

Chronological Events within the Barkly Region

1860

- April - John McDouall Stuart and party were the first Europeans to enter the Barkly Regional Council area, naming land formations as they travelled.
- June 6th - John McDouall Stuart named Tennant's Creek in gratitude to John Tennant, who was a friend and a pastoralist from Port Lincoln, South Australia, and the main sponsor of Stuart's expeditions.

1862

- June 24th - John McDouall Stuart and party reach the north coast of the Australian continent, having left South Australia on the 21st October 1861. (eight months)

1863

- July 6th - settlement in the Northern Territory formally annexed to South Australia from New South Wales by Letters Patent. Northern Territory residents vote as part of the District of Flinders, South Australia until 1888.
- November 12th - South Australian Government passes the Northern Territory Act authorising sale of 500,000 acres of rural land and 1,562 town lots on terms intended to encourage investors and speculators rather than settlers.

1870

- June 20th - Act passed authorising construction of Overland Telegraph Line from Port Augusta to Port Darwin, a total 1973 miles.
- September - first major droving epic begins - sheep by Ralph Milner
- September – John Ross first of the surveyors for the Overland Telegraph Line, looking for the best corridor for the line (completed 1872) They were succeeded later that same year by construction teams, with animals and equipment, camping and working their way along the line, sinking bores, erecting poles, stringing wire and building fort like telegraph stations.

William Bloomfield Douglas appointed Government Resident (1870-1873)

1871

- October - undersea cable from Java comes ashore at Palmerston (later named Darwin)
- Government Surveyor W W Mills discovers and names Alice Springs waterhole after the wife of Sir Charles Todd, Superintendent of Telegraphs.

1872

- August 22 - Overland Telegraph line joined at Frew's Ponds
- October the Northern Territory Land Act is passed - land has to be surveyed before purchase and no section can contain more than 640 acres
- Telegraph stations built at Tennant Creek, Barrow Creek

1873 George Byng Scott appointed Government Resident (1873-1876)

1874

- February 22 – Barrow Creek Telegraph Station massacre and reprisals

1876

Edward William Price appointed Government Resident (1876-1883)

1878

- Nat Buchanan searching for pastoral land travels from Ranken to the Tennant Creek telegraph station - later to overland stock from Queensland.
- Ernest Favenc was selected to explore the country along the western border of Queensland to Darwin to evaluate the possibility of connecting the Queensland Railways to Port Darwin. He travels north of Buchanan's route to Powell's Creek

1881

- First population census in NT

1882

- Redwater (tick fever) first appears in the NT

1884

- Survey of the NT and Queensland border commenced ... Completed 1886
- **The Tennant Creek stock well is completed**

John Langdon Parsons appointed Government Resident (1884-1890)

1890

John George Knight appointed Government Resident (1890-1892)

1891

- Second population census in NT

1892

- **Tennant Creek Aboriginal Reserve on Warramungu territory east of the Telegraph Station gazette.**

Justice Charles James Dashwood appointed Government Resident (1892-1905)

1895

- **HYL Brown, a South Australian Government Geologist finds traces of gold at Bishops Creek, in the Tennant Creek area**

1896

- J J Murif pedals bicycle from Adelaide to Palmerston
- *Land Act* passed in an attempt to encourage pastoralists to set up horse breeding properties

1898

- Territorians by a vote of 148 to 14 vote for Federation in a Referendum

1900

- Tanami Desert goldfields found

1901

- NT becomes part of South Australian Electorate of Grey (after Federation)
- Third population census in NT
- **Baldwin, Spencer and Gillen make an anthropological journey into Aboriginal lands in Central Australia and the Barkly Tablelands. The Warramungu people attempt conciliation with them but they don't understand.**

1903

- *NT Mining Act* is passed - the first comprehensive act dealing with gold and minerals

1905

Justice Charles Edward Herbert appointed Government Resident (1905-1910)

1907

- **The first car attempts to cross the continent from south to north following the railway line to Oodnadatta and the telegraph line to Darwin. The car breaks down at Tennant Creek**
- **The first north-south crossing of Australia by bicycle is completed**

