Early history of the Northern Territory

Presented by Gregory Cope, National Archives of Australia

NAA: M948, 46

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Northern Territory
= 1.35 million sq. kms

Evidence of human settlement = 50,000 years.

Population = 244,000
Evolution of British Colonies in Australia
Evolution of British Colonies in Australia

1788

NEW SOUTH WALES

1825

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND

NEW SOUTH WALES

1829

SWAN RIVER COLONY

NEW SOUTH WALES

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND

18 June 1829 - Swan River Colony Proclaimed.

Norfolk island (NSW)

New Zealand (administered as part of New South Wales)
Evolution of British Colonies in Australia

1836

1846

1847
PORT ESSINGTON - named on 17 April 1818 by Phillip Parker King in HMS Mermaid – sketch by PP King.
1818 – Port Essington, Inner Harbour.
Failed attempts at white settlement – Northern Territory

- Fort Dundas
- Victoria
- Port Essington
- Fort Wellington, Raffles Bay
- Escape Cliffs (Palmerston)
- Darwin
First British settlement – Fort Dundas
Melville Island 1824-1828

Sketch of Fort Dundas by J.S. Roe on HMS ship HMS Tamar, 1 November 1824 - Battye Library W.A.
Pirlangimpi is two kilometres from the site of the first British settlement in northern Australia - Fort Dundas.
Ruins of Fort Dundas, 1975 – NAA: Series A6180
The results of the 1975 – survey of Port Dundas
Site Fort Dundas - today

REST IN PEACE
This Plaque commemorates the last resting place of those who served and those who came to Fort Dundas (1824 – 1827).
Transfer of this settlement to Fort Wellington occurred in the early part of 1828.

Jenkins Reece: 1825.03.10
Hodder Samuel: 1825.03.10
Kitt, Robert Christopher: 1825.03.28
Baptiste Nicholas: 1825.05.05
Thompson Charles: 1825.05.12
Courtney (Royal Marine): 1825.05.18
Rawlinson Ephraim: 1825.05.23
Burley Thomas: 1825.05.01
Bennett William: 1825.06.06
Gwilliam Samuel: 1825.08.11
Davis Thomas: 1825.08.14
Robinson Thomas: 1825.08.25
Moore Richmond: 1825.11.06
Finn John: 1825.11.22
Farrell George: 1825.12.20
Tielam Patrick: 1826.01.28

Potvin James: 1826.06.27
Sullivan Thomas: 1826.09.18
Campbell Julius: 1826.10.26
Burton William: 1826.11.10
Johnson Henry: 1826.12.02
Jeacock Stephen: 1826.12.07
Brookshaw John: 1826.12.31
Calvert Richard: 1827.01.02
Pembroke Edward: 1827.01.06
Warren John: 1827.02.01
Lornan aka Frank Joseph: 1827.03.10
Pilgrim Francis: 1827.03.10
Bailey John: 1827.05.03
Brown Patrick: 1827.09.21
Hicks Sophie: 1827.11.02
Gold J.P. Dr John: 1827.11.02
Green John Henry: 1827.11.02

THE OWNERS OF THESE LANDS IN ONE ACCORD WITH THE NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT ACKNOWLEDGE AND RESPECT THE RESEARCH OF THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY TO RECORD THE LAST RESTING PLACE OF THIRTY THREE PIONEERS WHO CAME TO THESE ISLANDS IN THE 1820'S TO ESTABLISH A TRADING POST AND TO PROTECT OUR SHORES AND WHO REMAIN AMONG US THROUGH OUR COMMON ETERNITY

NAMINGI MAMANTA WUWA NGURTI

Proudly supported by Northern Territory Government

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Fort Wellington 1827 - 1829

SETTLEMENT AT FORT WELLINGTON.
View of Raffles Bay, with Croker Island in the distance
Historical Society NT – Trip to Fort Wellington July 2008

Your story, our history

Victoria Settlement - Port Essington  1838 - 1850
1840 - New Victoria
Lithographe from Voyage au Pôle Sud et en Océanie by Jules Dumont d'Urville
Port Essington – Surveyed by Mr Charles J. Tyers of the HMS Alligator 1839
Site of first landing – Record Point.

