Lifting Awareness of the Bombing of Darwin

A video essay containing modern and archived footage and photos has won the Chief Minister's inaugural Bombing of Darwin History Prize.

The Chief Minister Paul Henderson awarded the $1000 prize to Palmerston High School Year 10 geography class during a ceremony at Parliament House today.

“The establishment of this award will ensure Territory students learn about a significant part of our history,” he said.

“The bombing of Darwin was the first time mainland Australia came under attack by the Japanese during World War II.

“The two air raids devastated the town and killed at least 243 people and injured between 300 - 400 people. Unfortunately, though, it’s an event in Australia’s history that many people know little about.

“Figures show 43 per cent of Australians don’t know Darwin was rebuilt twice – after World War II and again after Cyclone Tracy.

“Through this award, I hope to at least make Territory students aware of a very important part of our heritage.”

Mr Henderson said Territory schools were receiving copies of Peter Grose’s book An Awkward Truth to lift the awareness of the bombing of Darwin.

“I’ve also written to Education Minister’s interstate to ask them to include the bombing of Darwin in their curriculum. I want all of Australia to know about this important historical event.

“Educating our children about what happened on February 19, 1942 is the best way to honour our veterans.”

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