



**Royal United Services
Institute
of
South Australia Inc**

A Constituent Body of the
Royal United Services Institute of Australia Inc

Building 160 Keswick Barracks,
Keswick SA 5035
Tel/Fax: 61 (8) 8305 6378
Office Hours:
Wednesday to Friday 10am to 4pm

RUSI-SA

Issue No 393

December 2004/January 2005

NEWSLETTER

Promoting National Security and Defence



*Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
from the RUSI Council
and Staff*

Patron

*Her Excellency Marjorie Jackson-Nelson,
AC, CVO, MBE Governor of South Australia*

COUNCIL MEMBERS 2004/05

President: AIRCDRE J.R. McCulloch (Rtd)
Senior Vice President: BRIG D. Willett AM (Rtd)
Vice President: Mr C.C. Brooks
Councillors: Dr J.C. Bruni
Miss F.J. Leditschke
CAPT B.M. Newman, RFD,ED (Rtd)
COL D.J. Stoba, RFD, ED (Rtd)
LCDR D.L. Stryker, RAN (Rtd)
Imm Past President: COL N.R. Bergin (Rtd)
Representing:
RAN: CMDR A. Atkinson, RAN
Army: MAJ G. Crosland
RAAF: WGCDR R. Subotkiewicz
Treasurer: COL L. Thompson, RFD, ED (Rtd)
Hon Auditor: LCDR R.C. Penglase
DSC, RFD, VRD, RANR, AUA, (Rtd)
Secretary/Librarian/
Public Officer: Mrs Pam Jones
Hon Editor: CAPT M.J. Orchard, RFD, ED (Rtd)

**DECEMBER LUNCHEON
Speaker: AVM Kerry Clarke, AM**

**FEBRUARY LUNCHEON
Speaker: LTGEN Peter Leahy AO**

**RUSI SUNDOWNER
Saturday 27 November 2004**

**VISIT
Avalon Airshow 16 March 2005**

**RUSI-SA OFFICE CLOSURE
Our office will close Friday 17 December
& reopen on Wednesday 12 January 2005**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

RUSI-SA hosted the annual meeting of the National Council of the RUSI of Australia (RUSI-A) on 28-29 October 2004. Chaired by the National President, Major General John Hartley, the meeting was attended by the Presidents of all eight Australian constituent bodies. The immediate past National President, Air Marshal David Evans, also attended as an observer. As most RUSI organisations in Australia are experiencing the same problems of declining membership and participation, it was timely for the National Council to consider the future of the RUSI-A as a whole and to develop an appropriate strategic plan. The proposed plan will identify five major goals for the RUSI-A:

- Determine the role of RUSI in Australia
- Improve our membership and participation
- Market our relevance and improve our image
- Improve our financial position
- Retain the support of the Minister and the Department

The national plan should be staffed and published early in 2005 and will provide a model for our own planning in RUSI-SA.

The National Council also discussed the production of the annual Journal. Although the RUSI-A web site has been developed and is providing an increasingly useful reference and resource, most constituent bodies prefer that the hard-copy journal continue to be published annually. Unfortunately, the people needed to produce such a top-quality publication are becoming difficult to find. The national office has called for volunteers to produce the next edition, expected to be published in the first half of 2005. The loss of the Journal would be unfortunate, but appears inevitable unless a suitable team of volunteers can be found.

This will be the last Newsletter that our long-serving Secretary, Mrs Pam Jones, will help to produce. Pam has been a constant in the RUSI-SA system for 19 years and I know will be missed. On behalf of the Council, and the RUSI-SA membership generally, I wish her the very best in her retirement. At the Luncheon on 6 December there will be a testimonial to Pam's service to RUSI-SA. It will be a good opportunity for any members who wish to farewell Pam personally.

This leaves me to announce that we will have a new Secretary/Librarian from 17 December 2004. The council interviewed two very able applicants and has selected Lieutenant Commander David Stryker, RANR. David has been a member of the Council and will be well known to many of you. I would like to congratulate him on his appointment and look forward to his continued close involvement with RUSI-SA.

