

Going into battle

IN REGARD to next year's Australian commemoration marking the end of World War II, I believe people have overlooked several issues.

Australia has a multi-ethnic population and it is a double slap in the face that we, the "enemies" of old, pay through our taxes for this celebration but are not allowed to participate.

Secondly, Maj.-Gen. James claims it was "the Australian soldiers who served and died for our country and made our country what it is today" (*Herald Sun*, August 30).

He fails to understand that at the end of the war, there were seven million people in Australia. Now we are 18 million. Where did those 11 million people come from?

I came from Italy and my husband is second generation Italian-Australian and we have four children who are part of today's country. Yet my father was part of the "enemy" who fought and suffered in the war.

I believe that Australia today is the product of a lot of hard work by all the people who have lived here.

I do not wish to belittle the hardship endured by Australian soldiers, but I would like to think that my taxes are going towards celebrating the end of the war and peace for all. Peace has no flag, it belongs to both the Allies and Axis.

— Diana M. Ruzzene,
Thornbury.