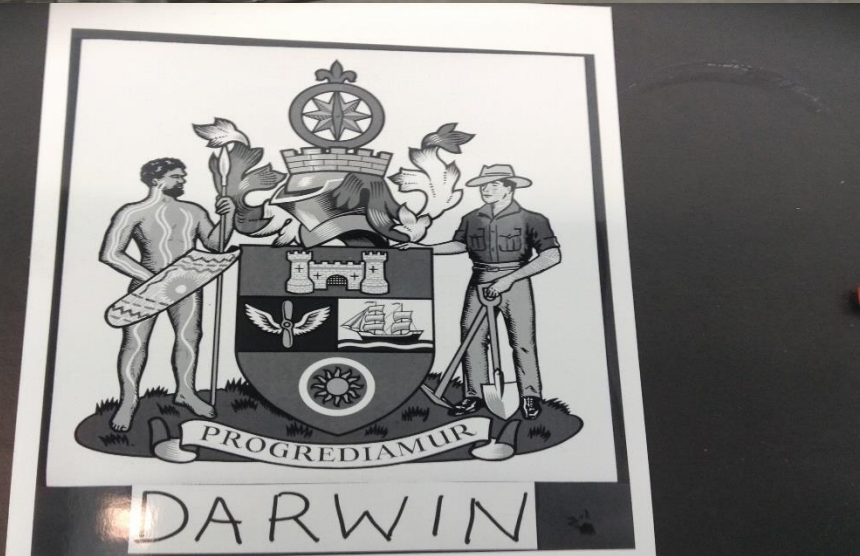
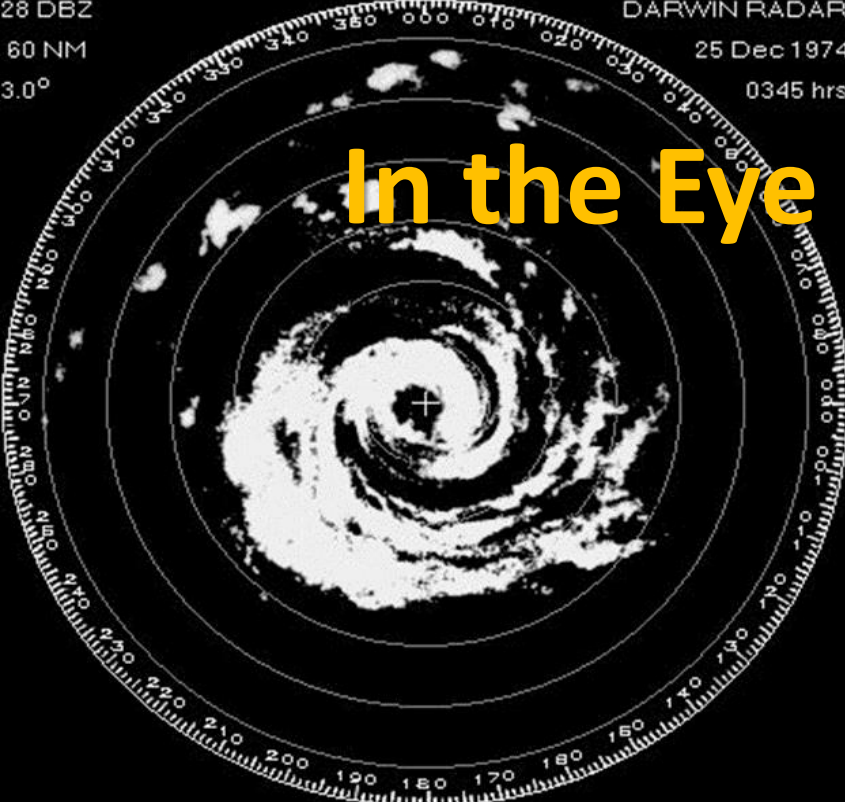


