



*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

Issue No 412

Dec 07/Jan 08

# NEWSLETTER

*Patron*

*His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce  
AO CSC RANR Governor of South Australia*



*The President and members of Council  
wish all members and their families a  
happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas.*

## COUNCIL MEMBERS 2007/08

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the Jun/Jul 2007 Newsletter, I included a copy of the letter, dated 23 Apr 07, that I wrote on behalf of the Council and members of the RUSI-SA to the Minister for Defence, The Hon Dr Brendan Nelson, MP on the importance of retaining Keswick Barracks as an ADF base. On learning that the Minister was to visit Adelaide and was to address a luncheon at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club on 24 Aug 07, I sent a follow up letter requesting that the Minister advise us of the position in relation to Keswick Barracks.

I received the following reply dated 30 Aug 07, which was read out at a recent monthly luncheon.



## MINISTER FOR DEFENCE THE HON DR BRENDAN NELSON MP

30 Aug 07

Dear Colonel Stoba

Thank you for your letter of 23 April 2007 concerning the future of Keswick Barracks. I apologise for the delay in responding.

On 15 December 2005, the Australian Government released its major review of Australia's national security, *Australia's National Security-A Defence Update 2005*. The Review identified that Defence must continue to pursue internal reform to ensure the most efficient use of resources through rationalisation of corporate and regional

support to achieve cost efficiencies, including future rationalisation of Defence bases and facilities. In this context, Defence announced last year that, as part of its Force Disposition Program, it would be conducting cost benefit studies to examine the future of several Defence bases including Keswick Barracks. This Program is considering a number of base co-location proposals aimed at creating larger, more operationally and cost efficient military bases around Australia.

On 11 August 2007, I announced that given the size and complexity of this review of Defence basing, and the costs involved in future Defence estate planning, the future of these bases will continue to be reviewed and will be considered by the Government later this year as part of the 2008/09 Budget deliberations.

With respect to Keswick Barracks, the study into this base has analysed the costs and benefits of relocating all Defence units/functions or retaining them in situ. In the case of the Keswick-based Army Reserve units including Headquarters 9 Brigade and 3rd Health Support Battalion, it is proposed they be relocated to Warradale Barracks. It is proposed that other Defence units/ functions would relocate to the Edinburgh Defence Precinct. In proposing this relocation option, Defence is fully cognisant of the fact that there is only a relatively short distance between Keswick and Warradale, approximately seven kilometres, and as such, has assessed that the proposed rationalisation of Keswick Barracks would have a minimal impact on the recruiting and retention of reservists in the longer term. If a decision is made to relocate Defence functions from Keswick Barracks there will be significant benefits for Army Reservists. The proposed relocation will enable greater access to a wider range of training facilities and collaboration with a larger number of regular army personnel which will enhance Army Reserve capability.

I appreciate you bringing the Royal United Services Institute of South Australia (RUSI-SA) position on the proposed rationalisation of Keswick Barracks and its potential implications for RUSI-SA to my attention. RUSI's position will be considered by the Australian Government in its decision making regarding the future of Keswick Barracks.

The letter was signed by the Minister and included the following handwritten footnote:

*"No decision has been made on this. I assure you that whatever it is, I will ensure accommodation for RUSI is secure. I apologise very much for the delay in response."*

The disturbing fact is that the Department has assessed that the closure of Keswick Barracks would have a minimal effect on recruiting and retention of Reservists and would offer significant benefits for Army Reservists. It is fairly clear that nothing will

happen before the coming election - but what then?

It is traditional that, following the AGM and the annual election of Councillors, a President's Luncheon is held, to which Past Presidents of RUSI-SA are invited to meet the new Council and at which the newly (or re-elected) President outlines his plans for the coming year. A major topic at this year's luncheon was the Minister's response. It was felt that although the Minister will ensure that RUSI is accommodated in any relocation, the question is what facilities are likely to be provided and where?

As you are aware *"the aim of the Institute is to promote informed debate, and to improve public awareness and understanding, of defence and national security"* We plan to achieve this by arranging high profile guest speakers for monthly Luncheons and evening Current Issues Briefings and by maintaining a comprehensive, up-to-date and readily accessible reference library.

