



**Royal United Services  
Institute  
of  
South Australia Inc**

A Constituent Body of the  
Royal United Services Institute of Australia Inc

Building 160 Keswick Barracks,  
Keswick SA 5035  
Tel/Fax: 61 (8) 8305 6378  
Office Hours:  
Wednesday and Friday 10am to 4pm

RUSI-SA

Issue No 402

May/June 2006

# NEWSLETTER

*Promoting National Security and Defence*

## RUSI-SA CYBERLINKS

### RUSI OF SA EMAIL ADDRESS

[rusi.sa@defence.gov.au](mailto:rusi.sa@defence.gov.au)

### RUSI OF AUSTRALIA WEBSITE

<http://www.defence.gov.au/rusi/>

### RUSI FOR DEFENCE STUDIES WHITEHALL WEBSITE

<http://www.rusi.org>

### AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC POLICY INSTITUTE

<http://www.aspi.org.au>

### Patron

*Her Excellency Marjorie Jackson-Nelson,  
AC, CVO, MBE Governor of South Australia*

## COUNCIL MEMBERS 2005/06

President:	Mr C.C. Brooks (Acting)
Senior Vice President:	BRIG D. Willett AM (Ret)
Vice President:	Vacant
Councillors:	Dr J.C. Bruni Miss Fay Leditschke CAPT B.M. Newman, RFD,ED (Ret) COL D.J. Stoba, RFD, ED (Ret) Mr M. Gorroick CAPT M.J. Orchard RFD, ED (Ret) COL N.R. Bergin (Ret)
Past President:	
Representing:	
RAN	CMDR A. Atkinson, RAN
ARMY	MAJ J. Kingston
RAAF	WGCDR D. Flood
Treasurer:	COL L. Thompson, RFD, ED (Ret)
Hon Auditor:	LCDR R.C. Penglase DSC, RFD, VRD, RANR, AUA, (Ret)
Secretary/Librarian/ Public Officer:	LCDR David Stryker, RANR
Hon Editor:	CAPT M.J. Orchard, RFD, ED (Ret)

## ACTING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With regret, members are advised that Air Commodore Jeff McCulloch has resigned from the presidency and from the Council due to the pressure of work.

Captain Malcolm Orchard has agreed to fill a vacancy on Council until the forthcoming elections. Colonel Neville Bergin has agreed to represent RUSI-SA at the National Council

meeting to be held in Brisbane on June 15-16, 2006.

We are all aware that the aim of this Institute is to encourage the discussion of national security and defence matters, and to improve public awareness and understanding of such matters.

In keeping with this, and in the light of a call for debate in Australia on uranium and nuclear power, it seems appropriate to look at the possibility of a threat to Australia because of its known large, low cost uranium resources.

The world's resources can only be guessed at. In 2002 the OECD's (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's) Nuclear Energy Agency published conventional resources estimated at about 16 million tonnes, or about 250 years supply at the then rate of use. An additional 22 million tonnes were known in phosphate deposits and about 4,000 million tonnes in seawater. This last can be accessed at costs of less than double today's market prices. The cost of uranium, before conversion to the hexafluoride, enrichment and fuel fabrication, constitutes only a few percent of the busbar power cost from a nuclear power station.

From that we see that, although wars, from tribal skirmishes to World Wars, have been fought over resources, Australia's uranium resources, no matter how large nor how cheaply mined, cannot justify invasion when any nation's demands could be far more cheaply met by extracting uranium from the virtually limitless seawater store, as Japanese scientists have already demonstrated.

## MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

### **Luncheon Speakers**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2006**  
**SA Commissioner for Police**  
**Mal Hyde**

#### **Topic: Internal Security Begins At Home.**

Terrorist incidents often occur within a community, not from an external attack and, like criminal behaviour generally, the extent to which this can occur depends largely on the strength of the community to resist such attacks. Target hardening the community includes the general criminal environment and the capacity of local police, as well as initiatives specifically aimed at terrorist activity.

#### ***CAR PARKING – MONTHLY LUNCHEON***

***Members are advised that the parking of cars is now NO longer permitted on the Parade Ground. Please use existing designated parking areas.***

All members are invited to attend our luncheons. Indeed you are encouraged to invite partners, friends and colleagues to join us and, if they like what they see, to nominate them for membership. Please book in advance. If you are unsure whether or not your name is on the booking list, please check!

***Cancellations must be into the RUSI Office by midday of the Friday before the lunch. Subsequent cancellations will attract a fee of \$20***

The dress code for the luncheon is neat casual, taking into consideration weather conditions.

We assemble in Building 34A, Keswick Barracks, Keswick, at approximately 11.30am for drinks and good fellowship. Members are asked to be seated by 12 noon when our President welcomes members and guests, and lunch is served.

The cost of the buffet is \$20. We also conduct a raffle to help cover expenses. Our caterer has agreed to provide vegetarian meals and sweets for diabetics, but these must be ordered before midday on the Thursday before the lunch.

