



Kingdom of the Netherlands

PRESS RELEASE

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Canberra

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

19 January, 2012

70th Anniversary of Broome Air Raid

3 March 2012 marks the 70th anniversary of the Broome Air Raid by Japanese forces during the Second World War. Services to commemorate this day will be held in Broome and Perth.

In the early morning of 3 March 1942 Japanese forces bombed the city of Broome. During the attack many Dutch civilians, who were being evacuated from Indonesia, died a tragic death trapped aboard the allied flying boats bombed in Roebuck Bay.

Broome, 2 and 3 March 2012

On 2 March Dutch Ambassador Willem Andreae will host a Dutch commemorative gathering and press conference in the Mercure Hotel in Broome. He will welcome Dutch survivors and family, members of the Dutch community and press. Several Dutch survivors will be guests of honor and will share their stories about the tragic events of 3 March 1942. In addition, several experts will share their knowledge on the Air raid, and a booklet with bundled articles and interviews will be presented to all present.

On 3 March the Shire of Broome, in collaboration with the Broome RSL and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, will organize a commemoration service to mark the 70th anniversary of the air raid. The service will be held in Bedford Park at 8 am, in close proximity to Roebuck Bay, where some of the flying boat wrecks still remain.

A permanent, interpretive sign will be unveiled in Bedford Park during the commemoration services.

The Aboriginal community of Beagle Bay will take part in the ceremonies. The community played an important role in rescuing the pilot and crew of a Dutch DC3 that had been downed north of Broome, at Carnot Bay.

Perth, 29 February 2012

On 29 February the air raid will also be commemorated at the Karrakatta cemetery in Perth, where the remains of many of the Dutch air raid victims have been buried.

Invitation 2 and 3 March

The Netherlands Embassy would like to invite press and members of the Dutch community to attend the Dutch informative gathering on 2 March 2012 at 4 pm in the Mercure Hotel, Broome. Please register for catering purposes.

The Commemoration on 3 March 2012 in Broome is open to the public. The Netherlands Embassy would like to invite all who are interested to join us in the commemoration of this tragic event on 3 March 2012 in Broome.

For press information, registration for the 2 and 3 March services or more information, contact:

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