



Royal United Services Institute of Western Australia

Newsletter

February 2013 Edition

Promoting National Security and Defence

Patron: His Excellency Mr Malcolm McCusker AC, CVO, QC
Governor of Western Australia
President: Colonel Mike Brennan
Secretary: Commander Otto Pelczar, RFD, RD, RANR (ret)
RUSI of WA, Leeuwin Barracks, Riverside Road, East Fremantle
Postal Address: C/- Department of Defence, Locked Bag 5001,
Fremantle, WA, 6160

In this Newsletter

FEBRUARY LECTURE – 28 FEBRUARY

“Beyond Intervention in East Timor: Partnership, Opportunism or Pragmatism?”
by Associate Professor Caroline Hughes

LUNCHEON SERIES – 12 FEBRUARY

“ADF Operations in East Timor 1999-2012: Mission Accomplished?”

EAST TIMOR – BRIEF BACKGROUND

BIOGRAPHY – ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR CAROLINE HUGHES

YOUR PATRONS, OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE

Subscriptions are due on 1 July annually

Town - \$40, Country - \$20, Associate - \$10, Student \$10

Your subscription, and other charges can be electronically transferred to the RUSI.

BSB 803-205, Account No 20531718, and include your surname

2013 PROGRAM

FEBRUARY

**12 February
12 Noon**

**Lunchtime Presentation by Colonel Mike Brennan on:
“ADF Operations in East Timor 1999-2012: Mission
Accomplished?”**

**28 February
7 for 7:30**

**Evening Presentation by Associate Professor Caroline
Hughes on: “Beyond Intervention in East Timor:
Partnership, Opportunism or Pragmatism?”**

MARCH

The program for March and subsequent months will feature in the March Newsletter

The next Newsletter will be published on 1 March 2013

Copy Deadline 15 February 2013

EAST TIMOR – TIMOR L'ESTE – BRIEF BACKGROUND

Australian Prime Minister Gough Whitlam told Indonesia that his government would not oppose an annexation of East Timor in 1975, a decision that quickly proved controversial at home. In October 1975, Indonesian troops poured across East Timor's border with Indonesian West Timor at the town of Balibo. Among those killed by the advancing Indonesian troops were five Australia-based journalists, who came to be known as the Balibo Five. Many in Australia and elsewhere [were convinced that the murder of the unarmed reporters was intentional. The incident placed East Timor at the top of Australia's international diplomacy agenda and Australia's involvement with East Timor has deepened since independence, especially after the internal conflict in 2006 and the sending of Australian peacekeepers.

The Portuguese colony of East Timor was invaded by Indonesia in 1975. After almost a quarter-century of bloodshed in the territory, a new Indonesian government under President Habibie agreed to allow the East Timorese to vote on their future. A UN operation - the United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) - was established to organize and conduct the vote, which was held at the end of August 1999 and resulted in an overwhelming vote in favour of independence. Tragically, once the result had been announced, pro-Indonesian militias, sometimes with the support of elements of the Indonesian security forces, launched a campaign of violence, looting and arson throughout the entire territory. Many East Timorese were killed, and as many as 500,000 were displaced from their homes, about half leaving the territory, in some cases under threat of violence.

Eventually, as the violence remained uncontrolled, Indonesia agreed to the deployment of a multinational peacekeeping force. Australia, which had contributed police to UNAMET, organized and led the International Force for East Timor (Interfet), a non-UN force operating in accordance with UN resolutions. Interfet, with the role of restoring peace and security, protecting and supporting UNAMET, and facilitating humanitarian assistance operations, began arriving on 12 September 1999. Australia contributed over 5,500 personnel and the force commander, Major General Peter Cosgrove.

With the withdrawal of the Indonesian armed forces, police and administrative officials from East Timor, UNAMET re-established its headquarters in Dili on 28 September. On 19 October 1999, Indonesia formally recognised the result of the referendum. Shortly thereafter, the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) was established as an integrated, multi-dimensional peacekeeping operation, fully responsible for the administration of East Timor during its transition to independence. The hand-over of command of military operations from Interfet to UNTAET was completed on 28 February 2000. As the situation stabilized. UN numbers were gradually drawn down by 2005.

