

Northern Territory Chronicle 1980

January | [February](#) | [March](#) | [April](#) | [May](#) | [June](#) | [July](#) | [August](#) | [September](#) | [October](#) | [November](#) | December

<i>Date</i>	<i>Item</i>
11 February	Casuarina Public Library is officially opened.
Return to top of document	
27 March	The new \$1.3 M Verburg Bridge at Adelaide River, replacing the low level crossing built in 1942, is officially opened by Chief Minister Paul Everingham.
Return to top of document	
24 April	The name of the new town of Palmerston, until now referred to as Darwin East, is gazetted.
Return to top of document	
May	Work begins on Darwin's new Karama sub-division, estimated to cost \$3.8 M.
May	Chief Minister Paul Everingham and Darwin Lord Mayor, Dr Ella Stack announce the development of the \$38.5 M Beaufort complex in Darwin. It will include a performing arts centre and be constructed by the Malaysian company Burgundy Royale.
May	The National Trust is appointed to manage the Fannie Bay Gaol as an historic site.
May	Ranger Uranium Mines commences open-cut mining at Ranger, near Jabiru.
2 May	Colonel Lionel Rose, a former Member of the Legislative Council, a long-serving Chairman of the Northern Territory Reserves Board (1963-78) and Animal Industry Branch Director who pioneered developments in the cattle industry, dies in Alice Springs.
2 May	The Governor-General, Sir Zelman Cowen, and Lady Cowen commence a visit to the Northern Territory, during which they inspect the Katherine meatworks, the new township of Jabiru and the Ranger uranium deposit.
16 May	The Aboriginal community of Lajamanu (previously Hooker Creek) is the first to be granted Community Government status.
24 May	Local government elections are held in Alice Springs.
Return to top of document	
7 June	The first general election since self-government is held for the Third Legislative Assembly, with 60 candidates contesting 19 electorates, and mobile polling is introduced to the Northern Territory. The CLP retains government with 11 seats, the ALP wins seven seats and one Independent is elected.
Return to top of document	
July	Darwin's Small Ships Facility at Frances Bay opens, incorporating a special hydraulic lifting cradle which can lift vessels of 400 tonnes out of the water. Small vessels such as prawning and fishing boats can now receive major repairs and overhauls in their home area, rather than having to travel to either Cairns or Fremantle.

July	The new \$1 M Coleman's Printing workshop and business opens in Cavenagh Street.
1 July	The Fifth Everingham Ministry of six is appointed, with members unchanged.
9 July	The new \$3.4 M Alice Springs Court House is officially opened.
22 July	Dick Ward Drive connector road from Fannie Bay to Nightcliff is opened at Kulaluk by the traditional owner Mr Bobby Secretary. Completed at a cost of approximately \$1.6 M and extending 5 km, it is to become the second major traffic route between the northern suburbs and the City of Darwin.
25 July	The Governor-General Sir Zelman Cowen officially opens Darwin's 29th Annual Show, the first to be declared Royal.
Return to top of document	
11 August	HMAS <i>Fremantle</i> , the first of its class of larger patrol boats, arrives to take up duty in Darwin.
12 August	The 50th Australian Secondary Schoolboys Football Championship, a football carnival with junior players from all States and Territories, begins in Darwin. The Victorian team is to take out the championship, with the Northern Territory finishing in equal third place with Tasmania and New South Wales.
17 August	Baby Azaria Chamberlain disappears at Ayers Rock, reportedly taken by a dingo.
Return to top of document	
19 September	Darwin's \$100 M Casuarina Hospital (later named the Royal Darwin Hospital), is officially opened by Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, the first 100 patients having been transferred to the new complex from the old Darwin Hospital at Myilly Point on 6 May.
23 September	Darwin and Anchorage, Alaska, sign an agreement to become sister cities.
30 September	Administrator Mr John England unveils a plaque in Borella Park, Jingili in memory of Lt A C Borella VC MM, 26th Battalion, AIF, the Northern Territory's only VC winner, awarded at Villers-Bretonneux on 17 July, 1918.
Return to top of document	
October	During an official overseas visit, Chief Minister Paul Everingham is made Honorary Mayor of Kalymnos and an honorary citizen of the island, the original home of many Greeks from the Darwin community. He opens a new road named Darwin Road on the island.
9 October	The standard gauge railway between Tarcoola in South Australia and Alice Springs is officially opened by Princess Alexandra, who drives the inaugural train into the Alice.
18 October	In the Federal election, Mr Grant Tambling is elected to the House of Representatives and Senators Bern Kilgariff and Ted Robertson are returned.
Return to top of document	
1 November	The State Reference Library of the Northern Territory opens in Cavenagh Street, Darwin with a staff of one.
Also in 1980	The Australian Display Manufacturers Association awards its top design award for 1980 to the <i>Action Territory</i> stand at the Melbourne International Centenary Exhibition.

Prepared by Steve Bennett, Research Officer, Government House, Darwin

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