Media Release

Matt Conlan
Minister for Arts and Museums

New book to mark 40th anniversary of Cyclone Tracy

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A new book about Cyclone Tracy will be launched this week ahead of the 40th anniversary of the disaster in December this year.

The book, *Warning: the Story of Cyclone Tracy*, by renowned Australian author Sophie Cunningham, was written with the assistance of the Northern Territory Archives Services and includes eye witness accounts of those who lived through the devastation.

“Cyclone Tracy is an important part of the Territory’s history and this book will provide a new insight to the natural disaster which killed 71 people and devastated Darwin on Christmas Eve 1974,” said Mr Conlan.

“It provides eye witness accounts of those who lived through the devastation, and those who faced the heartbreaking clean-up and back-breaking rebuild after the event.

“To write her book, author Sophie Cunningham drew extensively from the eyewitness accounts held in the records at the NT Archives Service, developing a compelling narrative about what happened during and after Cyclone Tracy.

“The book took three years to write and this week Sophie will speak about the many weeks she spent at the Northern Territory Archives Service, the research process, and how the archival records informed her story.”

The Northern Territory Archives Centre is home to extensive collections relevant to Cyclone Tracy held by both the Northern Territory Archives Service and National Archives of Australia.

Sophie Cunningham’s talk about her book *Warning: The Story of Cyclone Tracy* will be held at the NT Archives Centre in Millner on Wednesday 13 August at 5:30pm, bookings are required on 8999 6890. Another presentation will be held at the Northern Territory Library on Thursday 14 August from midday.
The new book will be officially launched by Lord Mayor Katrina Fong Lim at Frog Hollow Centre for the Arts on Thursday 14 August from 5.30pm.

Ms Fong Lim said the book gives the community the opportunity to learn more about the impact cyclones can have.

“We live in a place where cyclones are a constant threat and part of what it means to live in the Territory,” she said.

“Cyclone Tracy taught us a lot about resilience, building strong community connections and being prepared for the next time a big cyclone hits.”

**Media Contact:** Lisa Andrews 0401 579 963