

# Northern Territory Chronicle 1979

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<i>Date</i>	<i>Item</i>
<b>January</b>	The Katherine Rural Education Centre, offering a year-long certificate course of practical training for living and working on the land, commences operations from temporary quarters in Katherine High School.
<b>1 January</b>	The Northern Territory Government accepts from the Commonwealth Government responsibility for health services in the Territory.
<b>1 January</b>	Mr Harold Tiger Brennan AO, dies in Darwin Hospital, aged 73. A former Independent Member of the Legislative Council, and Mayor of Darwin, Tiger Brennan was renowned for his pith helmet and cigar and his frequent attacks on the Canberra bureaucracy.
<b>2 January</b>	The Second Everingham Ministry of six is appointed, with Nick Dondas taking the additional Ministerial position.
<b>22 January</b>	The Administrator, Mr John England, under the <a href="#">Town Planning Act 1964</a> , is notified of approval of amendments to the Darwin Town Plan.

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<b>1 February</b>	The CREST unit at Gunn Point Prison Farm, manned around the clock by prisoners, is officially opened.
<b>1 February</b>	Hong Kong lifts its ban on live cattle imports from the Northern Territory, ending the prohibition imposed in late 1977 over a blue-tongue virus scare.
<b>1 February</b>	As part of the Letts package, entry permits obtained in writing from Aboriginal Land Councils and/or traditional Aboriginal land owners, and subject to such conditions as the Council or owners see fit, become a compulsory requirement by Northern Territory law for entry onto Aboriginal land.

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<b>March</b>	Aborigines living in Darwin's Railway Dam area are granted a special purposes lease, the first of its kind, which vests the three hectare camp site in perpetuity with the Aboriginal Development Foundation.
<b>9 March</b>	The Third Everingham Ministry of six is appointed, with members unchanged.
<b>22 March</b>	Queensland Mines Ltd and the Northern Land Council sign an agreement for uranium mining at Nabarlek at a ceremony on the mine site, providing Aborigines with a financial stake in the project and including important environmental and social controls.

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<b>5 April</b>	Stage One of Kakadu National Park is proclaimed.
<b>6 April</b>	Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser, visits Alice Springs to open a new CSIRO Central Australian laboratory and to lay the foundation stone of the Alice Springs Civic Centre.

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<b>17 May</b>	The Legislative Assembly is formally presented with its Mace by a special Commonwealth delegation, led by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Sir Billie Snedden, and the President of the Senate, Sir Condor Laucke.
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<b>19 May</b>	The inaugural Fred's Pass Rural Show opens.
<b>28 May</b>	Chief Minister Paul Everingham hands over the title deeds to the Kulaluk area in Darwin to Larrakia leader, Mr Bobby Secretary, at a ceremony attended by 300 people.
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<b>8 June</b>	Uranium mining officially begins in the East Alligator Rivers region after a silver spade ceremony at Nabarlek in which the Chairman of the NLC, Mr Galawarruy Yunupingu, turns the first sod.
<b>11 June</b>	The Ranger uranium mine opening ceremony takes place with the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Doug Anthony, planting a tree to mark the project's commencement.
<b>15 June</b>	Laws controlling the operation of casinos in the Northern Territory are assented to by the Administrator, allowing Darwin's first mini casino, operated by Federal Hotels Ltd, to open in the Don Hotel while the casino at Mindil Beach is being built.
<b>16 June</b>	In the Queen's Birthday honours list, the Reverend Dr Francis Flynn MSC is appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for community service, particularly in the fields of religion, medicine and Aboriginal welfare.
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<b>1 July</b>	The Northern Territory Government accepts responsibility from the Commonwealth Government for the provision of education services in the Northern Territory.
<b>1 July</b>	The inaugural Darwin Bougainvillea Festival is held, to coincide with the first anniversary of self-government, with entertainer Mr Rolf Harris as patron and special guest.
<b>2 July</b>	The Fourth Everingham Ministry of six is appointed, with members unchanged.
<b>2 July</b>	The Territory Insurance Office (TIO), established by the Northern Territory Government commences operation in Darwin. Whilst competing with other insurance companies in about 20 forms of insurance, the TIO has a monopoly on the no-fault motor accident compensation scheme which replaces third party insurance.
<b>4 July</b>	The Territory's first eight Aboriginal Police Aides, specially trained in coastal surveillance, graduate following a training course in Darwin and take up duties at Top End communities.
<b>21 July</b>	The gigantic saltwater crocodile, Sweetheart, known as the monster of the Finniss River, dies whilst being captured by a team from the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission. The 780 kg, 5.10 m crocodile is preserved and first displayed the following year at the Melbourne International Centenary Exhibition.
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<b>August</b>	The first World Championship Barefoot Mud Crab-Tying Competition takes place in Darwin. The world record was set in 1979 by Mr Bill Bousted, who tied three crabs in 32 seconds.
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<b>1 September</b>	Fannie Bay Gaol ceases operation and the new \$4.2 M Darwin Prison opens at Berrimah, with 116 prisoners transferred from Fannie Bay Gaol over the following two days.
<b>14 September</b>	The <a href="#">Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1979</a> commences in the Northern Territory.
<b>21 September</b>	The first casino in Darwin opens in temporary quarters in the Don Hotel.
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<b>1 October</b>	The Supreme Court of the Northern Territory is transferred from the Commonwealth's responsibility to the Northern Territory's, and Justice William Forster is appointed the first Chief Justice of the Northern Territory.
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<b>1 November</b>	The Australian 20 nautical mile fishing zone is declared.
<b>16 November</b>	Work is completed on Darwin's Smith Street shopping mall.
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<b>December</b>	A receiving station at Alice Springs, to obtain data from the new NASA Landsat earth resources satellite covering the entire continent and surrounding ocean, is commissioned by the Australian Department of Science.
<b>10 December</b>	Mr Eddie Connellan accepts the Government's decision to sell Connair to East-West Airlines.
<b>30 December</b>	Mr Willy Walalipa, a leader of the Galiwinku community on Elcho Island, is awarded an MBE for services to the Aboriginal community, at a special investiture ceremony held on the island. Mr Walalipa, aged 73, was instrumental in establishing Galiwinku in 1944, following a shift from Milingimbi, and assisted in many community programs including organising supply boats, logging operations and fishing projects.
<b>Also in 1979</b>	Bark paintings from Ramingining, Arnhem Land, by David Malangi and George Milpurrurru are included for the first time in the Sydney Biennale Art Exhibition, along with the work of other prominent Australian and European artists.
	Telecom installs the world's first complete solar energy microwave link, between Tennant Creek and Alice Springs, bringing direct television broadcasting and subscriber and international dialling to the Centre. Built at a total cost of \$5 M, it has involved the erection of 13 repeater stations over a 580 km route.
	The Territory Made symbol, to be used to identify products made or grown in the Northern Territory, is launched by the Minister for Industrial Development, the Honourable Roger Steele at the Export Now campaign.
	The Northern Territory Government begins a program to round up a unique herd of about 1,100 Bali or Banteng cattle running wild on the Cobourg Peninsula, north-east of Darwin.

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Edited by [His Honour Neil Conn AO, Administrator of the Northern Territory](#)