1908

- **First car successfully driven from Adelaide to Darwin. Harry Aungur and Henry Dutton took 51 days to complete the journey (another car is not seen in the NT for 10 years)**

1909

- Payable gold found in Tanami Desert

1910

Justice Samuel James Mitchell appointed Government Resident (1910-1912 after NT transfer to Commonwealth he acts as Administrator until the arrival of Dr J A Gilruth)

1911

- January 1 - transfer of NT to Commonwealth under provisions of Northern Territory Acceptance Act - transfer price 6,160,548 pounds, population 739 adult males 166 adult females (Europeans) 125 Japanese 107 others
- March 18. Palmerston to be known as town of Darwin in future
- December 23 passing of first NT Ordinance for the protection of aboriginals Baldwin Spencer first Chief Protector
- On transfer to commonwealth 256 pastoral leases held, of over 106,248 square miles - major property with sheep was Avon Downs 45,133 sheep

1912

- The Very Reverend John Flynn is appointed Superintendent of the Australian Inland Mission
- **First race meeting Brunette Downs station ... Officially known as "the ABC Race Meeting" organised by Alexandrina, Brunette and Creswell Downs Stations**

Dr J A Gilruth appointed first administrator under the Commonwealth

- March 16 - existing Aboriginal Reserves re gazetted under Commonwealth legislation (included Tennant's Creek 1892 and Mudburra in 1909)

1913

- **Police presence at Newcastle Waters**

1914–18 World War I

1914

- **Wolfram fields at Hatches Creek opened up**

1915

- **Tennant Creek Telegraph Station becomes a Post Office**

1918

- Aboriginals' Ordinance passed giving government control over all aspects of Aboriginal life.

1919

- Aviators Ross and Keith Smith arrive by air in Darwin also later Captain Wrigley
Former NT Administrator John Gilruth leaves Darwin H R Carey appointed later M Staniford Smith

1920

- Royal Commission into Northern Territory Administration appointed to enquire into state of affairs
- Leading Darwin citizens including Harold Nelson are jailed for refusing to pay taxes

1921

- Senator George Pearce appointed Minister for Home and Territories

1922

- Northern Territory granted a non-voting seat in the House of Representatives

1924

- New Crown Lands Ordinance came into effect

1924

- Land Board replaced former Land Classification Board

1925

- Report by George Buchanan on Northern Territory Development and Administration submitted

- Gold discovered south of the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station
- a number of overland motor journeys - Miss McKellar and a party of 12 in 4 cars (some ladies included)

1926

- Barrow Creek Police Station is established, to be staffed by one Constable and two Aboriginal Constables
- at this time there are 45 Government and 135 private bores in the Northern Territory

1927

- Under the North Australian Act 1926 the Territory is administered in two parts separated by the 20th parallel of South latitude - Central Australia and North Australia - Colonel W H Weddell is appointed Government Resident North Australia and C A Cawood is appointed Government Resident Central Australia.

1928

- Massacre of Aboriginals in Coniston area, Central Australia, as a reprisal for the murder of a white miner
- Police Station ration depot established at Tennant Creek Telegraph Station

1929

- Australia's Great Depression of the 1930s. The Depression began with the Wall Street crash in October and rapidly spread worldwide. Australia suffered years of high unemployment, poverty, low profits, deflation, and plunging incomes - 1932-39 saw a slow recovery
- Northern railway line from Emungalan to Birdum completed
- Southern railway line from Oodnadatta to Alice Springs completed
- the first plane arrives at Tennant Creek Telegraph Station
- Monthly Overland Mail Service between Alice Springs and Birdum railheads - Sam Irvine
- The bodies of Anderson and Hitchcock pilot and crew of the downed "Kookaburra" aircraft discovered

1931

- Amy Johnson arrives in Darwin
- North Australia Commission abolished and Territory reunited; Col R H Wedell appointed administrator

1932

- Jim Udall sets up the goldfields first battery at the Great Northern mine using the engine of an old car

