



Royal Australian Artillery Association (NT) Inc Patron – The Honourable Austin Asche AC QC

Visitor numbers up; a busy Dry ahead

We're pleased to report our visitor numbers for the last calendar year was a roughly doubled amount of those received for 2011. It also means that of course we have higher costs: more staff; operational costs – even our visitor maps cost a dollar, more wear and tear and so on.

Functions continue to increase in number and are a good source of revenue for us. We have hosted several cocktail parties; a wedding; a concert, and special guided tours. We are now being serviced by four bus lines on daily tours, including the “double-decker” buses now seen on Darwin streets. One of the biggest functions was the opening of the Memorial Wall, a one year project helped along by the NT government. It features 1672 names of personnel killed in the defence of northern Australia in WWII.



Commanding Officer of *HMAS Coonawarra*, Commander Ben Favelle RAN views names of sailors listed on the Memorial Wall

We've had a high number of VIP visitors through this year, including the United States Ambassador the Hon Jeffrey Bleich and the Deputy Consul-General of Japan in NSW Mr Toshiaki Kobayashi. All good advertising for us. We've also seen a lot of documentary makers coming through. A recent example – from the *What's Up Down Under?* Show on Channel 10/Southern Cross – go to:

<http://www.whatsupdownunder.com.au/whats-up-downunder-series-4-episode-10?pid=1493>









Then Click on Clip 2 - Darwin Town Overview. Then Click on Clip 8 - Darwin Military Museum

Internally, we have taken over direct operations of the café, and continue to go from strength to strength there. Garry O'Neill is now the supervisor of both café and shop, and is a mainstay of both. The Curator group is now formally headed up by Trevor Smith, and has been retitled as the “Curatorial Advisory Group”, to reflect more accurately their role outside direct management, which is now more assisted by the RAAANT Executive.

Museum recent acquisitions

The Museum has been extremely busy acquiring new items for the Collection. On the premises already or on the way are a Short Wheelbase Blitz (see pic); a 105mm Howitzer; a naval 40mm twin-barrel Bofors gun, two jeeps; Japanese gauntlets, a wrecked aircraft part, and several excellent uniforms, small arms, and field kit items. Grant projects under way or completed include a project to renovate the two 6-inch coast artillery guns, the opening of the Americans in the Top End display, and further research in Japan as to the true extent of Japanese attacks in northern Australia. We also opened the Australians Under Arms Gallery in January, and work is ongoing towards the Vietnam Gallery in the Generator Room of Gun Emplacement 2.

Project pictorial

		
	<p>(Clockwise from upper left) 25-pdr gun being relocated from the top of the Command Post; SWB Blitz – Hawk's baby; jeep being pushed to workshops; unique recycled plastic benches near Wall; interior of the Australians Under Arms Gallery; six-inch gun after conservation work; Nung in the Café; and Boom Net Float makes way for American display</p>	
		

WEB SITES

Darwin Military Museum: <http://www.darwinmilitarymuseum.com.au>
Defence of Darwin Experience: <http://www.defenceofdarwin.nt.gov.au>

Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Darwin raids:

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

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

Opening on 18 February 2013 of Memorial Wall to the Allied Fallen in the Bombing of Darwin (and Northern Australia) at the Darwin Military Museum:

ABC Darwin 18 Feb 2013 - <http://www.abc.net.au/local/audio/2013/02/18/3692896.htm?>

Channel 9 Darwin 18 Feb 2013 - <http://video.au.msn.com/watch/video/darwin-military-museum-unveils-memorial/x0yi7se?cpkey=74ae3e91-5d44-43dc-b6c9-db006708bf16%257c%257c%257c%257c>

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