



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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rusikes@bigpond.com

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<http://www.rusiaust.org>

RUSI FOR DEFENCE AND SECURITY STUDIES WHITEHALL WEBSITE

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The 33rd annual meeting of the National Council of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia was held at Anglesea Barracks, Hobart on 11 and 12 September 2008. The main business items were membership and actions resulting from the major review of the RUSI that had been led by Vice Admiral Chris Richie.

Each membership paper prepared by the various divisions was discussed in some detail with the overall conclusion that our potential membership can be broadly grouped into two categories viz. 'traditional' and 'internet' or 'on-line members'. A number of courses of action, which should be pursued locally in relation to 'traditional' members, was noted and is being followed up.

The new website is now separate from the defence computer network and was seen as a major factor in attracting new members, particularly those unable to avail themselves of the normal RUSI services due to location or business commitments. A phased approach is planned with Phase 1 concentrating on existing members by getting a new properly edited and presented paper on line each week. Phase 2 will involve offering "on-line membership" to attract new members with Phase 3 introducing interactive elements such as a chat room and blog. Obviously keeping the website current is a

COUNCIL MEMBERS 2008

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Vice Presidents:	COL N.R. Bergin (Retd) C/Insp F.J. Leditschke (Retd)
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key factor and changes to the role of the National Secretariat are being implemented to include the provision of paid part time positions of editor/information officer and webmaster.

The need for a national communication/PR strategy was seen as an essential element in informing the public and attracting new members. This strategy would include looking at our "brand name". There is no plan to change the name RUSI but to modernize it by possibly adding a suffix along the lines adopted by the UK (i.e. RUSI for Defence and Security Studies) or the addition of a well understood catchphrase to be used on the website, on stationery and in newsletters.

The future of RUSI seminars was discussed in relation to the overall financial position of the RUSI of Australia. The triennial international seminars have in the past generated much needed reserves which have been used for the journal and more recently the new website. There is no provision in the current Defence Budget for RUSI seminars and funding from sponsorships and other sources will be necessary if they are to continue. A significant factor is that previously the RUSI was the only seminar provider, however there are now other well-funded organisations such as ASPI and the Kokoda Foundation. It would appear that the RUSI needs to look at other means to improve its image/reputation, such as short, low or no-cost forums.

The meeting concluded with a formal vote of thanks to Major General John Hartley for his outstanding contribution as National President and Vice Admiral Chris Richie was elected as the new National President.

COL David Stoba

President RUSI-SA

Monday 1 December 2008

**Mr Charles Vandeeper
Operations Research Scientist
Joint Operations Division, DSTO**

**Topic: Intelligence and Future Threat
Environments**

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 must be notified of the number attending by then and that number must be paid for.

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

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DINING IN NIGHT ADDRESS

Friday 29 August 2008

**His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce
AC CSC RANR**

Governor of South Australia

**Topic: Issues of interest to South Australia in
the new Defence White Paper**

Whilst the security aspects of the White Paper are of enormous importance to all Australians, I will limit my analysis to the defence industry policy development that needs to be reflected in the Australian defence industry in future strategic plans.

South Australian Economy

It is a rather obvious question, but why is defence so important to South Australia? Our history is replete with long periods in which a dominant sector of the economy has failed, hindering the growth of the entire community. In the 1800s and until the mid 1900s we were reliant upon agriculture and suffered during cycles of drought.

After WWII the development of a more extensive and more sophisticated manufacturing industry provided some much needed diversity. Yet in recent times this sector has come under increasing global pressure. In the primary sector, cycles of drought still continue to challenge those on the land, and a strong SA economy has not helped our exporters.

It would clearly be of enormous benefit for the State to develop other industry sectors that provide economic diversity and vitality. Additionally, the more challenging and rewarding work becomes, the better our ability to retain the high calibre workforce that will in turn generate the next wave of inventions. It is this continual wave of innovation that keeps our businesses globally competitive. Mining and defence are two industry sectors that offer the State the opportunity for both economic diversity and more challenging work. Furthermore, they will engage with and support growth in other sectors of the economy.

SA is already well placed to exploit the opportunities afforded by a defence force requiring increasingly more complex and modern equipment.