Obviously a small office and library at Warradale or Edinburgh would not meet our needs of a central location with facilities to hold these activities.

Consequently it was agreed at that luncheon that the RUSI-SA should not wait but should start to explore alternative venues and facilities now. If any members have any ideas or suggestions please don't hesitate to pass them on to your Council.

*Colonel David Stoba RFD ED (Retd)*  
**President RUSI-SA**

## **MEDALS – MEMENTOS & MORE**

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**9 Norfolk St, Blackwood, SA 5051**

## **Luncheon Speaker**

**Monday 3 December 2007**

**Brigadier Anthony Gill**

**Director General Health Services  
Department of Defence**

**“Health Support to ADF  
Operations – How It Is Changing”**

While the provision of high quality military health care is an essential component of operational capability, the shift away from conventional warfare has fundamentally changed the way in which uniformed health providers can support the national strategic objectives. In many recent ADF operations the primary military objective has been the delivery of health care to a civilian population. Health support to operations has also included the use of civilian contractors. The presentation will explore these emerging roles looking back on operational health support during BRIG Gill's service.

## **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-SA 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.***

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.

## **Current Issues Briefing**

**Joel Fitzgibbon MP**

**Shadow Minister for Defence**

**20 August 2007**



I join you tonight fresh from the annual Australian American Leadership Dialogue. Held in Melbourne this year, the Leadership Dialogue provides a forum for the further development and strengthening of our most important foreign relationship.

### **The US Alliance**

When it comes to the defence of our country and the protection of its interests, Australia has no greater friend than the United States of America. This close and long standing alliance between our two peoples is, and will remain, at the heart of Australia's defence posture. The relationship has survived and prospered throughout the administrations of twelve American

Presidents and thirteen Australian Prime Ministers — Democrat and Republican, Labor and Liberal. The alliance has lasted because our friendship is a real one based on common values and interests.

Kevin Rudd made it crystal clear in his recent ASPI address that for Labor, ANZUS sits squarely at the centre of our strategic vision and is critical to both our intelligence sharing arrangements and our access to advanced technologies, systems and equipment. None of that is to say we can't and won't have disagreements with our friends from time to time. Labor for example, disagreed with the invasion of Iraq in the absence of a UN mandate. But the relationship is sufficiently strong and mature to survive such disagreements.

Of course our alliance with the United States is not our only important strategic relationship. Also of great significance is the range of ties we have in Asia like the Five Power Defence Agreement and our ongoing friendship with our near neighbour Indonesia — most recently reinforced by the signing of the Framework for Security Cooperation Agreement in November 2006. And of course, the Australia-Japan Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation signed in March of this year is also an important development in our relationship with that country.

I mentioned Kevin Rudd's recent defence speech to the Australian Strategic Policy Institute. This evening, I would like to reiterate some of the key points he made and add some more. I am sure you will all agree that the most fundamental role of any Government is to provide for the defence of its country and its interests. To fulfil that responsibility Labor is committed to a strong, versatile and balanced Australian Defence Force. The foundation of Labor's defence policy is the principle of self-reliance. We believe that the Australian Defence Force must be able to defend the country and its interests without relying on the combat forces of other nations. Self-reliance reflects Australia's sense of itself as an independent nation. Fundamental to self reliance is the ability to control Australia's sea and air approaches. In the modern world that means our defence force must be able to deploy leading edge air and maritime capabilities. For a middle power such as Australia, with a limited amount of money available for defence spending, that requirement means making wise choices on the structure of the ADF. So it is absolutely vital that high level strategic guidance feeds into a coherent framework which results in an appropriate force structure that is sustainable within the available budget.

### **Security and Stability within Our Immediate Region**

Many of the military capabilities required to control our sea and air approaches also allow Australia to contribute to the security and stability of our region. Security challenges that arise within our region will be the ones on which Australia has the least discretion. That means we must be in the best possible position to deal with any such contingencies. But, as Kevin Rudd made patently clear in his address, dominating our immediate strategic geography is not enough. In this new century, we need to do more than just defend the continent.

