



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 2/19

This Executive Dispatch provides an update on the 2019 RUSIQ Lecture program. While it is still a work in progress, the Executive Committee (EC) sees merit in providing advance notice to members on some key speakers and dates.

- Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial, has agreed to present to RUSIQ on 21 August at RUSI Hall, Victoria Barracks Brisbane. We have had early discussions on an appropriate topic. Noting that Dr Nelson will necessarily avoid commentary on government policy, and therefore will remain mostly in the historical context, the EC suggested the following for his consideration:

“...While Australia's experiences in the World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, and the more recent peacekeeping operations are worthy of review, we think it would be valuable to examine the recent experiences of Australia's contributions to the war efforts in the Middle East theatres. Drawing parallels and highlighting the differences of these experiences with previous veteran experiences would be insightful, especially how we have improved the recognition of the contributions of our troops. Without pushing you into the political context of these efforts, you may wish to review the national security imperatives of the day that led us to commit troops to these various endeavours, and what changed in Australia's strategic calculus along the way. Finally, you may wish to reinforce the value of the AWM's role in constantly reminding Australians -- and Parliament -- of the costs of war...”

- Dr Nelson also agreed to attend a dinner in his honour (either on 20 or 21 August) and speak to the assembled guests. For this to proceed, RUSIQ would need to have determined attendee numbers well in advance of the dinner. The venue is to be decided but to cover our expenses the dinner is expected to cost between \$75 to \$125 per head. Drinks would be additional based on consumption. We would extend invitations beyond RUSIQ membership in order to ensure an appropriate turnout for a speaker of Dr Nelson's calibre. These are early indications only and more work is needed to finalise the details. It would assist the EC in developing this option if members could indicate their interest in attending the dinner. Doing so would not be regarded as a commitment at this stage.

- The EC has invited, but is yet to confirm, the following speakers:
 - LTGEN (Retd) Mark Evans
 - BRIG Susan Coyle, Commander 6 Bde
 - Ms Jacqueline Boresboom, Assistant Secretary, National Naval Shipbuilding Office
 - SCOL Wang Jingguo, Chinese Defence Attaché
 - BRIG (Retd) Rod West, Rheinmetall
 - Professor Michael Evans, Defence Department
 - Professor John Blaxland, ANU

- Other speakers we intend to invite include the Commanders of 1st Division and RAAF Base Amberley. The EC has a meeting with Associate Professor Bob Breen scheduled for late January at which we will canvass his interest in supporting us.

- The EC is also examining the viability of special events such as an ‘evening with’ format for certain speakers. This format would be less formal than a dinner and be representative of a more informal ‘fireside chat’. The variations on this theme include breakfast or afternoon teas.

Your input is the key to success for the RUSIQ Lecture series and other initiatives. Please make your views and preferences known to the EC (Vice President Operations) so we can tailor a program of events that meets your needs.

The EC will keep you posted on developments.

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

Peter Mapp
President