We have:

- global defence companies such as BAE, Raytheon, Lockheed martin SAAB, CSC;
- large Australian defence companies such as ASC;
- a vibrant band of about 200 small to medium defence related enterprises;
- one of the strongest electronic industry sectors in the nation, and
- the Defence Science and Technology Organisation at Edinburgh, which is a vital source of research, product innovation and opportunity for commercialisation.

The business opportunities for this very capable sector of our economy are very exciting to say the least. Defence will spend over \$100b in the next 10 to 15 years to acquire new equipment and to sustain our existing forces. Roughly half of this amount will be for new acquisitions and half will support the existing force. Of this total investment, about half is planned to be spent directly in Australia.

Clearly our industry will not win all of this work but in areas of warship construction, systems integration, surveillance and electronic warfare, we have a significant opportunity to win more than our share of potential work. As we think about potential work, what might be some of the implications arising from the next defence White Paper?

National Defence

Tonight's audience will appreciate that national Defence strategic planning is a complex undertaking. Strategic planning is invariably a logistical exercise with decisions often based upon judgement rather than hard data. These decisions have enormous ramifications, and lead to:

- the expenditure of billions of dollars each year on defence equipment, and
- the placing of service men and women in harms way.

The government policy document that defines our future military capability is the defence White Paper. In essence, this document explains the Government's decisions on what kinds of military capabilities Australia needs. From first principles it explains what the defence force might do and what people and military capabilities are needed to do it.

Much has changed since the release of the last White Paper in 2000. On one hand, China, India and perhaps other Asian countries in our region are gaining in economic strength and are devoting more resources to national defence. It is by no means certain how that might impact upon Australia and thus, how might we prepare for any change that occurs.

Other powers are attempting to gain through the development of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile systems. By spreading their

influence to other states through the use of economic power or through sponsoring terrorism, they aim to destabilize the world order.

On the other hand, non state and trans-national groups such as rogue states, terrorists and trans-national criminals pose an entirely different challenge that makes our traditional focus on geography and national borders obsolete.

The rapid growth and availability of technology plus instantaneous access to global communication networks has added to complexity of strategic planning. Technology and the ease of access to global communication networks have enabled small states or groups to use violence more assertively than ever before.

A final strategic planning consideration is that the warning time for these types of conflicts has been drastically shortened.

In this very fluid and complex security environment, our defence force structure must be broadly based, potent and capable of being flexibly employed to address the wide range of uses that might be required for our defence force.

As a fundamental element of national security, policies that address the role of the Australian defence industry in supporting national objectives must be an integral part of the new White Paper.

In my view, Defence industry policy is in urgent need of updating to reflect the new business and strategic environment.

For example:

- there has been considerable international and national industry consolidation leaving fewer competitors,
- Australia is becoming ever more reliant on overseas R & D,
- our manufacturing base is under increasing pressure from continuing global competition, and
- skilling and retaining a capable workforce remains an increasing challenge in a period of economic boom.

All these factors need to be considered as industry policy is addressed in a new policy document.

Defence Industry Policy Review

In thinking about the roles for defence industry, it is clear that as a small nation we cannot hope to provide either the breadth or depth of all the military capability that might be required.

The primary requirement for Australian industry must remain the ability to maintain, repair, adapt and upgrade military equipment. The challenge is to retain this ability when increasing amounts of equipment are purchased from overseas sources. My experience with complex, modern equipment is that the only effective way to develop an ability to repair, maintain and adapt equipment is to be involved with designing and building that capability.

To meet the ambitious capital program that I mentioned, industry will eventually need to ramp up activity by around 30%. There are already worrying signs that we may be unable to meet this surge.

Defence Department press releases state that more than \$1b of planned capital expenditure has been deferred from the 2008/09 budget largely because industry could not meet agreed milestones. An additional \$700m worth of work will be rescheduled into future years. Should this trend continue, Defence could become increasingly inclined to source even more products directly from overseas suppliers.

In view of the impact upon industry, I believe the reasons for this underspend need more transparent, more detailed investigation. Could, for example, long term, performance based contracts offer greater incentive for up front industry investment in skills and infrastructure to meet surging demand. With the current policy of extensive competitive tendering, are we sacrificing some short-term price gain at the expense of long-term industry capability and ultimately, viability?

Forced competition does not always guarantee value for money. More often it leads to excess capacity, high transaction and high process costs.

