



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

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

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Promoting National Security and Defence

RUSI-SA

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NEWSLETTER

RUSI-SA CYBERLINKS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



David Stoba

Well it's a new year and I am pleased to report that the guest speaker and social programs are well in hand. The Guest Speaker Program Chairman, COL Neville Bergin, is working hard at obtaining interesting and varied speakers for both our monthly luncheons and the early evening "Current Issues Briefings", which we would like to hold on a quarterly basis.

As far as the social program is concerned, we plan to continue with the proven highly successful quarterly events of BBQ in the Patio, President's Dinner, Winter Carvery and the Sundowner Christmas Cocktail Party. CAPT Barrie Newman and Fay Leditschke will be the coordinators for these functions and they welcome any feedback from members or their guests. The proposed dates for these social events are given in this newsletter, so make a note in your diary now.

In the last newsletter we raised the question of a more appropriate title for our organisation and invited comment. I thank those members who submitted their suggestions, which were taken into account by Council

in preparing our submission to RUSI National. After serious consideration of the various elements involved, the RUSI-SA Council submitted the following as our preferred versions of the title: -

1. ***(ROYAL) AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL SECURITY***
2. ***(ROYAL) AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SECURITY INSTITUTE***
3. ***(ROYAL) AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENCE INSTITUTE***

To date, RUSI Vic is the only other constituent body to submit their recommendations. It is anticipated that this topic will be discussed at the RUSI National Conference in May this year. The Council appreciates that no matter what title is selected, it will not satisfy everyone.

In relation to the future of Keswick Barracks, no further information has been received. However, in the RUSI-SA Progress Report to RUSI National on the Strategic Plan, we raised this issue and reported that HQ 9 Brigade had made a submission pointing out the serious impact that the closure and sale of Keswick Barracks would have on Reserve recruiting and retention, and advised that a similar impact could certainly be expected with regard to RUSI-SA.

Regards
David Stoba
President

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

LUNCHEON ADDRESS
Monday 6th November 2006
MAJGEN Ian Gordon AO
Deputy Chief of Army

THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY - ITS WORK TODAY AND FUTURE CHALLENGES.

Major General Ian Gordon began by describing the work of the Army today. He noted that the Army was busy but enjoying the confidence of the Government, the people and its own officers and soldiers. He also noted that the Army was growing and being widely re-equipped.

Major General Gordon then went on to describe some of the challenges facing the Army. It was having to

work very hard to recruit the numbers of new members needed to grow. It has been working hard to improve its performance in occupational health and safety and to reduce instances of unacceptable behaviour. In both these areas the Army continues to set the highest standards and Army is proud that its leaders are highly sensitive to the need to maintain its reputation.

The Army has a proud history and it is basing its vigorous development programme on the deep traditions that guide and inspire its officers and soldiers. To give an illustration of this proud history, Major General Gordon read an inspirational passage from the Official History of Australia of the War of 1914 - 1918. He ended by noting that the two statues that have been placed on the lawns of the Australian War Memorial were of Simpson with his donkey and Weary Dunlop, and he said that *"with an Army known for the courage and skill of its warfighters, it's a pretty decent Nation that reveres such men"*.

LUNCHEON ADDRESS
Monday 4th December 2006
Acting Superintendent Colin Cunningham
Head of the State Protective Security Branch of the South Australian Police.

Colin spoke on a topic related to issues affecting the nature of the counter terrorist operations and responsibilities over which he presides.

Luncheon Speaker
Monday 5th February 2007
CAPT Derek Oakley MBE
Royal marines (RETD)
Topic: Tell it to the Marines!

Synopsis of Address

Captain Oakley will take us on a light-hearted romp through his 42 years in the Corps of Royal Marines, including his personal reminiscences as one-time ADC to Lord Louis Mountbatten (Earl Mountbatten of Burma). Closer to home, he will also provide us with a fascinating insight into the Marines of the First Fleet and what happened to them.

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MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

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 reported to the RUSI Office by midday of the Friday before the lunch. Subsequent cancellations will attract a fee of \$20. The caterers have to be notified of the number attending by that time and that number must be paid for. Twelve members booked for the October luncheon but did not turn up. RUSI SA cannot afford such losses.

The dress code for the luncheon is neat casual, taking into consideration weather conditions. We assemble in Building 34A, Keswick Barracks, Keswick, at approximately 11.30 am 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 \$20. 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 12.55 pm, as the guest speaker will be introduced at 1.00 pm. 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 2.00 pm.

POSITION VACANT

As announced at the Annual General Meeting, LTCDR Ronald C Penglase DSC RFD VFD has decided to stand down as the RUSI-SA Honorary Auditor. The Council and members appreciate the sterling effort that Ron has made over the many years that he held this position.

AUDITOR

We are now seeking a suitably qualified person to take over this important role. An honorarium is paid for these annual duties. Expressions of interest should be made to the RUSI-SA office or to the Honorary Treasurer, COL Les Thompson.

