



Media Release

# Darwin City Council

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## Bombing & Military History Committee

A new Advisory Committee will help guide the management of the Bombing of Darwin and other aspects of Darwin's military history. The Bombing of Darwin and Military History Advisory Committee met for the first time last Wednesday.

The Committee aims to strengthen the Historical, Cultural and Educational prospects of the raft of events and activities relating to Darwin's Military heritage.

The full potential of the Darwin region's military history has not yet been fully tapped into as a tourist destination and the involvement of the NT Government and the commercial tourism sector along with the Darwin City Council will address this.

Darwin has a significant place in Australian history as the first place attacked and defended against an external enemy. In February 1942 the same Japanese Imperial force that attacked Pearl Harbor devastated Darwin. Every February 19th Darwin City Council hosts services and events to commemorate the occasion.

Committee Chair, Alderman Robyn Lesley, said that Darwin City Council has a central roll in preserving and promoting this special event in the city's history.

"This committee will bring together key stakeholders to ramp up the operations to build and grow events and attractions to engage tourism operators and the public in our shared history" she said.

Key representatives include Darwin City Council, RSL, the Federal Department of Veterans' Affairs and The Northern Territory Government.

In addition, the Committee will look for guidance and consult with the RSL and Tourism Top End.

The Advisory Committee objectives are;

- to develop the tourism, historic, cultural and educational prospects and aspects;
- Provide a strong vision for the infrastructure, activities and events that promote the Bombing of Darwin and Darwin's broader military history;
- Establish effective partnerships with key stakeholders;
- Participate in the re-development of the East Point Military Museum; and
- Explore the prospect of a formal link between Darwin and Honolulu via the development of a Friendship City relationship.

In addition to the broader elements of the Committee's objectives, Alderman Lesley said that the Committee would provide a conduit for planning for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin in 2012.

"Sadly, each year we lose more and more of our veterans and so each year is important to us. 2012 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> year since the Bombing of Darwin and so there will be added impetus put toward the planning of that major event to include remaining veterans, their families and school children across Australia" Ms Lesley said.

***The 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin will take place on 19 February 2010. For more information contact Grant Fenton on 0466 017 689.***