



MEDIA RELEASE

Northern Territory Heroes Reunite for A Wartime Journey

Some of the Northern Territory's World War II heroes who served with the Airforce Construction Squadron (ACS) are reuniting in the Northern Territory this week.

ACS Association Inc Northern Territory Branch president Gordon Dunn said this would be the first, and probably the last, reunion of its type in the Northern Territory.

"The majority of members are in their 70s with the oldest being 91 and on pensions," Mr Dunn said.

"About 18 of the 200 or so members who will be here for the reunion served here in World War II, with all members of the ACS stationed in the Northern Territory between 1942 and 1971."

The ACS played a pivotal role in the Territory's history, having been responsible for the construction and maintenance of airfields such as Coomalie, Daly Waters, Livingstone, Strauss, Fenton, McDonald, Hughes, Batchelor and Bathurst Island, as well as other facilities in Darwin.

Much of this work was done during the time when northern Australia was subjected to aerial bombing by the Japanese.

Heritage Conservation Services director Michael Wells presented Mr Dunn with eight free copies of *A Wartime Journey* at the RSL in Darwin city on Friday ahead of this week's ACS members drive along the Stuart Highway to Adelaide River and Katherine - the route that is subject of the book and CD package.

"*A Wartime Journey* is a book and CD package about the Territory's World War II heritage sites so we are gladly donating several copies of the book to the ACS for its members to enjoy," Mr Wells said.

"The book and CD package will turn a drive out of Darwin along the Stuart Highway into a journey through the Territory's wartime past and I am sure it will be a great conversation starter for many of the members who will be heading to Adelaide River and Katherine."

Mr Wells said *A Wartime Journey* currently retails at various bookshops and the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory shop with a recommended retail price of \$34.95

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Michael Wells on 8924 4142

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