



Royal United Services Institute of Western Australia

Newsletter

July 2014 Edition

Promoting National Security and Defence

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

President: Colonel Mike Brennan Secretary: Ms Louise Austen

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YOUR PATRONS, OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE

2014 PROGRAM

JULY	
Friday 25 July	WWI History Conference – Last Opportunity to Register http://humanities.curtin.edu.au/schools/MCCA/international_studies/great_war.cfm >.
AUGUST	
Thursday 28 August 7:00 PM	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Followed by a Lecture by Serge DeSilva entitled “ Axis and Allies: World War II in the Indian Ocean Region ”
SEPTEMBER	
Thursday 25 September 7:00 pm	To be advised
The next Newsletter will be published on 1 August 2014 Copy Deadline 26 July 2014	

**Lecture Report - Australia a Southern Hemisphere Power?
delivered by Professor Benjamin Reilly**

Professor Benjamin Reilly presented his paper “Australia as a Southern Hemisphere Power” to the RUSI WA members late last month at the June meeting..

Reilly invited members to look beyond the regionalism of Australia and traditional orientation to the north in the Asia-Pacific region ... and to focus on the Southern Hemisphere. He believes Australia’s increasing role within the geographically defined “Global South,” which includes states in South America, Africa, Indonesia, Southwest Pacific Islands and Antarctica, demonstrates a shift in emphasis of foreign policy and the application of “Soft Power”. Whilst Reilly does not suggest a “downfall” of Australia’s relations with the North and the Indo-Pacific region, he argues that those relations reflect the classic application of Hard Power resources, such as economic and military forces like the US – led military coalitions.

In contrast, Soft Power, as defined by Joseph Nye, is ... *the ability of State’s to get what they want through attraction rather than coercion* (2013, 4). The “attractiveness” of a state includes its culture, political ideals and policies. It also includes factors such as; foreign aid, science and technology, education and sports, which according to Reilly are becoming significant tools of international influence (2013, 4). Reilly also argues a need for greater emphasis of Australia as a Southern Hemisphere power because our interests within the region are enduring. Shared oceans and environments of the hemisphere effect all states and are unchanging.

An interesting omission from Professor Reilly’s presentation and paper was a discussion surrounding the arrival of illegal asylum seekers within the Southern Hemisphere. The protection of Australian borders from the arrival of illegal immigrants has been a national security issue dating back to the times of Federation. The recent policy response from successive Australian governments (Howard in 2001, Rudd-Gillard-Rudd in 2007 to 2013 and the Abbott government in 2013) to prevent the arrival of boats has seen active involvement of both Indonesia and Papua New Guinea governments.

Many policies such as the deportation and detention of asylum seekers challenge the application of Australia’s “soft power” within the region. Published in July 2013 and prior to Federal election in September 2013, Professor Reilly’s paper does not account for the Abbott government initiative of Operation Sovereign Borders. The implemented joint task force of operations would incorporate the navy, immigration and custom departments. According to Michael Grewcock, the dangerous and unworkable policy of the Australian navy towing unauthorised boats back to Indonesia could flare up enduring tensions with Indonesia (Grewcock 2014, 75). Reliance and resettlement of asylum seekers on Nauru and Manus Islands could de-stabilise the central governance exercised by Papua New Guinea. Policies surrounding asylum seekers reflect an exercise of hard power resources within the Southern Hemisphere. When it comes to border protection, it appears Australia is willing to forgo attractive policies such as refugee protection to enforce hard power diplomacy.

However, Professor Reilly’s observations are important to ensuring Australia’s relevance within its own hemisphere, which is undergoing significant economic and demographic changes. As democratic governments increase and stabilize throughout South America and Africa, the potential for trade and investment will serve Australia’s natural resource industry well. His praise of Australian interventions within the Solomon Islands, East Timor and Papua New Guinea as non-coercive and a multi-faceted approach to peacekeeping

reflects and reinforces the ability of Australia to enforce regional stability without the application of hard power military force.

Professor Reilly's expertise and knowledge within the field of political science was reflected in his presentation to RUSI members and his innovative paper, which challenges dominant perception and focus of Australia's regionalism, as that of the North in the Indo-Pacific Region.

Works Consulted:

Grewcock, Michael. 2014.

Australian Border Policing: Regional 'Solutions' and Neocolonialism."

Race and Class 55: 71-78, <http://rac.sagepub.com/content/55/3/71>.

Reilly, Benjamin. 2013.

Australia as a Southern Hemisphere Power." *Strategic Insights* 61: 1-15.

https://www.aspi.org.au/publications/strategic-insights-61-australia-as-a-southern-hemisphere-power/SI61Sthn_hemisphere_power.pdf.

Lecture Reports with thoughts and comment on the presentation are a regular newsletter feature from one of the audience. This Lecture Report was prepared by member, Simone Mendes.

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August Lecture after Annual General Meeting

For a list of naval actions and operations in the Indian Ocean please see:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Ocean_in_World_War_II

WW 1 History Conference 25 July 2014

**Conference Room, Australian Army Museum, Fremantle, Western Australia.
Prior registration is required for entry and some places remain.**

This conference should be a priority for:

- Military historians
- Defence personnel
- Academics
- Strategic and intelligence analysts
- Graduate and postgraduate students
- Independent consultants

The cost of the registration is \$100 and this includes lunch, morning tea and afternoon tea. Bookings can be made via the Curtin University web site

http://humanities.curtin.edu.au/schools/MCCA/international_studies/greatwar.cfm >.

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**Life Membership Awarded to Flight Lieutenant Bill Lamble
RUSI of WA Honorary Librarian**

William "Bill" Lamble was awarded life membership of Royal United Services Institute of Western Australia (RUSI WA) in June 2014 for his outstanding services as Honorary Librarian. His diligence and dedication to cataloguing and developing the RUSI WA collection will inform future generations understanding of Australia's rich military history.

