

# Government House Foundation of the Northern Territory Inc.

October 2011

## Chairman's Message

On behalf of all our members may I congratulate recently retired President The Honourable Sally Thomas AM, on her nomination as Administrator Designate for the Northern Territory. Sally will be formally sworn in by her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia on Monday the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011.

I would particularly like to thank her for her wise and calm council during her tenure as President, and I am sure we will continue to have a very positive relationship with her in her new role.

Since our last newsletter there have been a range of activities conducted in accordance with our objectives. As we do each year we participated in the Government House open days on August 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, by having an information booth. This was manned by Michelle Hogan, and Paula Baldwin, and I wish to thank them most sincerely. One very positive outcome over the two days was the fantastic response we received from visitors about the Water Garden, which was on display for the first time.

A few days later we had the Annual Reception for foundation members, which was hosted at Government House by His Honour the Administrator Mr Tom Pauling AO QC, and Mrs Pauling. The occasion was highlighted by the formal handing over of the Water Garden by President Sally Thomas. Again those present plauded the project and what it will mean to the house gardens as it matures.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE FOUNDATION  
OF THE  
NORTHERN TERRITORY INC



## COMMITTEE

Chairman  
David Pearson

Deputy Chairman  
Keith Savage

Honorary Treasurer  
Clive Garland

Honorary Secretary  
Vicky Spence

Committee Members  
Kerry Ambrose-Pearce

Wendy Gordon

Angelica Poulos

Barbary Vos

Linda Fazldeen

Chris Renehan



One of our newer committee members Linda Fazldeen along with our Administrative Officer, Paula Baldwin conducted a survey of our members which produced a very pleasing response. For those who took the time to answer our survey, our sincere thanks. The information has been collated and analysed and presented at a recent committee meeting. We are hopeful that many of the suggestions will be implemented in 2012

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## Chairman's Message (cont.)

Perhaps one of the most interesting events of recent times was the discovery of what is believed to be Government House's first visitors book. I was contacted by a partner of our Treasurer, of accountants KPMG, Clive Garland, to advise that one of their staff from Brisbane was coming to Darwin and had in her possession the visitors book.

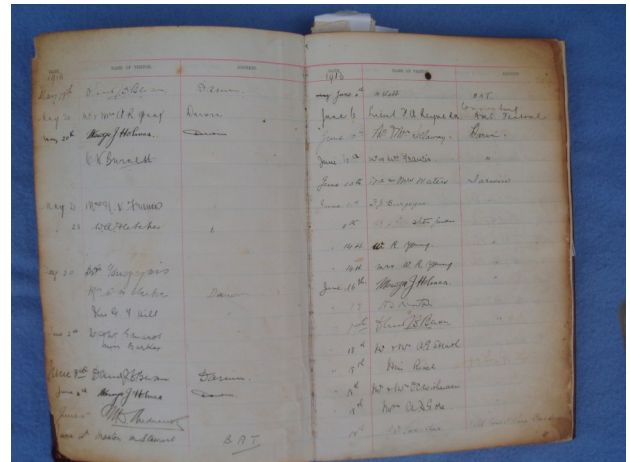
There is still much research to be conducted regarding this book, but I will give a brief outline of what has been learned so far. I should point out that the book was returned to Government House during a meeting between His Honour the Administrator Mr Tom Pauling AO QC, the official Secretary Mr David Blenheim, and myself on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011.

The book in general covers the period 17<sup>th</sup> May 1913 to 1<sup>st</sup> May 1937, however there are four additional entries dated 1942, the last of which was by one Nevell Kath. At the time he was a Captain in the Army serving in Darwin. My research has revealed he was born Nevell Stanley Kath, at Mt Tyson near Toowoomba in Queensland on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1916. He was killed in action in Papua New Guinea at the age of 28 on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1945, and is buried in the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Rabaul.

Subsequent to his death, the visitors book, in which he is the last signatory found its way to his parents, Mr and Mrs Fred Kath who, from census information were still alive and living at Mt Tyson in 1949.

The book then found its way to his brother, Mr Dudley Kath, who is still alive at the age of 92 in the Brisbane suburb of Greenslopes, and is a neighbour of one Salli Hood, who is employed at KPMG in Brisbane. On telling Mr Kath of her impending visit to Darwin he produced the book and asked her to bring it back.

It would seem that the existence of this book was lost in time. It is also interesting to note that the first entry in the condensed version of the Visitors Book (blue bound copy at the reception to Government House offices) is dated 1937. I plan to try to get more information about this rather unusual find.



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## PORTRAIT OF A SENIOR TERRITORIAN

And as we go to press it is great news to announce the winner of the 2011 Portrait of a Senior Territorian Art Award which thus becomes our latest acquisition. The winning artist is Peta Riley whose subject was Ziko Ilic who owns and runs the Darwin Fish Markets. The portrait is entitled "Ziko – A generous and colourful Territorian".

The announcement was made at Parliament House at a joyous reception hosted by Madam Speaker the Hon. Jane Aagaard MLA. Her theme this year was come as your favourite sports person. Madam Speaker went as the great Australian swimmer Annette Kellerman whose life was portrayed in the movie "Million Dollar Mermaid" which starred as Annette another great swimmer Esther Williams. Yours truly went as Andrew "Bobcat" Ryan a wonderful human being, great Rugby league player and recently retired captain of the Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs.



### New Members

If you are aware of any of your friends or colleagues that would like to join the Foundation - please direct them to our website. They just need to follow the prompts and select the appropriate level of membership. Otherwise - please contact Paula who can send the appropriate forms via the mail.

### Credit Card Facilities

Being a registered charity we attempt to preserve our funds as best we can. We have taken the decision to pass on the merchant fee of 2% for any transactions using credit card facilities. This is being noted on our invoices. Transactions will appear on your credit card as Vicky Spence Event Mgmt.

### Important Dates for your Diaries

2012 Gala Ball - Friday 1st June (tentative - to be confirmed)

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