



22nd May 2017

BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA 75th COMMEMORATION SERVICE
6 SEPTEMBER 2017

On 19 June 2008, the Governor General declared the first Wednesday in September each year as a national day of observance to be known as the Battle for Australia Day. This week in September was chosen because it was the month in which the two-pronged Japanese advance on Port Moresby in the Australian Territory of Papua was repulsed by Australians, first at Milne Bay on 5 September 1942 and subsequently on the Kokoda Track on 26 September 1942. The 5 September 1942 was the first time in the Pacific War a Japanese invasion beachhead was thrown into the sea. Also, the formal Japanese surrender occurred the first week in September 1945, on 2 September. But the Battle for Australia was not confined to Kokoda and Milne Bay – ships of the RAN, RAAF squadrons, and Australian Army units made significant contributions to the defence of Malaya, Singapore, Dutch East Indies, and RAN ships were also involved in the Battle for Coral Sea in May 1942.

The capture of Rabaul and Lae brought the real impact of WW2 home to Australians as did the bombing of Darwin in February 1942 and the bombing of other mainland cities as well as the shelling of Newcastle and of Sydney. Also, many ships were sunk in Australian waters. Not only did the defence forces respond but so did the civilian population in the support of the war effort. The Japanese were finally defeated in 1945 thanks to the contribution of our allies which was critical and is fully recognised but the efforts of the Australian forces was crucial to the early victories. The Battle for Australia commemorates and acknowledges those who gave so much in the defence of our home soil during this period.

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of many of the operations and battles in the South Pacific during 1942 and the Battle for Australia Special 75th Anniversary Commemoration Service will be held at the Cenotaph, Martin Place, Sydney on Wednesday 6th September at 11.00am - the keynote address will be given by a Senior Army Officer from Headquarters Forces Command and as always children from several schools will participate in the Service. On behalf of the Battle for Australia Association (NSW) Inc, I have pleasure in inviting you to attend the Service. Sprigs of wattle will be available at the end of the Service to lay on the Cenotaph. Advice of your acceptance, including any need for special arrangements, of this invitation by the 7th August if possible, would be appreciated to me at 02 43841 196, email at dougroer@bigpond.com or to the address below.

As is our usual practice, we will also be arranging a lunch following the Service at the Westin Hotel in Martin Place to which you and a guest are also invited. The cost of this lunch will be \$65 per person and advice of your acceptance of this invitation plus payment would be appreciated on the attached form by 19th August 2016.

Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Doug Roser", followed by a horizontal line.

Doug Roser
President Battle for Australia Assn of NSW
56111001 The Entrance Road
FORRESTERS BEACH NSW 2260

Invitation to
75th Anniversary of Battle for Australia Luncheon
6 September 2017

The President and Committee of the Battle for Australia Association (NSW) Inc invite you to enjoy our company at our Luncheon following our Service in Martin Place.

Date: Wednesday 6 September 2017
Time: 12.30pm - 2.30pm
Place: Mosaic Restaurant 1st Floor. Westin Hotel. 1 Martin Place
Cost: \$65.00 inclusive of wines, soft drinks, tea and coffee
RSVP: by Wednesday 16th August 2017 to Ian Guild, see below.

Seating for the luncheon must be pre-booked and due to limited space members are limited to two guests. To reserve your place please complete the Booking Form below and send it together with your payment to Ian Guild, 25 Spruson Street, NEUTRAL BAY NSW 2089 or email to him at macquild'O'optusnet.com.au. Confirmation of your booking will be by email or phone by 26 August. If you have any queries or require more than two guests please contact Ian by his email above or by phone 9460 45 79

BOOKING FORM

Title: _____ First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Mobile: _____ Email: _____

Name of Guest/s (if applicable):

Title: _____ First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Title: _____ First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Total no of seats requested: _____ I wish to be seated with _____

Service connection or affiliation (to assist with table allocation) _____

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- A. I enclose \$ _____ covering the cost. Please make payment (cheque/money order) payable to BFA Committee Inc. (regretfully credit card facilities are not available) or
B. Make a direct credit to Westpac to the Battle for Australia Ace BSB 032-000 Ace No 22-5505 include surname of sender.