

# Air Raid School Bags

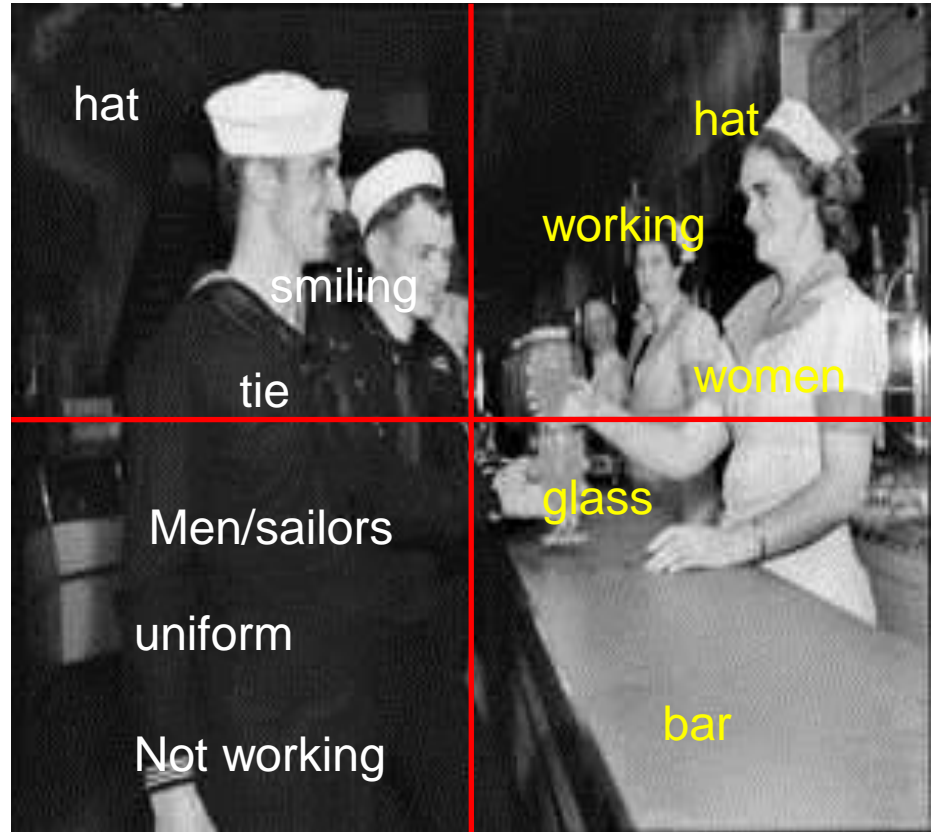
- **A cork**
- **Cotton wool**
- **Barley sugar**
- **A comic**



# WW2: The Homefront Experience

## Analysing a photograph

- Study your photograph for 2 minutes to gain an overall impression of what you see.
  - Then divide the photograph into 4 sections, study each individually to gain any new or more detailed information.
  - List all the objects, people and activities that you can see.
  - Now that you have looked at the image answer the following questions
1. Who do you think took this photograph?
  2. When and where do you think this image was taken?
  3. What is missing from the image and why?
  4. What does this photograph tell you about society, technology, and emotions during this period?



