



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

Royal United Services Institute of Australia Inc

Promoting National Security and Defence

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RUSI-SA

Issue No 420

Apr/May 2009

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The mid term National Council Meeting of the RUSI of Australia was held in the Qantas Meeting Rooms at Tullamarine Airport on Wednesday 18 March 2009.

The main item on the agenda was the new website and the proposal to introduce on-line membership. The USI of ACT President, Air Commodore Peter McDermott, who has been working on the detailed implementation plan, gave an outline of the structure that he considered necessary and listed a series of points to be resolved. After considerable discussion it was agreed that the ability to join the RUSI and to pay the subscriptions on-line should be an extension to the normal membership category and not a separate type of membership. Each state organisation would have a membership application form on its section of the national website including fees and conditions and new members would be able to select the most appropriate division. The applicant would be given "temporary membership" to allow access to the "members only" area of the website where the full transcripts of presentations will be available. The fees and details would be forwarded to the nominated division for entry into their membership data base. The updated brief will be sent to the website developer within the next two weeks with a view to being fully operational by mid year.

Other items discussed included the role of the National Secretariat which will involve a much

greater emphasis on website management. It is planned to keep this activity within the current budget allocation.

A report was tabled on the progress of a draft "Defence Estate Assets Procedure" which includes provision for RUSI to be given the status of a "Defence Affiliated Organisation" which is defined as "organisations that have a strong, well-established and mutually beneficial relationship with Defence". This is expected to be approved in the next few weeks and should simplify our dealings with the Defence Support Group.

The National Treasurer tabled reports indicating that increased costs and a reduction in interest from our investments may necessitate a drawdown of \$15000 from our term deposits. A number of initiatives to avoid this were discussed including seeking website sponsorship, reducing the National AGM meeting to one day and deferring part of the payment of the Grant-in-Aid to the states. The Executive will re-examine the situation and recommend alternative courses of action for consideration by the States.

COL David Stoba

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Monday 6 April 2009

Speaker:

Group Captain Christopher Carruthers

**Commander, Aerospace Operational
Support Group**

RAAF Base, Edinburgh

**Topic: Equipping Today's Air Force for
Tomorrow's Challenges**

GPCAPT Carruthers will cover the following areas to inform members on the Air Force of today and tomorrow:

- 1 Current activities of the Air Force
- 2 Operations with the Air Forces of other nations

- 3 Protection of Australia's coastline security
- 4 Activities at RAAF Base Edinburgh
- 5 Future directions for equipping of the RAAF

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 and hear, 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.

SOCIAL CALENDAR 2009

Sunday 17 May BBQ 12noon – at Keswick Barracks, location to be confirmed.

Friday 26 June - Dining In Night at the Naval, Military & Air Force Club.

Sunday 16 August – Winter Carvery, Flagstaff Hill Golf Club *(Please note the change of date)*

Sunday 22 November – The Sundowner

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LUNCHEON ADDRESS

Monday 2 March 2008

Ms Helen Bulis

Regional Director, South Australia
Australian Customs Service

Ms Helen Bulis spoke about the Customs Service and concentrated on their role for managing the security and integrity of Australia's borders.

Customs plays an important role in protecting Australia's borders from the entry of illegal and harmful goods and unauthorised people. It must carry out this role while not impeding the legitimate movement of people and goods across the border.

Customs contributes to the whole-of-government approach to secure Australia from potential terrorist threats. Cargo intervention, passenger screening and first-port boarding rates are at an all-time high. International and inter-agency cooperation continue to play a vital role in protecting our borders. Customs remains focused on intercepting illicit drugs and other items potentially harmful to the community. Customs also contributes to whole-of-government efforts to protect Australia's waters through its part in the Border Protection Command. The Command is a Customs and Defence partnership to ensure that any threat to Australia's maritime assets and coastline can be quickly detected and defeated. Illegal foreign fishing in Australian waters also poses a threat to our borders. Customs is at the front line of Australia's efforts to combat illegal foreign fishing in the northern and southern oceans. Customs is leading the way in the breeding and training of dogs to detect drugs and other prohibited items, including explosives, firearms and precursor chemicals. Customs is committed to continuous improvement in its people, systems and technology to ensure it is well placed to meet emerging challenges, including a constantly changing security and regulatory environment. Customs has a proud history, an increasingly important role in today's security environment, and is ready for the challenges of the future.

