



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 4/19

This Executive Dispatch provides an update from the Executive Committee Meeting held on 8 May 2019 at Victoria Barracks. Further to its determination in March (see ED 3/19) the EC considered RUSIQ was reaching a critical point in its development. While positive progress had been made on some fronts, there remains an urgent need to increase our membership base. The EC is still seeking support from the membership which to date has not been forthcoming.

Information and decisions on critical issues addressed by the EC are summarised below.

- **Blaxland Lecture and Dinner**

- Our April lecture by Professor John Blaxland was reported as very informative and a welcome addition to the program. Professor Blaxland gave a masterclass in strategic thinking which engaged and informed the audience. Despite some administrative missteps with setting up the Hall for his presentation, his lecture was a great success. He reprised his performance at a wonderful dinner at the Tattersalls Club which proved to be a very good value for money activity for members and guests. The opportunity to hear Professor Blaxland in either venue for the cost RUSI Queensland levies is one of the key advantages of membership. We should all be 'selling' this value to prospective new members in order to help the Institute's long term sustainability. The same value is inherent in forthcoming events. Spread the word folks.

- **RUSIQ Strategic Plan and Value Proposition**

- These documents have been out for comment for some time (available to all members on the website). The EC has received no comment from members so we have adopted them unchanged. RUSI Queensland business will be geared around the planning cycle and objectives in the Strategic Plan.

- **The Lecture Program**

- Our Lecture Program has been the mainstay of the Institute for many years and will remain so. Much effort has been expended developing this year's program and we have

agreement to participate from an impressive line-up of speakers See <https://www.rusi.org.au/events>.

- Other institutions have already indicated interest in attending these lectures, which is good news. However, we need to convert this interest into membership of RUSIQ.
- Again, building on the backbone of our monthly lectures, we will continue to arrange Special Events, evening lectures, and small group sessions with high level interlocutors. These will take time to develop, but we are already moving in this direction.
- ***It is important to acknowledge the EC has listened to the membership's feedback and responded accordingly.***

- **Victoria Barracks Security**

- New security arrangements at the Barracks will affect how we access and use RUSI Hall. These measures are a Defence requirement and we must conform to them.
- Members should be aware that registration for events at Victoria Barracks must now be completed by COB on the day prior to the event. This is because the EC needs to advise Victoria Barracks Security Staff of who is attending. Entry will not be granted if you are not on the list.
- Vehicle parking will be available as usual, but spaces may not always be guaranteed.
- All keys to RUSI Hall must be surrendered to the Security Staff and signed out and in each time we access RUSI Hall. No exceptions.
- All DCAC pass holders must ensure their passes are valid.

- **National Website**

- As previously reported in ED 3/19, the EC decided to reinforce the successes of the National website. Please consult the website regularly to keep up-to-date with what is going on in your Institute.
- It is becoming increasingly important as we move to more automated systems that you register and pay for events via the website. This is not difficult and members should consider their use of the website assists the EC to administer the events. Manual methods are burdensome for the EC.

- **Annual Fee Structure**

- A reminder that the annual subscription fee will increase to \$45 from 1 July 2019. While any increase is always met with chagrin, members should consider the value of membership as described above.

- **Seminar Update**

- Planning is off track somewhat for the seminar on 5 July 2019. The main issue is we only have 15 registrations at this stage and our target is 200. Of the 15 so far, 10 are RUSI Queensland members. Well done to those folks. **However, it's time now for the wider membership to lend its support by attending this key event in the annual program.** The fee, again, is a very good value for money proposition when you

consider who is presenting. Members should consider attendance as supporting the viability of the Institute and a way of contributing to its sustainability.

- Key details are:
 - Location – Tattersalls Club, Brisbane. The EC has negotiated a competitive rate for this venue.
 - Cost – \$99 for RUSIQ Members, ADF, and Students. \$119 for others. This cost includes admission, buffet-style lunch, refreshments, tea and coffee.
 - Confirmed speakers – LTGEN Prof Peter Leahy (UC), Mr Peter Jennings (ASPI), Prof Tim Lindsey (UM), Dr Greta Nabs-Keller (UQ), Prof Cordia Chu (Griffith) and Ibu Shafia Muhibat (CSIS Jakarta).
 - We will conduct a seminar dinner to welcome the speakers on 4 July 19.

- **Financial Position**

- RUSIQ is solvent and the accounts are managed well. The latest financial report is available for review.
- However, we need to seek sponsorship to be sustainable over the long term.
- Subscription fee increases alone will not sustain the Institute.

The EC will keep you posted on further developments.

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

Peter Mapp
President