

# Territory immortalises Roebuck Bay lost

**Nicola Kaimar**

The names of men, women and children who perished during the 1942 Japanese air raid of Broome were immortalised last week during a powerful, humbling ceremony to commemorate the 71st anniversary of the bombing of Darwin.

As part of this year's service, a 60m memorial wall bearing the names of more than 1670 soldiers was unveiled, including the victims of the strafing of Broome.

An estimated 88 people — mainly refugee Dutch women and children — died at the hands of nine swooping Japanese Zero fighters, while they sought refuge in the Roebuck Bay area.

The memorial wall was officially opened by the Northern Territory chief minister Terry Mills and World War II veteran Brian Winstead.

A memorial wall was proposed by Darwin Military Museum's Alan Ogden, for within the Darwin Military Museum precinct, and constructed to provide a historical record in one place of allied personnel, including civilians, who died as a result of combat action in northern Australia in World War II.

Broome Shire president Graeme Campbell and chief executive Kenn Donohoe attended the ceremony.

Mr Campbell said this year's ceremony, run by the City of Darwin, was bigger and better than the previous year.

"It was amazing to see in excess of 800 school children attending what is the first day of national observance," he said.



**Broome Shire president Graeme Campbell next to a memorial wall plaque.**  
Pictures: Shire of Broome

"It's an event that not only recognises the bombing of Darwin but the bombing and strafing of the whole of the North West."

Mr Campbell said the memorial wall signified great recognition of the people who lost their lives in

the north of Australia during wartime.

Broome RSL will hold a ceremony at 9am this Sunday at Bedford Park to mark the 71st anniversary of the strafing of Broome, followed by a morning tea.



In Memory of the Allied Fallen from World War II in Northern Australia  
officially unveiled by  
The Honourable Terry Mills MLA  
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory  
and  
Mr Brian Winstead AM  
Warless Air Gunner, EAAF/Thomson Bombers WWII  
on  
18 February 2013  
acknowledging the contribution of  
Project Manager: Leigh Armstrong  
Project Co-ordinator: NTD  
Graphic Design: William American  
Historian  
Hedden  
Captain (Ret) Alan Ogden  
Project Manager: Leigh Armstrong  
Project Co-ordinator: NTD  
Graphic Design: William American  
Historian  
Mr Bob Allford

Sgt Beatty Willard J  
Pfc Bunardzya Nicholas D  
SSgt Cliff Howard C  
Sgt Foster Samuel F  
Pvt Gordon Joseph N  
Cpl Jack Taylor T  
Pvt Johnson Clarence B  
Lt Keats Poad  
Maj Kester Edson E  
Capt Markey Harry W  
Cpl McDonald Hubert  
Lt Petschel Howard K  
Capt Ragsdale William P  
SSgt Rex John M  
Pvt Sheetz Richard G  
Capt Stafford Charles A  
SSgt Steinmetz Leo D  
Lt Taylor Richard L  
SSgt Westcott Elwin P  
030301942  
Consolidated B-24A Liberator 40-2374  
Killed in Japanese air attack, Broome WA

**A plaque with the names of those who died during the 1942 Japanese air raid.**