

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 26 May 2023

Unlocking the Secrets: Discover Darwin's Early Prison History Through an Immersive Audio Experience - Launching 27 May 2023

On the Inside is a powerful, narrative-driven tour that shares hidden stories of the Northern Territory's longest running prison which opened in 1883 and closed in 1979. The untold stories of Darwin's Fannie Bay Gaol can now be experienced as part of an immersive audio tour launched by the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT).

"The history of Fannie Bay Gaol is connected to so many chapters of the Northern Territory's history," MAGNT's Director Adam Worrall said.

"MAGNT has managed this site since 1983, but the heart wrenching stories of the people who ended up there, has never been brought to life quite like this, in such an innovative and immersive way," he said.

"There's laughter, discomfort and tragedy. You'll never look at the gaol in the same way again. These powerful stories will stay with you."

The 50 minute tour is guided by Larrakia Elder Dr Richard Fejo, who, through the tour's development, discovered a personal connection.

"My own relative Alice Fejo was in here too, which surprised me, because before this project I had no idea she'd been in Fannie Bay Gaol."

"I learned lots about how people came to be imprisoned and what life was like for them. And there's lots of escape stories too. At one point, Fannie Bay Gaol had a reputation for being Australia's easiest prison to break out of. One guy even got all the way to New York City before they caught him!"

"You'll be surprised by what you learn and by how much things have and haven't changed."

The tour plots the prison's many historic chapters and features the extraordinary stories of Aboriginal resistance fighter Namarluk as well as Charlie Flannigan, the first person to be hung at Fannie Bay Gaol in 1887.

Recorded binaurally, the tour features immersive 3D stereo sound recorded with the help of dozens of Darwin locals at Fannie Bay Gaol. Visitors simply download a free app, put their headphones on and step back in time.

During the making of the tour, former prisoner Michael Mavromatis visited the prison, sharing the intimate story of his incarceration there as a teenager.

"I hadn't been back in 50 years and decided to visit the prison as a way of reflecting on my time there," he said.

"I'm a musician now, and took a violin with me to play a tribute to the two fine men I shared a cell with, who looked after me during the year I was there. I was so moved to be able to tell my story."

The tour was developed in collaboration with producers Caddie Brain and Johanna Bell who spent 12 months researching, recording and working with locals to produce these authentic stories.

Fannie Bay Gaol is located on the corner of East Point Rd and Ross Smith Ave in Fannie Bay, Darwin and is open Wednesday to Sunday from 10am to 2pm. Entrance is free.

On the Inside is recommended for people 12 years and over. It is available for free via the Darwin Audio Tours app which can be downloaded from the [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#). It also features *Darwin: A Tale of Four Cities*, a wander through Darwin's past with broadcaster Charlie King OAM.

Audio Tour Launch | Fannie Bay Gaol: On the Inside

Saturday 27 May | 10am – 11am | Cnr East Point Rd & Ross Smith Ave, Fannie Bay

The Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory are launching their new app ***Fannie Bay Gaol: On the Inside*** - This is a powerful, narrative-driven tour that shares untold stories of the Northern Territory's longest running prison which opened in 1883 and closed in 1979. Recorded binaurally, the tour features immersive 3D stereo sound recorded with the help of dozens of Darwin locals at Fannie Bay Gaol.

Supporting Materials

- [Promotional images are available here](#)
- [Audio excerpts are available here](#)

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About the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory

The Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) is the Northern Territory's premier cultural and scientific institution. It offers a dynamic and diverse arts, science and cultural program to more than 300,000 visitors each year.

MAGNT operates seven venues on Larrakia Country (Darwin) and Arrernte Country (Alice Springs), and is set to open its eighth venue, the Northern Territory Art Gallery, in Darwin's CBD in 2025.

MAGNT is known for its collections and expertise in Aboriginal cultures, natural sciences, histories and arts across northern and central Australia and our neighbours to the north. It is also the home of the annual Telstra NATSIAA – the most significant Indigenous and richest art award of its kind in Australia.

Media contacts

Jared Archibald Curator Territory History, MAGNT, Dr Richard Fejo and Michael Mavromatis are available for interviews on request.

Please contact Communications and Marketing Manager to arrange an interview

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