Bill was born Bristol, England in 1931. After completing secondary schooling in 1948, he joined the Bristol Public Libraries in September 1948 and qualified as a librarian in 1959. Bill's military career commenced in 1950, where he served in the Royal Air Force up until 1952 and then in the Royal Air Force Emergency Reserve (RAFER) from 1952 to 1955. He was an Instructor in the Air Training Corps from 1952 and was commissioned in RAFER (Training Branch) in 1955 as an Equipment and Signals Officer.

Bill relocated to Perth in May 1961 with his wife Yvonne and his daughter after being recruited as a librarian at the State Library of Western Australia. His preference was to relocate to Perth over any other city in Australia as the library systems being implemented were very basic and there was an opportunity for Bill to lead the way in implementing the sophisticated referencing systems he had mastered at the Bristol Public Libraries.

Bill was appointed to the Library and Information Service of Western Australia in 1961, whilst he continued as an instructor in the Air Training Corps up until 1990. He was commissioned in the Royal Australian Air Force Reserve (RAAFR) in 1962, finally retiring at the end of 1986. Bill continued to work in the State Library of Western Australia up until 1998. He graduated in Classics and Ancient History from the University of Western Australia 1966 and became a specialist librarian in the fields of Government Publications, Maps and Cataloguing. He has published many articles on map history and librarianship, government publications and in areas of genealogical or military interest.

Bill joined the RUSI WA in January 1974 and was elected to the Council in July 1989. He was appointed Honorary Librarian in 1993 and as part of this role; he has organized three major moves of the RUSI library...From Swan Barracks to Karrakatta in 1992, from Karrakatta to Leeuwin Barracks in 1997 and a room relocation within Leeuwin barracks to its current location in 2012.

Using an ASCII programme and by today's standards, an old Commodore computer, Bill commenced the digitalisation of the library catalogue. After many changes, the catalogue was completed in 2002 with a copy available on the RUSI WA website.

Bill has provided a professional valuation to replace the RUSI WA collection and he has also produced formulas to update the valuation annually. He has recently written a manual of operations and templates of the statistical forms for other members assisting in the library. For a number of years he edited the Blamey orations and he updated the Centenary History in 2011.

Bill and his wife Yvonne have been married since 1958. They have two daughters and a son.

Even in his retirement Bill continues to serve members of the West Australian community as he assists many students with their research queries. Members are encouraged to visit Bill and the library every Tuesday between 10am to 2pm to access and our unique collection.

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Book Review - Thank You for Your Service by David Finkel**THANK YOU
FOR
YOUR SERVICE****DAVID FINKEL**
Author of **THE GOOD SOLDIERS**

In 2007 David Finkel was a journalist embedded with the 2nd Infantry Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, in Iraq. *The Good Soldiers* is an exceptional work of literature describing the day to day life of a battalion of soldiers through their deployment to Bagdad. The New York Times nominated *The Good Soldiers* as one of the top 10 books of 2009.

In early 2010 I had the honour of meeting Pulitzer Prize winning author David Finkel during the Perth Writers Festival. I had just finished reading his book *The Good Soldiers* so I was keen to hear him address the Writers Festival on his exceptional work and to hear about what happened to the soldiers when they returned home, at the end of the deployment. When I met David Finkel I quizzed him on whether or not he had maintained contact with the Commanding Officer and soldiers of the 2nd Battalion. Not surprising, he continued his association with veterans over the following years.

His latest book, *Thank You for Your Service* is an account of the aftermath of the both the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. It deals with the impact of physical injuries, post traumatic stress disorder and the mounting toll of suicides. David Finkel has produced an exceptional look into the lives of veterans who had returned from war and the devastating impact on their families.

This book should be read by anyone concerned with the physical and psychological impact of war on our returned veterans, and their families. **The RUSI WA Library has a copy of this book available for loan.**

Book Reviews of topical publications are a regular newsletter feature. This book review was submitted by member, Colonel Mike Brennan.

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Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal United Services Institute of Western Australia will be held at 7:00 pm on Thursday 28 August in the Institute's Lecture Room, Leeuwin Barracks. If you have yet taken the opportunity to finalise your membership subscriptions for 2013– 2014 your prompt attention would be appreciated so that Annual Accounts may be finalised.

Any Notices of Motion must arrive at the RUSI offices in either hard or electronic copy not later than close of business on Thursday 14 August.

Nominations are sought for the positions of President, Vice President (3), Secretary, Treasurer (Secretary / Treasurer may be co-joined) and Councillor (up to 7 positions). Members who wish to actively participate in the programs of the RUSI are encouraged to nominate. Nomination forms may be obtained from the Secretary / Treasurer: rusiwa.au@gmail.com <<mailto:rusiwa.au@gmail.com>>

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Subscriptions are due on 1 July annually. Have you renewed?

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 please

YOUR PATRONS, OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE

Secretary:

Ms Louise Austen
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Office and Library Hours:

Thursday 9.30am – 4.00pm

Patron: Currently vacant

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

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 Kim Carter; Mr Lindsay Dorman; Ms Megan Fox; Squadron Leader Lou Halvorson; Mr Serge de Silva-Ranasinghe; Mr Mitchell Sutton

Honorary Treasurer: Ms Louise Austen

Assistant Treasurer: Squadron Leader Lou Halvorson & Nick Austen

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

Assistant Librarian: Mr Ernest McEntee

Newsletter Editors: Colonel Robert Mitchell and Mitchell Sutton

Life Members: Air Commodore Desmond Browne, CBE, AFC*

Air Commodore Norman Ashworth

Colonel Phillip Skelton, AM

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