



Pics courtesy Broome Historical Society

## Remembering the Air Raid on Broome after 75 years

**On the morning of 3 March 1942, nine Japanese Zero fighters and a reconnaissance plane swooped down over Broome, killing an estimated 88 people and destroying 22 Australian, Dutch and US aircraft.**

The WWII Air Raid on Broome is the second-greatest wartime loss of life on Australian soil, and 2017 will mark its 75th Anniversary.

This tragic event also included amazing tales of survival and bravery, including the shooting down from the ground of a Zero by Dutch pilot Lt Gus Winckel.

The remote community of Beagle Bay rescued the crew and passengers of a Dutch DC3 that was shot down and crash landed at Carnot Bay. The passengers would surely have perished in the unforgiving environment if the Beagle Bay community had not come to their aid.

Now 75 years later, a solemn memorial service at 8am

on Friday 3 March 2017 will mark this important chapter in Australia's WWII history.

The Shire of Broome is working with the RSL Broome Sub-Branch, Norforce, St Mary's College, Broome Historical Society and other community representatives to prepare for the commemoration that will be held in Bedford Memorial Park, overlooking Roebuck Bay where the attack took place and where the wreckage of Catalina flying boats still remain on the seabed to this day.

Those visiting Broome for the occasion will include descendants of both victims and survivors of the tragic events of 1942, along with representatives of the Dutch, US, Japanese and Indian Governments.

Other events planned to commemorate the anniversary will be hosted by the Broome RSL Sub-Branch, Broome Historical Society Museum and Broome Civic Centre.



Broome Shire President, Ron Johnston, says he encourages the people of Broome to make sure they attend the memorial service.

"The Air Raid of 1942 marks a major chapter in the history of both our town and our nation, and the Shire of Broome is proud to join with others in the community to keep this memory alive," Cr Johnston says.

RSLWA Chief Executive Officer, John McCourt, says the significance of commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the raid cannot be underestimated.

"To pay homage to those who perished, to honour those who defended Broome and to never forget the horrors of war is most important," Mr McCourt says.



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Woods Dve public art project.

## Business planning to boost Chinatown

**Chinatown business owners have come together to workshop and discuss their visions for activating the town's CBD.**

As work progresses on the Chinatown Revitalisation Project, Investment and Development Coordinator, Jeremy Macmath, has kicked off 2017 by engaging with almost 100 Chinatown traders to develop a two-year activity plan. Mr Macmath facilitated last week's presentation and workshop at the Roebuck Bay Hotel where about 30 Chinatown traders put forward ideas and concepts to activate the precinct in the next two years.

Mr Macmath says more detailed workshops with traders will follow to start developing individual activation initiatives and similar workshops will be run with Chinatown owners and broader stakeholders in the next few weeks.

Other Chinatown Revitalisation Project initiatives underway include work to investigate the feasibility of an iconic cultural interpretive centre.

The project has been identified as having the potential to transform Chinatown, and a working group is being chaired by Nyamba Buru Yawuru CEO, Peter Yu.



**Business owners meet at The Roey to discuss activating Chinatown.**

The \$12.6 million Chinatown Revitalisation Project has been possible by \$10 million through Royalties for Regions, \$2 million from the Shire of Broome and \$600,000 from Tourism WA and is being jointly delivered by the Shire, Kimberley Development Commission and LandCorp to increase the level of activity in Chinatown through major improvements to street, landscape, facilities and laneways over the next two years, and conduct feasibility studies on long-term transformational projects.