

Topic : ADJOURNMENT

Subject : Adjournment debate

Date : 16/05/1996

Member : Mr STONE

Status : Chief Minister

Information :

Mr STONE (Chief Minister): Mr Speaker, I move that the Assembly do now adjourn.

I am pleased to congratulate Fiona Puruntatameri on her success in the youth category, for artists under 30 years of age, of the third National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Art Awards. The exhibition, sponsored by the Australian Heritage Commission, was conducted at the old Parliament House in Canberra and 7 artists from the Munupi Arts and Crafts Association had their work on display. This is the second year in succession that a Tiwi artist from the Munupi Association has won the award. Last year, Donna Burak won the same category in the second national awards in competition with artists from all over Australia.

At 23 years of age, Fiona has already achieved a major success with her works being acquired by the Australian National Gallery, the Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory and the Flinders University Art Museum in South Australia. Fiona's work has attracted considerable interest overseas. It has been exhibited at the Australian Embassy in Paris and has toured with exhibitions in the United States and Canada. A number of successful reproduction agreements have been negotiated to reproduce her work on greeting cards and

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calendars. The Tiwi community and artists from Melville and Bathurst Islands are very proud of Fiona's success. I join with them in congratulating her on her talent and her progress as a significant artist from the Tiwi Islands. I am also pleased to congratulate the Munupi coordinator, Lyne Helms, who has been providing advice to Munupi artists since December 1994.

On 20 March 1996, I officially opened a new permanent display at the East Point Military Museum. This fascinating display of military weapons history and technology shows developments that have taken place from the era of flintlock guns of the 1700s through to modern automatic weapons. It includes sections on Australia's Owen gun and the role of women in war. The display comprises 79 items from the arms and armaments collection held by the Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory. As there was little prospect that such a display could be mounted at Bullocky Point in the near future, the selected items were made available to the Military Museum on a permanent loan basis. They are now displayed in what is a very appropriate military heritage setting and form a significant addition to the Military Museum's attractions.

Most items in the display, and indeed most items in the Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory's arms and armaments collection, were originally assembled by the late Bill Bell. I am sure Bill was known to many local members of this Assembly. He established Nightcliff Motors in Aralia Street, Nightcliff, in the 1950s and was a long-time steam enthusiast and avid collector of weapons and military paraphernalia. Ill-health led to the sale of his collection which the Territory government purchased in 1989. It includes 103 muskets and rifles, 128 revolvers and pistols, 91 swords and bayonets, an extensive collection of World War II medals, badges and assorted uniforms, helmets and accoutrements, an anti-tank gun, submachine guns, light machine guns, a restored steam traction engine and a Ferret armoured scout car. Along with many of the items which are included in the new display, the Military Museum has exhibited the scout car at East Point for some time.

The Territory government funded the preparation and installation of the latest display through a grant of \$95 000 from the NT Heritage Trail Program. Staff of the Museums and Art Galleries contributed significantly to the development of the display through extensive research, writing, design, graphics, construction and installation. Among those responsible were: the curator of Territory history, Dr Mickey Dewar; James Lay of the graphics section; the manager of display and design, Steven Close; workshop staff Michael Dickinson, Doug Fowter, Wayne Brown, Neil McLaughlan, Angus Munro, Terri Risler and Gary Single; and conservation staff Sandra Yee and Sue Valis. Other necessary work associated with the new display included airconditioning to help preserve the display items, a new reception area and extensive security measures.

The new military weapons history and technology display is a credit to all concerned. The same can be said of the entire East Point Military Museum complex which is managed by Chris Benton on behalf of the Royal Australian Artillery Association. Territorians and Australians in general can be thankful that members and helpers of the Territory branch of the association worked so hard over the years to preserve this important part of the nation's military heritage. Among the association members attending the recent display opening were the president, Neil Benton, and Lt Col Jack Haydon, the founder of the museum. In recent

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years, the museum has progressed considerably under the direction of Chris Benton, and I am advised that the new display is proving very popular with visitors.

I mentioned Jack Haydon. It is my pleasure to talk about one of our senior Territorians, Lt Col Jack Haydon MBE, ED, retired. Jack was born in Launceston in 1918. He attended the Wellington Square Practising School and became a cadet in the 12th Battalion of the Launceston Regiment when he turned 15. He enlisted in the military 2 years later. Jack was a natural rifle shot, winning the King's Trophy marksmanship award of the National Rifle Association. He was promoted to the commissioned rank of lieutenant in 1940 and served with the AIF in Launceston and in Darwin where he was present during the bombing in 1942.

Returning to Launceston after the war, Jack worked with the Ajax Insurance Co as an engineer before transferring to Darwin in 1963. He established a Darwin office for Ajax Insurance and became its first manager. Jack maintained an active interest in the Citizens Military Force (CMF) during that period. Having risen to the position of commanding officer for the Launceston area, he was quickly appointed commanding officer of the Command and Staff Training Unit in the Northern Territory.

CMF was seen as a very important function during the Indonesian confrontation with Malaya in 1960 - known as 'Konfrontasi' - and the later internal difficulties of the newly-created Federation of Malaysia. Jack Haydon proposed to Headquarters, NT Command, the formation of an army resource-independent company capable of conducting infantry operations at a low level. This concept was approved by the Chief of General Staff, Lt Gen John Wilton, and Jack Haydon began upgrading the infantry training of officers in Darwin in readiness for staffing this new company. However, this was deferred when the 121st Light Anti-Aircraft Battery was raised to defend the RAAF radar at Lee Point. Jack declined an offer to command this unit because of his civil commitments. His proposal for a rifle company became a reality some 10 years later with the formation of the 7th Independent Rifle Company.

After Cyclone Tracy, Jack served on the Darwin Reconstruction Committee. From August 1975, he managed his own consulting firm, and he conducted the Insurance Council of Australia's office in Darwin from 1975 to 1992. From 1968, he was chairman for 2 years of the Insurance Council of South Australia's NT division.

Jack Haydon has contributed to the Territory on a number of fronts. He maintained his military connection as a lecturer in military history, and he was associated with the museum in relation to various expeditions to the Fort Dundas, Fort Wellington and Victoria settlements. He contributed actively to the Northern Territory dictionary of biography in 1967. Jack convened a meeting of former gunners at which the Royal Australian Artillery Association was created, and was elected president. He was chairman of the East Point Reserve Board of Trustees. He served as the president and fellow of the Royal Commonwealth Society and was a member and vice-president of the Automobile Association of the Northern Territory. His other community positions included chairman of the Australian Fire Protection Association (NT) Inc and council member of the Boy Scouts. He has been involved in a range of other community positions and still serves as president of the RCS after 15 years.

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In 1983, Jack was awarded an MBE for services to the community. For his war service, he received the Defence Medal, the War Medal, the Australian Service Medal and the Efficiency Decoration with 2 bars. Along the way, during his busy life, Jack was married to Mavis whom he met in 1938. They were blessed with 3 children - Janice, David and Ron. Sadly, Mavis passed away in 1993 after spending 53 years with Jack. These days, Jack lives quietly at his Millner home. His sons are both in business in Darwin and he spends as much time as possible with his family. I am delighted to congratulate Jack on his service to the Territory. His commitment has been a fine example to many Territorians.

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