

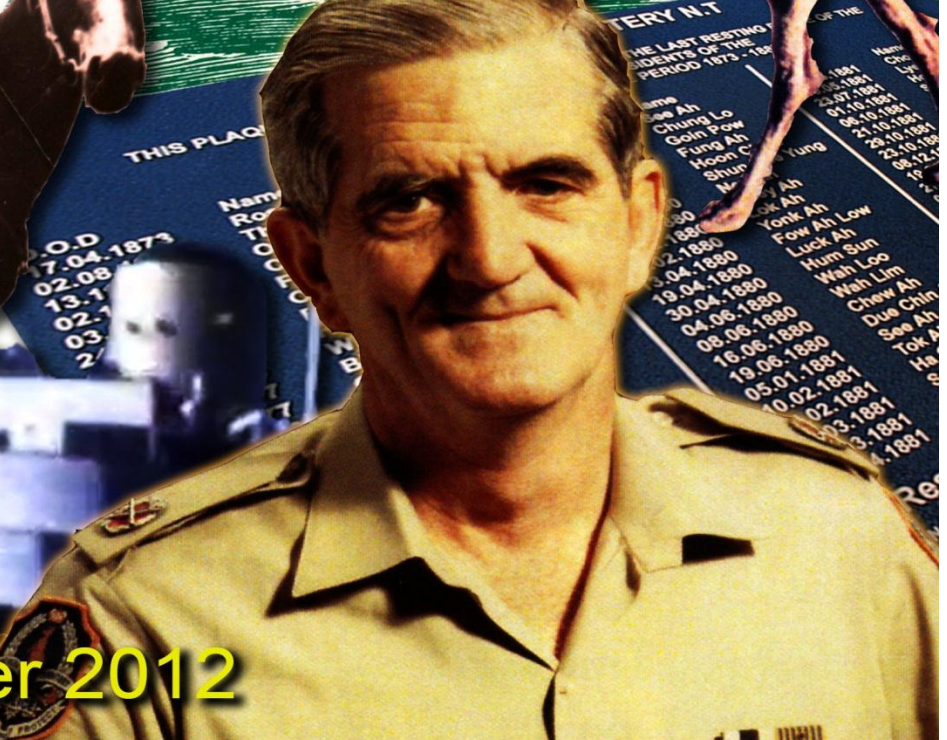
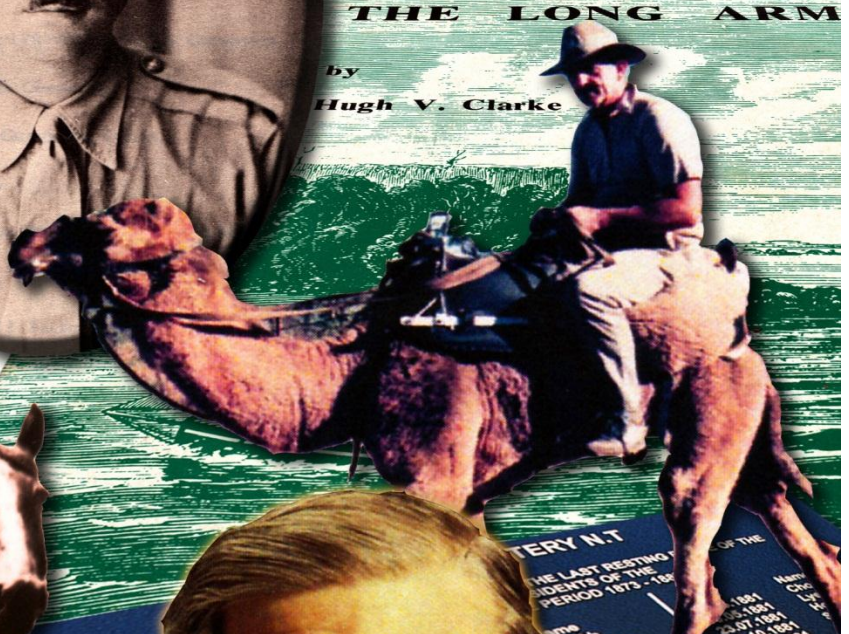
# Citation

The Newsletter of the  
Northern Territory Police  
Museum and Historical  
Society Inc.

Share our  
rich history



THE LONG ARM  
by  
Hugh V. Clarke



Issued November 2012



## Vale: Citation Stalwart “Saus” Grant

A strong supporter of the NT Police Museum and Historical Society - **Arthur Alexander “Saus” Grant**- who kept **Citation** going in difficult times, died in Darwin on October 3. A police **Honour Guard** was provided for the overflow **Eucharistic Celebration** in **St. Mary’s Star of the Sea Cathedral**, where the principal celebrant was **Bishop Eugene Hurley, DD**. Dignitaries who attended included the **Chief Minister, Terry Mills**, the **Leader of the Opposition**, Delia Lawrie, and her mother, **NT Police Commissioner, John McRoberts**. Ex-police and friends came from near and far.

Saus joined the Police Force in **Darwin in 1959**. In 1961, he met **Norma Helen Bailey**, who was in the **first squad of women inducted into the Northern Territory Police Force**. They married in 1962, and had three sons -- Michael born in 1963, Tony born in 1966, and Matthew born in 1967.

Between 1959 and 1969 Saus worked variously in the **Uniform Branch**, in the **Criminal Investigation Branch**, and as officer in charge of the **Pine Creek region**. Over that time he worked with many officers who went on to become well-known in the Territory community, including **Andy McNeill, Dale Egan, Bill Jacobs, Phil McLaughlin, Frank Cronshaw, Roger Textor, John Ascoli, Mick Smith, Len Cossons, Jack Ilett, Neil Plumb, John Maley and Mick Palmer**.