There are at least four other areas that deserve study for the White Paper and subsequent policy documents.

Firstly, a range of life cycle costing technology is required to quantify the long-term implications of procurement decision. We need to have a much better understanding of through life support costs before equipment is purchased. This methodology must also be able to look beyond a single project focus to develop synergies with other program and thus, minimize ADF support costs.

Secondly, consolidation of specialist workforces and infrastructure in geographic centres of expertise must be considered as a means to sustain jobs, reduce major overheads and to increase efficiency by allowing multiple use of common infrastructure and skill sets.

Thirdly a national defence skills plan is urgently required. Much has written about the skilling challenge but little meaningful, long-term policy work is apparent. I would suggest a much more collaborative approach is required that engages all of the industry, the skills providers, including state government institutions, who are investing in such programs and who have an increasing interest in the outcome. The most critical element of this plan is for the Commonwealth to have identified the types of industries in which it wants to have an element of national self-sufficiency.

Finally, Defence must articulate those industry capabilities it needs for the nation's strategic self-reliance. Once articulated this policy must be backed by mechanisms that can properly develop and sustain industries over the long term. Unfortunately I see a dilemma emerging as politics become even more deeply enmeshed in defence procurement. To reduce risk and avoid potential criticism, there can be a tendency for Defence to buy increasingly from overseas. As more procurement goes off shore eventually industry's ability to sustain the force through life is comprised. Such a trend can strike at the heart of our ability to sustain Forces with equipment that has a technology edge.

A clearly articulated plan backed by long term work packages is the best way to ensure that skills to sustain military capability are maintained. Let's look at the warship construction segment of the defence industry by way of example.

I know that we are a long way from the next shipbuilding project, and that our first critical priority is to deliver the AWD and Amphibious programs. There can be no future for the industry if these programs are not successfully delivered. Nevertheless, companies are likely to make decisions about their future interest in the industry in the next three to five years, rather than the end of the upcoming building programs in 2017.

As the only customer to this market, it is a Commonwealth role to set the parameters by which industry can succeed. A long-term Commonwealth shaped shipbuilding industry plan would be a way for a clear course for the future.

Such a plan would recognise:

- demand over the longer term cannot sustain multiple shipbuilders around the nation;
- infrastructure modernisation and rationalisation is vital if the industry is to deliver cost effective products;
- establishing a hub of shipbuilding activity will provide geographical stability, allowing both shipbuilders and governments to invest in skills and infrastructure with confidence;
- long-term, performance and incentive based shipbuilding contracts in which costs are completely transparent to the customer, and will help to maintain innovation and cost competitiveness, and
- future ship demand must be planned to sustain the broader industry capability to meet Navy's requirements.

Conclusion

There is no shortage of issues for the White Paper team to contemplate as regional military capabilities develop at a faster rate than in Australia. Having a capable and competent industry base that enables our nation to maintain a capability and technology edge is vital to the pursuit of our national objectives.

Defence industry policy over the past decade has rarely delivered against its promises. Now is the time to update the policy and then make sure it is implemented.

MEMBERSHIP

The following have been duly elected members of the RUSI-SA in accordance with the Rules of the Institute:

Mr Paul Graham Brown
Ms Amanda Schiller

LUNCHEON ADDRESS

Monday 13 October 2008

Professor Ian Plimer

**Professor of Mining Geology,
University of Adelaide
Emeritus Professor of Earth Sciences,
University of Melbourne**

**Topic: Human-Induced Climate Change: A
Load of Hot Air**

For 80% of time, planet Earth has been a warm wet greenhouse planet. Polar icecaps are rare, plants have only be on Earth for 10% of time and 99.99% of all life that has ever existed is extinct. Grass has been on Earth for 2% of time. Global atmospheric carbon dioxide and methane have been greatly variable. Oxygen has been in the atmosphere for 50% of time, has greatly fluctuated and has increased over time. There have been five major and numerous minor mass extinctions of complex life, extinction opens new environments for colonisation and, because former terrestrial animals have become extinct, we humans now have a habitat. Sea levels have risen and fallen thousands of times by up to 600 metres. Land levels constantly rise and fall and massive rapid climate changes have occurred. These changes are derived from supernovae, solar flaring, sunspots, meteorites, comets, uplift of mountain ranges, pulling apart of oceans, stitching together of land masses, drifting continents, orbital changes, changes in the shape of Earth, ice armadas, changes in ocean currents and volcanoes. There is no evidence that life has changed climates.