At the last luncheon, I mentioned the significance of the recent Presidential election in Indonesia. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was inaugurated on 20 October, after easily beating President Megawati Soekarnoputri in a run-off election. President Susilo is a retired army officer and underwent much of his military education in the USA. He has also been a frequent visitor to Australia. Indeed, he was a key speaker at the RUSI-A seminar in Canberra last year. He is charismatic and well liked and respected by most Indonesians. Importantly, he undoubtedly understands Australia and our strategic philosophy better than any President before him. All of which augers well for the Australia-Indonesia relationship generally, and the defence and security relationship in particular. However, the domestic expectations of his administration are very high, particularly with respect to improving the economy and dealing with corruption. The parliament is split, with a majority in opposition or non-supportive parties. He has a difficult job ahead of him.

MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

CAR PARKING – MONTHLY LUNCHEON
Members are advised that the parking of cars is now NO longer permitted on the Parade Ground. Please use existing designated parking areas.

All members are invited to attend our luncheons. Indeed you are encouraged to invite partners, friends and colleagues to join us and, if they like what they see, to nominate them for membership. Please book in advance. If you are unsure whether or not your name is on the booking list, please check!

Cancellations must be into the RUSI Office by midday of the Friday before the lunch. Subsequent cancellations will attract a fee of \$18.00.

The dress code for the luncheon is neat casual, taking into consideration weather conditions.

We assemble in Building 34A, Keswick Barracks, Keswick, at approximately 11.30am for drinks and good fellowship. Members are asked to be seated by 12 noon when our President welcomes members and guests, and lunch is served.

The cost of the buffet is \$18.00. We also conduct a raffle to help cover expenses. Our Caterer has agreed to provide vegetarian meals and sweets for diabetics, but these must be ordered before midday on the Thursday before the lunch.

For those who do not have time to enjoy lunch, but wish to hear the lecture, chairs are provided around the perimeter of the hall. Please be seated before 12.55pm, as the guest speaker will be introduced at 1.00pm. The address is of about 30 to 35 minutes duration with 15 minutes for questions, after which coffee or tea is available. We aim to complete the program by 2.00pm. The Program is:

Monthly Luncheon Monday 6th December 2004.

Speaker: Air Vice Marshal Kerry Clarke,
AM, Head Capability Systems,
Capability Development Group,
Department of Defence

Topic: Defence Capability Development

Air Vice Marshal Clarke's presentation will cover the outcomes of the Kinnaird Review into Defence Procurement, the Defence Capability Plan 2004 and the creation of the new Capability Development Group within Defence.

Monthly Luncheon Monday 7th February 2005.

Speaker: LTGEN Peter Leahy, AO
Chief of Army

Topic: Restructuring and Re-equipping the
Australia Army including Reserves

MEMBERSHIP

The following, whose names appeared in the last Newsletter as nominated for membership, have been duly elected in accordance with the Rules:

Mr George Allen

Mr Keith A. Potts

WO William E. Kelly

Mrs Gillian Griffin

The following have been nominated for membership:

FLGOFF Guy S. Bowering -

(AIRCDRE J.R. McCulloch)

Mr Kenneth T. Fitchett - (Mr E.A. Burt)

Mr Geoffrey C. Jansen -

(SQNLDR L.E.S. Whaley, DFC)

Mr Michael F. O'Neill - (LT G. Williams)

Mrs Sylvia C. Swart - (CAPT R.D. McColl)

We regret to announce the following deaths:

Mrs A. L. South
GPCAPT M.A. Truman
FLTLT S.Challen Kerr



RUSI Sundowner

*Saturday 27th November 2004
Planning has already begun to make our
Annual Christmas function,
the Sundowner, a fitting start to the
Festive Season.*

*You are encouraged to bring your friends and
enjoy the hospitality and companionship of the
RUSI on this most enjoyable occasion.*

The details are as follows:-

Date: Saturday 27th November, 2004.

Time: 6.00pm to 8.00 pm –
the best time to see the sun go down!

Place: Building 34A,
Keswick Barracks

Cost: \$12.50 per person.