Saus was officer in charge of the **Training Branch** from June 1969 until July 1975. In that capacity he oversaw the training of many current and former members. In 1974, Saus was **one of 20 police officers** selected from **Commonwealth countries** to undertake an Executive Development Course with the **Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Ottawa**. Saus's family was evacuated to Sydney following **Cyclone Tracy**, but he

remained to play an instrumental role in the **maintenance of law and order in the town and the rebuilding phase**.

**Appointed Assistant Commissioner** in July 1975, he transferred to **Alice Springs** to take charge of the Southern Command, where he remained until May 1982.

He then transferred back to Darwin to take charge of the **Northern Command** and retired in 1992 at age 55 after 33 years service. Amongst other honours, Saus was awarded the **Australian Police Medal** for distinguished service on June 9, 1986 and was the recipient of the **Paul Harris Fellowship** in 1989.

**Matthew Sean Grant**, of the **Australian Federal Police**, told the congregation his father was a “good bloke”, one of Saus’s favorite descriptors to measure a person's worth and, amusingly, **equally applicable to either gender**. His father and a group of his contemporaries were responsible for developing the **moral code that governs the behavior of the modern Northern Territory Police Force**.

Continuing, he said he had been privileged to work alongside every police force in Australia, and that there was **no other force in Australia** that enjoys the

community trust and **cooperation experienced here in the Territory.**

I think it's a fairly simple equation. The community expects to be treated fairly irrespective of their race, sexual orientation, religion, gender or economic circumstances – and in my experience that is what the Territory community receives from the Northern Territory Police Force.

He told how Saus enjoyed the **odd punt** and used to have **two cigarettes** after dinner-his **only vice**. However, when one of the children complained that he smelt, he immediately gave up that single vice.

While talking about his father's integrity, he said when he looked up integrity in the **Oxford Dictionary** it simply said "**Saus Grant**". His father had written the book on integrity. "**Dad was the Phar Lap of integrity.**"

In his eulogy, **Michael Patrick Grant, Q.C.**, the **NT Solicitor-General**, said his father had high expectations, a hard man, in the best way of his time. "He was a quiet man in the sort of Gregory Peck tradition. In fact, one of the reasons I like **Gregory Peck's performance** in *To Kill a Mocking Bird* so much is that the character reminds me in many ways of Dad."

His father's **plain country upbringing** and old school values meant that he had a fair few idiosyncrasies. For example, he **considered sunglasses on a man** to be a **horrible affectation**. By the time he was 50 he could look at a man wearing sunglasses without having to **avert his gaze**. By the time he was 60 he had taken up wearing them himself,

but they were only small ones which clipped over the top of eyeglasses.

"**Men wearing jewellery** was an abomination in the eyes of God and anybody else who happened to be looking... Dad was firmly of the view that anybody who **used a car horn**, except in cases of emergency or mortal danger, was either a **spiv or a lair**, unless they were a **Darwin Greek**, excused because **their Mediterranean temperament** rendered them helpless to temptation, and because they had the good sense to have **chosen Darwin as their home.**"

**Anthony John Grant**, an **Adelaide doctor**, said it was ironic that the first Grant had arrived in Sydney in 1811 as a transported convict. Saus had taken him when he was 20 years old to see the graves of **five generations of forebears** around the NSW country town of **Canowindra**. His father had been lucky to have a mother-in-law who shared his interest in **golf and gambling**.

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**FOOTNOTE** : The Police Museum now displays a **sign** near the computer, where Saus sat for years, declaring the spot as his corner. Saus used to **brave Darwin motorists** and **cycle** to and from the building, often bringing with him fresh supplies of **Scotch Fingers**, bought on special in batches of five packets, much appreciated, which kept the **creative juices flowing**.

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## Mannion's Unique Movie Collection

Invaluable images of the past – with more to come- have so far been retrieved from the 8mm films taken by the late Inspector Jim Mannion over a period from the 1930s to the 1960s. Some of the film is so degraded it may be sent to the Film and Sound Archives in Canberra for specialist attention. Initial recovery was carried out by Bill Fletcher of ProVideo, Darwin, who has handled many interesting old films and videos in his business. He rated this collection as one of his more interesting assignments. The videos have been placed onto the NT Police Museum and Historical Society's [Youtube Channel](#) which can also be accessed through the NT [Police Museum Website](#). Just click these links if you are reading this electronically or see the last page for information on how to find our on-line content.

### IMAGES OF WAR

Even though damaged, faded, scratched and blotchy in places, there is footage taken during World War 11. It seems to show Mannion playing with his daughter, Nancy, in Adelaide, before going off to fight. He was stationed at Lake Nash when war broke out ; he resigned from the NT Police Force, the family moved to Adelaide, and he joined up.



*Boxing match aboard the troopship.*

Aboard the troopship Mauretania in a convoy, Mannion captured activities on deck – wrestling, playing dice, most men carrying a lifejacket. As Mannion was a keen boxer, wanting to be a journalist before joining the force, having written

for The Ring, a top US magazine, there is coverage of boxing on the ship. Carrying the title QUEEN MARY AT FREMANTLE EN ROUTE TO MALAYA 1941 this footage shows close up of the huge ship. Another segment is in a harbour in which there are said to be 100 ships.



*Military vessels and transports.*

Identified as 120 miles from Bombay, there are soldiers with villagers, children, cattle, women carrying pots on their heads, one three. The name NASIK appears, then JULIS, PALESTINE, with more village scenes, a camel and a cow being used to plough a field.

SYRIA comes up with mention of Dog River. Soldiers are seen with a car in mountainous country, snow visible. Bakhoum Village is included with women carrying bundles of wood and a

water supply point. In a part identified as “snow for Xmas” it shows soldiers shoveling snow and also throwing snowballs at each other.



*An Australian soldier tries on a Fez*

Beyrouth (Beirut) Races is another subject for the camera, followed by scenes of people harvesting, then “ancient SIDON”. Citation of May 2012 carried details of Mannion’s wartime account of the fighting illustrated with still photographs from his albums.

