

MEDIA RELEASE

12 November 2017

RFDS Darwin Tourist Facility wins Brolga Award

The RFDS Darwin Tourist Facility is proud to be a 2017 *Brolga Northern Territory Tourism Award* recipient after winning the coveted *New Tourism Business Award* last night.

A total of 19 businesses and three individuals were winners at the 31st Brolga Awards which recognise tourism excellence. *The New Tourism Business Award* recognises new tourism businesses that demonstrate excellence in the planning and development of new tourism infrastructure and/or services.

“The passion shown by our tourism operators is a wonderful reflection of our incredible attractions, tours, unique experiences and culture in the NT,” says Lauren Moss, Minister for Tourism and Culture.

The facility was described by judges as a wonderful addition to NT tourism and a truly engaging tourist experience.

Accepting the award, RFDS Central Operations General Manager Northern Territory, Michael Toomey, says the RFDS is proud to have won this prestigious award for the RFDS Darwin Tourist Facility.

“We’re honoured to be represented amongst such a high calibre of winners representing the best of tourism in the Northern Territory,” Mr Toomey says.

“I’d like to thank the entire team, and of course acknowledge the support we have received from NT Tourism and the NT Government. It’s wonderful to be making a significant contribution to tourism in the Northern Territory.”

Business category award winners will now represent the Northern Territory at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards with winners announced in Perth in February 2018.

The RFDS Darwin Tourist Facility, which opened in July 2016, brings together two iconic elements of the Territory: the RFDS, which began operations in the NT with the opening of its Alice Springs Base in 1939, and the bombing of Darwin on 19 February 1942 – the largest single attack ever mounted by a foreign power on Australia.

“Both of these historic events helped forge the resolve and resilience of the people who live in the Northern Territory,” Mr Toomey says.

The facility, which is managed by the RFDS in partnership with NT Tourism and the NT Government, features the latest in computer-generated imagery and virtual reality (VR).

Using individual headsets, the award-winning VR film enables visitors to immerse themselves back in time to 1942 and view a recreation of the bombing of Darwin Harbour as if they were actually there on the waterfront.

Located on the Stokes Hill Wharf, the world-class tourist attraction boasts a range of technology and features including:

- a full-size replica of a Japanese Zero aircraft;
- a video floor display showing Darwin Harbour as it was in 1942;
- the walk-through of a retired RFDS Pilatus PC-12 aircraft;
- holograms that bring to life key characters in the stories including war time Prime Minister John Curtin and RFDS founder Reverend John Flynn;
- a replica bomb cutaway to show the inner workings; and
- Touchscreens and story boards telling the RFDS story.



Virtual Reality is used to create an immersive experience for tourists at the RFDS Tourist Facility in Darwin.



A scene from the virtual reality experience.

About the RFDS – Northern Territory

In 2016/17 the RFDS assisted over 24,000 in the Northern Territory by:

- conducting the aeromedical evacuation of more than 2,800 Territorians – equivalent to seven patients per day;
- providing over 7,600 mental health consultations among remote communities of Central Australia;
- facilitating more than 16,000 primary health consultations through the transport of health professionals to isolated communities.
-

(ends)

EDITOR'S NOTE: *high resolution images are available upon request*

MEDIA CONTACT:

Robin Hopkinson,
Marketing Specialist
0407 822 510
media@flyingdoctor.net