



NEWSLETTER

Promoting National Security and Defence

RUSI of SA

Building 160, Keswick Barracks
 Keswick, SA 5035
 Tel/Fax: +61 (8) 8305 6378
 Email: rusikes@bigpond.com

Office Hours:

Monday and Friday
 10.00am to 4.00pm

Patron

His Excellency,
 RADM Kevin Scarce AC, CSC,
 RANR
 Governor of South Australia

Council Members 2011/12

President:

BRIG T. Hanna AM ADC

Vice Presidents:

COL C. Burns CSC

Dr J. Bruni

Past President:

COL D. Stoba RFD ED (Retd)

Councillors:

Mr M.J. Gorroick

CAPT M. Orchard RFD ED (Retd)

WGCDR M. Ryan (Retd)

Hon Treasurer:

COL L. Thompson AM RFD ED

(Retd)

Representing:

RAN

CMDR A. Williams ADC RAN

Army

COL M. Burgess

RAAF

WGCDR B. Tonkin

Hon Auditor:

Mrs L. Larkin

Chartered Accountant

Librarian/Hon Editor

CAPT M. Orchard RFD ED (Retd)

Secretary/Public Officer

Ms E. Atkinson

The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of RUSI of SA.

August/September 2012

Issue No. **440**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

With the focus on ADF operations in many parts of the world, we tend to forget about the ongoing need for training. Exercise RIM-OF-THE-PACIFIC 2012 (RIMPAC 2012) is a major United States Commander Third Fleet (C3F) sponsored, planned and executed biennial combined exercise involving forces from 22 countries including Australia, Canada, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand, Tonga, UK and USA. For the first time Russia, will take part.

Two Royal Australian Navy war ships, HMAS DARWIN and HMAS PERTH, submarine HMAS FARNCOMB, an Australian Clearance Diving Team, two Royal Australian Air Force AP-3C Orions plus approximately 150 Townsville-based soldiers are participating in RIMPAC 2012. The Commander of Australia's 1,100 strong contingent at RIMPAC 2012, Commodore Stuart Mayer, recently visited members of A Coy, 1 RAR during a live-fire range practice at the Marine Corps Base – Hawaii in Kaneohe Bay.

Commodore Mayer stated *"This exercise is all about learning from each other and there is so much we can learn from the US Marines from an amphibious perspective."*

"The first of our amphibious ships [LHDs] is only two years away so exercises such as RIMPAC are vital for all of us as we prepare for our future." Commodore Mayer said.

In the coming four weeks, A Coy soldiers will be conducting lead up training that will culminate in an amphibious assault in US Marine Corps Amphibious Assault Vehicles from the giant American Amphibious ship USS ESSEX.

Australia is acquiring two amphibious ships for the ADF. The LHDs are the largest ships ever built for the RAN and will provide the ADF with one of the most capable and sophisticated amphibious deployment systems in the world. The [Canberra Class](#) LHDs are bigger than Australia's last aircraft carrier [HMAS MELBOURNE](#), and when completed, will be more than 230 metres long, 27.5 metres high and weigh around 27,500 tonnes. Each ship can carry a combined armed battle group of more than 1,100 personnel, 100 armoured vehicles and 12 helicopters and features a 40-bed hospital.

Spanish shipbuilder Navantia, as a subcontractor to BAE Systems Australia, has constructed and is fitting out the hulls of both amphibious ships. The superstructure, combat and communications systems will be consolidated with the hulls in Australia at the BAE Systems shipyard in Williamstown, Victoria.

The arrival of the first amphibious ship hull at BAE's Williamstown dockyard is expected later this year. When the hull arrives in Melbourne the complex task of marrying the superstructure, hull, combat system and communications system can commence, in preparation for delivery of the first ship to the ADF in 2014.

In concluding my report, I ponder what the world will look like over the next decade.

Whilst the Australian Government has flagged the withdrawal of ADF personnel from most overseas theatres, we need to be mindful that the world changes quickly. Recent events in North Africa and now in Syria, highlight to us that there are many competing interests in the world. They are not all well-meaning. Australia cannot afford to lose focus and become complacent in matters of defence and security.

Australia will continue to need to commit uniformed men and women to situations that arise, whether they be warlike, peacekeeping or humanitarian in nature. We were all saddened to learn of the death of Sergeant Blaine Diddams. The Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) soldier, killed in Afghanistan on 2 July 2012, has returned home to his family and mates at a solemn and moving ceremony held at RAAF Base Pearce, Western Australia.