### **TIMBER CREEK & ROPER RIVER**

Mannion is seen in a group entering an outboard boat with panoramic footage of the landscape. Hatless, he is shown on a white pony next to the river. Visible is a windmill and tank, horses in a corral, a police officer, an eagle’s nest and finches.

Of interest is the large donkey team caught on film. Another portion is identified as CALLING IN THE CROCODILES LIKE TIMBER CREEK which shows crocs, which appear to be freshwater species, coming in to snap up food thrown to them.

Roper River footage covers aspects of life at the isolated police station, including a Christmas party attended by a large section of the community, Aboriginal pensioners arriving for rations, a burial corroboree. These same events are covered in the associated still photograph albums.



*Pensioners arrive for rations*

### **JAPANESE SALVAGE OF WRECKS**

There is coverage of the Japanese salvage operations in Darwin. The large floating crane used to pull chunks of metal cut from vessels is shown in action. Scrapmetal is stacked in neat piles on the side of the Neptuna which blew up alongside Stokes Hill wharf. The refloated British Motorist which became a live on mothership for the salvors is visible as are views of a diving tender.

Other Darwin subjects include swimming races and fashion parade at Larrakeyah Army barracks, playing rugby on Casuarina Beach, Nightcliff, boating activity at Lameroo, Mindil Beach, Fannie Bay, skilled waterskiers at Vestey’s Beach putting on a display with the late photographer, Joe Karlhuber, in the water taking shots.





*A Fujita salvage vessel hauling steel.*

## DARWIN EVENTS

The Catholic Cathedral is shown under construction. Though unclear in parts, Mannion did a windscreen drive by with his camera to show what Darwin looked like circa 1959 ; some residences appear to be on East Point Road. Houses on stilts and other dwellings are visible. Mannion caught the RAAF Black Diamond Squadron performing over the city. The Queen's yacht, Britannia, visited Darwin in 1963 and Mannion filmed the vessel escorted by HMAS Anzac. The Britannia is shown a blaze of lights at night. Visits of Governors-General Lord De L'isle, in white, sporting a plumed hat, and Sir William Slim are there.

## THE BLINDFOLDED DRIVER

Of particular interest was Mannion's coverage of the time police authorized American actor / magician, John Calvert, to drive blindfolded around the CBD, watched by a large crowd lined up on both sides of Smith Street. The

footage includes Mayor Richardson at the start where Calvert had each eye covered with a white pad, then a dark band was wrapped about his head before he drove off in an open topped vehicle, his head cocked to the side.



*Calvert drives blind - police supervise.*

The editor of the Northern Territory News, Jim Bowditch, can be seen shaking hands with Calvert and was later on stage with the actor during a magic show he performed in the Town Hall. Members of the Chinese community take part in a procession and the Lion dance is performed. Many men watch proceedings from the Victoria Hotel.




*The Royal Yacht Britannia in Darwin.*

## The Territory's Doomsday Book

As interest grows worldwide in family history, invaluable information for tracking down missing ancestors has been compiled in Darwin, with strong early input by renowned police researcher, Len Cossons.

SOUTHPORT CEMETERY N.T					
THIS PLAQUE IN THIS BURIAL GROUND MARKS THE LAST RESTING PLACE OF THE FOLLOWING WHO WERE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHPORT IN THE PERIOD 1873 - 1887					
D.O.D	Name	D.O.D	Name	D.O.D	Name
17.04.1873	Roschwer, Julius	05.01.1880	See Ah	03.05.1881	Chong Quong
02.08.1873	Thomas, William	09.01.1880	Chung Lo	10.05.1881	Lye Ah
13.11.1873	O'Donnell, John	16.01.1880	Goin Pow	23.07.1881	Hoy Chung Ah
02.12.1873	Carveth, Richard	24.01.1880	Fung Ah	01.10.1881	Sing Lin
03.05.1874	French, William	30.01.1880	Hoon Chew	06.10.1881	Now Sack
24.09.1874	O'Donnell, John	04.02.1880	Shun Nee Yung	21.10.1881	Yean Hong
03.04.1874	Bryson, Thomas	09.02.1880	Nee Ah	29.10.1881	Spurgin, Arthur C
05.12.1875	Houston, John Dr	18.02.1880	Quey Ah	23.10.1881	Nam Quong Ping
20.11.1876	Wilkinson, Henry	19.02.1880	Lok Ah	08.12.1881	Yaw Sack
01.01.1877	Blythman, Charles H.	22.02.1880	Yonk Ah	19.01.1882	Goan Ang
29.12.1877	Collett, William	13.04.1880	Fow Ah Low	27.01.1882	Goon Ah
07.03.1878	Hooker, George	19.04.1880	Luck Ah	07.04.1883	Kin Yow
22.01.1879	Hup, Young See	30.04.1880	Hum Sun	02.08.1883	Choon Chung Ah
05.02.1879	Ah Wing	04.06.1880	Wah Loo	02.11.1883	Song Ah
25.03.1879	Pybus, Henry	08.06.1880	Wah Lim	25.12.1883	Fong Ah
28.04.1879	Sing Key	16.06.1880	Chew Ah	02.12.1884	Tait Lung
31.05.1879	Fung Lee Ah	19.06.1880	Due Chin Ah	10.01.1885	Chin Tuck
27.07.1879	McDonald, Isabella	05.01.1881	See Ah	11.01.1886	Cheong Ah
06.11.1879	Hock Lim Aug	10.02.1881	Tok Ah	22.06.1887	Loong Yee
20.11.1879	Yu Ah	25.02.1881	Ha Chong Sing	13.07.1887	Fee Youl
21.11.1879	Yu Chong	03.03.1881	Suey Ah	06.09.1887	Loon Ah
27.12.1879	Odgers, William	31.03.1881	Fung Chon	10.12.1887	Chew Ah
		20.04.1881	Poy Chung		

**Rest in Peace**

 Northern Territory Government

Research by The Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory Inc

*Southport Cemetery plaque contains names of many Chinese who died there.*

The small but highly active **Genealogical Society of the NT** (GSNT) in Darwin has compiled a data bank listing the death and often last resting place of about **45,000 people in the Territory**, covering the **period 1824 to 2012**. The index, constantly updated, also lists some Territorians who died or were buried outside the NT.

