



AGENDA

Darwin Military and Civilian History Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, 1 May 2024

**I hereby give notice that a Darwin Military and Civilian History Advisory
Committee Meeting will be held on:**

Date: Wednesday, 1 May 2024

Time: 11:00 AM

**Location: Meeting Room Bidjpidji (Meeting Room 1)
Level 1, Civic Centre
Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin**

**Simone Saunders
Chief Executive Officer**

DARWIN MILITARY AND CIVILIAN HISTORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis (Chair)

Councillor Mick Palmer

Aviation Historical Society of the NT John Hart

Darwin Military Museum Norm Cramp

Department of Veterans' Affairs Louise Ruhl

RSL Darwin Branch Stephen Gloster

Tourism NT, Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade Russell Smith

DefenceNT, Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet Ray Martin

NT Heritage Branch, Department of Territory Families Dr David Steinberg

General Manager Community Matt Grassmayr

Executive Manager Growth and Economic Development Emma Struys

Alternate Councillor Ed Smelt

OFFICERS

Senior Administration Officer, Karen Long

Community Events Producer, Jessica Fry

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1 Meeting Declared Open

2 Acknowledgement of Country

3 Apologies and Leave of Absence

3.1 Apologies

3.2 Leave of Absence

3.3 Leave of Absence Notified

4 Electronic Attendance

4.1 Electronic Attendance

4.2 Electronic Attendance Notified

5 Declaration of Interest

6 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Darwin Military and Civilian History Advisory Committee Meeting - 7 February 2024

7 Actions Arising From Previous Minutes

8 Presentations

9 OFFICER REPORTS

9.1 INTERPRETIVE SIGN PROPOSAL FROM HERITAGE BRANCH - WWII FISH TRAP - NIGHTCLIFF FORESHORE

Author: Executive Assistant Community

Authoriser: General Manager Community

Attachments: 1. Proposal

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report entitled Interpretive Sign Proposal from Heritage Branch - WWII Fish Trap - Nightcliff Foreshore be received and noted.
2. THAT the Darwin Military and Civilian History Advisory Committee supports the Northern Territory Heritage Branch proposal for an interpretive sign along the Nightcliff foreshore interpreting a WWII fish trap.
3. That this be presented to Council for consideration.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present a proposal received from the Northern Territory Heritage Branch for an interpretive sign along the Nightcliff foreshore that interprets a WWII fish trap.

KEY ISSUES

- Northern Territory Heritage Branch has submitted a proposal for the design and installation of a small free-standing interpretative sign along the Nightcliff foreshore that interprets a WWII fish trap, **Attachment 1**.
- The Heritage Branch would contribute the cost of artwork, layout, manufacture and installation of the sign with the understanding that the ongoing maintenance would be facilitated by City of Darwin.
- Exact Location of the interpretive sign will be determined by City of Darwin officers in liaison with Darwin Heritage Branch officers.
- It is recommended that the interpretive sign proposal be supported by the Committee and forwarded to Council for consideration as it is in keeping with City of Darwin's recognition of military history.

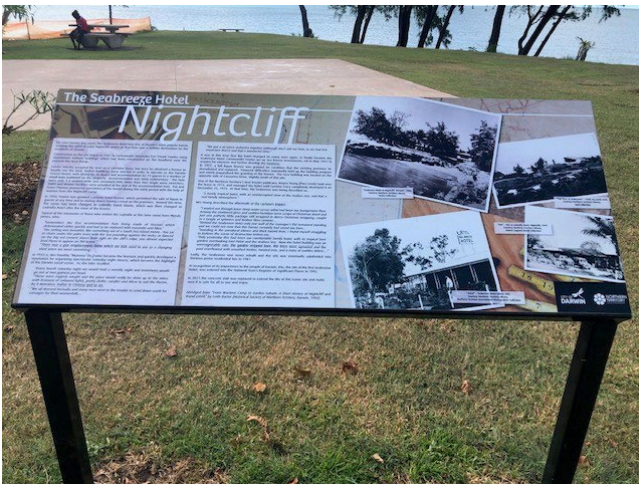
DISCUSSION

The Northern Territory Heritage Branch is proposing the installation of a small free-standing interpretative sign along the Nightcliff foreshore that interprets a WWII fish trap. This proposal comes from a member of the public who recently approached the Heritage Branch and asked what could be done to highlight the World War II Nightcliff fish traps.

