morley, to look into the case. His verdict was that if the new evidence available to him had been available to the original jury, Lindy would not have been convicted.

Also in 1986, Chief Minister Tuxworth, was forced to resign by the CLP's Central Council and was replaced by a politician first elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1983, Steve Hatton.

The circuses continued in 1987. Hatton called an election in March and won it. But by May he had the public service up in arms with proposed cuts to pay and conditions.

The brawl cost the CLP the House of Representatives seat, which went to a Labor left winger, Warren Snowdon. Also in mid-1987, a crazed German tourist, Josef Schwab, went on a killing spree across the Top End, before being gunned down by Western Australian Police.

If Hatton and Co., can steer us through this most difficult of times, we will emerge much stronger.

There is no doubt we have reached a crucible. We are in deep recession, businesses are going broke and many, particularly tradesmen are leaving the Territory.

The light on the hill appears dim. But it is well worth remembering this is still our Territory and we are still Territorians.

A Message from the Administrator:

In the 10 years since achieving self-government, the Northern Territory, through the combined efforts of all Territorians, has come a long way and we can look back with justifiable pride on our past achievements.

However, this should not be a time for compacency, as the years ahead with the goals of achieving Statehood and establishing a sound expanding economic base presents many challenges for those who are fortunate enough to dwell in the Northern Territory.

I look forward to joining with Territorians over the next 10 years in order that our aspirations may be met in building a sound future for our children and our children's children.

-E.E. Johnston.

The Northern Territory Flag - black and ochre colouring - depicting the floral emblem - Sturt's Desert Rose in white with black centre and the Southern Cross in white.

CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY OF THE TERRITORY:

- 1824 - Captain Bremer took possession of Northern Australia for Great Britain as part of New South Wales.
- 1890 - The South Australian Government extended full adult suffrage to the white residents in the Territory.
- 1901 - Federation gave the Northern Territory, as a corporate part of South Australia, representation in both Houses of Federal Parliament. However, the Commonwealth Constitution Act, which constitutionalised Federation, made provision for the surrender to the Commonwealth of any Territory to any State.
- 1902 - Negotiations began under this provision for the transfer of the Northern Territory from South Australia to the Commonwealth.
- 1907 - South Australia passed the Northern Territory Surrender Act.
- 1910 - The Australian Parliament passed the Northern Territory Acceptance Act.
- 1910 - The Australian Parliament, pursuant to its powers under Section 122 of the Constitution, passed the Northern Territory (Administration) Act providing for the Government of the Northern Territory by an Administrator appointed by the Governor-General.
- 1911 - The Northern Territory formally passed to the control of the Commonwealth Government and the entitlement of Northern Territory citizens to vote in Federal elections lapsed.
- 1922 - The Northern Territory Representation Act provided for a single member from the Northern Territory in the House of Representatives, but without voting powers.
- 1926 - The Northern Australia Act was passed to establish a North Australia Commission - the power of which extended to matters relating to the development of North Australia and the administration of Crown Land in the North and Central Australia.
- 1927 - Under the provisions of the Northern Australia Act, the Northern Territory was divided into two administrative areas - Central Australia and Northern Australia - each controlled by a Government Resident assisted by an Advisory Council.
- 1931 - The Northern Australia Act's division and commission legislation was repealed and the Territory was reconstituted as a single administrative entity.
- 1936 - The Member for the Northern Territory in the House of Representatives gained the right to vote on matters relating to ordinances of the Northern Territory.

- 1942 - Because of wartime development, the northern part of the Northern Territory was placed under military control and administrative functions were moved to Alice Springs.
- 1946 - Full civil administration was resumed.
- 1947 - A Legislative Council with 6 elected members and 7 official members presided over by the Administrator was created. The Council was given the power to make Ordinances for the peace, order and good government of the Northern Territory, subject to assent by the Administrator or the pleasure of the Governor-General.
- 1948 - The Legislative Council met for the first time.
- 1958 - The Member for the Northern Territory in the House of Representatives was allowed to vote on any proposed law or matter relating solely or principally to the Northern Territory.
- 1959 - Membership of the Legislative Council was altered to allow for 8 elected members, 6 official members and 3 Government nominated non-official members. The Administrator's Council, comprising the Administrator, 2 official members and 3 elected members of the Council, was established as an advisory body to the Administrator.
- 1963 - The Legislative Council was vested with power to define its privileges, immunities and powers within certain limitations.
- 1965 - The Administrator was removed from membership of the Legislative Council and was replaced by a member elected from the elected or non-official members.
- 1968 - The non-official seats were abolished and recreated as elected member seats, making the composition of the Council - 11 elected and 6 official members. The Member of the Northern Territory in the House of Representatives was granted full voting rights.
- 1972 - The Minister for the Interior made an offer on October 25 for the transfer of certain executive functions to a local Executive, responsible to the Legislative Council. The offer was not debated by the Legislative Council before the change of Commonwealth Government in December 1972.
- 1974 - A full-elected Legislative Assembly of 19 members was established. The triennial general election returned 17 Country Liberal party and 2 Independent members. The Administrator's Council was reconstituted to comprise the Administrator and 5 elected members. The Senate (Representation of Territories) Act 1974 was passed by the Australian Parliament to give the Northern Territory 2 Senators in the next elections.
- 1975 - A Supplementary Report from the joint Parliamentary Committee stated that despite the devastation caused by Cyclone Tracy, there should be no significant alteration to the original JPC recommendations.

- 1976 - An Amendment to the Northern Territory (Administration) Act established the offices of Executive Member of the Legislative Assembly to perform executive functions in the Administration of the Northern Territory and to exercise powers under its laws or in relation to departments of its Public Service as determined by the Administrator. The Administrator's Council was retitled the Executive Council. A revised and updated N.T. Public Service Act was amended to facilitate the transfer of Commonwealth Public Servants to the N.T. Public Service.
- 1977 - Initial transfer of functions to the N.T. Executive and N.T. Public Service and appointment and assumption of executive responsibility by 5 Executive Members.
- 1977 - The Australian Govt. announced a program to grant the N.T. responsible self-government from 1st July 1978, with a view to eventual Statehood.
- 1977 - The Legislative Assembly triennial general election returned 12 CLP members, 6 ALP and 1 independent.
- 1977 - Appointment of a new Executive of 5 Executive members and redesignation and redetermination of portfolios etc.
- 1978 - Further transfer of functions to N.T. Executive and N.T. Public Service.
- 1978 - The Australian Parliament passed the Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act.
- 1978 - The establishment of a Government of the N.T. with responsible Ministers and control over its own finances. Transfer of the bulk of "State-type" functions to the new government.
- 1979 - Transfer of: health, insurance, banking, remuneration of office-holders, and land use planning and development. (Urban planning transferred in July 1978).
- 1980 - First Legislative Assembly elections since self-govt. 11 CLP Members, 7 ALP Members and 1 independent. Transfer of civil and state style functions in major Aboriginal communities.
- 1983 - N.T. Legislative Assembly elections held with an additional 6 electorates. Returned 19 CLP Members and 6 ALP Members.
- 1987 - N.T. Assembly elections: 16 CLP members, 6 ALP and 1 N.T. National Party and 2 Independent returned.
