

Northern Territory Chronicle 1989

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Item</i>
1 January	The first concert of the complete Darwin Symphony Orchestra takes place in Darwin.
Return to top of document	
17 February	Agreement is reached between the Northern Territory Government and the Jawoyn people for the lease back of Nitmiluk National Park.
Return to top of document	
31 March	Stage 1 of the Tindal Royal Australian Air Force Base, new home for No.75 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force re-equipped with FA-18 fighters, is officially opened by the Prime Minister, Bob Hawke.
Return to top of document	
28 April	The Northern Territory University, formed on 1 January 1989 by the amalgamation of the Darwin Institute of Technology and the University College of the Northern Territory, is officially opened.
Return to top of document	
25 May	The Northern Territory Legislative Assembly passes the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act (NT) 1989 , replacing the 1979 legislation and introducing new procedures for site registration and protection.
Return to top of document	
13 June	In the Queen's Birthday honours list, The Honourable Paul Everingham is appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for service to government and politics and to the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, and Justice Brian Martin MBE is appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for service to the community.
Return to top of document	
July	The <i>Kangaroo '89</i> Exercise begins in Northern Australia, involving 25,000 armed forces personnel from Australia and the USA.
1 July	The Honourable James Muirhead QC is appointed Administrator of the Northern Territory, succeeding Commodore Eric Johnston AO AM (Mil) OBE.
3 July	Darwin City Council adopts No. 13 Royal Australian Air Force Reserve Squadron, to be officially designated No.13 (City of Darwin) Squadron.
Return to top of document	
13 August	Thirteen people are killed near Alice Springs in a hot-air balloon crash, the world's worst hot air ballooning disaster.
19 August	At the Wanguri by-election, John Bailey (ALP) replaces Don Dale (CLP). The party balance in the Legislative Assembly becomes CLP 14, ALP seven, Northern Territory Nationals two and Independents two.
Return to top of document	

4 September	The Third Perron Ministry of nine is appointed, with Steve Hatton returning to the Ministry and Roger Vale being appointed to the Ministry after resigning as Speaker.
9 September	The Port of Darwin celebrates 150 years of operation which commenced with the entry of HMS <i>Beagle</i> in 1839.
10 September	Katherine Gorge is officially handed back to the Jawoyn people and is renamed Nitmiluk National Park.
Return to top of document	
2 October	The 427 ha Territory Wildlife Park, south of Darwin, is opened to the public.
10 October	Nick Dondas is elected Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, succeeding Roger Vale.
Return to top of document	
November	The Tennant Creek Hall of the Country Women's Association of the Northern Territory is officially opened by Life Member Mrs Marjorie Fullwood.
30 November	The Legislative Assembly meets for the last time in the old Parliament House building on Mitchell Street, Darwin.
Also in 1989	The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York buys <i>Tingari Cycle Dreaming</i> by Pintupi artist Anatjari Tjakamarra (d 1992). This is the first work by a Western Desert artist to enter one of the world's major art collections.

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

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