The sign would be similar to others along the Nightcliff foreshore, refer images below:



Interpretive sign at Sunset Park, Nightcliff foreshore



Interpretive sign adjacent to the Jetty, Nightcliff foreshore

The Darwin Heritage Branch proposal advises that the fish traps were established, maintained and utilised by No 54 Squadron. No 54 Squadron was primarily a Spitfire squadron. The traps provided the men with a fish supplement to their diets. It also provided the men with a crocodile free space to swim. An interpretative sign would highlight this little-known history.

Should the proposal be endorsed by Council, the exact location of the interpretative sign would be determined jointly by City of Darwin and Darwin Heritage Branch officers.

Recommendation

That the Committee supports the Northern Territory Heritage Branch proposal for an interpretive sign at Nightcliff foreshore that interprets a WWII fish trap as it is in keeping with City of Darwin's recognition of its military history.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Nil	
STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	5 A Vibrant and Creative City 5.2 By 2030, Darwin will be a more connected community and have pride in our cultural identity
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Budget/Funding: Heritage Branch will meet the cost of artwork, layout, manufacture and installation of the interpretive sign. Ongoing maintenance by City of Darwin would be covered by an existing operational budget.
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	Nil
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	Engagement Level: Inform Tactics: Social media
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. If a conflict of interest exists, staff will not act in the matter, except as authorised by the CEO or Council (as the case requires).

Northern Territory Heritage Branch Signage Proposal to Darwin City Council

The Northern Territory Heritage Branch is proposing for the design and installation of a small free-standing interpretative sign along the Nightcliff foreshore to interpret a WWII fish trap. This proposal comes from a member of the public who recently approached the Heritage Branch and asked what could be done to highlight the World War II Nightcliff fish traps (Figure 1). She is interested in sharing the history of this site as her Grandfather, who served during the war, has an intimate knowledge of the site. Her Grandfather was a member of the British Royal Air Force that served alongside the Royal Australian Air Force in Nightcliff.

The fish traps were established, maintained and utilised by No 54 Squadron. No 54 Squadron was primarily a Spitfire squadron. The traps provided the men with a fish supplement to their diets. It also provided the men with a crocodile free space to swim. An interpretative sign would highlight this little-known history.



Figure 1: The remains of the World War II fish traps today.



Figure 2: Location of World War II fish traps highlighted (red box).

The proposed location of the sign would be positioned to allow the reader to look out over the fish traps (Figure 2).

The Heritage Branch has worked alongside the Darwin City Council in the past to produce and install a sign for the World War II B-25D Mitchell aircraft wreck N5-140, along the Nightcliff foreshore (Figure 3). The proposed sign could be of a similar construction and design.

The Heritage Branch can contribute the cost of artwork, layout, manufacture and installation of the sign. With the understanding that the ongoing maintenance would be facilitated by the Darwin City Council if this was agreed to.



Figure 3: Signage at N5-140 B-25D Mitchell aircraft wreck.

10 MEMBER REPORTS

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

12 Next Meeting

13 Closure of Meeting



MINUTES

**Darwin Military and Civilian History
Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, 7 February 2024**

**MINUTES OF CITY OF DARWIN
DARWIN MILITARY AND CIVILIAN HISTORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE MEETING ROOM BIDJPIDJI (MEETING ROOM 1), LEVEL 1, CIVIC CENTRE,
HARRY CHAN AVENUE, DARWIN
ON WEDNESDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 11:00 AM**

PRESENT:

Councillor Ed Smelt

Darwin Military Museum Norm Cramp

RSL Darwin Branch Stephen Gloster

DefenceNT, Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet Ray Martin

NT Heritage Branch, Department of Territory Families Dr David Steinberg

General Manager Community Matt Grassmayr

Executive Manager Growth and Economic Development Emma Struys

OFFICERS:

Karen Long (Senior Administration Officer)

Kate Hardman (Senior Coordinator Place Activation and Events)

Jessica Fry (Community Events Producer)

APOLOGY:

Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Councillor Mick Palmer

Tourism NT, Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade Russell Smith

Aviation Historical Society of the NT John Hart

Guest WO1 Allan Lewis (Guest)

GUESTS:

Nil

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APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION MHAC001/24**

Moved: Councillor Ed Smelt

Seconded: Darwin Military Museum Norm Cramp

THAT Matt Grassmayr is appointed as chair for the meeting

CARRIED 7/0

1 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

The Chair declared the meeting open at 11.04 pm.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

City of Darwin acknowledges that we are living and working on Larrakia Country. We acknowledge the Larrakia people as the Traditional Owners of the Darwin region. We pay our respects to the Larrakia elders past and present and support emerging Larrakia leaders now and into the future. City of Darwin is committed to working together with all Larrakia to care for this land and sea for our shared future.