Climate change is a constant process on a dynamic planet. Climate change has occurred in cycles driven by tectonic activity (with variable time frames), the path of the Solar System through the galaxy (143 million years), orbital wobbles (100,000; 41,000 and 23,000 years), solar changes (1,500, 210, 87, 22 and 11 years) and tidal changes (18.7 years). Climate changes in geological, archaeological and historical time frames have been far more rapid and greater than slight changes measured in modern times.

Temperature measurements by thermometer show bias, yet those from balloons and satellites show no global warming. Carbon dioxide measurements from a CO₂-emitting volcanic peak in Hawaii, entrapped air in ice cores and measurements of the chemistry of air show no agreement. Indirect measurements (stomata) and direct measurements of air chemistry show that, even over the last 200 years, the CO₂ contents have varied greatly and have been higher than at present during pre-industrial times. The point of reference for pre-industrial CO₂ chosen by the IPCC was the lowest measurement made since 1812. Furthermore, over time the atmospheric CO₂ content has been up to 25 times higher than now. At times, there was a high CO₂ content during glaciation and ice core data shows that an increase in atmospheric CO₂ occurs some 800 years after temperature increases. Carbon dioxide is not a pollutant, it is plant food. On all scales, there is a disconnect between CO₂ and temperature. For example, temperature has been decreasing since 2003 yet CO₂ has continued to increase.

Withdrawal of CO₂ from the atmosphere is by micro-organisms (about which we know very little), soil formation and the oceans. In the oceans, CO₂ is removed by water-rock chemical reactions which keep the oceans alkaline. When the Earth runs out of rocks, then the oceans will become acid. Addition of CO₂ to the atmosphere is from volcanic degassing, most of which is unseen and submarine. Oceans also degas CO₂ as does life. When a mass balance is calculated, some 50% of the CO₂ in the carbon cycle cannot be found. This is probably because of the lack of knowledge of the major CO₂ emitters (deep water submarine volcanoes which heat the oceans) and CO₂ consumers (the world's greatest biomass: bacteria in the first few kilometres of the Earth's crust). It is the first 200 parts per

million of CO₂ in the atmosphere that has a profound effect on temperature. If the current 385 ppm CO₂ was doubled or quadrupled, there would be less than 0.3°C effect on temperature. This is hardly lethal as a house move from Hobart to Darwin involves an average temperature increase of 18°C.

During recent interglacials, temperature and sea level were far higher than at present. For example, 6,000 years ago sea level was two metres higher than at present. In Greenland 1,000 years ago, the population (with its own Bishop) grew barley and had sheep and cattle. It was about 6°C warmer than now. Sea level changes are related to ice melting, water expansion, land rises (e.g. Scotland), land falls (SE England, Holland, Mississippi delta, SE South Australia), wind (e.g. Zuidersee flooding in Holland), El Niño-La Niña, tectonic changes to the ocean floor, opening and closing of seaways (e.g. Panama).

Cosmic radiation strikes the main greenhouse gas in the atmosphere (water vapour) and forms low-level clouds which reflect incoming heat. The planet cools with more low-level clouds. Cosmic radiation leaves a telltale fingerprint which is used to show that that great body of heat in the sky, the Sun, drives climate on Earth and on other planetary bodies in our Solar System. An active Sun blasts away cosmic radiation and variability in solar activity can be correlated with climate. Cosmic radiation input from supernovae also varies. We are about to enter Solar Cycle 24. In August 2008 there were no sunspots and periods without sunspots (e.g. Dalton Minimum, Maunder Minimum) and changes to the sunspot cycle are characterised by cold dry climates. By ignoring the role of the Sun, the main driver of climate is ignored.

The water cycle drives the carbon cycle. The main greenhouse gas in the atmosphere is water vapour. If there was no water vapour, atmospheric temperature would be -18°C and, despite previous rapid climate changes, it is water vapour that has stopped a runaway greenhouse.

The rates of previous climate changes were far greater than anything observed today. Previous climate change took place over decades to centuries, extinctions took place with coolings,

life flourished with warming and humans, plants and animals adapted. Previous great changes were buffered by natural systems and tipping points and runaway greenhouse proposals are unsubstantiated myths.