A detailed account of this invaluable project is contained in the September

2012 edition of the GSNT journal, **Progenitor**, by the Secretary/Public Officer, **June Tomlinson**, in a lengthy article, **Researching and Marking Pioneer Cemeteries of the Northern Territory**.

The article acknowledges the contribution by former **NT Police Force Assistant Commissioner**, the **late Len Cossons**, who in retirement carried out extensive research compiling

information for Australian Archives and the Births Deaths and Marriages index.

Ms Tomlinson asked him to assist in making more detailed indexes and, at first, he emphatically stated he was not interested in being involved in another index. He mellowed, she wrote. With his laptop, he visited **NT Archives** and showed her the index he had started. It became known as the "**Len Cossons Index**", which covered **NT Mortuary Returns, Police Journals and Probates**.

Ms Tomlinson said that as the interest in family history began to grow, the GSNT was frequently asked for information about the **burial place of a missing relative**, the Territory being an ideal place in which to "**disappear**." To some the Territory had been the most distant part of the country you could go to without departing overseas. In some cases, they left family behind and did not say where they were going. Others liked the wandering life, the idea of being on the road and sleeping under the stars. Others, she wrote, saw the Territory providing opportunities for them personally, citing the **Pine Creek goldrush**, building the **Overland Telegraph Line**, cattle droving, mining.

With **Australia's Bicentennial looming**, Ms. Tomlinson asked how the **GSNT** could help family researchers find the burial place of missing ancestors. She wrote to all the local councils and asked for a copy of their **Burial Register**. She also approached the **Conservation Commission** and asked if they had any information on "lone graves." "Not one organisation said they could assist. Most said that if she found out who was buried in their area of

interest, would she please give them a copy of the information unearthed.

"Coming from a suburb of Sydney, I was horrified that no one had been keeping track of who was buried where," she continued. The only Burial Register was **for Palmerston** (now the Pioneer Cemetery in Darwin), which had a faulty recording system.

**Churches** were "very suspicious" about requests for information. When the Society asked for access to records which should have been kept by other local repositories, the response, with the exception of NT Archives, had been one of "**horror**" that the public actually wanted access to what the NT deemed as **highly confidential records**.

There was a gradual change in attitude, but some still found the research process difficult to accept. They did not, for example, understand why on a certificate of **say 1905** you would want to know the **cause of death** or the actual place of death. This information could be a **vital clue** in the quest to not only record the deceased in the correct cemetery, but to explore other associated records to find out more about the person. Records such as **Coronial Inquests, Testamentary Causes, newspapers or a report in a Police Journal** could help paint a more detailed picture of a person.

In the mid 1980s, the Society struck a deal with the local office of the then Australian Archives to work on the task of compiling a **proper index of deaths with associated information**. Volunteers worked one night a week transcribing **old Commonwealth records**. In many cases the records



were very fragile and there were times that a piece of **brittle paper** would break as a page was turned. In some instance Archives advised that once the GSNT had transcribed these records they would not be available for further research as they would be microfilmed to preserve them.

The **GSNT published** a number of these indexes which were made available at the **1986 Fourth Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry in Canberra**. The indexes included the **NT Census Records** for 1881,1891 and 1901,**Pastoral Permits and Leases, Mortuary Returns, Aliens**.etc and were well received as they were the first NT ones to become available.

Information contained in them gave researchers a **starting point for relatives** known to be in the Territory. In some cases, the question arose: Where did they die? This information was still **sadly lacking in the NT**. The Society engaged in further research for **births, deaths and marriages** indexes, with a team of four members. A number of **reported deaths** in a certain area raised the possibility of **unmarked potential cemeteries or lost cemeteries**. As a result, a list of **12 potential cemeteries** has been drawn up and GSNT has begun a campaign of **placing plaques** at these places, the latest being **Southport Cemetery** with the names of residents buried there between **1873 and 1887**.

As a result of the extensive research, GSNT put forward a proposal to the **Heritage Branch of the NT** to install **bronze markers at early cemeteries**, no longer in use, the **resting place of**

**pioneers** who helped **make the Territory**. Markers containing the names of those buried there and their date of death are already installed at eight cemeteries - **Brock's Creek (Zapopan), Port Darwin Camp, Stapleton, Emungalan, Southport, Rum Jungle, Maranboy and Fort Dundas**.

GSNT members engaged in compiling indexes :

- **The late Edna Pratt** - Indexed NT newspapers and other publications from 1921 on-***The Northern Standard and the Northern Territory Times and Gazette***, progressing up to modern publications.
- **Elaine Barry** – Followed the late Edna Pratt's work, started to **list historical articles in Darwin newspapers** – a well worn guide- which has **helped many people find information about relatives**.
- **Nancy Eddy**- A **local historian** who passed away recently, had the foresight to **photograph all the monumental structures left in the Palmerston Pioneer Cemetery and Gardens Road Cemetery**. Vandals over the years desecrated many of the monuments.
- **Vern O'Brien**- A **significant contributor to the recording of NT Cemeteries**, he began his career as a surveyor in 1946, was **NT Surveyor-General 1966**, Director of Lands in 1967 and **Secretary of the Department of Mines and Energy after Self Government** in 1978 until retirement in 1980. He was awarded the **OBE** for services to surveying and the

community. His information and ability to recall places and events in NT history has been a **driving force in the project**. Over the years he has amassed a **large collection of photographs**, which assists in referencing gravesites.