*and if the weather is kind, we will sit out under
the trees and be once again entertained by the
Army Band woodwind quartet.*

*This most reasonable cost includes delicious
finger food, champagne, red or white wine or,
if you prefer, orange juice.*

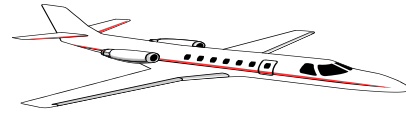
*Please telephone or call in at our office or send
us your cheque, if that is more convenient, and
we will issue you with your name tag/ticket but
be sure to let us know before 25/11/2004.*

*You are assured of a very pleasant evening
and we look forward to spending
some time with you and your friends.*

SHIP'S VISIT FOR INFORMATION ONLY

*Minehunter, HMAS GASCOYNE, will visit Port
Adelaide and be open for inspection from 10.00am
to 2.00pm on Sunday 28 November 2004. No
official RUSI-SA visit has been planned to this
relatively new (commissioned 2001) 720 tonne
vessel which has a complement of only 38.*

RUSI-SA VISIT AVALON AIR SHOW



WEDNESDAY 16th MARCH 2005.

Our Visits coordinator Mr Colin Brooks has organised another interesting visit for members and friends of the Institute.

**Date: Wednesday 16th March 2005
Departure Time: 7.00am ex
Adelaide Airport for
Avalon Air Show – Avalon, Victoria.
Cost: \$450 per person**

Air South Charter will fly their Cessna Titan, which holds ten passengers, exclusively for members of the RUSI-SA direct to the venue. We will return on the same day thus saving on accommodation costs and long tiring travel.

Wednesday 16th March is a trade day and access to the Air show has been arranged as a special privilege for members

**This is a unique opportunity –
Don't miss it!**

*If you would like to be part of this exciting visit
please telephone the RUSI-SA office on 8305
6378 Please register your intention to attend
before 15 January 2005*

MEDALS – MEMENTOS & MORE

SPECIALISING IN
*Medal Mounting & Refurbishment,
Replacement of Medals
Replicas & Miniatures Service Research
and Heritage Framing*
Capt Barry Presgrave, (RL)
OAM, FAIES, AIMM
Phone: (08) 8278 8530
Phone/Fax: (08) 8278 5702
Mobile: 0412 066 657
9 Norfolk St, Blackwood, SA 5051
or at RUSI Office, Keswick Barracks.

CANTEEN CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

With Christmas soon upon us it is time to check out our Canteen for your special Christmas gifts and holiday requirements. Although our range isn't vast, we do have a good selection of liqueurs, spirits, wines and beers at quite competitive prices.

Our Specials for this Christmas Season (while stocks last) are Seagrams Liqueurs at \$10 per bottle (Banana and Creme de Menthe) and Angoves Oloroso at \$5 per bottle. For those interested in Sherries, flagons are on the way out, but we do have some stocks still available.

Make sure you pop in to the Office before Christmas and take advantage of our Canteen specials and others at pretty good prices.

*Captain Barrie Newman,
Canteen Co-ordinator.*



PEDLAR'S
ANTIQUÉ MARKET
205 MAGILL RD MAYLANDS SA 5069
PH 8363 0087
*22 Antique Dealers all competing
for your custom under the one roof*
BUYING & SELLING
All Antiques & Old Style furniture
China Glassware, Paintings,
Clocks & Bric-a-brac
FURNITURE RESTORATIONS
Call us for a quote.
A quality service at reasonable rates.
Open 7 Days

Views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the RUSI-SA Inc

LUNCHEON ADDRESS 11th October 2004
Hon Alexander Downer, MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, The Hon Alexander Downer, opened his address with the reminder that foreign policy is not an abstract pursuit: it should always be geared towards practical outcomes - outcomes that make a positive difference to the security and prosperity of Australians. Thus

foreign policy should be approached with a realistic sense of how the world works and what can be achieved.

The Coalition Government, now in its fourth term, will continue to focus on strengthening Australia's security and prosperity in a difficult international environment. This task of pursuing Australia's national security is now very complex. Australia faces an uncertain world, one that changed on September 11 - terrorism, WMD proliferation and failed/failing states are new security challenges of our time. We must understand the nature of this new form of terrorism. It cannot be appeased or accommodated. Its objective is to drive western influence from the Islamic world and replace moderate governments with Taliban-style dictatorships.

The Government will build on its hard work in our region to confront terrorism. Regional cooperation is improving. Indeed, there have been some very successful joint Indonesian/Australian investigations. The Government will build on this cooperation through the AFP flying squads and boosted funding to counter-terrorism training for regional forces - including doubling \$15 million for counter terrorism with Indonesia and the Philippines. Terrorism is more than just a regional issue. It is a global problem. Australia must work with allies to confront terrorists where they choose to wage battle, and needs the cooperation of countries beyond South East Asia and the South Pacific if we are to defeat terrorism. And no country can direct more resources for the fight against terrorism than the US. Alliance with the US is fundamental to broader security and to our capacity to successfully wage war against terrorists.

