

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (NT) INC

Patron The Honourable Austin Asche AC QC



The occasional newsletter of the Darwin Military Museum and RAAA(NT) Inc

Museum status after six months

- We have now been in operation for six months as of 18 August. Visitor numbers continue to remain good, still over 2,000 a week at present, although we expect that will drop significantly with the onset of the Wet season. We are presently undergoing our six-month review in relation to government support.
- After discussion with NT Government and DRM, the support company, we now repair almost all faults which impact on the Defence of Darwin displays. This has lowered our "outage" time for such displays by around 90%.
- Our list of faults associated with the new building has fallen dramatically into just a few items remaining.
- Our Museum Guide program has grown to now include regular weekly rosters for our guides – but we're after more...
- We are a significant player in the WWI Centenary National Program. We proposed the Borella Ride, commemorating the journey from Tennant Creek to Darwin by Albert Borella VC, and a book of WWI Territorians. Both of these projects look like receiving national support.

Gunner Jack Mulholland RIP (1921-2012)

Our friend Jack died on 13 August. We placed the following notice in the NT News. Considerable national media attention followed....

Darwin Military Museum regrets the death in southern Australia of Gunner Jack Mulholland, one of the defenders of Darwin on 19 February 1942.

Stationed on Darwin Oval – now the Cenotaph area of the Esplanade – Jack and his gun crew fought fiercely against the 188 aircraft of the first Japanese carrier raid, and in subsequent attacks.

Jack will live on in a permanent looped interview film at the Darwin Military Museum; in one of the 48 Character Cards within the new Defence of Darwin Experience displays, and in his excellent book *Darwin Bombed*.

Jack was a very brave soldier, but always modestly described his times in action as doing no more than his duty.

Gunner Jack Mulholland will always be remembered at the Museum and by its parent body the Royal Australian Artillery Association (NT) Inc.

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We have hosted on average a VIP or journalist contingent every week. Our profile nationally has grown enormously with a presence on Trip Advisor and Facebook, in every Darwin hotel through our new brochure, and in television advertising through regional stations across Australia. We have invested more in advertising with:

- A Brochure (DL) placed in all Darwin hotels and visitor centres (Via Moore Marketing).
- TV coverage: 15 second advert via Imparja into all states except WA.
- Slideshow presentation on tourist bus transfer system (Darwin airport to hotels).

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- Advertising inserts: *Touring Australia; Motorhome Monthly; Defence Northern Australia; Duty Served; Field Ambulance Association; Caravanning Australia; Statewide Alert; AUSPOL Magazine; Welcome to Darwin and the Top End brochure; English Voice magazine, Japan.*

Curatorial

We have acquired, or begun a project with, since our last newsletter:

- Another Blitz truck, in excellent condition after the ministrations of the curators, esp. Norm Cramp, Garry Tucker and John O'Connell.
- Significant progress on the Australians Under Arms building, with internal reconditioning finished, and internal displays almost decided. This will be an ongoing project over some years, and its overflow to the new Vietnam/Korea display area in the old Generator Room will be part of that cycle. Norm Cramp is Project Manager.
- Our acquisition of a Vietnam howitzer has made further progress, with paperwork completed; an initial freight company chosen, and planning begun by Allan Ogden for transport to Darwin.
- Two naval gun barrels have been researched and positioned in Artillery Avenue.
- "Captain Neil Benton Avenue" has been named and its sign unveiled.
- Our *Darwin's Secret Submarine* DVD has been introduced and is being sold, with Japan curator Simon Loveday using the footage for an improved version we hope to see used internationally;



The naval gun move completed. Trevor Smith and Garry O'Neill admire Andy Mills' stands. The guns are now naval grey.

New Blitz truck with everything working, and a new timber floor to the tray. From the admiring visitor looks we could sell it tomorrow.

Working Bee dates for the rest of the year, commencing 1030 for around 2.5 hours. Always the second Saturday of the month, they are 8 Sep, 13 Oct, 10 Nov and 8 Dec 2012.

Xmas! We will be hosting a barbecue for all staff and contractors to the Museum on Friday 14 Dec 2012 at DMM. Buses will provide a pick-up and delivery service; mark this one in your diary.

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GUNNER JACK MULHOLLAND RIP

For more on Jack view ABC TV News Clip at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-08-18/brave-bombing-of-darwin-defender-dies-at-90/4207552>



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE DARWIN MILITARY MUSEUM/DEFENCE OF DARWIN EXPERIENCE DR TOM LEWIS OAM

Last Friday morning 31 August 2012 a very enthusiastic and committed Japanese Navy paid their respects at the Cenotaph in Darwin. They "cleaned up" the Cenotaph for 30 minutes before the laying of a wreath, leaving some sake and fruit in a tray for the war dead and a wooden bucket with water sprinkler. The cleaning is Japanese custom when visiting graves. You first have to wash the monument down with (supplied) buckets and brushes. I found it most strange when I did this in Japan in 1995. A squad of sailors was even picking up all of the leaves by hand and storing them in plastic bags brought along for the purpose.

Then we all moved down to the USS Peary Gun Memorial where a repeat of the ceremony took place. For me it was all the more moving because 88 USS naval personnel died just out to sea where the Peary Gun is pointing. (This is where President Obama paid his respects last year - 2011.) The Chief Minister Terry Mills and Lord Mayor Katrina Fong Lim were present.

I believe it's the first time the Japanese Navy have formally paid their respects in Darwin.

More in the WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN 1/2 September:

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/breaking-news/memorial-to-japanese-dead-sought/story-fn3dxie-1226462689423>

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

Darwin Military Museum: <http://www.darwinmilitarmuseum.com.au>

Defence of Darwin Experience: <http://www.defenceofdarwin.nt.gov.au>

Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Darwin raids:

ABC 19th February 1942 podcast: <http://www.abc.net.au/local/photos/2012/02/10/3428056.htm>

NT Library Roll of Honour: <http://www.nlexhibit.nt.gov.au/exhibits/show/bod>

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