



Royal United Service Institute Queensland Incorporated

Promoting Australia's National Security & Defence

A Constituent Body of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia

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Dear Members,

EXECUTIVE DISPATCH 4/18

The Executive Committee's (EC) out-of-session work has continued behind the scenes. Since the last Executive Dispatch, the EC has been focused on further development of the 2019 Seminar, and preparing the Institute for stronger performance next year. The key issues to report are as follows:

- It was decided to postpone the 2019 Seminar to 5 July (from 24 May). This decision was made to avoid any disruption caused by the likely Federal election in May. Also, the EC is expecting RUSI National to provide a more certain funding arrangement for the seminar in FY 19/20.
- The EC reaffirmed the importance of proper financial management controls and expenditures.
- The EC considered the Institute's public liabilities, especially in relation to safety considerations involving the use of RUSI Hall, and will liaise with the Victoria Barracks Base Security Manager accordingly.
- The EC endorsed the value of Special Interest Groups as sub-elements of the Institute. Rules for their establishment, management and administration will be promulgated to ensure their effective functioning.
- The need for a Membership Drive was agreed and various options to increase interest and participation were discussed. These options will be explained in due course as they are refined and developed, but everyone can assist by encouraging others to join RUSI QLD. We should aim to double our membership in 2019 and broaden our demographic profile to be more representative of the community.
- The 2019 Monthly Lecture Program was discussed in detail. The first lecture next year (20 Feb) will be by Major General (Ret) Maurie McNarn. Major General McNarn is a former Director of the Defence Intelligence Organisation and he will address the role of intelligence in a rapidly changing regional security environment. It is certain to be an insightful, contemporary and interesting presentation and discussion.
- Further on the topic of the Lecture Program, it was agreed-in-principle to fund presenters from interstate in recognition of the difficulty of availability of local commentators and presenters.

Other speakers who have indicated agreement to present to us in 2019 include Lieutenant General Mark Evans, Commander 1st Division, Commander 7 Brigade, HE Major General Mike Jeffery, the QLD Government Defence Advocates, and major Defence industry representatives. We will also seek presentations from Associate Professor Bob Breen, Lieutenant General (Ret) Peter Leahy, Professor John Blaxland, and Indo-Pacific Defence Attaches. Any other suggestions will be most welcome.

Thank you for your ongoing contributions to RUSIQ in the interests of defence and national security.

Peter Mapp
President