Our strong alliance with the US acts as a massive multiplier of our own capabilities, and means America's massive intelligence capability, diplomatic weight and defence resources are all acting in concert with our own interests. It also provides us with influence - no government is better placed to have its views heard in Washington.

The importance of the alliance is one reason why the Government will not cut and run from Iraq. Also, the people, the government of Iraq would feel let down, terrorists would claim a great victory, having forced out one of the original members of Coalition. And in Washington, and London, Australia's reputation as a solid, reliable ally would be seriously damaged. Also, in other capitals, Australia would be seen to have left unfinished work. That is why cutting and running from Iraq is not the Australian way. It is not what others expect of us, nor what we should expect of ourselves.

At the same time, traditional concerns of our foreign policy agenda remain. The Government will

continue to build relationships with those countries that matter most to us - and do so as a proud and independent nation, clear eyed about our national interests. Our relations with countries in Asia are strong. Our strategic economic partnership with China has never been stronger. We will look to strengthen ties through counter-terrorism cooperation. And through new Australia-Malaysia and Australia- Thailand institutes.

We have done much to strengthen our relationship with the UK and other European nations. And we will continue to build our growing links with the Middle East through support for the efforts of our rural, automotive and education exporters, and initiatives like the Council for Australian-Arab relations which was launched last year.

The Coalition Government made a determined effort during the past eight and a half years to boost the welfare of Australia's Pacific neighbours. It brought an end to the civil war on Bougainville, led a successful international operation to stabilise East Timor and support progress to independence, and restored rule of law in the Solomon Islands.

We will continue these efforts by:

- (a) boosting and restructuring our assistance to Papua New Guinea to improve security and governance.
- (b) continuing our lead in the region's fight against HIV/AIDS (we will more than double our Global HIV/AIDS funding to \$600 million by 2010)
- (c) Sustaining our aid program focus on poverty alleviation and good governance. We will contribute \$674 million in 2004-05 to programs promoting good governance in our region

In tandem with our development assistance, Australia is pursuing a fairer international trading system that enables poor countries to grasp the opportunities of globalisation. Inequitable world trading arrangements in agriculture are some of the biggest obstacles for developing countries that are lifting themselves out of poverty. We will provide assistance to developing countries to help them take advantage of opportunities presented by trade liberalisation. The Government supports a robust and effective rules-based international system. But is equally firm in the belief that international law and institutions must evolve to meet challenges of the day. Sclerotic and irresponsive international systems or 'lowest common denominator' approaches cannot exercise a monopoly on responses to crises. This is why we are strong supporters of the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, and are contributing money and expertise to its work. And why we are urging the Panel, and other bodies, to examine afresh concepts such as state

sovereignty, and to pursue farther ideas like humanitarian intervention, an international 'responsibility to protect', and the reform of UN institutions, including the Security Council.

During the time of the Coalition Government Australia has faced some of its gravest international challenges. We can be immensely proud of how we have responded to these challenges. Today, because we pull our weight internationally and do not seek to shirk our responsibilities, Australia's international standing is high.

Our foreign policy approach unashamedly puts security and interests of Australians first - the sacred duty of a government to protect its citizens. Australia is a significant country that can make a strong contribution to a better world.

LUNCHEON ADDRESS 1st November 2004.

**Major General John Hartley (Rtd)
President RUSI-A**

**The Future of the RUSI in Changing and
Challenging Times**

Many of us believe we live in uncertain and changing times. Of course change itself breeds uncertainty. But this is not a new set of circumstances. Indeed, if we were to examine the history of our Defence Forces we would see that our strategic guidance has changed on several occasions since Federation.

For the first 40 years or so we were very much influenced by Britain's imperial outlook; we continued to take part in the South African War and entered World Wars I and II. Some time after the fall of Singapore, we changed our policy to something we called forward defence. This implied that we would fight our future enemies off shore, usually in coalition with a powerful ally such as the United States or Great Britain. As a result of this thinking we took part in the Korean War, in the Malayan Emergency, Confrontation and the Vietnam War.