Forty-year-old Sergeant Diddams was shot during an engagement with insurgents on 2 July, while on a partnered mission targeting an insurgent commander in the Chorah region of Uruzgan province.

Soldiers from the SASR formed an honour guard and bearer party to escort Sergeant Diddams' casket from the RAAF aircraft to his grieving family. Special Operations Commander Australia, Major General 'Gus' Gilmore paid tribute to a distinguished member of the special forces community.

"The scale of our loss of Sergeant Diddams is perhaps only surpassed by our recognition of his contribution to Australia over so many years in so many places and at such a consistently high standard" Major General Gilmore said. I can only echo these sentiments.

Having completed my three year tenure as President, this will be my last report in that role. I think we have made solid progress since I assumed the role but much more needs to be done to ensure the ongoing viability of RUSI in this state. Our means of communication and the information we provide is now much more diverse than it was previously. Whilst we have provided many excellent speakers for our lunchtime public lectures, our membership numbers continue to slowly decline. We have improved our financial base but new events which reach out to prospective members are required. Time and resources are the only limiting factors in this regard but are difficult to acquire in a busy world. Council members have worked hard to achieve RUSI's mission. However, we must adapt to changing circumstances.

I will continue to support the Council, attend lunches and promote RUSI whenever I can. I would like to thank all those I have worked with at RUSI-SA and wish them and the new President all the best during their time in this great organisation.

Tim Hanna
President

SOCIAL FUNCTION

The annual *WINTER CARVERY*

DATE/TIME: Sunday, 26 August 2012

LOCATION: Feathers Hotel, 516 Glynburn Road, Burnside at 12.00 noon

DRESS: Neat Casual. Members may invite their friends

Bookings WITH PAYMENT of \$40 per person must be made to the Secretary by no later than 4.00 pm Monday, 13 August 2012 please, (at the request of the Hotel)

Monthly Luncheons

Monday 6 August 2012

Speaker: Professor Sandy McFarlane,
Head Centre for Military and Veterans'
Health at the University of Adelaide

Topic: **Dealing with Mental Health in
the ADF**

Monday 3 September
(Including the AGM)

Speaker: LTCOL Doug Langrehr
Deputy Commander 1st Brigade

Topic: **Current United Nations
Operations in East Africa**

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!

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 \$25 for members and university students and \$30 for non-members. 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. 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.

Cancellations must be advised to the RUSI-SA Office by midday of the Friday before the lunch. Subsequent cancellations will attract a fee of \$25.

BRIGADIER TIM HANNA



Brigadier Tim Hanna is approaching the end of his three year tenure as President of the South Australian Branch of the RUSI.

Despite an aging and reducing membership base, Brigadier Hanna has managed the Branch in a dedicated and professional manner, maintaining an effective programme of luncheon speakers, Current Information Briefings and social functions. Under his guidance, relationships with a range of Defence related commercial organisations have been strengthened, the Newsletter has been significantly improved in appearance and structure and a significant proportion is now distributed to members electronically.

Brigadier Hanna has been appointed to the position of President of the South Australian Branch of the RSL. We thank him for the service he has given to RUSI-SA and wish him well for the future.

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting of RUSI-SA Inc is planned for Monday, 3 September 2012.

At the meeting, elections will be held for members of RUSI-SA Council for 2012/13. In accordance with the Constitution, nominations for Council are to be submitted at least 21 days before the meeting. Consequently, any nominations for Council should be submitted to the RUSI-SA office by Friday, 17 August 2012.

Nomination forms are available from the Secretary.

NEW MEMBERS

Two new members are welcomed to the RUSI of SA

FLTLT David Hirst
COL Paul Mulraney

On 4 June 2012, Colonel Andrew Lockhart McLachlan CSC gave the Institute a presentation on his experiences in Afghanistan. Andrew leads, and is responsible for managing, all the Army Reserve lawyers in Australia. Last year he was tasked by the Chief of Defence Force to join an inquiry team in Afghanistan.



Andrew took us through what it was like being a Reservist and being dispatched to an area of operations in the matter of weeks. Having overcome a mountain of administrative hurdles, he made it to Tarin Kowt and commenced his tasking. The inquiry required him to live at a forward operating base as well as visit Kandahar. This provided him with the opportunity to live and work amongst our young soldiers.

We valued the insights he was able to share with us of his experiences as well as his reflections on the conflict. While Andrew describes himself as the "ultimate battlefield tourist", we acknowledge the important work he performed under difficult and at times, dangerous conditions.



DSTO conducts research aimed at providing the Australian Defence Force with a capability edge.