We need armed forces that can project power into the immediate region when necessary. The national interest demands we work with our neighbours and friends to maintain stability and to foster a positive security environment in our immediate region. We also need the capability required to participate in coalition forces further from home whenever and wherever our national interests are threatened.

### **Force Structure**

The need for versatility must be a central force structure theme for the ADF. High-end war-fighting capabilities are very expensive and usually take a long time to acquire and render operational. While it is essential to maintain the capabilities necessary to guarantee the security of Australia's air and maritime approaches, that requirement must be balanced against the need for a range of other capabilities. The important role of the Australian Army in defending the nation and its interests cannot be overstated. And having sufficient numbers of well armed, trained and protected soldiers available is crucial to the effectiveness and versatility of the ADF. That's why Labor supports the raising of two additional battalions to be based here in South Australia — although we worry about where the people are going to come from.

The spectrum of potential operational uses for the ADF ranges from aid, to the civil power, through to high intensity combat. Notwithstanding the need to be prepared for high end war fighting tasks, the ADF must also be ready for the host of tasks that it is much more likely to be called upon to perform. Contributions to UN sanctioned regional peacekeeping or peace enforcement operations call upon a host of capabilities that Australia must be well placed to provide. However, the fact of the matter is that soldiers trained and equipped for war fighting can be more easily turned to peace keeping or other less hostile operations than the other way around.

### **Key Capabilities**

It is absolutely essential that the ADF's key war-fighting and intelligence gathering capabilities are kept up-to-date. While much has been done to provide

new and updated capabilities to the ADF, more is still required. Take for example submarines. Many countries are investing in new submarines. The list includes India, China, Pakistan, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Korea and Japan. A submarine's ability to deliver high value strategic effects over long distances in a stealthy and relatively low risk manner make it a much sought after capability. Subs also provide maritime security for deployed forces, collect high value intelligence, and deter the use of the underwater domain by criminals and terrorists.

There is widespread agreement that the Collins Class submarines are currently the best conventionally powered boats in the world. They provide a vital military capability for Australia. A significant body of recent research makes it clear that the development of a new class of submarines for Australia should have started before now. It is also accepted that no "off the shelf" option will fill Australia's future submarine requirements. Nation-states across Asia are now gaining access to advanced submarine capability and we must maintain a leading edge. That means that a developmental project involving the migration of the evolved Collins Class combat and ship control systems will be necessary. Much analysis will be required to allow informed deliberation on the number, size and configuration of the new boats, and determining what will be required of them by the Navy some 20, 30 and 40 years into the future. Ongoing access to leading-edge US submarine technology will be crucial to the operational effectiveness of this new generation of conventionally powered submarines. Therefore, the negotiation of a new Australia-US cooperative agreement on submarine technology will be a high priority for a Rudd Labor Government. So too will making sure that the lessons learned from the Collins submarine project are incorporated into the acquisition of the new submarine fleet. It is expected that construction of the first new submarine will commence around 2017, near the time that work on the Air Warfare Destroyer project will be tapering off. This will offer continuity of employment for many defence industry related workers in South Australia and elsewhere. It will also be a big economic boost for defence industry firms, the Australian economy and more particularly, the South Australian economy. Given its unique role in constructing our new Air Warfare Destroyers, servicing and supporting our Collins-class submarine fleet and eventually building our new submarines, Labor sees the as ASC a strategic national asset and the new sub project further consolidates it future.