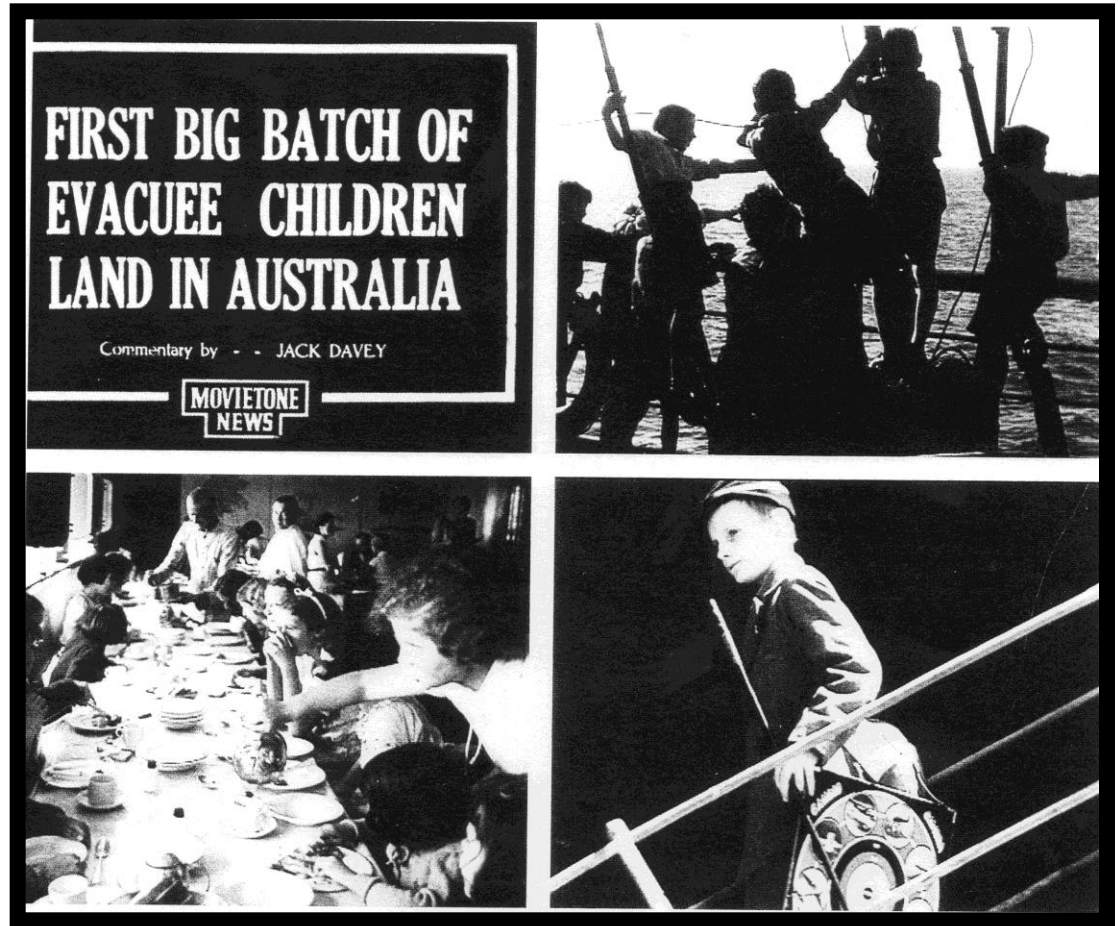
# Over To You

You have been given an image that reflects life in Australia during the Second World War

- Look at the image given to you and analyse it using the guiding questions used in the previous activity.

# Evacuees

During the Second World War children from Britain were evacuated from their home country and sent to Australia.



# Have a shot at Hitler

During the war schoolboys made sand bags. Why?

In these images students from the St Vincent de Paul orphanage in South Melbourne are making practice hand grenades.

These hand grenades were then used for training the AIF militia.

Each canvas bag was filled with about half a kilogram of sand.



# Collecting Scrap

Australians participated in a 'Save Waste' program. This program encouraged citizens to 'make do' and waste nothing.

Children collected scrap metal and other products for recycling.