1933

- Gazettal of Alice Springs in lieu of the name Stuart.
- Gold rush at the Granites, Tanami Desert
- August - Minister for the Interior officially announces the discovery of gold at Tennant Creek
- September - Goldfield Warden arrives at Tennant Creek (was at Barrow Creek)
- Peko Mine and Nobles Nob leases pegged

1934

- Joseph Carrodus appointed Acting Administrator of the Territory
- Aerial Medical Service Dr Clyde Fenton based at Katherine (not the Royal Flying Doctor Service)
- Jun 12 gazette - Fazel Deen's battery erected at Tennant Creek - available for public crushing's
- large scale gold production commenced at Eldorado Mine
- Police lock up cell built at Tennant Creek
- Williams General Store opens in Tennant Creek
- Tennant Creek Children's Christmas Tree and party is held at the Weaber family leases (Rising Sun) Mrs Weaber bought a gift for every child in the goldfields

1935

- TC Hospital opens Dr Catalano first medical officer .. larger hospital opens in June
- No 6 Government Bore drilled near the Tennant Creek Hotel

- Australian Inland Mission Welfare Hostel built
- Post Office at the Telegraph Station moved into the Tennant Creek township
- Additional land added to the Warramunga Aboriginal reserve at the Telegraph Station
- Tennant Creek township survey completed
- June - rush to peg 240 residential/business blocks thrown open within the township of Tennant Creek
- Tennant Creek School opens (Population now 600 with 45 women and 20 children)
- September 19th - The Tennant Creek Goldfield is formally proclaimed. Aboriginal people are now prohibited from entering the town
- New Aboriginal reserve created in semi-desert country at Phillips Creek
- Survey of WA and NT border

1936

- ES&A bank opens in Tennant Creek
- Celebrations on the Tennant Creek Goldfield - total value of gold produced 100,000 pounds (included a feast of saveloys, bonfires, fireworks and corroboree)
- Roman Catholic Church Parish of Christ the King consecrated by Bishop Raible of Broome (Church moved from Pine Creek)
- Three private batteries operational - Eldorado, Mammoth and Rising Sun Mine

1937

- February weekly aerial service Darwin Alice Adelaide Guinea Airway
Charles (Aubrey) Abbott appointed Administrator of the Territory

1938

John McEwen appointed Minister for the Territory

- May - telephone exchange with 20 subscribers installed into the Tennant Creek Post Office
- Wolfram mining boom at Hatches Creek - Tennant Creek Goldfield almost deserted
- Increase of Army and Navy personnel stationed at Darwin

1939–45 World War II

1939

- Record tonnage of ore crushed and treated at Tennant Creek

1940

- Australian Troop Convoys and the upgrading of Stuart Highway begins
- No 3 Government Battery is operational (now Battery Hill Mining Centre)

1941

- War cabinet decides women and children should begin evacuating from Darwin 750 women and children sent by sea 380 by plane others overland

1942

- the Army arrives in Tennant Creek, bringing with them an electricity supply
- Transfer of Titles Office records to Alice Springs ... Mines Branch records to Tennant Creek
- Feb 19 first bombing raid on Darwin estimated 243 killed including 49 civilians. 8 tons of bombs dropped further raid same day .. Evening all cash and securities removed from banks
- NT Administration set up in Alice Springs
- All gold mines, except Eldorado are closed down

1943

- Completion of bitumen sealing of Stuart Highway and Barkly Highway
- November last Japanese bombing raid on Darwin

1945

- South Australia assumed responsibility for school education in the Northern Territory - SA curriculum in all NT schools
- Administration returns to Darwin
- Electricity generators in Tennant Creek set up following the departure of the army

- Forced removal of remaining 200 Warramungu people living around Tennant Creek Telegraph Station Reserve to Phillips Creek (The Manga Manda Settlement was operational from 1945-1956)

Herbert Johnson appointed Minister for the Interior

1946

Arthur Driver appointed Administrator of the Territory

- February civilians allowed to return to Darwin
- Water from the Ghan Bore piped to Tennant Creek township - water very brackish and not suitable