SOCIAL CALENDAR 2007

PLEASE MARK YOUR DIARY NOW

In addition to our regular monthly lunches on the first Monday of each month (second Monday, if the first falls on a public holiday), your Council has decided on the following dates for our Social Functions this year:

Sunday 25th March 2007

BBQ in the Patio, Keswick Barracks Officers' Mess at 12 Noon.

Friday 1st June 2007

President's Dinner, Keswick Barracks Officers' Mess at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm.

Sunday 19th August 2007

Winter Carvery, Flagstaff Hill Golf Course at 12 Noon.

Sunday 25th November 2007

Christmas Sundowner, Keswick Barracks Officers' Mess at 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm.

Members will be reminded of these events closer to each activity and will be given details of costs and RSVP dates. A tear-off slip will be included to allow members to notify the Secretary of their attendance and to pay for the event.

Christmas Sundowner 2006

The Sundowner afternoon held on the patio of the Officers' Mess at Keswick Barracks just before Christmas 2006 was very well attended by members and their friends. Entertainment was supplied by the Jazz Quintet of the Army Band, Adelaide and the mess provided the catering staff and their offerings.



The Adelaide Army Band Jazz Quintet playing for the Christmas Sundowner 2006

YOUR ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED

On each of last year's functions organizers of the events have been embarrassed by having members notify their intentions to attend, or to cancel, after the closing dates indicated, or even by turning up unannounced to the event.

These circumstances have caused major disruptions at each event – particularly when more places had to be set at the last minute for the President's Dinner and again when more people turned up for the Christmas Sundowner than had been originally catered for.

We again ask that members strictly adhere to the RSVP dates provided for each activity. That is the date that our caterers have stipulated we must advise them of the numbers attending that function and we can not accept bookings after that date in future.

Guest Speaker Programme survey

A total of 46 completed forms were received from the Guest Speaker survey that was conducted during the luncheon on Monday 6th November, 2006. The results were collated by COL Neville Bergin who reported as follows:

Summary of Results

1. 83% of respondents indicated that their level of satisfaction with the Guest Speaker Program was either Very High or High. The remaining 17% indicated that their level of satisfaction was Satisfactory.
2. 96 % of respondents indicated that they find the general quality of Guest Speakers Very Good or Good. The remaining 4% indicated that they found the general quality of Guest Speakers Satisfactory.
3. 100% of respondents indicated that they have found the subjects presented by Guest Speakers either Very Interesting or Interesting.
4. 4% of respondents indicated that they find the 30 to 35 minute presentation Too Long. 94% find the length of the presentation About Right. The remaining 2% find the presentations Too Short.

Conclusions

It would appear that a significant majority of our members and guests are well satisfied with the program as it is presently conducted.

A number of respondents have offered comments and suggestions that will be discussed in Council with a view to adopting those that have the potential to enhance, without creating major change to, the program.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: That the present policy guiding the nature and direction of the RUSI of SA Guest Speaker Program, as indicated in the Guest Speaker Survey document and shown below, be maintained without major change.

Recommendation 2: That the policy be as follows:

"It has been Council policy that our Guest Speakers should be recognised as having expert knowledge of the topic they present and that the topic be completely relevant to the Aim of the Institute, which is "To promote informed debate and to improve public awareness and understanding of defence and national security." In the past, this has meant that we have

focussed on the presentation of contemporary issues of defence and national security and tended to avoid subjects of an historical nature, unless the lessons in the historical context of the address have direct relevance to current issues.”

Recommendation 3: That certain specific suggestions of respondents be discussed in Council with a view to adopting those that have the potential to enhance, without creating major change to, the program.

Neville Bergin
Coordinator, Guest Speaker Program

LIBRARY NON FICTION

The following books and periodicals have recently been added to the library.

Reviews by Malcolm Orchard.

“Contact” by Shaune Lakin

War and photography have had a close association in Australia’s history. And, in consequence, the Australian War memorial in Canberra holds a magnificent photographic collection, some 900,000 images in fact.

“Contact”, recently published by the AWM, with Shaune Lakin, a curator of photography at the AWM, its compiler and author, presents an authoritative survey of the collection. Here are over 200 photographs, drawn from the work of many official, commercial and amateur photographers who recorded the Australian experience of war. Here too is the work of many soldiers and nurses who privately photographed their own experiences of war. Thus, as Steve Gower, Director AWM, notes in his Forward, material from all Australia’s overseas commitments is contained in the Memorial’s collection, commencing with the dispatch of a New South Wales colonial military force to the Sudan in 1885. The collection also records some of the earliest colonial defence initiatives, such as the fortifications built around the coast and the volunteer military movements of the mid-nineteenth century.