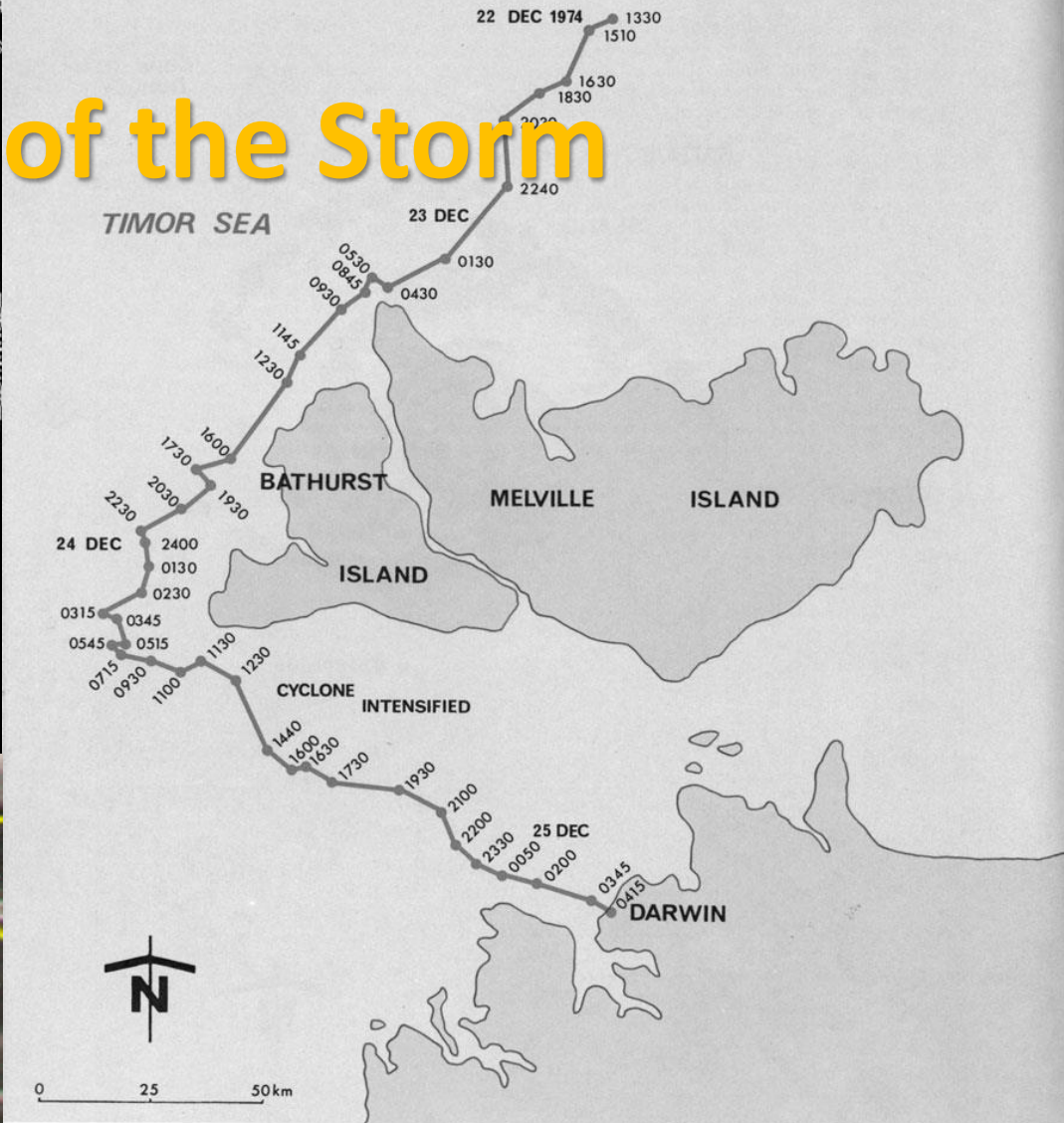
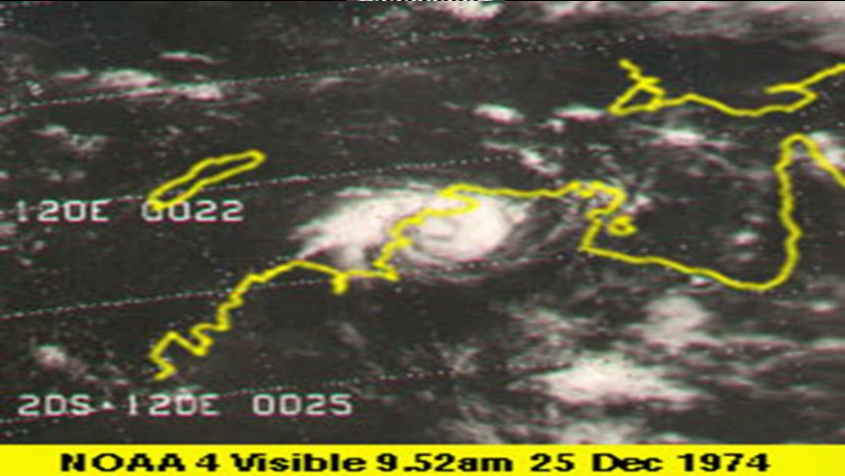
Qantas and Q Station

