



8 November 2011

New facilities set to be a draw card at 17 ½ Mile World War Two Heritage Park

The finishing touches are being made on Darwin's 17 ½ Mile World War Two Heritage Park with the walkways expected to be open by the New Year.

Tourism Minister, Malarndirri McCarthy today announced a WWII history information display will be built in addition to the walkways as part of the project.

"This project will help recognise the Territory's significant military history and give families a place where they can learn about our history first hand," Minister McCarthy said.

"On top of this new facility, the Northern Territory Government is investing \$11.5 million in its plan for Darwin's WWII commemorative sites for families to honour and learn about the Territory's military history.

"With the 70th anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin in 2012 it is planned to have as much of these developments as possible completed."

The project includes:

- over a kilometre of concrete pathways, as well as gravel and natural walking trails
- four foot bridges
- a WWII history information display
- seating
- interpretive signage

"The new facility will provide an education facility for students to learn about Darwin's wartime past and provide a link to the new Defence of Darwin Experience at East Point and other WWII heritage sites in and around Darwin.

"The walkways are being delivered by Howard Springs company Earthbuilt Pty Ltd and had provided a valuable boost to local employment with 10 people working on this project including two apprentices.

"The area was first occupied in February 1942 by the US Army's 147th Field Artillery and still to this day contains many remnants of camp life, such as concrete floor slabs."

A key area of interest at the site is the remains of defensive positions that were hurriedly put together by troops at a time when a Japanese invasion was a very real threat.

Located on high ground, these defensive positions are made from rocks piled on top of each other, making crude barriers to protect troops from enemy fire.

Media Contact: Ursula Raymond 0457 825 507

