

ADDRESS BY  
HIS HONOUR MR TOM PAULING QC  
**ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**  
ON THE OCCASION OF  
**OPENING CEREMONY LIONS NATIONAL CONVENTION**  
Gardens Oval, Darwin  
16 May 2008

*Think Different, Be Different and Savour the Difference* – this is the exhilarating exhortation by the Organising Chairman on your website and I am sure that many of you here today who have never enjoyed the opportunity of visiting Darwin before are saying *my goodness it's different to what we imagined*.

Not only are Territorians proudly different but we are also dynamic, we know how to change, adapt and move forward. You can see the brand new 28-storey serviced apartments already running at full capacity, enjoy visiting the marinas adjacent to the city, and wonder at the crowds drawn to the renowned dry season Mindil markets.

Darwin is on the move. Thriving thanks to the development of the oil and gas industries, increased investment in the mining sector, expansion of the armed forces in the north, excellent research facilities for tropical medicine and academic studies, regular arrivals of passengers on the Ghan, on cruise ships, and convention attendees like yourselves.

Let me give you some historical background based on our venue this morning.

When the Commonwealth took over the Northern Territory in 1911 my predecessor, Dr John Anderson Gilruth, was appointed its first Administrator. Up until then, the official vehicle for the Government Resident had been a phaeton, a light 4-wheeled open carriage drawn by a pair of horses. In 1912, Gilruth obtained from the Commonwealth Government a 15-horsepower Colonial Napier with chauffeur – one of the earliest motor cars to come to the Territory, indeed the first to be seen by most Territorians. The Napier arrived by sea and the chauffeur began a series of test runs around town to tune it, much to the derision and indignation of the locals.

Dr Gilruth noted that the route from "Myilly Point" previously known less salubriously as "Dead Horse Point", down from the Darwin tableland, across a bridge over Mindil Creek towards the Vestey's Meatworks site, now "Bullocky Point", was difficult to negotiate in any vehicle whether horse drawn or horse powered. So he commissioned his survey staff to improve things, hence the name Gilruth Avenue.

A few years later one of our many industrious immigrants from China, a gentleman named Chin Quan, started a piggery and market garden here and planted the mango trees which are a significant feature.

People are attracted to the Northern Territory for reasons of employment and then they stay and contribute. Whether seeking gold, literally, at Pine Creek, planting smallholdings to feed the population or seeking professional opportunity as I did in the law thirty-eight years ago the Northern Territory exerts a hold over you.

Many of those who were "just passing through" and have stayed in more recent years have subsequently joined the Lions Clubs, something I applaud

wholeheartedly. Volunteering is work without pay, often without much recognition or thanks either.

As Administrator of the Northern Territory, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Lions National Convention 'Top End Safari'.