The AWM collection thus has come from a variety of sources. And as Steve Gower points out:

As the book narrates, many of the Gallipoli images were taken by soldiers. Their photographic activities were restricted when the Australian Imperial Force went on to the Western Front in France. It was not until the Vietnam War, when the futility of such restrictions was recognised, that the soldier

photographer again produced a significant body of work. When the Australian War Records Section was established in 1917, a coordinated approach became possible and a small but outstanding group of photographers was appointed, including Frank Hurley and Hubert Wilkins MC and bar. The second World war attracted some of the country’s leading photographers such as Damien Parer, George Silk and Max Dupain. Some made or furthered existing reputations in the Middle east or in the Pacific theatre. This tradition is being continued today by figures such as David Dare Parker and Stephen Dupont, who have travelled the world covering conflicts as independent photojournalists or as official photographers for the Australian War Memorial.

The Memorial’s collection includes some well known key works. Hurley’s and Wilkin’s glass plate negatives give extraordinarily clear images of the Western Front and of the Middle East. Cyril Jackson’s panoramas record views of battlefields on negatives up to two metres in length. And who has not seen Parer’s and Silk’s Second World war photographs that in essence represent the national memory of that war. The collection holds a diversity of albums compiled by military figures. Lieutenant (later Rear Admiral) Leighton Bracegirdle’s albums on the Boxer Rebellion provide insights into Australian interactions with the Chinese. Charles Bean’s and Philip Schuler’s pictorial records of Gallipoli are of great importance in comprehending the conditions endured by our men in that campaign. George Aspinall’s collection, taken whilst a prisoner of war, provides a remarkable documentation of life at Changi and on the notorious Burma-Thailand railway. Andy Mattay (a soldier photographer) and Denis Gibbons (a journalist) have provided outstanding collections on the Vietnam War.

Overall, this is a long overdue review of our photographic collection.

The AWM of course continues to build its collection. Indeed, the last two photographs in “Contact” were taken on mid-2006 by David Dare Parker: “Burning anger, Dili, East Timor”... A particularly incisive addition to our library.

(283 large format pages)

“The Last Explorer” by Simon Nasht

His biographer, Simon Nasht, has dubbed Hubert Wilkins “Australia’s unsung hero” and certainly his achievements in so many fields will never be equalled. A war hero, photographer, reporter, prolific writer, spy, scientist, naturalist, ornithologist and gifted aviator, Hubert Wilkins was the most remarkable explorer of the 20th century, indeed, no one before or since has discovered more previously unknown land and sea.

A pioneer of photography during World War I, he was described by Monash as "the bravest man that I have ever seen". (He was twice awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous acts of courage – the only Australian photographer of any war to be decorated, yet, as Nasht notes, he never carried a gun). Post war, he was the first man to fly in the Antarctic (1928) and the first to navigate a submarine under polar ice (1931).

Also during WWI, between January and March 1919, Wilkins accompanied Charles Bean in his "mission of photographers, artists and historians to Gallipoli to gather evidence of the disastrous campaign in the Dardanelles".

Sir Hubert Wilkins was born in South Australia, at Mount Bryan East, a drought prone area above Goyder's line, in 1888, the youngest of thirteen children born to Harry and Louisa Wilkins; following his death in 1958 his ashes were scattered at the North Pole, taken there by submarine....

"*The Last Explorer*" details the astonishing exploits, intelligence and tenacity of a truly extraordinary man – it is a book also well served by some thirty fascinating photographs.

"*Heavy Metal*" by Captain Jason Conroy

First published in 2005, *Heavy Metal* is the autobiography of a young American tank commander in Iraq in 2003; the heavy metal is the M1A1 Abrams main battle tank.

Heavy Metal is more than mere memoir: it tells an unvarnished story of what went right in Iraq, and what went deadly wrong. Conroy and his armoured Charlie Company were in nearly continuous combat for four straight weeks – and in that time they had to overcome supply shortages, intelligence failures, miserable weather and battle their way into Baghdad, a place where they had been told they would never have to fight.

And as Conroy writes:

The war we set out to fight in Iraq was not the war we fought. The enemy we war-gamed to fight was not the enemy we fought. The tactics we trained on.....to a large degree were not those we used during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The very nature of the war forced us to be adaptive and innovative about how we used our tanks and ourselves. We were forced to learn on the fly, in the middle of combat....

However, Conroy considers that "*the significant role that tanks played in this war cannot be understated....Tanks did not win the war by themselves, but the M1A1 Abrams was the key factor in why the war was won so quickly.*"

"*John Adams*" by David McCulloch

"*Sandakan*" by Lynette Ramsay Silver

"*The Strength of a Nation*"

by Michael McKernan

"*The British Navy*"

donated by ACDRE L R Klaffer

"*War Paths*" by John Keegan

donated by Malcolm Orchard

"*Write Home for Me*" by Jean Debelle Lamensdorf

"*Malaria Front Line*" by Tony Sweeney
(Australian Army research during WWII)

"*The Battle for the Rhine 1944*" by Robin Neillands

Periodicals:

Defence Reporter for Dec 2006/Jan 2007

Australian Army Journal Vol III No. 3

LIBRARY FICTION

Many works of fiction have been donated by LTCOL M E Alexander and ACDRE L R Klaffer.

Donations are gratefully acknowledged.