Defence Science Australia is DSTO's flagship publication featuring the latest projects and research. Produced quarterly, it is up to date with the latest in Defence science.

The June 2012 issue of *Defence Science Australia* is available online in both [pdf](#) and convenient [3D flipbook](#) format.

Articles include:

- Vital assurance gained about aircraft defence systems
- Turbulence studies for smoother Navy air operations
- Organisation-friendly use of social media
- Better through-wall vision with radar
- Applying heat treatment to piracy problem
- Fine-tuning frontline soldier sustenance, and
- New rubber coating erases periscopes from enemy radar

Vale

It is with regret that the recent death of

FLTLT RJ Dorsett was announced.

The President and members of Council extend their condolences to his family and friends.

LUNCH TIME SPEAKER - JULY

RSL

On Monday 2 July 2012, it was a privilege for the luncheon attendees to hear a presentation by Ms Heather Dodd on the subject of Nursing on Military Operations.



Heather gave a vivid and insightful description of her recent experiences in Afghanistan. She provided a comparison of nursing under operational conditions with those in our public hospitals.



This 77 mm field gun is situated near the RSL Memorial Gardens in Mount Gambier.

It is a Krupp Feld Kanone Model FX16, dated 1917 and was captured during WWI at Warfusee, Abancourt by 27th Battalion AIF in August 1918.

It was restored by the Mount Gambier Veteran and Vintage Car Club.

RUSI UK

The RUSI has produced an analysis of some Olympic Games security issues based on historical Olympic Games events.

The analysis concludes that what happens on and off the field is shaped by political considerations. To read the article in full, visit www.rusi.org/analysis/commentary/ref:C5011528B82328/



SINKING OF THE MONTEVIDEO MARU

Hours after the Japanese invasion of Rabaul in World War II, hundreds of Australian servicemen and other civilians became prisoners of the Japanese. Many of these prisoners were doomed when they were put aboard the Japanese ship, Montevideo Maru, to be sent to Japan.

On 1 July 1942 the ship was torpedoed by a US submarine with the loss of 1,186 lives. On 1 July 2012, the 70th anniversary of the sinking, the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra was dedicated.

For more information and to read the dedication Commemorative Address given by the Governor-General, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO, go to www.awm.gov.au/events/talks/rabaul-and-montevideo-maru-memorial-address-2012/

RIMPAC

The Royal Australian Navy's (RAN) Collins Class submarine HMAS Farncomb has successfully sunk a target ship, the 12,106-tonne former USNS (United States Navy Ship) Kilauea in Hawaii.

Farncomb, an RAN Collins Class submarine, fired one Mark 48 Torpedo and achieved a hit just below the bridge of the ship as part of a sinking exercise, or "SINKEX," at Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2012.

The former USNS Kilauea broke into two parts and sank about 40 minutes later.

The submarine's Commanding Officer, Commander Glen Miles, said the firing is a significant milestone for both himself and his 60-strong crew.

"This is the result of professionalism and teamwork," Commander Miles said.

"Those of us who drive these boats know that the Collins' weapons systems are among the most capable in the world."

Australia is among 22 nations attending Exercise RIMPAC that includes six submarines and 40 surface ships participating in a realistic maritime warfare scenario.

Australian soldiers from 1 RAR are also participating in the amphibious aspect of the exercise, alongside US Marines. RAAF AP-3C Orions and a Wedgetail aircraft are also providing air support.

Australia's contingent commander, Commodore Stuart Mayer, said RIMPAC provided the ADF with a

realistic, high tech and challenging training opportunity.

"HMAS Farncomb's success reminds us yet again of the invaluable role submarines play in modern warfare," Commodore Mayer said.

"RIMPAC allows us to train with our allies for a worst case scenario in a real life environment."

The world's largest international maritime exercise, RIMPAC, provides a unique training opportunity helping participants foster and sustain the cooperative relationships that are critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's oceans.

RIMPAC 2012 will conclude on 3 August 2012.



This article was provided by the Defence Media Centre. More imagery is available by following this link: <http://images.defence.gov.au/12130269>

OCTOBER LUNCHEON

The October luncheon will be held on Sunday, 7 October 2012 and will be a combined function with the South Australian Mounted Rifles Association.

The speakers will be a SAMR representative and a current serving officer. Their topic will be a comparison of the Battle of Beersheba with current mounted infantry operations.

The real name of the German WWI fighter pilot known as "The Red Baron" was Manfred von Richthofen.

He was shot down and killed in 1918 at the age of 25 after he had been officially accredited with 80 combat victories, more than any other pilot.

For details go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manfred_von_Richthofen