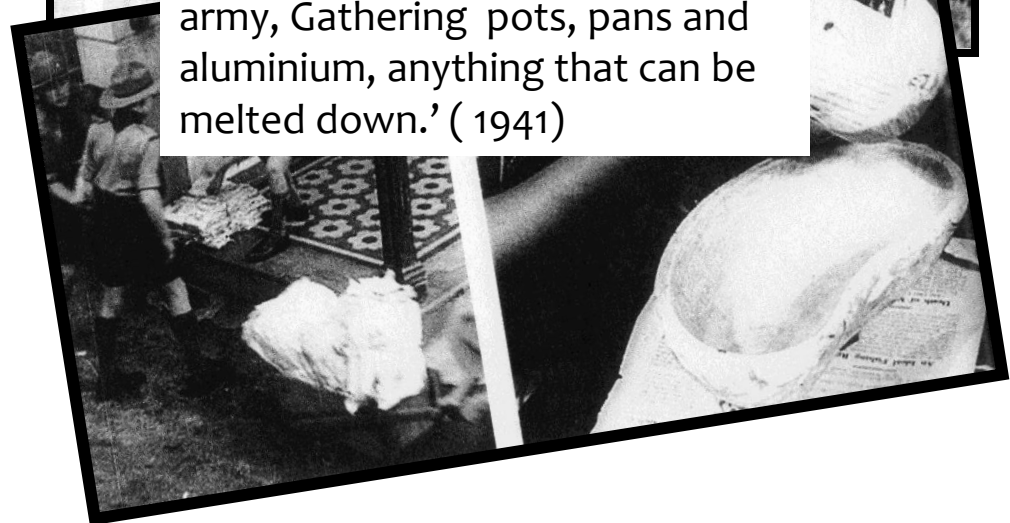
Paper was turned into cardboard for packaging food.

In these images, recycled paper was being turned into papier mache hospital equipment, like kidney bowls for hospitals.

Discarded scrap became an invaluable in the manufacturing of weapons of war.



'The scrap metal business is booming. Scouts and cubs, boys and girls form a tireless unpaid army, Gathering pots, pans and aluminium, anything that can be melted down.' ( 1941)



# Air Raid Shelters

After the Japanese midget submarine incident in Sydney, air raid shelters became popular in suburban backyards.

This shelter is made from concrete pipe.

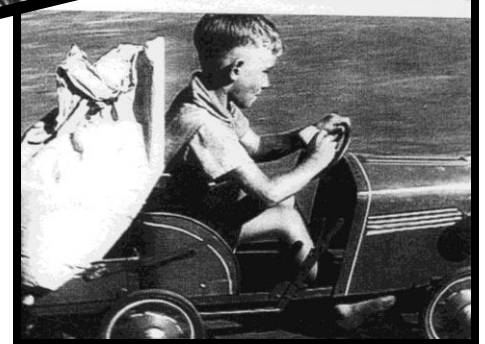
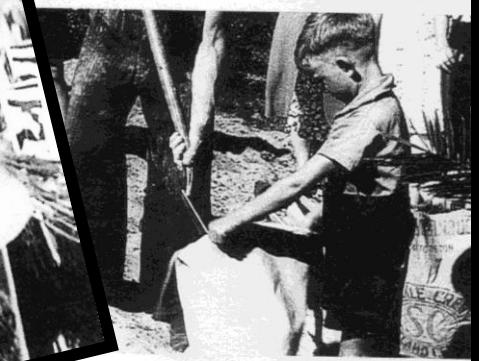


# No age too young

People of all ages contributed in the war effort.

In these images boys at a school in Sydney are making camouflage nets. This school made 1356 nets in one year.

The other image is of a child helping others dig a slit trench.



