Dear Colleague,

Darwin Defenders 1942-45 Commemorative Service at the
Shrine of Remembrance Forecourt, Melbourne

10am – THURSDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2026

The 84th Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin

February 19 has been proclaimed a National Day of Observance in Australia.

The ceremony will honour those who served and those who died during the attacks on Darwin during 1942 - 1945. It is an opportunity for veterans, their families, dignitaries, and school students from across Melbourne & regional towns to participate in a moving ceremony that aims to remind us of all of the cost of preserving peace and democracy in Australia. As each year passes, the number of servicemen and women that served in Darwin sadly diminishes – this is a wonderful opportunity to speak with those that are still active in our community.

An invitation is extended to your school to send a representative group of students (we welcome small and large groups of students) along with an accompanying teacher/s to be in attendance on the Forecourt of the Shrine of Remembrance at **09:45am on THURSDAY 19th FEBRUARY 2026** in remembrance of the Australian, Allied Forces and civilians who suffered because of those intense attacks.

The service will commence on the Forecourt of the Shrine at **10:00am and it will conclude at 11:00am.**

During the service, there will be an opportunity for a representative student from your school group to participate in the wreath laying ceremony. Schools will be required to supply their own wreath.

We know that is an incredibly busy time for schools but an initial response at your earliest convenience, indicating your school's intention to attend would be gratefully appreciated.

Responses and any queries can be directed to Bernadette Lightfoot at Ryebuck Media - email bern@ryebuck.com.au .

Further details about the Darwin Defenders Melbourne Committee can be found at www.darwindefenders.com

Yours sincerely,

Bernadette Lightfoot

Bernadette Lightfoot
Secretary - Melbourne Committee Darwin Defenders 1942-45