### **Need for New White Paper**

Australia's defence posture under the Howard Government is based on a White Paper developed in the late 1990s and delivered in the year 2000. Much

has happened in the world during the past seven years and it is time that a full and detailed reassessment of Australia's strategic circumstances is undertaken. We need to be thinking 10, 20 and 30 years into the future, and anticipating threats to our security and identifying areas where we can best contribute to regional stability. Strategic assessments used as a basis for national defence policy have long-term ramifications, and must utilise the most up to date intelligence and rational assumptions. The strategic updates of 2003 and 2005 have done little to genuinely enhance the high level guidance available to the Department of Defence. Without such guidance, developments in force structure and the subsequent acquisition of the necessary military capabilities become ad hoc rather than strategic. The current Government appears to have forgotten that a defence doctrine must be constantly refined to remain coherent and relevant. Defence policy should be more than an annotated list of current military engagements. Defence policy should be about long-term planning mechanisms. Labor will commission a new Defence White Paper to ensure that defence expenditures produce the force structure we need for the future. A core feature of a new Defence White Paper must be Australia's rapidly and radically deteriorating strategic circumstances in the South West Pacific. Further challenges for the White Paper will be the long-term trajectory of militant Islamism and the possible implications of climate change. The implications of unrestrained WMD proliferation across the wider Asia Pacific region will also require careful analysis. These represent some of the core challenges to our changing strategic environment for the next twenty years.

### **Budget**

Of course, generating and sustaining the military capabilities to deal with all of this takes money – substantial amounts of it! Australia's current expenditure on Defence is just on \$22 billion. Most Australians would no doubt think that's a lot, but at just below 2% of GDP it certainly doesn't represent the peak in our spend. In the 1967/68 financial year when we were still active in Vietnam, we were spending 4.2% of GDP. While the current tempo of the ADF has not reached Vietnam War proportions it is, nonetheless, very high. And will continue to be so for the foreseeable future. Maintaining funding at 2% of GDP may or may not be enough. But one thing is certain; we cannot afford to waste a cent of it. Every defence dollar wasted is a dollar not spent on the crucial task of defending Australia and its interests. We've seen far too many examples lately of cost blow-outs and ad hoc spending. Given the funding constraints, it is as important now than at any other time since Federation, that money allocated to the Defence Budget is spent effectively and efficiently.

Ad hoc and expensive military capability acquisitions entered into without rigorous strategic capability planning have resulted in capital budget blow-outs running into the billions. Efficiency in Defence is not just a matter of fiscal rectitude. It's a strategic necessity. Australia can only support the kind of forces we will need over coming decades if we spend every dollar as wisely as possible. It is strategically reckless to do otherwise. As this year's ASPI budget brief points out:

*The current piecemeal cycle of investment followed by bids for additional personnel and operating costs is no substitute for coherent long-term planning. Not only does it fail to provide incentives for defence to deliver capability efficiently, but it robs the electorate of the ability to judge the opportunity cost of decisions.*

Labor is committed to the forward outlays of this current government and we've supported every increase. We are driven not by savings, but by value for money. A strong Defence Force requires strong funding.

### **Personnel**

No matter how well funded or equipped, Australia's Defence Force can be no better than the men and women that serve within it. The Service Chiefs all acknowledge that recruiting and retaining sufficient top quality personnel is their major challenge. The Government has been throwing more money at recruitment and finally adopting some more innovative forms of marketing. But its performance on retention has been appalling. And just last week we saw the results of a survey which suggest around five percent more Navy, Army and Air Force personnel are giving active consideration to leaving the forces compared with twelve months earlier. Retaining experienced ADF personnel is crucial if Defence's workforce requirements are to be adequately met, and true value gained for the taxpayers' investment in their training. An effective defence force is not just about numbers. Retaining experience, technical skills and corporate knowledge are essential for operational success. Attractive and equitable terms and conditions of employment for Defence personnel are essential as is support for ADF personnel and their families.

I'd like to end my contribution with a tribute to the almost 4,000 ADF personnel currently on deployment. Particularly those facing grave danger in places like Iraq, Afghanistan and East Timor. We have the bravest and best in the world and they deserve the support and thanks of us all.

## **Know your Councillors**

### **Colin Brooks**



Colin Brooks has been a member of RUSI-SA since 1979. He is a South Australian geologist with degrees from the University of Adelaide in Geology, Physics and Economic Geology and has travelled widely throughout the Western World.

He became an experienced rifleman and Bren and Vickers machine gun instructor in 1950/1951 (Korean War time) as an Army cadet, while a high school student. This so damaged his ear nerves that he was medically unfit for National Service and is still partially deaf.

