The Territory Remembers

28 April 2015

The Territory Government is investing $2.25 million in a special two year events program building towards the 75th anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin.

“The Bombing of Darwin in 1942 is one of the formative events in the Territory’s history. It united us and forged our spirit, making us who we are today,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“In the lead up to the 75th anniversary of the Japanese air attacks on the Top End, the Government has committed to a two year, $2.25 million program of community focussed events and projects called The Territory Remembers.”

The events program will include activities right across the Territory and will be developed in discussion with the community, defence and veterans groups.

“We are looking at holding a special Bombing of Darwin Ball to complement the City of Darwin’s activities,” Mr Giles said.

There will also be a program of memorials developed through public consultation and in partnership with the City of Darwin.

“This will include a grants program offering support of up to $25 000 to enhance existing war memorials in our regions or create new ones.”

The Territory Remembers will also be accompanied by an extensive school education program.

“I want to make sure our children understand this important chapter in our wartime history and we will be developing a school education package for delivery across the Territory,” Mr Giles said.

“We’re also looking at holding an essay competition or other activity that engages young people with this quintessential Territory war story.

“A history program will be developed to research and tell local stories about the bombings. We’re keen to develop an Aboriginal Veterans historical showcase highlighting Indigenous contributions to the war effort.

“We’re also looking at the possibility of producing a new documentary which will be made available for use in our schools, as well as by tourism operators who are seeing increased interest in the Territory’s defence heritage among their customers.”
The Territory Remembers will form part of the NT’s wider ANZAC Centenary program running from 2014-2018.

“The Territory Remembers will build on the community interest already generated by events in this program such as The Borella Ride. The Ride retraced the remarkable journey of the Territory’s only Victoria Cross recipient Albert Borella from Tennant Creek to Darwin to enlist in World War I,” Mr Giles said.

“It drew huge crowds at communities up and down the track and we have decided to fund a permanent commemoration to the Borella Ride in Tennant Creek as part of Budget 2015.”

Contact: Danielle Parry 0413 081 801