A Shelter from the Storm





In the Eye of the Storm



Three Day 'Count-Down'

Tracy's positions from 1.30 p.m. on December 22 until she hit Darwin, as tracked by Darwin radar.

The Black Christmas of 1974

DARWIN WIPED OUT

—By Tracy, the
killer cyclone

By MICHAEL GAWENDA

AT LEAST 49 people died in the cyclone which smashed Darwin yesterday.

Officials say the toll could reach 100 after rescuers search rubble.

Cyclone Tracy has destroyed or badly damaged 95 per cent of the city.

Officials estimate up to 30,000 of the city's 40,000 people are homeless.

7 ships

All power is off. There is no fresh water. Makeshift camps are being set up.

Tracy's 240 kmh (150 mph) winds sank

**THE TOLL:
DEAD, 49
HOMELESS,
30,000**



PHONE 42-0211 (Circled 42-0311) BY AIR 94
16,254 All News and Pictures from Darwin and Other Towns
Melbourne, Thursday, December 26, 1974 40 Pages

WEATHER Bureau forecast: Showers, isolated thunderstorms in the south. Very few showers in the north. **Details on P.2.**

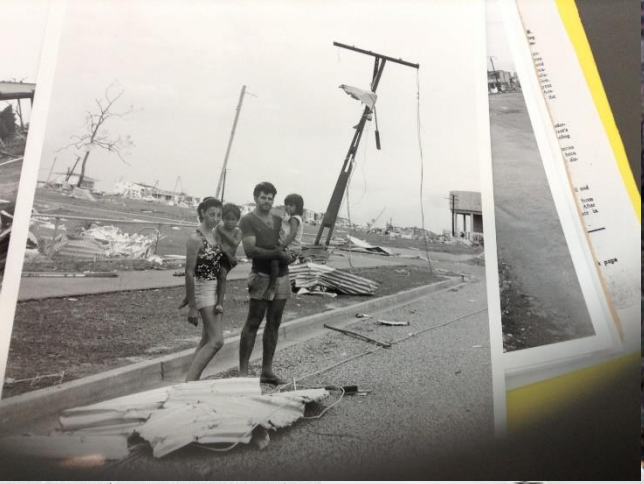
THE AUSTRALIAN

Cyclone leaves 40 feared dead, 20,000 homeless

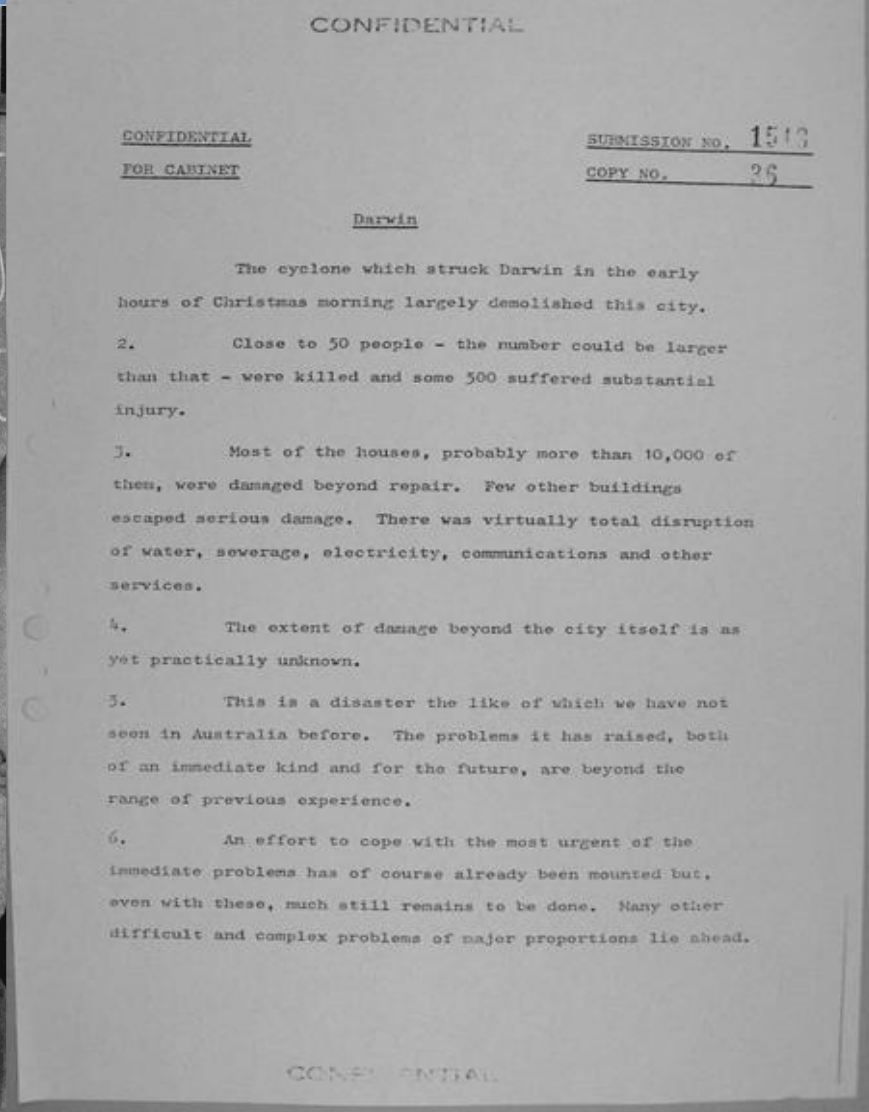
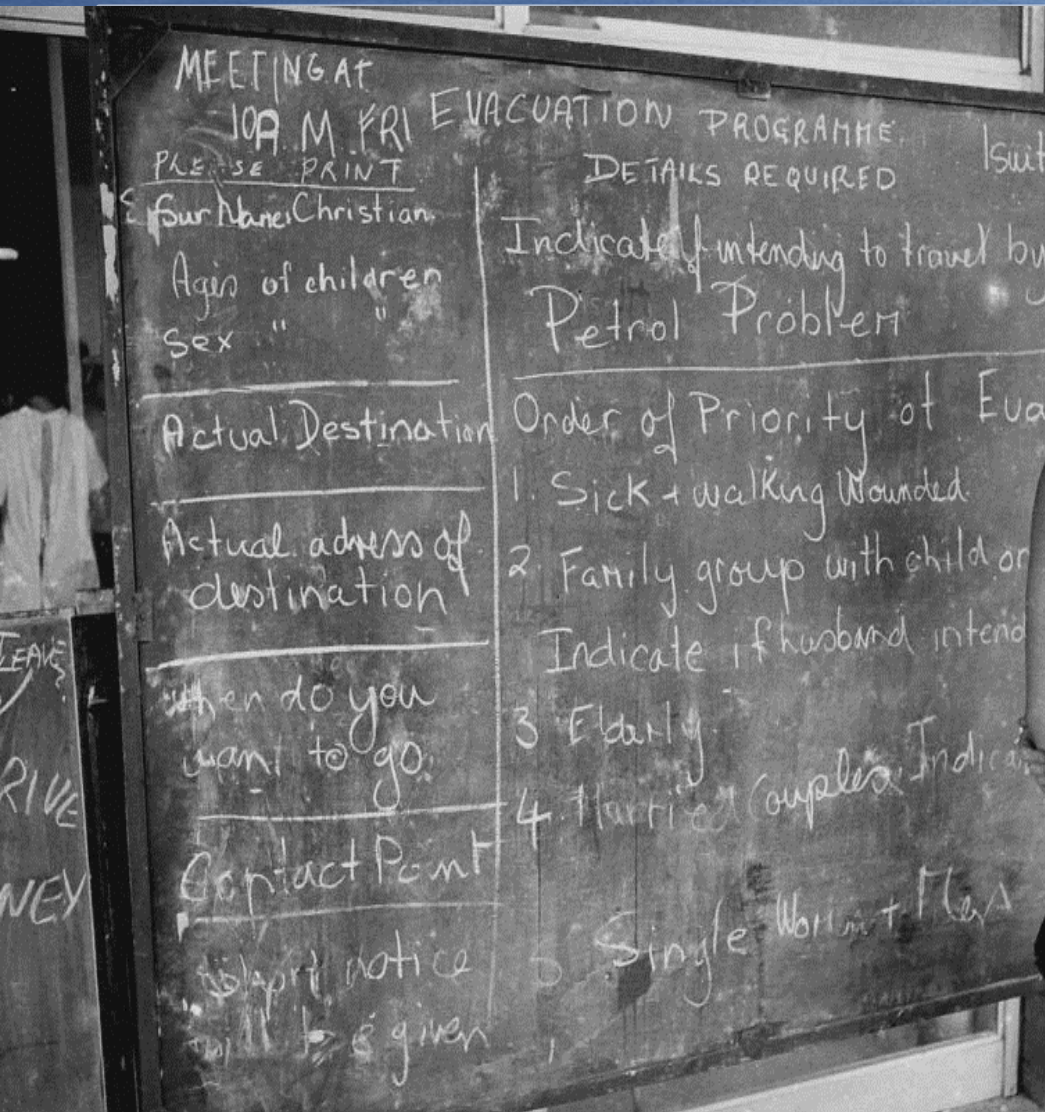
DARWIN DEVASTATED