Colin studied Reactor Physics at post graduate level in 1958 and was appointed Director of Planning of the Exploration Division of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission in 1975/6.

His experience in remote area logistics and politics, as a geologist and manager, includes extensive use of light helicopters since 1956 in Australia, P.N.G., West Irian (now Papua), Indonesia, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, U.S.A., Chile, Peru and Argentina.

He has seen low level border problems at first hand in several parts of the world, and been involved in resolving parts of two, peacefully, in PNG/Papua, Chile/Argentina. He has lived as a resident in Indonesia, Chile and Peru.

In 2001, he returned to Adelaide after ten years working as Minerals Exploration Manager in Chile for Mount Isa, which included time in Bolivia, Ecuador and Colombia. He was General Manager for Mineral La Esperanza in Peru followed by General Manager for Aur Resources Chile.

Colin has recently worked with a team funded by the World Bank to provide the P.N.G. Government with material to encourage mineral exploration in that country.

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

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## SOCIAL CALENDAR 2007

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Sunday 25 November 2007

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

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## NEW MEMBERS

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We welcome the following new members of the RUSI-SA

Mrs Judith Berry  
Mr. John Faulkner  
Mr Jim Hanson  
LT Donald Harvy  
Dr. Samuel Lowry  
MAJGEN V Madan VSM  
FLTLT Bruce Newman  
CAPT Benjamin Robinson  
Mr. Christopher Thompson

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## AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE JOURNAL

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A copy of the Australian Defence Journal for 2007, Issue No. 173, is available for every member. If you would like to have one posted to you, please contact the Secretary, Elaine Atkinson, at the office and let her know.

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## SIMPSON AND HIS DONKEY

### Appeal for funds

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On the 22 August 2007 the Lord Mayor, Michael Harbison, launched an appeal for funds to enable the acquisition of a statue in memory of Simpson and his donkey. He committed a personal donation of \$1,000 and the Adelaide City Council has already provided significant support. The statue is to be created by Robert Hannaford and will not simply be a memorial but also a work of art for South Australia.

Simpson and his donkey are a legend attached to Gallipoli and World War I and are for the Australian Army a standout for the humanity and compassion that this man showed for his fellow human beings at a time of great hardship to his fellow soldiers. At risk of his life John Simpson Kirkpatrick used his donkey Duffy to transport injured soldiers to medical care showing great courage for which many believe he was not appropriately recognised. He eventually paid the supreme sacrifice in service to his soldier colleagues.

Simpson was a bit of a larrikin in the Australian tradition. An English sailor, he jumped ship and settled in Australia. He enlisted in 3 Field Ambulance (3Fd Amb) and was said to have been the second member of that unit ashore at Gallipoli. Simpson became famous for his work as a stretcher-bearer in 3 Field Ambulance and as the man with the donkey at Gallipoli between 25 April, when he landed, and his death in action on 19 May. Using one of the donkeys landed on the first day for water carrying and, later, a second animal he transported wounded men day and night from the fighting in Monash Valley to the beach on ANZAC Cove. He did so, according to CEW Bean, through "*deadly sniping down the valley and the most furious shrapnel fire*". By the time of his death, from machine gun fire as he was bringing down two wounded men, he had saved many lives. He was buried on the beach at Hell Spit.

Simpson had a strong sense of humour, devilment and a sheer exuberant enjoyment of life. F. W. Dyke, Gallipoli original, recalled on a rare occasion when his donkey was being obstinate: a padre was standing waiting to accompany Simpson, but with all his coaxing the donkey would not move. At last Simpson turned to the Padre and said, "*Padre this old donkey has been tied up with some mules and has acquired some of their bad habits. Would you move along the beach a little way, as I'll have to speak to him in Hindustani, and, Padre, I wouldn't like you to think I was swearing at him.*"

3 Fd Amb has a strong link to South Australia. One Section of the unit was raised in South Australia. After World War I 3 Fd Amb continued to serve in South Australia as a Militia unit and in World II was deployed in the Islands to the north of Australia. After WWII 3 Fd Amb continued as a Citizen Military Force unit and later as an Army Reserve Unit until removed from the Order of Battle in 1990.