As a result of the escalating internal violence in 2006, the government of Timor-Leste was forced to appeal for international peacekeepers on 25 May. Peacekeepers of the International Stabilisation Force (ISF) began to arrive in Dili the next day and eventually restored order. The ISF operated at the invitation of the Government of East Timor, and in support of the United Nations to maintain stability and provide a secure environment for the ongoing development of East Timor.

The Australian-led International Stabilisation Force (ISF) ceased security operations on 22 November 2012 and commenced withdrawal from East Timor. The repatriation of equipment, closing bases, and returning property and buildings to the Timor-Leste government is expected to be completed in April 2013. Australia's defence and police engagement will continue through the Defence Co-operation Program and Australian Federal Police support for the tiny nation's police forces.

[Return to Page One](#)

Biography – Associate Professor Caroline Hughes



Caroline Hughes is Director of the Asia Research Centre and Associate Professor of Governance Studies in the School of Social Sciences and Humanities at Murdoch University. She is a graduate in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from the University of Oxford and she obtained her MA and PhD as an ESRC Scholar at the Centre for South East Asian Studies, University of Hull, in the UK.

She held two post-doctoral fellowships, first as a Leverhulme Trust Study Abroad Fellow at the Royal University of Phnom Penh in Cambodia, and then at the University of Nottingham in the UK. Caroline subsequently held teaching and research appointments at Nottingham and Birmingham Universities in the UK, most recently as Senior Lecturer in International Relations and Asian Studies in the Department of Political Science and International Studies, at the University of Birmingham.

She has also held visiting fellowships at the ANU's Centre for Humanities Research and at Melbourne University's Institute for Asian Languages and Societies. She is currently an external research advisor to the Governance Team at the Cambodia Development Resource Institute in Phnom Penh.

Caroline's research interests focus on two related questions: the politics of post-colonial state-building in South East Asia; and the politics of post-conflict reconstruction and international aid policy. In pursuit of these interests, she has conducted a number of studies on the ways in which international aid politics and policy prescriptions relating to human rights, democracy promotion and 'good governance' have affected indigenous processes of state-building and construction of state-society relations. To date her field research on these questions has been focused on two post-conflict countries in South East Asia: Cambodia and Timor-Leste.

[Return to Page One](#)

YOUR PATRONS, OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE

Secretary:

Commander Otto Pelczar

Phone: (08) 9311 2429

Fax: (08) 9311 2460

e-mail: otto.pelczar@defence.gov.au

Office and Library Hours:

9.30 am to 4.00 pm

Tuesday and Thursday

Mobile/sms: 0408 940 928

Patron: His Excellency Mr Malcolm McCusker AC, CVO, QC
Governor of Western Australia

Vice Patrons: Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan, APM
Wing Commander David Turner
Brigadier Stephen Coggin, CSC
Captain Brett Wolski, RAN

President: Colonel Mike Brennan

Immediate Past President: Mr Don Kitchin

Vice Presidents: Mr Lance Scott; Captain Kevin Trent, OAM, RFD; Colonel Robert Mitchell CD

Councillors: Ms Louise Austen; Flight Lieutenant Gavin Briggs; Mr Justin Court; Ms Judith Dowson; Squadron Leader Mr Lou Halvorson; Flight Lieutenant Bill Lamble; Mr Ernest McEntee; Mr Serge de Silva-Ranasinghe

Honorary Treasurer: Commander Otto Pelczar, RFD, RD, MBA, CD

Honorary Auditor: Colonel Rodney Willox, AM, RFD, ED, JP

Honorary Librarian: Flight Lieutenant Bill Lamble, RFD, BA, MCLIT, AALIA

Assistant Librarian: Mr Ernest McEntee

Assistant Secretary: Ms Louise Austen

Newsletter Editor: Colonel Robert Mitchell

Life Members: Air Commodore Desmond Browne, CBE, AFC*
Air Commodore Norman Ashworth
Colonel Phillip Skelton, AM

Stay informed. Visit the RUSI web site: <https://www.rusi.org.au/index.php>

[Return to Page One](#)