Following Vietnam, we changed again. Determined not to become involved in any further military adventures we opted for a policy that concentrated on the defence of Australia. Initially a continental policy, overtime it moved to a maritime concept that sought to defeat our enemies in the sea-air gap to our north. But throughout the 90s, many of us remained uneasy with this policy. In that decade we committed troops on about 25 occasions, nearly always some distance from our region and almost always in support of peacekeeping or peace enforcement operations. And much of the deployed force came from the Army that, under the Defence of Australia concept, enjoyed the lowest priority in terms of capital equipment.

And then came September 11th, surely one of history's rare defining moments. Since then we have increasingly been involved with the war against terror and have taken part in the Afghan and Iraqi campaigns. International terrorism is all the more threatening because we do not understand it and therefore we do not know what to do about it. Today's terrorist is part of a global movement and has access to capabilities far more destructive than anything experienced before. Of course this is not a new threat. American strategists in the aftermath of the first Gulf War coined the term asymmetric warfare. They believed, for instance, that America's enemies would have learned one all-important lesson. And that was not to take on the Americans on a conventional battlefield. America simply possessed too much firepower that could be delivered with enormous precision. Instead they would adopt a tactic as old as war itself. Indeed they would employ something that would not have surprised the Peloponnesian generals. They would seek to strike at the United States where it was weakest, where it found itself most vulnerable and difficult to defend and where, by the use of a small amount of force, a disproportionate outcome would result. And all this came to age with September 11.

But not even the asymmetric theorists forecast the impact of an organization like al-Qaeda and the influence it would have on international terrorism.

Al-Qaeda derives from Arabic and can mean a base, such as a camp or home, but also a foundation or idea. For those radical elements, which fought the Soviet Union over its occupation of Afghanistan, it had a specific meaning. It was used to describe the role that the most committed terrorists would perform once the war was over. It would become the driving force, partly in organisational terms, but also in doctrine, to radicalise and mobilise Moslems who had hitherto rejected the message. Bin Laden's group was initially quite small. Indeed it probably comprised less than a dozen individuals and there was little to distinguish it from many other groups that operated in Afghanistan and the Pakistani border areas. After being expelled from his native Saudi Arabia, and living for some time in the Sudan, bin Laden returned to Afghanistan. In 1998, in what should have been a wake-up call for all of us, he announced the formation of the Islamic World Front for the Struggle Against Jews and Crusaders. He justified this anti-Israeli and anti-American organization by arguing the Muslims everywhere were suffering at the hands of these two countries. I believe there are three elements to al-Qaeda.

Firstly it is an organization. In its heyday, from its Afghan base, it provided direction and doctrine and planned and conducted operations. It provided finance and logistics support. It recruited foot soldiers and trained and motivated them. It

conducted research into new weapons and tactics. It communicated extensively, using a mixture of secure internet and satellite telephones and couriers. In short it became the nerve centre for an internationally orchestrated campaign of terror.

Al-Qaeda also established a network with regional or national connections, often working closely with one of the thirty odd Sunni based insurgent groups. These cells acted as a liaison element between regional insurgent groups and between them and al-Qaeda.

Finally, al-Qaeda provided the ideology, the framework and the motivation for regionally based groups. There was also a shared experience as many of the original members had trained and served together. The removal of its base in Afghanistan was a major blow. But it has retained much of its motivating influence. It enjoys widespread support in the Middle East where it is seen as the only force capable of challenging the US. It is the only force in many Arab countries, which invariably are controlled by authoritarian secular governments, seen as capable of replacing those governments.

But the war against terror did not start on September 11. Nor will it end with the peaceful transition to civilian authority in Baghdad, assuming such an outcome is possible. Indeed, the militants themselves refer to the present state of conflict as the "Third Great Jihad". The first was the creation and spread of Islam, starting in the eighth century and reaching over much of North Africa, Spain and western Asia. The second Jihad came with the Ottoman Turks, which resulted in the downfall of the eastern Roman Empire, the Christian Byzantium.

The third Jihad may have started with the revival of a sect known as Wahhabism which, in its modern version, achieved full bloom under the House of Saud on the Arabian Peninsula before the onset of World War II. It calls for a complete rejection of anything that is not based on the original teachings of the Prophet and found its clearest practice in the Taliban regime. Its policies translate into the replacement of all secular leadership in any country with a Moslem majority as well as what is called the occupied territory, that is the state of Israel.