A statue of Simpson and his donkey is not just simply a memorial for him but also a tribute to the memory to all health services personnel who have provided humanitarian services in all conflicts including many who have lost their lives as a consequence of that service.



Anyone who would like to support this endeavour can do so by making a contribution to the:

RSL Commemorative Appeal –  
Simpson and his Donkey  
RSL HQ,  
Torrens Parade Ground,  
Victoria Drive,  
Adelaide, 5000.

Donations would be greatly appreciated and will be recognized in some form at the completion of the project. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

## LIBRARY

As you know, we have an extensive library, with books dating back to the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century on military expeditions and various subjects and more books are being added all the time. Come in during normal library hours (10 am to 4 pm Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays) to peruse the extensive range of books, magazines and Service newspapers that are on display, and relax with a cup of tea or coffee.

## LIBRARY NON-FICTION

The following books have been added to the library. Malcolm Orchard provided the reviews.

**“Never Late”** by Gordon Dickens

This is another splendid publication from the Australian Army History Collection: the history of the 2/9<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion, 1939-1945. Formed in November 1939, the 2/9<sup>th</sup> AIF was the first battalion raised in Queensland; it fought at Giarabub and Tobruk in North Africa, Milne bay, Cape Endaiadere and Sanananda in Papua, on Shaggy Ridge in New Guinea and at Balikpapan in Borneo. Over six years of war and seven campaigns the Battalion suffered 975 battle casualties but never lost a man as a prisoner of war and carried every one of its casualties from the field. Those who did not return home lie remembered in carefully tended graves around the world.

**“The Once and Future Army”** by Dayton McCarthy

*The once and Future Army* is the history of the Citizen Military Forces (CMF) from its inception in 1947 until 1974 when it became the a Army Reserves (ARES). It shows how a combination of government

inaction, military bureaucratic disinterest, and a partial failure by the CMF to adapt to changing defence environments, coupled with societal ambivalence towards it, reduced the strength, role, and prestige of the CMF. However, as Dayton McCarthy notes: *in terms of political and higher level support, recent changes have demonstrated that the government and the army have heeded many of the lessons provided at the expense of the CMF and the Army Reserve during its troubled post-war history. Again it must be asked how much of this recent impetus has been driven by the government hoping to capitalise on the relative cost-effectiveness of army reservists and how much has been the result of a belated recognition by the army of the benefits inherent in the Reserves.*

**“The View from the Battle of Hell”** by Mark Willacy

Barely a fortnight after arriving in Jerusalem in July 2002 as the ABC’s Middle East Correspondent, Mark Willacy found himself staring into the lifeless eyes of a suicide bomber. It was a shockingly appropriate introduction. Over the next four years he would observe first hand some of the most dramatic and violent events of the twenty-first century, from the second Palestinian Intifada to the US invasion of Iraq and the viscous insurgency that followed.

*The View from the Valley of Hell* – an account of those turbulent years – is personal, informed and riveting. From clandestine interviews from some of the Middle East’s most-wanted terrorist leaders, to surreal cricket matches played behind concrete blast walls and fortifications in Baghdad, Willacy captures the human dimension of the Middle East’s tragedies, revealing what it really means to live through events we only read as news stories. With compassion, humanity and a leavening of humour, he goes behind the headlines and into the heart of the most volatile and important region in the world today.

(Between 2002 and 2006, Mark Willacy reported from Israel, the Palestinian Territories, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Morocco, Iran, Lebanon, Turkey, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and the Persian Gulf. He won Australia’s premier journalism award – a Walkley - for his reporting in Iraq on the fall of Saddam Hussein and lives in Brisbane with his wife and children).

## NAVY WEEK

HMAS Adelaide and Kanimbla will be supporting Navy Week 07 and will be open to the public on Sunday 2 December 07 from 1000 to 1500. Further details of the visit are available from the Visiting Ships’ Liaison Officer, CPO Dave Copley on 8305 6794 or [david.copley@defence.gov.au](mailto:david.copley@defence.gov.au).