The major components of the atmosphere have been added by volcanicity and other components are added by life, principally from the organisms that have ruled and continue to rule the world (i.e. bacteria). The lithosphere, biosphere, atmosphere and biosphere are constantly interacting on our dynamic evolving planet. To ignore submarine volcanicity, which adds heat and CO₂ to ocean waters and may drive El Niño, is to ignore 85% of the world's climate changing volcanoes.

Science is married to evidence and bathes in modest uncertainty. The nature of science is scepticism and science encourages argument and dissent. Scientific evidence is derived from reproducible observation, measurement, experiment and calculation. Evidence in geology is interdisciplinary, terrestrial and extra-terrestrial and shows the complex and fascinating intertwining of evolving natural processes on a dynamic planet. Scientists engage in healthy argument about the veracity of evidence. On the basis of evidence, an explanation called a scientific theory is constructed. A scientific theory is the best available explanation of evidence. It may change with new evidence and it must be coherent with the existing body of knowledge. Scientists also argue about scientific theory. Scientific theories are testable and once the scientific theory has been tested over time, it becomes accepted into the body of knowledge. Only one fact can destroy a theory which then must be rejected.

The theory that humans can change climate is not in accord with validated evidence from history, archaeology, geology, physics, astronomy and chemistry and hence is rejected. The word belief is not used in science because belief is untestable. This process has not taken place with the construction of the popular paradigm of human-induced global warming. Furthermore, science is unable to make judgments about what is good or bad. These are judgments which vary with time and are based on contemporary politics, religion, aesthetics and culture.

VALE

We have been notified that four long-standing members have recently passed away.

Condolences are extended to the families and friends of:

Bishop Lionel Edward William Renfrey
SGT Kelvin Richard Wright
MAJ Leonard Murray Opie DCM RFD ED
CAPT Brian Attwill Magarey MBE

May they rest in peace.

LIBRARY

Non-fiction

The following books have been added to the library recently. Reviews are provided by Malcolm Orchard.

"The Other ANZACS, Nurses at War, 1914-1918" by Peter Rees

Profoundly moving, *The Other Anzacs* is a story of extraordinary compassion and courage shown by a group of Australian and New Zealand women whose contribution to the Anzac legend has barely been recognised in our history. They were there for the horrors of Gallipoli and they were there for the savagery of the Western Front. Within twelve hours of the slaughter at Anzac Cove, they had over 500 horrifically injured patients to tend to on one crammed hospital ship, and scores of deaths on each of the harrowing days that followed. Every night was a nightmare. Their strength and humanity were remarkable.

By the end of the Great War, 45 Australian and New Zealand nurses had died on overseas service and over 200 had been decorated. These were women who left for war on an adventure, but were soon confronted with remarkable challenges for which their civilian lives could never have prepared them.

“Song of the Beauforts” by Colin M. King

This book records the exploits of the airmen of the first Australian Beaufort squadron, No. 100 Squadron RAAF, in action in World War II. Developed as a torpedo and general reconnaissance bomber, the Beaufort was the heaviest, most powerful and most complex aircraft ever built in this country. It entered service with the RAAF at a time when Japanese invasion seemed imminent.

As the tide of the war in the SW Pacific turned from one mostly fought over the ocean to a land-based operation, the original squadron was joined by additional Beaufort units to form the RAAF's No 71 Wing. Employing new methods of warfare, the Beaufort crews closely supported American and Australian ground forces.

Using participants' own words to describe events, from the hazards of training to the fury of defensive operations, the author vividly brings to life the bravery of the aviators and the dedication and skill of the ground crews who operated Beauforts during the protracted campaign across the South-West Pacific.

The RAAF Beaufort Squadrons were an integral part of the total Defence of Australia strategy. ‘Song of the Beauforts’ focuses on the first of the ten Australian Beaufort squadrons – No 100 Squadron – but the Air Force of today owes a debt of gratitude to all those brave men and those who supported them. (Air Marshal A G Houston, AO AFC, Chief of Air Force, 2004).

“Vietnam” by Paul Ham.

