

National Trust of Australia (Northern Territory)

Expedition to Goyder Town sites.

Sunday 8 February 2015



Follow in the footsteps of George Goyder.....

The South Australian government sent George Woodroffe Goyder to the Top End in 1869 to survey the town of Palmerston (now Darwin) and the rural hinterland almost to the Adelaide River.

By September 1869 the party had surveyed Darwin and 665,866 acres of land extending east to the Adelaide River flood plains, west toward the Daly River, and south towards the later site of Adelaide River township. Virtually the whole of what is now the Litchfield Shire was surveyed in this way, except for the eastern edge, toward the Adelaide River.

Goyder's men also laid out a two chain road from Port Darwin to Daly. This "Fred's Pass Road" was intended to be the main road leading inland.

The work performed by Goyder and his men was certainly one of the most remarkable achievements in the whole of the Territory's history. It was the foundation for later European settlement.

Every year the National Trust celebrates Goyders day with a ceremony at the Water Front on 5th February which includes a re-enactment of his arrival on the *Gulnare*.

In addition this year, the Trust will be conducting an expedition to some three town sites that Goyder surveyed in 1869 and three camp sites used by the surveyors.

The tour will commence at Burnett House, Burnett Place at the Myilly Point heritage precinct at 1300 on Sunday afternoon. Travelling in your own car, we will visit the Goyder town sites and some of his camp sites. An inspection will be conducted at appropriate sites and a short description of the nature and significance of the site will be provided.

The tour is expected to take 4 hours and cover at least 100km. It mainly involves sealed roads. Written instructions will be issued at each site re how to get to the next site (car rally style).

Participants should wear covered footwear and take a hat and a bottle of water.

Entry Donation of \$5 per head.

Booking is not required but advice on possible participation will be useful. Ring the Trust office on 8981 2848.