



## **RACHEL NOLAN MP**

### **Member for Ipswich**

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#### **NEW EXHIBITION DEPICTS AUSTRALIAN HOME FRONT LIFE DURING WORLD WAR II**

A new travelling exhibition from the Australian War Memorial which portrays life on the home front during World War II will be officially opened by State Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan tonight at The Workshops Rail Museum, North Ipswich.

Member for Ipswich West, Don Livingstone said that *Australia under Attack 1942-1943* depicts the reality of life in a time very different from today when the Japanese forces were literally on the doorstep of Australia.

"The exhibition illustrates the nature of life in wartime Australia as the nation came together for the war effort," he said.

"*Australia under Attack 1942-1943* will give children and adults alike an insight into how Australians coped as everyday items such as food, clothing and fuel became scarce, rationing was introduced and Australians were encouraged to conserve, reuse and recycle."

The exhibition also deals with the frightening episodes where Australians endured air and sea attacks.

Those who lived through the attacks still recall the harrowing sights and sounds as the Japanese attacked.

Ms Nolan, who will represent Minister for Education and Minister for the Arts Anna Bligh at the opening, said the *Australia under Attack 1942-1943* exhibition would encourage people to remember and commemorate the end of World War II, 60 years ago this year.

"The exhibition outlines the breadth, magnitude and location of these attacks and puts them into a context that younger Australians can understand," Ms Nolan said.

Staff at the Australian War Memorial worked in conjunction with The Workshops Rail Museum's curators and collections staff to ensure that many museum objects, never before seen by the public, are displayed within the exhibition.

Director of The Workshops Rail Museum Mr Andrew Moritz said: "State railway workshops were established centres of industry that played a vital role in Australia's war effort and in 1942 the Ipswich Railway Workshops was a major centre of wartime production."

The Federal Government constructed a Tool and Gauge Shop onsite with the skilled technicians at this workshop providing support for the munition factory at nearby Rocklea.

“From 1941 the Tool and Gauge Shop had 24 hour Federal Police guard and staff were unable to enter without a security pass – if the pass was forgotten the worker would be sent to the office to prove their identity before entry,” Mr Moritz said.

*Australia under Attack 1942-1943* is on display from 4 June to 28 August 2005, with a special *Australia Under Attack Field Day* on Sunday 26 June 2005, featuring a variety of military equipment in action.

The Australian War Memorial Travelling Exhibition program is funded by *Saluting Their Service*, the Federal Government’s commemorations programs, honouring the contribution of Australia’s servicemen and women.

The Workshops Rail Museum opens daily from 9.30am to 5pm and is located at North Street, North Ipswich.

For ticket prices and further information please contact The Workshops Rail Museum on (07) 3432 5100.