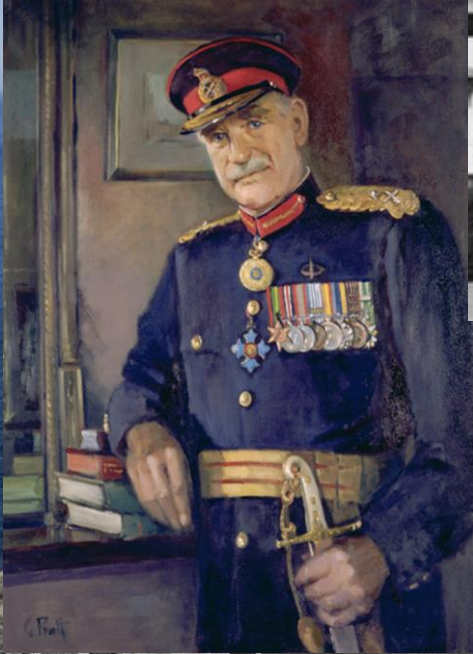
anishing MP asks for chance of a new life

Electricity and water cut, food runs short

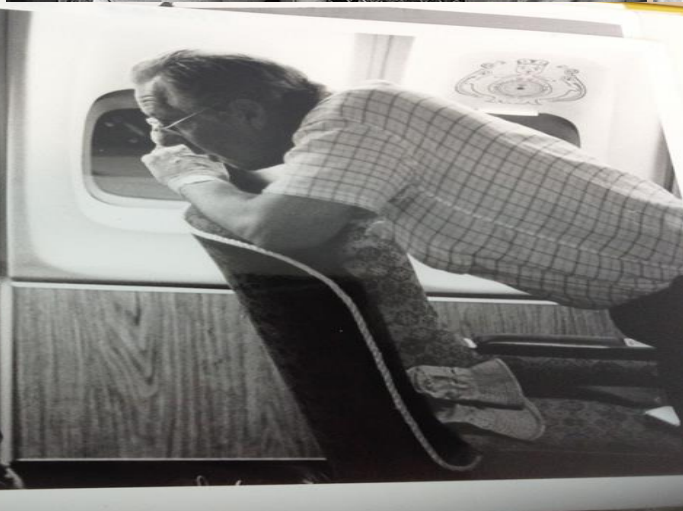


Evacuation





Lending a Hand



Qantas: The real life "Thunderbirds" of Darwin





"TAKE HER AWAY, DRIVER - I DON'T MIND ROUGHING IT IN A NATIONAL EMERGENCY..."

