



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle



Media Release

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Honouring the defence of Newcastle

Sharon Grierson welcomes Labor’s plan to commemorate the defence of the Australian homeland in World War II by declaring the first Wednesday in September to the “Battle for Australia Day” at today’s Battle for Australia Commemoration Service in Civic Park, Newcastle.

The people of Newcastle know only too well the importance of defending the homeland. On the 8 July 1942, Newcastle came under attack from the Japanese submarine 121, which fired 23 to 25 rounds on Newcastle during the night. Fortunately only two exploded, resulting in minor damage.

Fort Scratchley returned fire, causing the submarine to take evasive action and leave the territory.

Fort Scratchley is the only fort in Australia to engage an enemy surface target in action during wartime.

The Battle for Australia Day is a day for all Australians and Novocastrians in particular, to pause and remember the brave men and women who fought and gave their lives to save us from potential invasion during World War II.

This commemorative day will also encourage schools as they teach the history of the defence of Australia during World War II.

The Battle for Australia Commemoration National Council in particular has worked hard to have this achievement recognised.

The RSL has worked closely with the Council and strongly supports the concept.

A Latham Labor government will declare the first Wednesday in September as Battle for Australia Day.

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