Site of Victoria Settlement
November 1839 - a cyclone brought ashore the HMS Pelorus
JOURNAL
OF AN
OVERLAND EXPEDITION
IN
AUSTRALIA,
FROM
MORETON BAY TO PORT ESINGTON,
A DISTANCE OF UPWARDS OF 3000 MILES,
DURING THE YEARS 1844-1845.

BY
DR. LUDWIG LEICHHARDT.

"Die Götter brauchen manchen guten Mann
Zu ihrem Dienst auf dieser weiten Erde."
Gottus, ina, auf Tenris.

LONDON:
T. & W. BOONE, 29, NEW BOND STREET.
1847.
Historical – Site of Victoria settlement at Port Essington, Cobourг Peninsula - NAA: Series A6135
ESCAPE CLIFFS - South Australia's Northern Capital
1839 - The sketch of Escape Cliffs by Lewis Roper Fitzmaurice.
6 May 1865 – Seven men took three months to sail from Escape Cliffs to Fremantle, Western Australia.
Some of the first photographic images of the Northern Territory are of Escape Cliffs, Palmerston – taken in 1864 by Arthur Hamilton.
Crossing a continent – John McDouall Stuart, 1862

NAA: A1200, L33808

Your story, our history

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Charles Todd – South Australian Superintendent of Telegraphs.
Fort Hill – Port Darwin on Darwin harbour.

Your story, our history

naa.gov.au

Images, State Library of South Australia
1869 - George Woodrooife Goyder’s Survey Party
Fort Hill – first European burial site in Darwin
Goyder was sent by the government of South Australia, to lay out the street plans for a capital to be named Palmerston.
George Woodroffe Goyder
Goyder and his team surveyed the township of Daly.
On 1 January, 1870 - 60 men, women and children stepped ashore in Port Darwin, at Fort Hill.
William Bloomfield DOUGLAS - Government Resident in the Northern Territory - 1870-1873
Sept. 1870 - Planting the first telegraph pole, near Palmerston.
Charles Todd - appointed head of Overland Telegraph Line project.

1871 – Roper River cable ships  NAA: C5487, PH/0212
Roper River is navigable for 145 km.
Upper Roper now called Roper Bar
Laying the line 1870 – 1872

Roper River Jetty

Your story, our history

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1872 - Roper River camp, Northern Territory
7 November 1871 - Bringing the telegraph cable ashore from the ship Hibernia at Darwin.
Undersea Cables 1871 & 1879 – today at Cable Beach
1872 - The first telegraph station at Palmerston, NT –
NAA: A1200, L26070

Your story, our history

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22 August 1872 - Overland Telegraph was completed when the lines were joined at Frews Ironstone Ponds [between Daly Waters & Newcastle Waters]
1872 - Alice Springs and the MacDonnell Ranges

Your story, our history

naa.gov.au
1871 - Alice Springs – *Mparntwe* was significant place for the Arrernte people.
1887 – Gold discovered at Arltunga - 100km east of Alice Springs
1888 – Town of Stuart surveyed - 3km from Alice Springs

Memorandum.

From

The Warden of Goldfields,
ARLTUNGA,
MacDONNELL RANGES,

To

was lodged, by anyone, and the late Rights was accordingly issued on December 27, 1909. Both Weller and Rosenbaum were informed by me that a late Right did not entitle the holder to run any but necessary or working stock on the land at or near the well. Again, I have determined the exact position.
The Overland Telegraph Line – created employment and settlements.
1874 - Barrow Creek Station attacks
Lease #1 - issued to Andrew Tennant and John & Robert Love on 1 April 1872 for a property near Alice Springs
NORTHERN TERRITORY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

PLAN
referred to in
ANNEXED LEASE.
No. 1

App'h 47/72

Certified to be a correct diagram in December 1917.
APPLICATION FOR LEASE OF WASTE LANDS OF THE CROWN, NORTHERN TERRITORY, S.A.

(Application Act 23 of 1862)

Application No. 41 of George Saltmarch MacLachlan containing 300 square miles

Exemption Dated Oct. 9th, 1871

Term, 25 Years.

