Today is the 100th anniversary of the naming of the City of Darwin on the land of the Larrakia people, whose ancestors have lived here for over 50,000 years.

Statehood Minister, Malarndirri McCarthy urged all Territorians to raise a toast to commemorate today’s historic milestone for the City.

“I wish everyone in Darwin a happy birthday on this special day for our city,” said Ms McCarthy.

“Our city has had a long and colourful history - good and bad - and has grown from a tiny settlement called Palmerston in 1869 into a thriving; bustling, great place to live called Darwin.

“We have gone from strength to strength; we are the gateway to Asia; and we are home to many people from different cultures from all parts of the world.

“The 100th anniversary of the naming of Darwin is a significant part of our Centenary year – 100 years of the Territory, over 50,000 years of stories.

**History of the naming of Darwin:**
On 9 September 1839, HMS *Beagle* sailed into Darwin harbour during its surveying of the area. John Clements Wickham named the region “Port Darwin” in honour of their former shipmate Charles Darwin, who had sailed with them on the ship’s previous voyage which had ended in October 1836.

The settlement there became the town of Palmerston in 1869.

On 3 March 1911 a proclamation was made (gazetted on 18 March 1911) to rename Palmerston as “Darwin”.

Darwin City Council will be holding a family fun day this Saturday 19 March from 10.00am-2.00pm to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Naming of Darwin. The community event to celebrate this milestone will take place at Raintree Park and The Mall. For more information, visit: [http://www.darwin.nt.gov.au/](http://www.darwin.nt.gov.au/).

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