ENNIS PROS TO
SCORT TOURS

DARWIN 'OPERATIONS CENTRE' LOOKED AFTER WELFARE OF OUR EVACUEES

Cyclone Tracy has scattered our Darwin staff right around the world. Since



THE QUARANTINE PROJECT





...which to act, but whatever we did had to be done quickly. In fact, the decision to send our first 707 into Darwin was made at 3 a.m. on Boxing Day and the aircraft was airborne just three hours later with a specialist "flying squad" of Qantas engineers and communications experts on board.

"Four and a half thousand evacuees, tons of relief supplies and a few days later the story is history,

and, although it's a story, I'm sure no one will forget for a long, long time, you could probably say it was just another job for us... if that doesn't sound too bland.

"Offers of help came from everywhere within the company and at times we were overflowing with volunteers ranging from ground staff to pilots and cabin crew.

"The whole exercise was a story of co-ordination and co-operation from every department in the company."

Evacuee flights

Thursday, December 26:	QF2	SYD/MEL	49
1 x 707	DRW/SYD		266
pass and one Siamese kitten.			
Friday, December 27:			
1 x 707	DRW/SYD		271
1 x 707	DRW/SYD		327
Saturday, December 28:			
1 x 747	DRW/SYD		633
1 x 707	DRW/SYD		276
1 x 707	DRW/SYD		239
1 x 747	DRW/SYD		673
Other Flights:			
1 x 707	BNE/SYD		247
QF275	SYD/MEL		63
			TOTAL 4925

FLIGHTS DIVERTED

The closure of Darwin airspace caused operational problems following Tracy. Twelve services had to be diverted around the area.

Tracy had also destroyed most of the navigational aids and this necessitated continuous co-ordination with the Department of Transport in Adelaide.

Captains Ralph Bruce and Ken Nicholson headed up the Flight Operations effort assisted by John Meredith of Flight Service.

Free flights

Qantas provided thousands of dollars' worth of travel to assist the special charity concert in aid of Darwin victims at the Opera House on Saturday night.

We agreed with the concert organisers that we would give free return tickets to prominent overseas entertainers who had offered their services for the concert.

Those we helped come out included Rolf Harris, David East and Don Lane.

Printed by The...
126 Cleveland



THE QUARANTINE PROJECT





TRACY STORMS IN FOR CHRISTMAS

...her feet and wailed and pines were provided for children.

On each 707 we also carried one of our missing cats and on the 747 two more. Again the workload was enormous with the usual maintenance at many sub-stations and clearing at many levels as they dispersed relative.

As Sister Ronald McEachern said: "The kids we carried were all given. There were too girlish or crying. A bit of mischief, but that was to be expected. It was the Moms who had held up so well throughout who broke down when they stepped on to the plane. The relief at being able to give their child a drink of water or some candy, simply have access to food was just too much. One group of kids had had nothing to drink for three days other than peevish and beer and they had eaten only salvaged Christmas cake."

New dress
On another flight a mother stood with her baby in some dress with one strap and she herself dressed in only a bikini and thong. It was all the had left. On several, with considerable inventiveness, grabbing into galley aprons and tied them together to create a dress.

With the first flight into Darwin on the 20th were the General Manager, Captain Ritchie, the Acting Chairman, Mr R. R. Law-Smith, Director of Passengers Administration, Mr Graham Kench, as well as other flying staff and insurance assessors.

The signs that men team remained plain Ritchie of Hiroshima. He fled the bombed Japanese city so after it had been struck and thought it had been badly damaged, his opinion Darwin was in a worse condition.

