Minister for Arts and Museums Gerry McCarthy today called for expressions of interest from Territorians who are passionate about the Territory’s Oral History Collection.

Mr McCarthy said two members of the public were invited to join the Oral History Committee, alongside representatives from Northern Territory Archives and the National Archives of Australia, to offer advice and recommendations.

“A position on the Oral History Committee is an ideal volunteer role for history buffs who value people’s memories of characters, places and ideas as important sources of information for historical research,” he said.

Mr McCarthy said Territorians were passionate about oral histories with more than 2000 audio records already in the NT Archives system.

“It’s no secret Territorians love to share a yarn and the Oral History Collection features some of the best with recollections from the beginning of the twentieth century through to the present day,” he said.

“Among many topics, the Collection includes significant holdings covering the history of the pastoral industry; the development of regional centres, as well as life in remote Territory towns and settlements.”

Some of the Oral History Collection highlights include:

- Descriptions of life in Palmerston (Darwin), Alice Springs and other Territory settlements in the early Twentieth century
- Firsthand accounts of the Bombing of Darwin on the 19 February 1942 and subsequent raids until November 1943
- Recollections from the Wave Hill Walk Off
- Stories from Cyclone Tracy and the reconstruction of Darwin that followed

The Oral History Committee initiative is another way that the Territory Government is working to boost participation in arts and cultural activities as part of Territory 2030.

For more information, email nt.archives@nt.gov.au or phone 8924 7651.

Media contact: Kelly Parkes 0419 409 958