This plaque, in this cemetery marks the last resting place of the following who were residents of Emungalan, on the north bank of the Katherine River from 1915 to 1926.

Kennedy, Michael	1915.04.04
Thor, Madge	1922.05.25
Buckley, Gerald	1924.11.26
Chinese Child	1924 c



*Artifacts unearthed at the Southport site – photograph Peter Simon*



Left: The Police Station at Southport – image provided by Judy Henry, descendant of William Henry, who was born in the USA and transferred from SA Police to the NT in 1879. He served at Southport and Adelaide River until discharged in 1885. She also provided images of wagons on the road to the goldfields and early Mitchell Street.

Visit our [website](#) for full size images.



## Another NT Police Force Treasure Trove: The Stokes Collection

Tony Stokes, of Townsville, North Queensland, son of the late Inspector John (known by all as Jack) Stokes, is the keeper of his father's personal documents, photographs and books relating to his time in the Northern Territory Police Force and as the Official (now Administrator) on both Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island.

One of the prized possessions is his father's diary from 1937 -1942, kept, in the main, to enable him to send regular letters with comprehensive accounts of his activities and life in the Territory to his mother, relatives and friends down south. The letters were typed up and carbon copies kept. Tony gained approval from his father to print the diary, and in the preface said it is rich in the folklore of the fledgling NT and should be preserved.

By Peter Simon

The entries, he continued, were reproduced verbatim to retain their authenticity. Words which today have offensive, derogatory or racist overtones had not been deleted. They were written at a time when they were commonly used by white Australians in everyday language, if not in official reports. It was one of his father's strengths that he was able to win the lasting respect of Aborigines.

I visited Tony several times during a trip to Townsville and perused some of the archival material which resulted in further research in Darwin at NT Archives, the NT Police Museum and Historical Society, in Trove digital papers and elsewhere. What follows is a

broad, highly condensed coverage of just part of the Stokes family saga.

### AN IMPRESSIVE JOB APPLICATION

On May 11, 1936, Jack Stokes wrote to the Department of the Interior seeking a position in the Northern Territory Police Force. He opened by stating that he was interested in the progress of tropical Australia.

At the time he was single, living with his mother and two sisters. In the 1880s, his father, also John William Stokes, had been one of the first plain clothes detectives appointed by the Victorian Police Force. Jack was studying mathematics and Latin for matriculation and during 1931, under Professor A. Gunn, Professor of Psychology at Melbourne University, had completed third year psychology, dealing with problems of the immature mind.

At the age of 16 he had won the Victorian Railways Institute heavyweight Wrestling Championship. In addition, he played water polo, was an ex-president of the Victorian Railways Institute Sword Club, an experienced horseman with military experience.

His travels had taken him to eastern Australia as far north as Cairns and out west to Charleville.

Stokes had studied public speaking under Reverend W. Bottomley and elocution and dramatic art under Miss Adelaine Strain. What is more, he was a typist and was studying shorthand. These qualifications, he wrote, would enable him, if necessary, to teach swimming, wrestling, fencing, sabre fighting and their allied exercises. One can only imagine the response to such an impressive job application. It resulted in him setting out on an adventurous life in the Territory Force and then being made Australian Government Official Secretary (now known as Administrator) on Cocos and Christmas Islands, both places now very much in the news over the boat refugees.



*Jack Stokes receiving MBE from Governor-General, Sir Paul Hasluck, in 1971*

### INTERESTING INSIGHTS INTO TERRITORY POLICE NOVEL

An unusual item in the collection is the 1948 author's presentation copy to Sergeant John Stokes of the book *BAD*

*MEDICINE*, by Mounted Constable Vic Hall. Described as *A Tale of the Northern Territory*, dedicated to Fredwyn, the book was published by Robertson and Mullens, Melbourne, in 1947, 352pp. Of particular interest are the numerous comments and additional pieces of information Jack Stokes inserted in the book by way of margin notes

Medicine was a real life Aborigine, one of three arrested over the murder of man for his possessions; Medicine escaped from Hall's custody, was later arrested by Stokes at Mainoru in 1941, stood for trial, and was acquitted by a jury. Stokes had taken over Maranboy Police Station from Hall in 1940 and inherited his favourite mount, Midnight.

An art student in London, Hall joined the British Army in 1914 and served in France. Wounded five times, he was awarded the Military Medal; in 1920 he arrived in WA where he was a jackeroo and sailed in a pearling lugger. In 1924, he joined the Northern Territory Mounted Police, in which he served until 1942, when he joined the Army, serving in the Territory until 1945.

In the book's foreword, datelined Sydney, 1946, Hall said that in most cases a prominent person was engaged to eulogise a book. As he did not know anybody in that category, the Australian public would perhaps get a fairer go.

Hall then went on to make forthright statements about Australian Aborigines and their likely impact on the development of Australian literature. In part, his foreword said:



This is not a propaganda book for the black man. I do not say for the "Australian native," because the Australian native is getting much the same spin as most black men. Not many persons these days with any pretence to maturity of mind waste time crying the wrongs of minority races. The Australian native who has had the good sense to keep away from the fatal and tragic white man, still roams the Territory bush. There is still plenty of it. Those who have entered the economic trap in which their white brothers are caught, have been destroyed and may be written off. One does not waste sympathy on the dead. The outback Northern Territory native does not have to work for the white man; he can always go bush and is man enough to live in the wilderness.