In the terms was the type of sea-ism that makes the airline most of them wearing the United Army issue jungle hats. John Ian Burns-Woods (Northern Territory Manager and the exception a rather stylish Seaton), Colgrove (Melbourne Airporters), Peter Snelling (Airporters), Roy Laidly (Personnel etc), with others in various of fatigue and with beards of hair.

The terminal, Allan Smith (the a bag of rice and a Ian recently restored electricity had possible. Without him and Hocking maintaining common the evacuation would considerably more difficult, rained the night before and boys had crouched with and their ankles in dark and ing contact.

team
...Dr Harvey Dakin and Sister y Thompson and Sister had set up their medical ted by people from the Territory Aerial Medical ing Doctor they used to f the nurses dressed each slashed about with glass, assessing cases for the ook at.

sonpson was the deeming baby, but by the evening as still frostbitten, coming here with babies ours old or just about but I've just been out umber we've had, how- make one think the Darwin had been

ly, too, there were no if the flights out, a medical centre the le waited for an air-rod them the Sal-Red Cross men, keeping people d, comforted. It was d course, that many rken up and there mderable comfort, edly injured ones

...later back at Qantas office. It was a lucky day not only for Eric but for the dog, as all stray dogs were being shot.

The dog was adopted by the crew of builders and plumbers came from Sydney and living under canvas on the lawn at the back of the still standing Qantas office. Two days later it was sent to join Eric in Melbourne.

At Mike Field's place there was only one wall still standing. The beds under which his family had sheltered



EVERYONE on board our relief flights was fed and the children were given games. A British Airways First Officer, himself an evacuee, commented that even with the vast numbers carried it was "Qantas service par excellence". A BA cabin crew being evacuated turned out and helped their Qantas colleagues with the refugees.

...that saved them. (There is a moral somewhere in that story.)

...were half crushed by two walls and the bed under which Mike would have been sheltering, until he got accidentally jammed outside at the height of the cyclone, had been completely crushed by a falling brick wall.

He was one of the people who said, "See how lucky we were."

The home of Airport Manager Peter Snelling received scant attention from the insurance assessors. It was a write-off.

The Snellings lived guests in their kitchen table. They sheltered into it throughout.

Praying
"We just crouched there and prayed. At one stage I shove a torch up to where the kitchen roof should have been."

...One man for whom the whole thing was just a bit too much to take was Customer Services Agent Herb Hoesbelle, who had actually just moved into his new house on Christmas Eve. Not only was his house demolished, but a brick wall fell on the caravan that had been living in for the past 12 months. Then a neighbor's wall fell on his



It is such conditions in Darwin that have made the work of our people there so formidable. It is one thing to work for untold hours and then return to a bed, clean sheets, a proper shower and a full meal. It is quite another to remain unshaven, hot and dirty for days on end and know that, even when the airlift is completed, one must begin to piece together a shattered family and home.

Apart from those actually in Darwin there were hundreds of other Qantas people who interrupted their Christmas to work long hours in sometimes difficult conditions. They made the evacuation of Darwin possible and it was appreciated. On a 747 flight on Sunday, December 29, one evacuee asked to use the public address system on board.

He said that Qantas had provided some of the comfort and kindness they had been without for 40CC.

"If these efforts display the feelings of the Australian people to our plight, then we have many people to be thankful to."

"To all those who have helped us this week, especially the crew and Qantas and the Australian Government — to everyone, may I wish you a happy and prosperous New Year wherever we may be."

Hosties run air union
Our Christmas Hostesses at Sydney have persuaded Sydney's best car dealers to donate a vehicle to an air union they are planning to run for the benefit of Darwin evacuees. Tickets will be available for \$2.


A crew has already raised \$517.64 on board two Tasman flights.



THE QUARANTINE PROJECT



Keeping The Peace

 Department of the Northern Territory
P.O. BOX 281, DARWIN, N.T. 8194. Tel. address "DEPT" DARWIN

In reply please quote Telephone

DARWIN ENTRY AUTHORITY

The person(s) named below is/are authorised to enter the DARWIN CYCLONE DISASTER AREA.