1947

- Duke of Gloucester. Governor General visits
- Northern Territory Legislative Council established
- Australian Development NT granted the option to purchase the Rising Sun group of mining leases, which included Nobles Nob - cost was 70,000 pounds

1948

- First Legislative meeting 13 members
- Nobles Nob starts production - to become the largest gold producing mine for its size in the world

1949

- First school library in NT opens in Tennant Creek

1950

- Peko Mine commences copper mining

1951

- Tennant Creek Town Dam completed

Paul Hasluck appointed Minister for Territories .. Creation of a new department

Frank Wise appointed Administrator of the Territory

1953

James Archer appointed Administrator of the Territory

- Peko Mine supplies Tennant Creek township with electricity

1954

- Tennant Creek proclaimed as an ordinary government town site (properties not mining leases)

1956

- Explosion and fire in AF Campbell's Store, Tennant Creek - 1 person died, 70 injured
- Filming of "Jedda" in the Northern Territory 1956
- Ali Curung established - originally named Warriabri, forced removal of people from Tennant Creek Telegraph Station and Phillips Creek

1957

- Extensive flooding after a cyclone hits Tennant Creek

1958

- No 3 Government Battery, Tennant Creek opened by Paul Hasluck

1959

- Darwin designated as a city

1960

- March - Warriabri Aboriginal Reserve (south of Tennant Creek) gazetted
- Town Management Boards established at Katherine, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek

1961

Roger Nott appointed Administrator of the Territory

- Police women take up duty for the first time with NT Police Force
- June - Tennant Creek Town Management board is constituted
- July - parts of "Kookaburra" aircraft are recovered

1962

- Beef roads program commences
- Electoral franchise extended to Aboriginal people eligible to vote in federal elections (Citizenship)

1963

- February.. Royal visit
- October reticulated water turned on in Tennant Creek

1964

R L Dean appointed Administrator

1965

- CWA deb ball in new hall

1966

- Vincent Lingiari led a walk-off of Gurindji Indigenous employees from Wave Hill Station in protest against the work and pay conditions
- Widespread measles epidemic?
- At this date 4142 aboriginal children attending some form of education establishment

1971

- Television ?
- Warrego Mine starts production

1972

J N Nelson appointed administrator

- On early morning of 25 December, Cyclone Tracy devastated Darwin ... 66 known dead

1973

- Central Land Council established

1974

- Warramungu Pabulu Housing established, later (1985) changed to Julalikari

1975

- Northern Territory elected its first Senators, Bernard Kilgariff and Ted Robertson
- Warrego Mine is producing 95% of Australia bismuth, but before the year is out 550 workers are retrenched, the mine ceases production and the town is closed down

1976

- Executive Council of the Northern Territory replaced the Administrator's Council
- Commonwealth Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act passed
- Existing Territory railway lines closed down

1978

- Self-Government was granted to the Northern Territory on 1 July - Northern Territory Flag
- First Local Government elections held - Tennant Creek Town Council
- Warramungu lodge Land Claim over areas of Tennant Creek

1979

- Tennant Creek Telegraph Station closes (107 years)

1980

- Completion of standard gauge railway line from Adelaide to Alice Springs
- Baby Azaria Chamberlain was taken from a tent in a camping ground at Uluru (Ayers Rock) on 17 August

1985

- Nobles Nob closes down

1986

- Chamberlain Case - Royal Commission appointed
- Tennant Creek Night Patrol founded.

1987

- Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody appointed

1988

- Tennant Creek rocked by earthquake

1989

- Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation established
- Anyinginyi Congress established

1992

- No 3 Government Battery is handed over to be developed as a mining museum (now Battery Hill Mining Centre)

1994

- March 24th, A grog-free day in Tennant Creek

1998

- Referendum on Northern Territory statehood, held on 3 October, was defeated

1999

- In its first time in its history as a gold mining town, there are no operational gold mines on the Tennant Creek Goldfield

2004

- The first train passes through Tennant Creek after the Alice Springs to Darwin rail link is completed