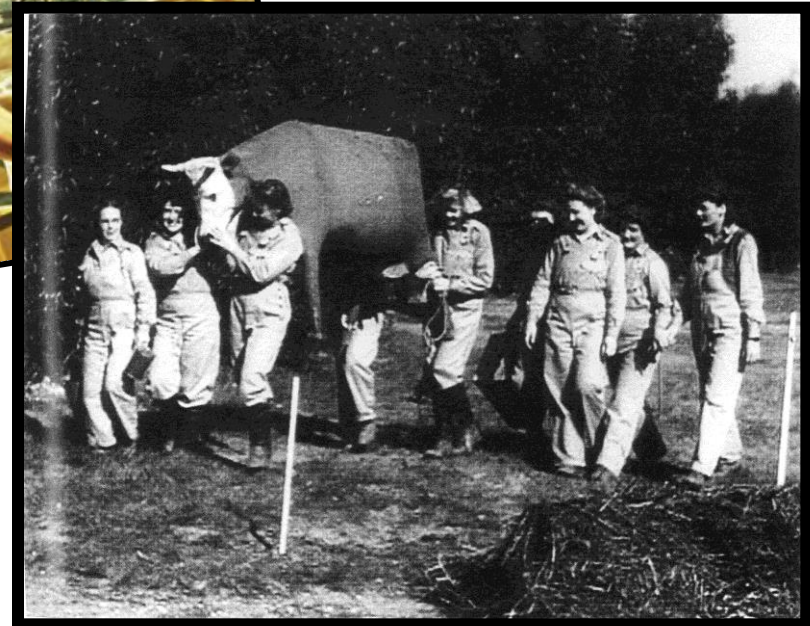
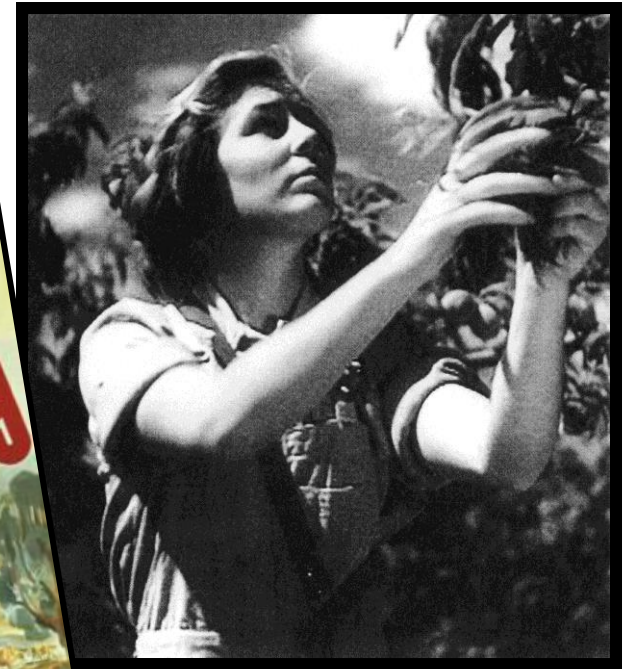
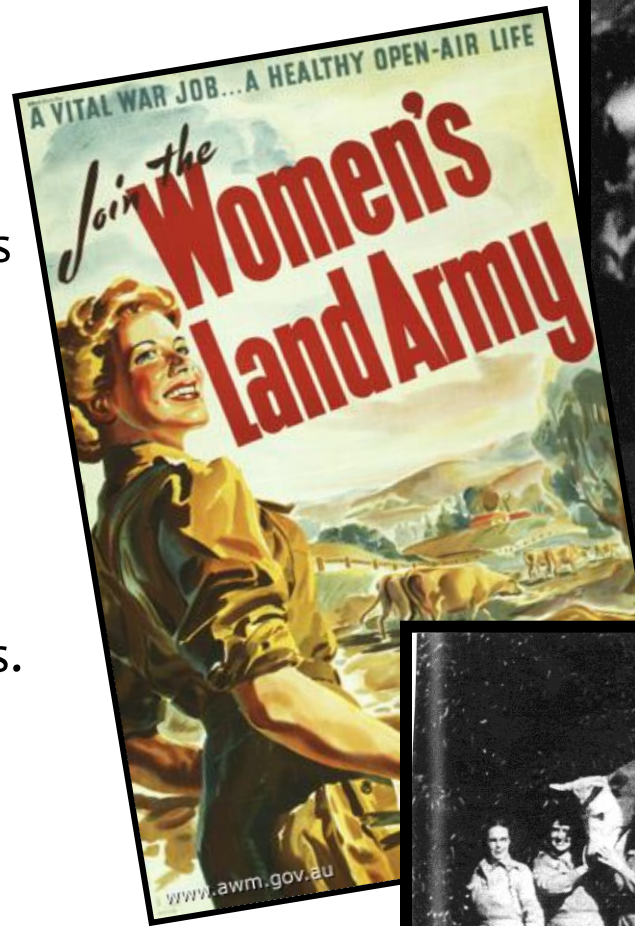


# Women's Land Army (AWLA)

From 1942 to 1945, members of the Woman's Land Army replaced farm workers who had join up to fight in the war.