This strategy requires the infiltration of governments, or their weakening, as a prelude to taking control once the secular leadership is ousted or assassinated. In the Middle East the long-term strategy probably has three elements to it.

The first is to force the US to withdraw, as it was perceived to do so from Southeast Asia after Vietnam. Islamic militants believe the US, like the Soviet Union before it, is vulnerable to a long drawn out debilitating campaign and that just as the Soviet

Union withdrew from Afghanistan, then so too will the US from the Middle East.

The second element is to control the region's oil wealth. Given the reliance of much of the global economy on the production capacity and reserves of this region, the economic and political leverage it could provide al-Qaeda would be immense.

Finally, al-Qaeda would hope to acquire a nuclear capability by taking over the weapons and production resources of Pakistan and possibly Iran.

Of course, we are some distance away from this occurring. Indeed, the image of a highly centralised Islamic network of international terrorists, all of whom have ties to al-Qaeda with Osama bin Laden as its grand marshal, are misleading, despite the fact that many in the network itself would encourage such a description. Certainly we have a broad and diverse movement of Islamic extremists, with a common ideology, but their ability to coordinate actions has been severely curtailed. On the other hand, many of the extremist groups are prepared to operate unilaterally, often outside their traditional area of interest.

This brings me to my concluding part of my address: what do we need to do about this and how does all this affect the RUSI?

In very broad terms, it seems to me that to deal with this threat, we need a five-point strategy.

Firstly, we need to understand, as comprehensively as possible, what it is we are dealing with. It is much more than just the organization and who's in it and what it plans to do. We need to understand what motivates people to join or support it. We need to be able to differentiate between those who represent its hardcore and those of an Islamic faith who feel threatened by its ideology or who would reject it if the opportunity were there to do that. This is partly an intelligence problem. But the research and understanding is much wider than found in the intelligence community. There is also an educational element here to inform our populace generally but in particular our decision makers.

Secondly, we will need to eliminate those elements that cannot be converted or won over. This is happening. But new leaders emerge, equally determined and committed.

Thirdly, we need to take carefully considered security precautions to protect our most vulnerable assets. We need to do risk assessments and have a close working relationship between government and the other sectors.

Fourthly, and in some ways the most difficult and least considered, we need to develop a number of strategies to deal with the root cause of Islamic militancy. There are probably issues of justice,

poverty, education and health. Today's Islamic population needs to be assured that its future is positive and that tomorrow's children will enjoy a better outlook. A resolution of the Palestinian problem would also help.

Finally, we need to consider how we individually and collectively live through these times of change and uncertainty. We do not want to become hostage to our worst fears. But equally we do not want to ignore the problems. And here I believe the RUSI can make a significant contribution. It is a means by which we can be informed and where we can make our voice heard. Certainly the debate will be considerably different from the past. Defence and security now go hand in hand. It is not just the Australian Defence Force that is involved but also all elements of government at all levels. Public morale is based on understanding in a way we have not considered for a long time.

I believe there are four elements of the RUSI operation that I particularly need to consider as the National President. These were discussed at some length at our National Council meeting in Adelaide in October.

Firstly, we need to consider our role. Certainly it will be to inform our members on defence and security matters. But how we do this and where to we concentrate our efforts remain to be considered. We should also recognise that there are many more players in this field than before. The Australian Institute of Strategic Studies, the Lowy Institute and a number of universities now have institutes of strategic studies.

Secondly, and quite critically, we need to consider the declining size of our membership. We have steadily declined over the last 30 years, losing about 30 percent of our membership. But the real problem is soon to occur when we note that something like 70 percent of our membership is of an age where few will be active members in five years time. We do not have enough younger members and few who have resigned from the Defence Force in the last 20 years have taken up membership. Serving regular and reserve members do not find the RUSI attractive or even relevant. We need to do something about this now.

Thirdly, we need to look to our finances. Our costs are increasing rapidly as we deal with increases in insurance and so on. Some constituent bodies are not well off and declining membership further reduces our financial position.

Finally, we need to continue to ensure that we remain relevant to Defence and continue to enjoy not only the grant in aid but also the benefits of using Defence facilities and other support. The Minister, CDF and the Service Chiefs are great

supporters. But we cannot assume that this will always be the case.