Comparing natives who still remain in this category with the white man in his present social and economic state, there can be no doubt as to which of the two has really lost his freedom and dignity as a man. Hall ended his opening declaration with this passage :

In time to come an Australian literature and poetry will rise from the dust stamped from the good earth by the thundering feet of black men in corroboree. Out of this symbolic dust, and of the mysticism, legend, folk-lore and story of a people fifty thousand years old will be born an inspired literature truly Australian. It will be as truly Australian as the black man who has proved that he can do something that we have yet to prove - that he can come to terms with one of the toughest and hardest environments on earth,-an environment innocent of defending legions, that was yet sufficiently

daunting of itself to repel invaders for thousands of years.

Chapter one opens with Constable John Vincent Hales (immediately identified by Jack Stokes as Victor C. Hall) at Marananka Police Station (Maranboy Police Station). Police Tracker Menikmen is introduced on P12; Stokes added that he was Victor Menikmen, at the time of reading the book, at Beswick Station. Barton Springs is mentioned, said by Stokes to be four miles from the police station.



*Vic Hall*

The policeman and the Tracker discuss a killing involving three men, including Medicine. Stokes commented that Medicine came to Elcho Island and had got away from Hall but he (Stokes)

wrote that he had not known that he was wanted at the time.

Enter a horse called Midnight on P17 and Stokes describes it as a real horse - "Hall's and my favourite hack-now dead." All the horses had names beginning with M, one called Mustard.



*Stokes on Midnight.*

The character Jack McCrae is Jack McKay who then owned Mainoru Station. When Hall used Aboriginal language in the story, it drew the remark by Stokes that Vic Hall only knew a few words of the language. The Trooper meets Rainbow the Rainmaker, according to Stokes's annotation, "really a likeable old man, still alive". Stokes agreed with Hall that Maudie, on P34, a famous ancient retainer of the Police Station, an accomplished cook, chief

laundress, and general factotum to a long succession of officers, had been a good lubra.

When Trooper Hale gives Tracker Menikman a short Winchester carbine, Stokes wrote that he never gave his Tracker a gun because it usually got them into trouble. Vic Hall, he said, was a good pistol shot.

Pages 82-84 of the book are very revealing of the author. Trooper Hales is described as a deeply, almost fanatically conscientious man, passionately intolerant of injustice, his name almost a legend in the North. Hard bitten Territory bushmen discussing him profanely in lonely places. The "bastard could shoot". "From Darwin to the Queensland border, and from the Arnhem Land coast to the Westralian border, went the shooting fame of Trooper Hales, of the N.T. Mounted Police".

Trooper Hales, the novel said on page 82, was educated, had books, could do medical work, had paintings in his quarters done by his own hand (Hall was an artist) and "the bastard" could sing as well. This illuminating and colourful section caused Stokes to say it was drawing the long bow, that Hall was a good chap, but eccentric. He was no legend.

On the next page Stokes noted that Hall was an excellent painter, a fair baritone singer and good at first aid. Ted Egan knew Hall and wrote extensively about him in his 1992 book ***Justice All Their Own*** about the notorious 1932-1933 Caledon Bay and Woodah Island killings, in which Hall was involved. He found him "***typical of many old bush policemen...nostalgic for the 'good***



*old fashioned blackfellows' who served with them in their many remote postings".*



*The famous chair used by Hall*

A veteran ex-tracker, **Lightning**, who had worked for many policeman is identified by Stokes who said he was still at Maranboy. Trooper Hales unpacks from a **greenhide carrier** what is described as a folding stool, famous throughout the NT bush, known as "**the Bosses chair**". Stokes adds the additional information that he was now the owner of the famous stool. That stool is now in Townsville at his son's residence, above. It is small and would have been easily stowed and attached to a horse, and a welcome seat at camp.

A passage refers to an aged Minister for the Interior issuing instructions that no natives were to be arrested for murder until a full investigation and report had been telegraphed to Canberra. This is true, is the penned remark by Stokes. In respect of an event in the novel in which Constable Hales shoots dead One Eye Jacky, Stokes said the person of that name had not been shot by Constable Hall, he had been convicted and went to gaol at Darwin for a while ; he was back at Maranboy in 1940 and later died there.

A judge in the story is identified as Judge Wells...still in the Territory – "Still with us, thank God. A great man according to Stokes. There is a part in the book where Trooper Hales engages in a lively debate and says the history of the NT is the story of one long bludge on the Aboriginal. Stokes identifies the characters in the exchange and adds additional information.

While sharing a bottle of whisky with a battery manager, after the escape of Medicine, Constable Hales rants about the federal Minister who thinks the sun shines out of the foot of the NT Administrator, identified as "old Strawberry" - the nickname for C L. Aubrey Abbott, in residence the day of the bombing of Darwin. Other characters, observations and comments follow. There is old Bob Walker who used to be gaoler at Alice Springs, now working at Myer; police officers - ex champion wrestler of the Scottish police, Sergeant Wood, and Jack Mahoney; former officers Ted Morey, then buffalo shooting, and Wally Langdon, managing Horseshoe Bend Station.

Pine Creek identities are there, including Mrs Christina Gordon, who moved to Darwin and ran an hotel, and Eileen O'Shea, a Territory pioneer, who married Constable Tas Fitzer and died in 2001 aged 99. There is a passage in the book which actually relates to Constable Vic Hall uncovering appalling treatment of Aboriginal workers at a mine and the authorities taking no action. Stokes wrote that Vic Hall had resigned over this episode. The Native Affairs Department comes in for strong criticism in the book.

In another philosophical debate with a doctor, Constable Hales describes the NT as part Wild West and part Stone Age. The 20 stone Clerk of Courts in the book was clearly based on Wesley Nicols. The novel ends soon after the hearing of murder charges against two Aborigines who acting on the instruction of Medicine, by then still at large, had killed the victim and taken his possessions. When they are found not guilty, Constable Hales adjourns to a nearby Darwin pub and proposes a toast to the "overdue death of a great myth" which he states is "the inferiority of the Australian native."