I, George Saltmarch MacLachlan of Port Darwin,
do hereby make application for a portion of Waste Lands of the Crown in the Northern Territory of South Australia, the situation and boundaries thereof are shown in the Plan annexed hereto, and to which I have affixed my signature, and I make the above application under the Waste Lands Regulations now in force.

Witness Robert F. Hindmarsh

being the applicant for run No. do solemnly declare that the said run was stocked by on the
day of 18 , and continues to be stocked to the extent required
by clause No. 2 of the Regulations under the Northern Territory Act.

Declared before me, at the

day of 18 .

J.P.

To the Government Resident, Northern Territory.

I know of no objection to granting the above lease. This application is therefore forwarded for the Treasurer's receipt for the money.

Government Resident.

18 .

Received the above amount of £ this day of

18 .

Treasurer.
APPLICATION FOR LEASE OF WASTE LANDS OF THE CROWN, NORTHERN TERRITORY, S.A.
(Under Act 23 of 1863).

Application No. 46 of John Forbes containing 300 square miles Dated 5th October, 1871.

Term, 95 Years.

John Forbes of Wallala

do hereby make application for a portion of Waste Lands of the Crown in the Northern Territory of South Australia, the situation and boundaries whereof are shown in the Plan annexed hereto, and to which I have affixed my signature. And I make the above application under the Waste Lands Regulations now in force.

Witness—

Robert Charlton,  

being the applicant for run No.  

do solemnly declare that the said run was stocked by  

on the day of 18 , and continues to be stocked to the extent required by clause No. 2 of the Regulations under the Northern Territory Act.
The Hundred of Bagot is the cadastral survey unit for the city of Darwin.
NORTHERN TERRITORY.

APPLICATION FOR LEASE OF PASTORAL LANDS, UNDER ACT 48, 1876.

Term, 25 years from 1st January 1878.

Application No. 1731 of containing 108 square miles £ 2 : 10 :— Dated 22nd Oct. 1877.

I, Thomas Hordern of Brisbane, do hereby make application for a Lease of a certain portion of the Waste Lands of the Crown in the Northern Territory of South Australia, the situation and boundaries whereof are shown in the plan hereto annexed, to which I have affixed my signature; and I make the above claim under clause 4 of the Regulations now in force (dated 28th December, 1876).

Witness—

[Signature]

Telegram under clause 5, sent to Northern Territory, dated 22nd Oct. 1877.

Approved by Government Resident, vide Telegram dated 24th October 1877.

Forwarded to Treasury for receipt of first year’s Rent, viz.:—£ 2 : 10 :—

[Signature]

Pro Surveyor-General.

24th Oct. 1877.

Received the above amount of £ 2 : 10 : this 29th day of October 1877.

[Signature]

Pro Treasurer.

being the holder of a preferential right to a lease of Run No. 1, do solemnly declare that the said Run has been stocked, and continues to be stocked to the extent required by clause 2 of the Regulations under “The Northern Territory Land Act, 1876.”
Thomas McIlwraith applied for 10 lots of 100 miles along the Queensland Border.
The port area of Darwin had two hills and the two existing city wharves are named after those hills.
1889 - The first jetty and railway line
Stokes Hill Wharf – Darwin harbour

‘Sandfly’
1904 - The Stokes Hill wharf was timber replaced by metal piers and became known as the Town Wharf.
July 1887 - The first engine of the first Northern Territory railway was named Port Darwin
South Australian Railways

PALMERSTON AND PINE CREEK LINE.

This Line will be opened for passenger and Goods Traffic on and after MONDAY, September 30.

Trains will leave Palmerston passenger station at 8 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, for Pine Creek, returning from Pine Creek at 8 a.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, for Palmerston, calling at all intermediate stations.

Passengers fares and goods rates as per placard for October 1st, 1889.

Goods consigned to stations where there is no resident staff will be carried at owner’s risk, and all charges thereon must be prepaid.

ALLAN G. PENDLETON,
17 — 18) GENERAL TRAFFIC MANAGER.