The Australian Customs Service manages the security and integrity of the Australian border and assists people and cargo to move in and out of the country. It works with other government agencies, such as the Australian Federal Police, the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and the Department of Defence, to detect and deter the unlawful movement of goods and people across the Australian border.

Customs employs around 5500 people across Australia and overseas. Protecting the Australian community by intercepting illegal goods, such as drugs and weapons, is a high priority and sophisticated techniques are used to target high-risk aircraft, vessels, cargo, postal items and travelers. Customs also plays an increasingly important role in countering terrorism.

Customs role is to manage the security and

integrity of Australia's border, facilitate the movement of legitimate travellers and goods across the border, collect border related duties and taxes. Customs promotes a culture that includes values and characteristics such as: integrity, honesty, accountability, professionalism, fairness, innovation, flexibility, responsiveness, continuous improvement and teamwork. Customs authority stems principally from the Australian Constitution, which provides for the levying of customs duties and for laws concerning trade and commerce. The organisation was established in its present form by the *Customs Administration Act 1985*.

Customs is an agency under the Attorney-General's portfolio and is responsible to the Minister for Justice and Customs.

For more detail please visit the website www.customs.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=4221

KNOW YOUR COUNCILLORS



Judy Berry was recently elected to the Council of the RUSI-SA. She and her late husband, LTCOL Alan Berry, have long been members of the RUSI.

Judy is a Junior Primary school teacher with the SA Education Department and has worked in schools in Adelaide, rural South Australia and in Darwin. She has five children and five grandchildren. Her interests are wide and include athletics, tennis, rowing, sailing, gardening, theatre, travel, food and wine, friends and family.

THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA May 4 – 8, 1942

Brief Background

From 4 May – 8 May 1942, the American and Australian navies fought together in the Battle of the Coral Sea, the first of the Pacific War's six battles between opposing aircraft carrier forces. The Official History of the Royal Australian Navy refers to the Battle of the Coral Sea as "Japan's first check."

The Battle of the Coral Sea was the first sea battle in history, where the opposing navy ships were 100 to 200 miles apart, and aircraft fought the battles

The main Australian involvement in the battle was the allied cruiser force, commanded by Rear-Admiral Jack Crace (the Australian born Royal Navy flag officer commanding the Australian Squadron) comprising HMAS Australia, HMAS Hobart, USS Chicago and three destroyers. This task group was detached from the main carrier group by Admiral Fletcher to intercept and destroy the Port Moresby Invasion fleet that had sailed from Rabaul. Japanese torpedo and high level bombers attacked the cruiser force and although there were no direct hits, the subsequent strafing attacks caused 9 casualties (3 HMAS Australia, 3 HMAS Hobart and 3 USS Chicago). All the Australians recovered but 2 of the American ratings subsequently died

The main US involvement was fighters, dive bombers and torpedo aircraft from the USS Lexington and USS Yorktown which sank one Imperial Japanese aircraft carrier and severely damaged two large fleet aircraft carriers, causing the heavy loss of their experienced aircrews. This prevented their participation in the Battle of Midway the following month (4 Jun- 7 Jun 1942) where four Japanese aircraft carriers were sunk and the allied force lost the USS Yorktown. During the Battle of the Coral Sea, the Japanese severely damaged USS Yorktown and USS Lexington. The latter was bombed and torpedoed, resulting in aviation gas fires and explosions and subsequently had to be abandoned and sunk.

This Battle of the Coral Sea thwarted the Japanese planned invasion of Port Moresby and ended the Japanese expansion southward.

Commemoration

The Australian American Association in South Australia commemorates the Battle of the Coral Sea with a service and a dinner-dance, details of which are as follows:-

- **67th ANNIVERSARY CORAL SEA COMMEMORATION SERVICE**

To be held at the Remembrance Columns in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens
10.30 am **Sunday 3 May 2009.**

- **67th ANNIVERSARY CORAL SEA DINNER**

Henry's Brasserie, Ayers House,
288 North Terrace Adelaide

Guest Speaker:

Commander Craig Pritchard ADC RAN
7.00 pm for 7.30 pm, **Friday 8 May 2009.**

For further information, please phone
0400295853

RESERVE FORCES DAY 2009 – SUNDAY 5 JULY 2009

This year is the 70th Anniversary of the commencement of WWII in which so many Navy, Army and Air Force Reservists served our Nation.