### NEWSPAPER FIRES SHOT AT BOOK

The union owned Northern Standard newspaper carried a review of the book on September 12, 1947. As usual, it took the opportunity to again take a swipe at the Administration and the police. In part, it read --

This book on the Territory by an ex-member of the N.T. Police, is a strange mixture of semi-factual, camouflaged autobiographical fiction - cum propaganda. The foreword, which is

somewhat abnormal in that it is written by the author, states that the book is not propaganda for the black man. Thus the author disclaims any intention of striving for the book's only real achievement-that of propagandizing the real worth of the Australian natives in the Territory, and their unfortunate plight between the upper millstone of merciless exploitation for private gain, and the nether millstone of the unsympathetic, uncaring, and ignorant "protection" of N.T. Administration.

The value of the propaganda -which-is-not-propaganda is to a large extent nullified by the second main theme of the book. This is a highly glamourized, "Sanders of the River" - type picture of the lives and calibre of the N.T. Police. It is the picture of a tall, lean, stern-faced guardian of the outposts of Empire, who faces death every day or so; who administers justice and ministers to the sick with firm impartiality and benign grace; and then in the cool of the evening changes into immaculate whites, glances over the shining appointments of the table, and rings a silver bell for the slim black maid clad in neat print dress.

The hero, who is of the stuff of which real heroes are made -by the more prolific authoresses-apprehends three native murderers and shoots another one dead, along with other stirring activities, in the space of two or three weeks.

At Katherine, during a trip to Darwin on the train, he throws a sixteen-stone drunken bully over his head, and tracks down a man who has wandered away to die. At Pine Creek he is spared the task of handling another mammoth drunk by

a brother policeman, who nonchalantly saunters in and throws the drunk, chair and all, out of the window.

This thrilling tale of adventure should be popular with those romantic-souled "Pacific Pommies" (in the words of Mr. Hall) who will not dare the Great Outback, but who cluster fearfully in English-style cities on the Pacific fringe of this grim, forbidding land. The Territorian who carpingly seeks for exactitude may wonder how Jack McGuinness' fettling gang comes to be grilling steak ON A SHOVEL, in the railway station, at 10 o'clock in the morning...

However, we rejoice at the publicity given to the raw deals meted out to natives (such as the Granites goldfield's case), and agree with the author that successful official careers are not built by champions of the cause of the oppressed. With him we congratulate those who do, never-the-less, champion the natives. Bad Medicine contains some good medicine, but the sugar is not altogether to our taste.

### **STRANGE COURT APPEARANCE BY MEDICINE**

In what can only be described as a bizarre twist, a newspaper report said Medicine became an interpreter in the NT Supreme Court. Brisbane's Courier Mail of September 27, 1949 ran a report from Darwin headed MEDICINE HAD THE ANSWERS. It said the accused Aborigine, Next Day, had been acquitted of the murder of his wife, Miboolooloo, because the native interpreter, Medicine, "persistently answered counsel's question himself."

When the interpreter was brought into court, the Crown Prosecutor, Mr K. Edmunds, said, "I believe that Medicine is not unknown to Your Honour." Judge Wells replied, "It's the bad Medicine". The report explained that Bad Medicine was the title of a book by "ex-cop" Constable V C Hall which described his chase through Arnhem land after Medicine who was then at the "height of a criminal career".

Throughout questioning of an Aboriginal witness, Medicine repeatedly responded without reference to the witness. Judge Wells said it looked as though the court was getting "the story" from the interpreter, Medicine. There was an objection by the defence counsel, Mr F.D. Green. Green asked the witness if there had been any fires at the scene of the murder and Medicine, without reference to the witness, said, "No." After experiencing the same difficulty with a number of other witnesses, Judge Wells directed Next Day be acquitted.

### **THE LONG ARM**

Another book in the Stokes archives in Townsville is the 1974 book THE LONG ARM A Biography of a Northern Territory Policeman -John Stokes - by Hugh V. Clarke. The book was in the Roebuck Society series, an outlet for works of merit on Australian historical subjects not otherwise published. In the foreword, Governor-General, Sir Paul Hasluck, said he held Stokes in high regard and when he was Minister for Territories had selected him for the position as the Official Representative of the Cocos (Keeling ) Islands and Christmas Island, adding that in all the posts Stokes occupied he showed that uprightness of character, resolution,



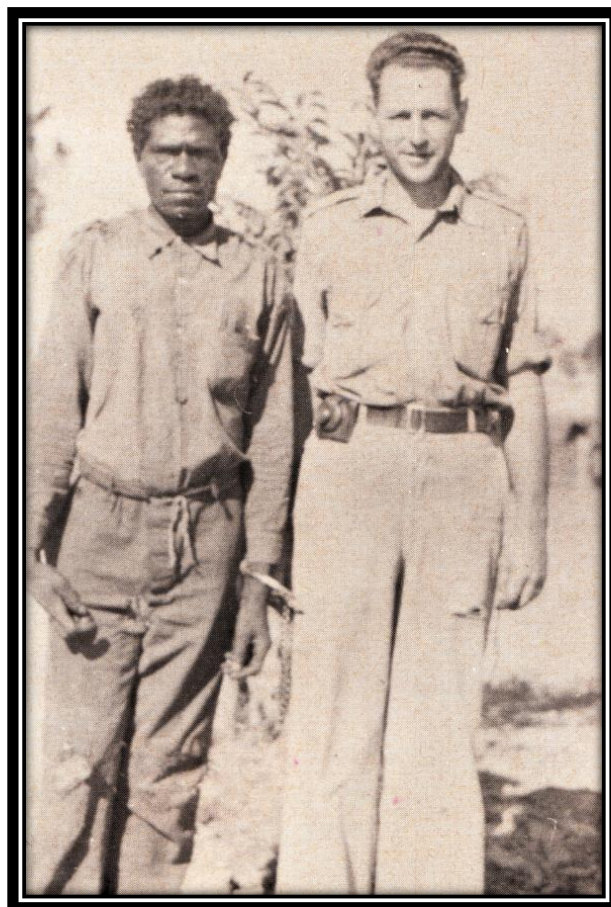
dedication and that nice balance between strictness in duty and human compassion revealed in the book. He said that the narrative also made a valuable contribution to the history of Northern Australia in telling something of the work of the police in an early period when conditions were difficult and facilities were few. It did honour to a band of men who had not yet been fully recognized by their fellow Australians. The book drew heavily on the diary kept by Stokes.