3 APOLOGIES & LEAVE OF ABSENCE**3.1 Apologies**

Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis

Councillor Mick Palmer

Tourism NT, Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade Russell Smith

Aviation Historical Society of the NT John Hart

Guest WO1 Allan Lewis (Guest)

3.2 Leave of Absence

Nil

3.3 Leave of Absence Notified

Nil

4 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE

Councillor Ed Smelt

NT Heritage Branch, Department of Territory Families Dr David Steinberg

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF**5.1 Declaration of Interest by Members**

Nil

5.2 Declaration of Interest by Staff

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION MHAC002/24**

Moved: Darwin Military Museum Norm Cramp

Seconded: Councillor Ed Smelt

That the minutes of the Darwin Military and Civilian History Advisory Committee Meeting held on 29 November 2023 be confirmed.

CARRIED 7/0**7 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Nil

8 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

9 OFFICER REPORTS**9.1 BOMBING OF DARWIN DAY VERBAL UPDATE****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION MHAC003/24**

Moved: RSL Darwin Branch Stephen Gloster

Seconded: Darwin Military Museum Norm Cramp

THAT the verbal update on the Bombing of Darwin Day be received and noted.

CARRIED 7/0

Jessica Fry (Community Events Producer) left the meeting at 11.17 am

9.2 TERMS OF REFERENCE REVIEW

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION MHAC004/24

Moved: Executive Manager Growth and Economic Development Emma Struys

Seconded: DefenceNT, Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet Ray Martin

1. THAT the report entitled Review of Terms of Reference – Darwin Military and Civilian History Advisory Committee be received and noted.
2. THAT the Darwin Military and Civilian History Advisory Committee endorsed the proposed changes to the Functions and Membership sections at **Attachment 1** and refer these to Council for approval.

CARRIED 7/0

10 MEMBER REPORTS

10 MEMBER REPORTS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION MHAC005/24

Moved: Executive Manager Growth and Economic Development Emma Struys

Seconded: Darwin Military Museum Norm Cramp

That the verbal reports by Members be received and noted, noting the appreciation from Councillor Smelt to the City of Darwin staff with behind the scenes work on the Bombing of Darwin event and the appreciation from representative Norm Cramp on behalf of the Royal Australian Artillery Association NT to the City of Darwin for assistance with Remembrance Day.

CARRIED 7/0

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 VERBAL UPDATES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION MHAC006/24

Moved: RSL Darwin Branch Stephen Gloster

Seconded: NT Heritage Branch, Department of Territory Families Dr David Steinberg

1. That the verbal update on Cyclone Tracy provided by Senior Coordinator Place Activation and Events Officer, Kate Harman be received and noted.
2. That the verbal update on the interpretive signage at East Point, noting that the signs have been made be received and noted.

CARRIED 7/0

12 NEXT MEETING

1 May 2024, 11.00 am

13 CLOSURE OF MEETING

11.40 am

Unconfirmed

Attachment 1

Functions

The functions of the Military and Civilian History Advisory Committee are to:

- a. Develop the tourism, historical, cultural and educational prospects and aspects of both the Bombing of Darwin event and Darwin's broader military history.
- b. Provide a strong vision for the infrastructure, activities and events that promote the Bombing of Darwin and Darwin's broader military history.
- c. Establish effective partnerships with key stakeholders engaged in participating in and promoting the Bombing of Darwin event and Darwin's broader military history.
- d. Promote recognition of the experiences of civilians in the Top End during WWII.

The target groups are:

- a. WWII veterans and their families, civilians, evacuees and their families
- b. Residents of the Darwin community
- c. Prospective interstate and international visitors to Darwin

Membership

Organisations

The Military and Civilian History Advisory Committee has representatives from the following organisations:

- Tourism NT
- Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (Heritage Branch) Department of Veterans' Affairs
- Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet (Defence NT) Returned Service League
- Darwin Military Museum
- Aviation Historical Society of the NT Inc.
- First Nations Organisation

Council Members

There are two Council Members on the Committee, an ex officio position for the Lord Mayor, and one Council Member. There will also be an alternate Council Member.

Observers with specialist skills and experience may also attend by invitation of the Committee and/or Council.

City of Darwin Staff

- General Manager Community
 2. Executive Manager Growth and Economic Development