

Tamarindus indica — Tamarind

Scientific Name:

Tamarindus indica

Common Name:

Tamarind

Register Number:

107

Location of Tree:

Public Park, Maria Liveris Drive,
Mindil Beach, Darwin NT

GPS:

-12.44414, 130.83251

Categories of Significance:

Aesthetic
Historical
Unique Location

Year Listed:

1989



The Tamarind was brought to Australia by Macassan fishermen who visited the northern coast as early as 1700. They came with the north-west monsoon each wet season to harvest trepang, also known as sea cucumber. These annual visits are believed to represent the first contact between Aboriginal people and a foreign culture. Little remains of the macassans' camp except for magnificent stands of tamarind trees.

These trees grew from seeds in the Tamarind fruit, used by the macassans to flavor their rice. Today the Tamarind grows in many favorable places along the coast. The Mindil Beach area was traditionally used by Larrakia and other Aboriginal people living in Darwin for burial of their ancestors. A memorial of carved and plain burial poles serves to remind us of the history and sacred nature of this area. A branch was lopped from this specimen several years ago and some fungal infection has resulted.



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