

Media Release:

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History of Lyons Cottage Displayed in New Exhibition

Lyons Cottage visitors can now learn more about the history of this iconic heritage building within the context of Darwin's history through a new exhibition now permanently on display at Lyons Cottage.

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) Senior Curator of Territory History Michelle Smith said the exhibition features a series of display panels that illustrate the history of the well-known site.

"These panels trace the history of the site from when the land was first leased to Dr James Millner in 1873 to its current role as a heritage building and events venue," said Ms Smith.

"Lyons Cottage has survived bombings, cyclones and developers, each failing to destroy a building that has been a key part of Darwin's history since its construction in 1925.

"Many people visit this highly visible heritage building on the corner of Knuckey Street and The Esplanade and naturally have questions about its history.

"We thought these display panels, which feature text and photos, provide a creative platform to answer those questions and inform our visitors.

"They also bring a personal element to the building's history, as we get a chance to see the people and families who made it their home over the years."

Each panel highlights a particular event or era, ranging from Cyclone Tracy to the prominent former inhabitant for which the Cottage is named – former Darwin Mayor John 'Tiger' Lyons.

Visitors to the Cottage are also encouraged to view a selection of historical images, jointly presented by NT Archives and the NT Library, which will change every six months and feature a different theme on the city's history.

Lyons Cottage is operated by the Aboriginal Bush Traders. Opening hours are 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, and 9am to 2pm on Saturday and Sunday.

For more information on Lyons Cottage, visit www.nt.gov.au/nreta/heritage/visit/lyons.

Ends

Media Note – for more information, contact Michelle Smith on 8924 6401.

Images – Mrs Dorothea Lyons, wife of John 'Tiger' Lyons, at the front gate to Lyons Cottage in the mid-1960s. Credit: Courtesy of Northern Territory Library.

Damage to the roof and garden of Lyons Cottage after Cyclone Tracy. Credit: Courtesy of Northern Territory Library.

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