Territorians are being encouraged to join in special ‘White Gloves’ tours of the Northern Territory Archives Centre this week and next as part of commemorations for the 40th Anniversary of Cyclone Tracy.

“The 40th Anniversary of Cyclone Tracy is an opportunity to appreciate the Territory’s resilience and community spirit, and reflect on how far Darwin has come since the Cyclone hit,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

Tomorrow (Wed 19/11) afternoon and next Wednesday (26/11) the Northern Territory Archives Service and the National Archives of Australia will be holding two tours showcasing their collections of materials related to Cyclone Tracy.

“The White Gloves Tours are a special opportunity for the Darwin community to see archives and learn the stories relating to Cyclone Tracy,” Mr Giles said.

“The collections follow the story of the Cyclone, from the warning stage, to its destructive path and damaging aftermath, before detailing the massive rebuilding effort that followed.

“Tour participants will be given rare access to official cyclone documents including the records of Government agencies, as well as personal stories, photos and a home video.”

‘Caring for your own archives’ workshops will also be held and are designed to give practical, affordable suggestions for looking after your own memorabilia photos and documents, especially in our tropical climate.

Katherine Hamilton from the Northern Territory Archives Service said the tours are a reminder to people of nature’s powerful force.

“Many people refer to life in Darwin before Cyclone Tracy and since Cyclone Tracy, and the impact this significant event has had on Darwin as we know it today,” she said.
“Anyone attending the tours will also learn about the joint archives facility and the collections available, so that people who haven’t done so previously feel encouraged to undertake historical research using this unique resource.”

The NT Government has a comprehensive program of Cyclone Tracy anniversary events complementing activities planned by the City of Darwin.

“The Government is supporting a variety of commemorative activities, including the $100,000 revitalisation of the Cyclone Tracy exhibition at the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT which opens next week,” Parliamentary Secretary Lia Finocchiaro said.

“The Museum has always played a key part in telling the Tracy story and this area will see a special extension of the current display and a new interactive exhibit.

“I encourage everyone to visit our interactive website (http://www.cyclonetracy.nt.gov.au/) where people can share their Cyclone Tracy stories and the events they are planning to commemorate the anniversary.”

An All Faith Service for the 40th Anniversary of Cyclone Tracy will be held at Christ Church Cathedral on Wednesday 3 December at 5.45pm.

Bookings are essential for the tours. Please phone 8999 6890 or email ntac@nt.gov.au

Media Contact: Danielle Parry 0413 081 801