In short, we face considerable challenges but it is not above us to deal with them.

LIBRARY NON FICTION

GOODBYE COBBER, GOD BLESS YOU

by **John Hamilton**

Reviewed by **Malcolm Orchard**

As a journalist, John Hamilton first visited Gallipoli in 2000 to cover for his Melbourne newspaper the 85th anniversary of the Landing. He then knew little about the Dardanelles or Anzac Cove and “had never heard of a place called The Nek”. However, within a day he had “found a piece of rusty bully beef tin, a spent .303 casing, and in the emptiness of the cemetery nearby on Walker’s Ridge, became profoundly moved too”.

He was with a group with a senior military historian from the Australian War Memorial their guide. On their first day the group visited the little cemetery at Ari Burnu, where, in the middle of the front row, near the sea, John Hamilton noticed the grave of Lieutenant Edward Ellis Henty. He was intrigued at seeing the surname of a well known Victorian family there. And then, in looking around, he realised that Lieutenant Henty was “united in death with so many others in the cemetery by common inscriptions – the units, the 8th and the 10th Australian Light Horse and the one date, 7 August 1915”.

On the next day their historian took the group up Walker’s Ridge to The Nek and described what had happened on that particularly awful day. John Hamilton knew then that he had to find out more about Lieutenant Edward Henty of the 8th Regiment, Australian Light horse, and about “so many more Australians who lived, died and were buried anonymously together under this spring turf on Russell’s Top”.

Several months later he finally tracked down Lieutenant Henty’s son, a son who had been born in 1915 just a few months after his father’s death. And then, a few days later, a grandson showed him the silver salver that had been the 1914 wedding present for Lieutenant Henty – it was engraved “with the names of his loyal troopers who would die with him at The Nek a few months later”.

And, further down the track, he was able to handle another priceless family heirloom: Lieutenant Colonel Alexander White’s pocket watch – “the actual pocket watch, slightly burned and with a bullet hole through its cover – which he had used to count down the minutes before the Charge that led to his death”.

Two very tangible, inspirational reasons for writing

a book. And, appropriately, he found its poignant title on a grave marker in Walker’s Ridge cemetery:

HIS LAST WORDS

‘GOODBYE COBBER, GOD BLESS YOU’

Trooper Harold Rush of Western Australia’s 10th Light Horse Regiment was only 23 when he died on the 7th August 1915 at The Nek. Born in Suffolk’s Ipswich, he had migrated to Australia to be a farmer. And an Aussie.... His father, in England, chose the wording for his epitaph.

John Hamilton has won Australia’s top award for journalism, the Walkley, two years in succession, as well as the National Press Club Canadian Award of Journalism for his international reporting. And naturally, his writing and meticulous research skills shine through in *Goodbye Cobber, God Bless You*.

As a painstaking historian, John Hamilton has gone back to Gallipoli several times since April 2000, making visits that helped him to understand rough 1915 sketch maps, to find old, overgrown bivouac sites, and to suffer the terrible terrain. And to read between the lines in letters and diaries that are now nearly ninety years old....

Soldiers’ letters and diaries are the core of his book – letters and diaries that start in 1914 with early enlistments and go on to describe training camps and bivouacs, the sea voyage, Egypt and Gallipoli and suddenly stop....

Letters and diaries that John Hamilton has used extensively and extremely well to paint his word picture, and to make *Goodbye Cobber, God Bless You* painfully moving for the reader. For, as he says:

“Although it was only one of a number of failed actions at that time, there was nothing sadder or more futile than the charge of the 8th and 10th Regiments of the 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade at The Nek. It was heroic but it could have been stopped. In the words of Lieutenant Colonel Noel Brazier, Commanding Officer of the 10th, it was sheer bloody murder as well”.

Donated by Malcolm Orchard

MORSHEAD by David Coombes

Drawing on previously inaccessible private records and recent scholarship, David Coombes has written a candid account of the Australian Army’s greatest field commander and in doing so gives reasons why Morshead’s career embodied qualities quintessential to the Australian military tradition: the tradition of the “civilian in uniform” or citizen soldier.

LIBRARY FICTION

THE BIG BAD WOLF BY James Patterson

REVERSIBLE ERRORS by Scott Turow

SAFE BET by John Francome