Author Hugh Clarke had served in the 8th Division in Malaya and Singapore and was a POW in Thailand and Japan.

At the time of writing the book he was Director of Information and Public Relations for the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and had formerly been Director of Information and Publicity in the Department of External Affairs. He died in 1996 and an obituary appeared in *The Australian*.

A chapter in the well illustrated book is headed MEDICINE and includes the 1941 photograph of him handcuffed to Constable Stokes. It recalled that when Vic Hall had gone to arrest Medicine, he had been trailing a spear through the grass with his toes and would almost

certainly have speared him but for an alert Tracker who raised the alarm. Medicine had been acquitted in a Darwin trial and later died in Arnhem Land.



Stokes with Medicine – Maranboy 1941

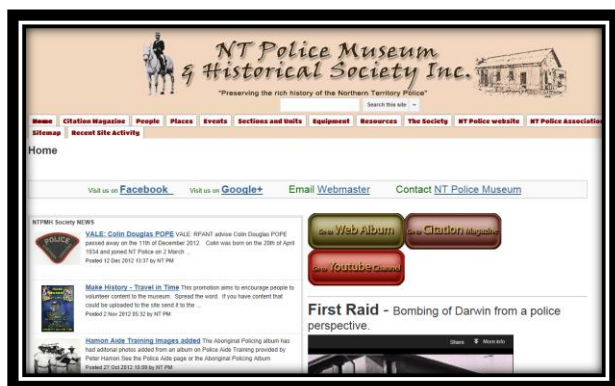


The next page is dedicated to helping you make the most of our internet presence.

Storage consumes most of the room at House 3 so we rely on the internet to share our history – here is how to use it.

### First - [visit our website](#)

– Type “NT Police Museum” into your search engine (also known as a ‘browser’ such as Google, Internet Explorer or Firefox). In the electronic version you can click on the link above.



### [Visit our website](#)

The website has a news column, tabs (red text) to take you to the different parts of the site and large buttons to visit;

- our [Web Albums](#) – 3000+ images
- the [Citation magazine](#) on-line
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There is also a [site map](#) and a site search tool to help you find your way around. There are over 300 pages now. Help us make the site better! Where you see there is a gap just write down what you know and send it to the webmaster email [ntpmhs99@gmail.com](mailto:ntpmhs99@gmail.com) and help us to share our history. Images or documents if properly scanned can be added to the site.

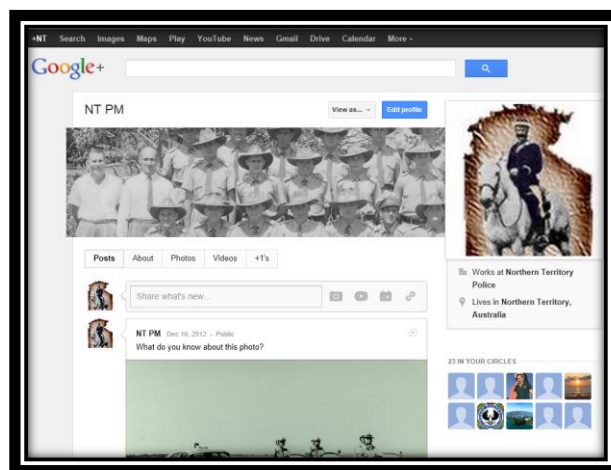
There are links on the homepage to our social media sites. Facebook is the largest social network and at the time of

writing there are 699 people who have added “NT PM” as a friend. If you have a Facebook account then check us out. By making us ‘friends’ you will see our public posts about once a week or so.



### [Visit us on Facebook](#)

Google+ is much younger and has fewer users at present but it offers very good integration with other tools we use. If you have a Google account then you can add us to one of your circles.



### [Visit us on Google+](#)

*If you haven't seen our online content you're missing out.*

## [Make History!](#)

## Close Encounter with a Nag

Former police officer, **Denzil McManus and wife Shirley**, have a rural property in Darwin with an affectionate ex - riding school horse, **Desdemona**. A close friend, **Graham Rees**, secretary of the **Retired Police Association of the NT**, looks after the property and the horse while they are away. Recently Desdemona gave Denzil a playful bite on the leg and **trod on Graham's foot**, causing him to leap about like **an Irish River Dancer**. In another mishap, while acting as an ostler down on the farm, Graham caught his hoof in a strand of fencing wire and went down like one of the few fully paid up members of the **Australian Limp Fallers' Club**.

## New Outlets for Museum

There have been exciting developments in our physical presence with 'in principal' approval for us to start creating displays at the Fannie Bay Gaol in Cell Block A. This is now likely to start on-site development in February 2013, subject to approval, with a longer term project to add air conditioning to the building so it is suitable for more fragile exhibits. There are many points of connection with the prison which has a unique ambience that will prove an excellent backdrop for many of the exhibits that we have. It is an ambitious project and so we are now officially on a recruiting drive – many hands make light work – so what are you doing in 2013.

There are also negotiations underway with the Darwin Military Museum for some exhibit space in their complex for items of history that have a nexus with military activity such as police involvement in the North Australia Observer Unit, police involvement during the Bombing of Darwin and military like activity such as Bomb Response.

### SPONSORS Patron Vince Kelly APM – NT Police Association

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Territory Police  
Force**



**Northern Territory  
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