By 1944 there were 3000 women working on farms.

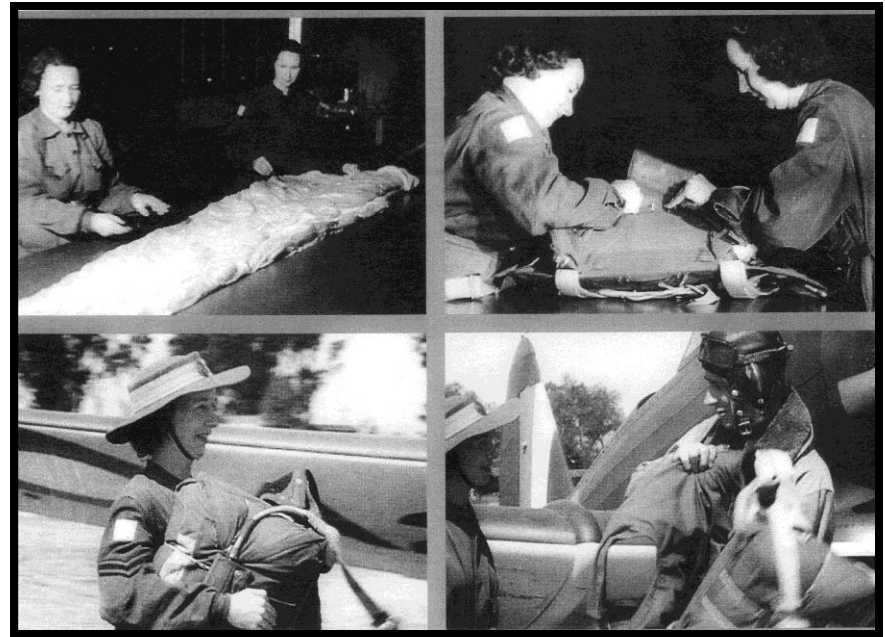
The AWLA were a voluntary group, they were paid by the farmer, rather than the government or military forces.



# Men's work

- Thousands of women worked tirelessly in munitions factories, replacing men in many different jobs.

- As you can see from the images these women worked in factories



# SHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH

The images here have been taken from a newsreel (film) from the Army Postal School.

The newsreel was asking for Australians to carefully consider the content in the letters that they wrote.

At the postal office, each letter was sorted into one of four categories

- AIF
- Foreign
- POWs
- Enemy Alien

After being sorted they were then read by censors, these were sorted again in to SAFE and DANGEROUS.



# Us and Them

- The main US base was in Brisbane, where more than 90,000 soldiers stationed.
- It was in the streets of Brisbane that brawls were commonplace between the GI's and the Australians.
- These brawls were partly due to the culture clash of the two nations and jealousy on behalf of the Australians.
- Americans had twice the spending money of Australian soldiers. Were very well looked after, and had the manners to match their smooth style.



# War Brides

The Americans' feet had barely touched the ground before marriages began taking place between GI's and Australian women.

More than 12,000 US soldiers married Australian women during World War II.

The US Congress passed the War Brides Act in December 1945, waiving the usual visa requirements for these women and their children.

Click on the link to the right to watch a music video of the Waifs, 'Bridal Train'



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3k7OncTVHkl>

# Summing Up



Now that you have seen all the images, write up a paragraph that tells of what life was like on the Australian Homefront during the Second World War. When writing, consider the roles, activities and attitudes of men, women and children.



What are the benefits, if any, are there in using images to understand history? How useful are images when looking at the past?