



**Northern Territory Government**

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts



**Australian War Memorial  
Travelling Exhibitions**

## **Australia Under Attack Exhibition**

Visitors to the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) this weekend will have the chance to gain unique insight into Australia's World War II involvement.

Australian War Memorial Military Heraldry and Technology Curator Chris Goddard will conduct a floor talk at 11am, 17 February, to coincide with this week's official opening of the *Australia Under Attack 1942-1943* exhibition.

Mr Goddard, who has worked at the Australian War Memorial for close to 20 years, said the floor talk would focus on the exhibition's development and detail the work required to ensure many items were suitable for travel and display.

He said items such as a spotter's chair and Anderson Air Raid shelter, which was only removed from a Sydney backyard six years ago, had proven very popular at other venues since the travelling exhibition opened more than two years ago at the Australian War Memorial's Special Exhibition Gallery.

"This is my fifth visit to Darwin but arguably the most important, as this exhibition depicts the reality of life in Australia when the Japanese forces were on our doorstep," Mr Goddard said.

"Darwin has a significant relationship to this exhibition as it was the first place in Australia to be bombed during time of war by Japanese forces 65 years ago, and features prominently in the exhibition.

"But World War II had a great impact on Australia as a whole and this exhibition illustrates the nature of life in wartime Australia as the nation came together for the war effort.

"The Anderson Air Raid shelter has been meticulously restored to illustrate the tangible precautions Australians were taking to protect their safety.

"Another delicate relic, known as the Glover wedding dress, is on display to remind visitors of the effect overseas service had on young families and couples."

Mr Goddard said Territorians with any war relics would also get the chance to participate in a Bring In Your Memorabilia Day at MAGNT from 10am on 18 February.

"People with war relics often want to know how to preserve them, or they might not even know what part they played in Australia's military history," Mr Goddard said.

"A team of conservation and curatorial staff from MAGNT and the Australian War Memorial will aim to answer what questions people might have about their war memorabilia.

“For safety reasons, no firearms or munitions will be allowed but we will gladly look at items such as medals, badges, photographs, letters, diaries and other treasures.

“It is important to note that the Bring In Your Memorabilia Day is intended to assist people in understanding the significance of their war memorabilia and not as a means to acquire relics for the Australian War Memorial. No valuations will be made.”

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

*Australia Under Attack 1942 – 1943* will be on public display at MAGNT from today, 16 February to Sunday, 8 July 2007.

Ends

**Media Note – For more information contact Wendy Wood on 8999 8163**

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