This is a big book: Big in length with some 814 pages, big in scope in interesting reading and detail. Its dust jacket tells the reader that: *Seen as the last ‘hot frontline of the Cold War, the ten year struggle in the rice paddies and jungles of South Vietnam unleashed the most devastating firepower on the Vietnamese nation and visited terrible harm on civilians and soldiers.*

Yet the Australian forces applied tactics that were very different from those of the Americans. Guided by their commanders' experience of jungle combat, Australian troops operated with stealth, deception and restraint in pursuing a ‘better war’.

Drawing on hundreds of accounts by soldiers, politicians, aid workers, entertainers and the Vietnamese people, Paul Ham reconstructs for the first time the full history of our longest military campaign.

From the commitment to engage, through the fight over conscription and the rise of the anti-war movement, to the tactics and horror of the battlefield, Ham exhumes the truth about this politicians' war – which sealed the fate of 50,000 Australian servicemen and women.

More than 500 soldiers were killed and thousands wounded. Those who made it home returned to a hostile and ignorant country and a reception that scarred them forever.

With its sub-title, *“The Australian Way”*, *“Vietnam”* opens with chapters recalling the history of that country. Thus, part one, *“The Place”*, looks at the country of Vietnam with an historical perspective of some three thousand years: the Chinese occupation; The French occupation; the Ho and the Giap influences; the Red menace; the two Vietnams..... And the coming of the Americans....

Part two opens with COL Francis (“Ted”) Serong going to Vietnam on 6 June 1962.... Part three in turn looks at *“The Australian Province”* and, *“you are hereby called up for National Service....”*

And in its turn, Part eight deals with the *“endings”*..... the fall of Saigon and home comings. Then follow appendices covering the Australian Roll of Honour, the several battalions and their commanders, all Australian units involved in Vietnam (Army, Navy and Air Force) and *“dust off”* procedures, a vast bibliography and websites etc.

Paul Ham, as he did with his previous book on the Kakoda campaign, has written a comprehensively researched history of the Australian involvement in the Vietnam war. It is an excellent, compelling addition to the RUSI-SA's library.

DVD

“Forging the ANZAC Tradition – The Untold story”

This new Australian produced video is the most complete coverage of the events that are missing from Australian history of the ANZACS two and a half years of outstanding service on the Western front in France and Belgium during 1916 to 1918. Nothing like this has been screened previously. The two DVD set covers nine components in three hours. The ANZACS overcame the mud, extreme weather, gas and flamethrower attacks and the hell of many monumental battles in faraway places. In the end, they would create the break-through that had been sought for four long years. These battles would shorten the war by six months and bring glory to those magnificent men who took part.

It is said that the first casualty of war is the truth. This film attempts to regain that lost ground by presenting in an uncompromising manner the facts and detail of the ANZACS involvement in the "Great War" on the Western Front.

For more information visit the website www.forgingtheanzacs.com/

Occasional Paper

“Air Bases: The Foundation of Versatile Air Power” by Dr Sanu Kainikara and Wing Commander Bob Richardson.

The Chief of Air Force Occasional Papers are meant for the discussion and in-depth analysis of air power matters in a more generic manner than purely for the consumption of subject matter experts. These papers will put forward the nuances of strategic military thought around air power with a clear indication of the impact it would have on national security. The intention is to make decision and policy makers who are not experts in air power, as well as the general public, aware of the important air power issues that face any smaller air force.

While the papers will bring out strategically salient points from the point of view of the

RAAF, they will also have broader application for like-minded smaller air forces.

This paper brings out salient points regarding the status of the RAAF's air bases in Australia's strategic posture and the fundamental importance of air bases in joint operations. Air bases are an integral component of the RAAF's ability to generate and apply versatile air power wherever and whenever deemed necessary.

The views expressed in the papers, while being those of the author(s), will be endorsed by the Chief of the Air Force, in that he has accepted the veracity of the analysis, arguments and the conclusions.

Australian Army Study Paper No. 314

“The World Looking Over Their Shoulders – Australian Strategic Corporals on Operations in Somalia and East Timor” by Bob Breen and Greg McCauley.

It is a hazardous business sealing poorly-marked borders after conflict, facing the armed forces of another nation. In 1999, the reactions of Australian Corporals under pressure along the East Timor border had to be carefully calibrated to avoid fighting between Australian and Indonesian forces. This monograph tells stories of some close calls that averted this strategic nightmare.



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