Your story, our history

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Asian Labour was used to build the most northern railway in Australia:

Singhalese & Indian gangs did the grubbing and earthwork then 3,000 Chinese labourers laid over 1 km of track per day. A total of 310 bridges and culverts were built.
1891 – Palmerston view from Fort Hill
Cavenagh Street in Port Darwin's Chinatown
Sue Wah Chin building – the only 19th Century Chinese heritage building in Darwin.
1890 Leper Station on Mud Island

Your story, our history

naa.gov.au
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarantine &amp; Leprosariums (Lazarettes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mud Island Leper Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat Island Leper Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channel Island Quarantine Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channel Island Leprosarium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Arm Quarantine Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Arm Leprosarium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Site of the Quarantine & Leprosariums (Lazarettes) in the Darwin area.

Your story, our history

naa.gov.au
1891 Census:

The following returns, showing the population of the Northern Territory, are taken from official documents, and are true according to the last census, taken in 1891:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District Council of Palmerston—Bagot (portion of                      .........</td>
<td>1176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counties Diavali, Malnesbury, Palmerston (portion of) and             .........</td>
<td>2893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosebery, including Bathurst and Malville Islands                      ...</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country east of Counties Diavali and Rosebery                          ...</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country east of 134° east long. to the Gulf of Carpentaria           .........</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and between 13° 58' and 15° 30' south latitude                       ...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country east of 134° east long. to the Gulf of Carpentaria           .........</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and between 15 deg. 30' and 17 deg. south lat., being                ...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>portion of Daly Waters subdivision of Electoral District              ...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country west of 134 deg. east long. to the western boundary         .........</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of the colony, and between 13 deg. 58' and 15 deg. 30' south lat.     ...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country west of 134 deg. east long. to the western boundary         .........</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of the colony, and between 15 deg. 30' and 17 deg. south lat., being</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>portion of Daly Waters subdivision of Electoral District              ...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powell's Creek subdivision of Electoral District                    .........</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennant's Creek subdivision of Electoral District                    .........</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barrow's Creek subdivision of Electoral District                    .........</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Springs subdivision of Electoral District                      .........</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte Waters subdivision of Electoral District                   .........</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of Northern Territory                                          ..........</td>
<td>4898</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 4898

Note—Of this population 3,392 are Chinese male adults.

Aborigines in Northern Territory:

Males, 12,819. Females, 7,806. Grand total, 20,655.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>adults</th>
<th></th>
<th>Children</th>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>male</td>
<td>female</td>
<td>male</td>
<td>female</td>
<td>male</td>
<td>female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palmerston O.R.</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europeans</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>766</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>788</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>missionaries</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malays</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indians</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandakan</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinangs</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>1015</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1189</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1897 – Palmerston destroyed by a cyclone called ‘The Great Hurricane’
1 January 1911 – Transfer of the Northern Territory of South Australia to the Commonwealth Government of Australia – Palmerston was officially renamed Darwin.
1911 Aboriginals Ordinance (Commonwealth)
The Chief Protector could take any Aboriginal person into custody.
1911 – Aboriginal people lived in camps on the fringes of towns, or outside of properties or in remote parts of the territory including the desert.
The Residency to Government House.
1910 – 1912    Samuel James Mitchell - Government Resident of the Northern Territory
1912 – Commonwealth Government sends a Parliamentary Party to report on the Northern Territory.
1912 – The new Administrator - Dr John Gilruth and family.
1912 - The Minister for External Affairs Josiah Thomas, Sir Walter Barttlot, and Dr. Gilruth [left to right]
1912 – Commonwealth Parliamentary Party on the ‘road’ to Katherine.
1914 - Premises in Darwin condemned by the Public Health Board. Chinese hovels.
1914 - Vestey Brothers built a meat processing works at Bullocky Point, Darwin.
1915 – Northern Territory hotels were nationalised by the Federal Government.
1917 – The Northern Territory Railway reached Katherine re route to Alice Springs and Adelaide.
17 Dec 1918 - The Darwin Rebellion

Political unrest run by the Australian Workers' Union seeking:
1. Removal of the Administrator Gilruth
2. Political representation.
17 Dec 1918 - Front of the protest march was a car, with an effigy of Gilruth
DARWIN -- Liberty Square commemorates:
• The site of the civil unrest demonstration of 1918.
• Commemorates the Territory`s battle for self rule and full admission to the federation of Australia.
The story will be continued.....
You can search the collection online.
Access the database called - RecordSearch:
Thank you for attending today – now don’t do this at home!
Your story, our history