Throughout Australia, parades on Reserve Forces Day will acknowledge the 70 years of Reserve Service to the Nation, both at home and overseas. We hope that many Reservists, past Reservists and their families and employers will be keen to be involved. If you are, or have been involved with a Reserve Unit, or Association and would like to take part in our celebrations, please contact your Unit or Association and let them know that you are interested in participating, or contact the Reserve Forces Day Council – SA.

Looking for 39ers

This year, special recognition will be given to 39ers, i.e. those Reservists who were serving part-time in the Services in 1939, prior to WWII. The Chairman of the Reserve Forces Day Council – SA, Captain Barrie Newman, is looking for 39ers to be involved in this year's activities and has asked that 39ers contact him at PO Box 2183, Kent Town SA 5071 or on his Mobile 0407 792 220

LIBRARY

Non-fiction

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

"The Western Front" by Jonathan King.
Donated by Malcolm Orchard.

Jonathan King is an author who has written 25 books on Australian History, including three on Gallipoli. With many ancestors having served on the Western Front, he has traversed those battlefields for the last 25 years and has led tours through France and Flanders. A passionate historian, he campaigned for years until the government agreed – as a 90th anniversary gesture – to add an ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Villers-Bretonneux every year.

This book was written to commemorate the 90th anniversary of Allied victory on the Western Front and sheds much light on this important WWI theatre of battle.

"The Winter War- the Falklands" by Patrick Bishop and John Witherow.

Donated by Michael Gorroick

According to the authors of *The Winter War*, the Falklands campaign had many of the characteristics of a 19th century military encounter. It was in essence an old-fashioned punitive expedition and the cause of the dispute concerned territory, not ideology. It was a short war with a beginning, a middle and an end.

Apart from the missiles, modern technology played a minor part and the basic weapons would have been familiar to any veteran of WWII. It was a clean war. Both sides abided by the rules and if there were any atrocities, they have not yet come to light. Most of all it was, unusually for the 20th century, a remarkably two sided war. Both sides had to rely, fundamentally, on their own soldiery and stocks of weapons without any decisive military assistance from and outside power.

"43 Days: The Gulf War" by Ian Bickerton and Michael Pearson.

Donated by Michael Gorroick.

It was the war that should never have happened. Despite warnings, diplomacy and pleading, Saddam Hussein's army invaded Kuwait and refused to leave. The result was a brief furious war that pitted the US and its allies against the small but belligerent forces of Iraq. It was a war fought with amazing technology; it was the world's first 'live' television war; it was described as a copy-book military campaign by the allies.

Fiction

"One Last Kill" by Barry Eisler

"Seven Ancient Wonders" by Matthew Reilly

"The Secret Servant" by Daniel Silva

"Spiral" by Joseph Geary

"Force Protection" by Gordon Kent

"The Rhinemann Exchange" by Robert Ludlum

These six books were donated by AIRCDRE L.R.Klaffer.

"Blue Man Falling" by Frank Barnard.

Vale

Colonel Guy Fawcett OBE

Colonel Guy Henry Fawcett OBE died on Sunday, 22 February, 2009 at the age of 97. He was a revered long-term member of the Royal United Services Institute of South Australia, was President for two periods between 1962 and 1967 and was made a life member in 1992.

Colonel Fawcett was born in Queensland and joined the regular Australian army in 1911. He was posted to the newly-formed 2/27th Battalion in 1940 and commanded the unit's Bren Gun Carrier section against the Vichy French in Syria in 1941. In 1943, the then Captain Fawcett led D Company of South Australia's 2/27th Battalion into the ranges above the Ramu River in the Shaggy Ridge area of New Guinea to attack posts held by Japanese troops. The outpost was subsequently named Guy's Post in his honour. Colonel Fawcett's band of about 100 men was at the spearhead of the Australian 7th Division's successful advance to New Guinea's northern shores.

Post WWII, Colonel Fawcett served in 1 RAR in Korea, was the Commanding Officer of 16 National Service Training Battalion and Commandant of the Infantry Centre.

For many years, Colonel Fawcett was the Bursar of Pembroke school. Most of all, for those who knew him, he was an absolute gentleman.

The President and Council extend their condolences to Colonel Fawcett's family and friends.

RIP