Name(s) RONALD HAROLD BELL

.....
.....
.....

Conditions attached to this authority (if any)
MANAGER - ENGINEERING
RETURNING TO WORK

.....
.....
.....

[Signature] Signature(s) of Authority holder.
[Signature] Signature of person authorized to issue permit.

This authority should be shown on request and/or surrendered to any Police Officer, airline employee or any other person checking entry into Darwin. It is not transferrable.

This permit does not authorize the entry of a caravan into the Darwin Cyclone Disaster Area unless this is specifically endorsed on the permit.

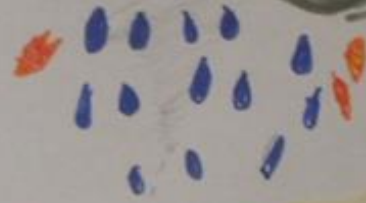




warning!

Darwin!

CYCLONE
Tracey!



Dec '25 | 1977

Evacuees at North Head

“The Movement’s 1975 actually started on Christmas Day, 1974, when Cyclone Tracy hit Darwin - the stage was set for a group community service as no sooner had people been evacuated and lodged at North Head, than staff members, from Northern Beaches mainly, gave up their holidays to provide activities every afternoon for the children. This was very much a Centre in the rough as there were no facilities such as we normally have. However staff coped, and received great praise from the officers in charge.”

- Excerpt from “A Special Feature- The Disaster Squad Acts” in The Creative Leisure Movement Children’s Library and Crafts Movement (conducting) Creative Leisure Centres Report, 1975 Courtesy of Nan Bosler

A Lasting Legacy: In Memoriam





THIS PLAQUE WAS ERECTED
 IN MEMORY OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES
 DURING CYCLONE TRACY IN DARWIN
 ON 24TH AND 25TH DECEMBER, 1974
 AND WAS UNVEILED BY
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
 ON 26TH MARCH, 1977.

ANDREW, PETER	KNOX, MICHAEL JOHN
BELL, MALINI PALATHIL	KNOX, STEPHEN JAMES
BLOOMFIELD, DOROTHY	LAY, ONING, OWEN
BONNER, CECIL HENRY	LANG, JOHN DUDLEY (JACK)
BROWN, GERALDINE ELIZABETH	LIM, ARTHUR
BRUHN, ANDREW MARK	MACKLIN, PAUL ALAISTER
BOLGER, WOTSANBUK (BUNGUN MAJOR)	McNABB, ERIC ARTHUR
BURGESS, DEAN WILLIAM	MUIR, WILLIAM DANIEL
BUTLER, LOUISA FANNY	PARKER, GEORGE VALENTINE
CATTON, LESLIE KEVIN	PORTMAN, SUZANNE MARY
CHANEY, PAUL MARK	RENNIE, IAN ROBERT
CLARKE, ROSE SUSANNA	ROEWER, GEORGE
CLOUGH, EILEEN PATRICIA MAY	SMANIOTTO, GIOVANNI
DAFFEY, PETER BRIAN	STEPHENSON, CHERRY LEONIE ROSE
DEWAR, PETER JAMES	STEPHENSON, KYLIE JANE
DIBUA, CHARLES JOSEPH	SWANN, ROBERT GORDON
FENTON, GARY ROGER	TAYLOR, JOHN THOMAS
GRANT, MICHAEL JOHN	THOMPSON, RICHARD
HAMPTON, RAYMOND	TURNER, JOHN
HANSON, THOMAS WILLIAM	WENCK, SHIRLEY
HARDER, LISA KAROLINE	WHEATLEY, KENNETH JAMES SCOTT
HOFF, DONALD JAMES DUNCAN	WILLIAMS, KERRY LYNDA
HOLTEN, DENNIS KEITH	WILLIAMS, MOLLY
JAMES, RUEBEN PAUL	WOOD, JENNIFER ANNE
JAMES, RICHARD ROLAND	YOSHIDA, KOJI
KNOX, CATHERINE MICHELLE	YU, FREDERICK YEE CHAR
NOX, ELVA DAWN	



William Carroll



THE QUARANTINE PROJECT