For those who do not have time to enjoy lunch, but wish to hear the lecture, chairs are provided around the perimeter of the hall. Please be seated before 12.55pm, as the guest speaker will be introduced at 1.00pm. The address is of about 30 to 35 minutes duration with 15 minutes for questions, after which coffee or tea is available.

We aim to complete the program by 2.00pm.

**SOCIAL CALENDAR 2006**

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June - Dining-In-Night**  
**Sunday 21 August - Carvery Lunch**

#### **MEDALS – MEMENTOS & MORE**

**SPECIALISING IN**  
***Medal Mounting & Refurbishment,***  
***Replacement of Medals***  
***Replicas & Miniatures Service Research***  
***and Heritage Framing***

***Capt Barry Presgrave, (RL)***

**OAM, FAIES, AIMM**

**Phone: (08) 8278 8530**

**Phone/Fax: (08) 8278 5702**

**Mobile: 0412 066 657**

**Email: [b.presgrave@optusnet.com.au](mailto:b.presgrave@optusnet.com.au)**  
**9 Norfolk St, Blackwood, SA 5051**  
**or at RUSI-SA Office, Keswick Barracks.**

#### **LUNCHEON ADDRESS**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2006**

**Neil James**

**Executive Director,**

**Australian Defence Association**

*This Lecture Report was written by Joan Gravelle for the RUSI of WA following a similar address by Neil James on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2006.*

Profile: Neil James is a graduate of the Royal Military College, Duntroon, and has served in the Australian Army for over 31 years. His experiences include a wide range of regimental, intelligence, liaison, teaching, operational planning and operations research positions throughout Australia and extensively overseas. He is also the author of several publications to do with military and defence matters. Since April 2003, he has been serving as the Executive Director of the Australian Defence Association (ADA), based in Canberra.

The ADA was founded in Perth in 1975. It is Australia's only independent non-partisan community based public interest guardian organisation on defence and wider national security issues. The membership is open to all concerned about Australia's external defence, internal security, or an effective debate on national security issues generally. The membership is community-based; fewer than 15% are ex-military.

- The ADA website is [www.ada.asn.au](http://www.ada.asn.au)
- The ADA publishes a quarterly national journal, *Defender*, and a monthly bulletin, *Defence Brief*.



Neil James addressing the RUSI – SA

The ADA receives government funding; it depends on membership subscriptions, and corporate donations of no more than \$5000 from each of them annually. Among the items that the ADA is concerned about are:

- Clash of perspectives and timing cycles.
- Long operational life of weapons and weapons platforms.
- Need for sustained investment – not “fits and starts”.
- Moral and professional obligation to properly equip those who risk their lives on our behalf.

Some lessons:

- Most crisis requiring use of the ADF have arisen swiftly and often surprisingly, with little or no warning time.
- Unforeseen or unbelievably tasks often mean unprepared forces have to be used.
- In the 105 years since Federation, we have deployed the ADF over 40 times.
- Only once has the ADF defended Australia from Australian Territory (WW2).
- The UN is still flawed and cannot be depended on.
- Our national wealth depends on exports and inward foreign investment.
- We need to defend our interests and citizens.
- If we were not in alliance with the USA, we would have to spend significantly more on our defence. This would have a severe impact on our ability to fund other areas of government. Also, there would perhaps be a need to re-introduce conscription. And, the overall strategic architecture of the region would be much more uncertain.

**LUNCHEON ADDRESS  
Monday 5th June 2006  
WGCDR Peter Goon  
Defence Analyst  
and Consulting Flight Test Engineer.**



WGCDR Peter Goon

*'The Root Cause of What Ails Defence, Today'* may be found at the following URL:  
<http://www.ausairpower.net/apa-analyses.html>  
(Analyses Page - On Line Journal) or via the Search Engine on the APAAW.

The Air Power Australia web site is the repository of the work we have done on this and other Defence matters, which is public releasable. Hopefully, members will avail themselves of this resource and pass the URL on to their friends and associates.

A brief extract from Peter Goon's presentation to RUSI-SA follows;

**The Great NACC Debate**

- Complex, but 3 basic points-
  - CAPABILITY
  - COST
  - RISK
- And 2 choices of new aircraft -  
F-22A Raptor or F-35 (JSF)

**Why Not Acquire F-22A Raptor?**

01/06/2006 AIR POWER AUSTRALIA 3

---

**RAPTOR - What Defence Officials Say**

**COST**  
The F-22 is far too expensive for Australia, being at least 3 times more costly than the JSF.

**CAPABILITY**  
The F-22 is not a multi-mission aircraft and is already old/obsolete.

**AVAILABILITY**  
The F-22 will not be available for Australia.

01/06/2006 AIR POWER AUSTRALIA 4



Peter concluded his presentation with the benefits of F-22 Raptor to coalition warfare:

- Increased exchange ratio  
kill/survival rate  
red air losses  
targets killed
- Less sorties required  
US aircraft losses  
days required for conflict  
SEAD missions required

**Views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the RUSI - SA Inc**

### LIBRARY NON FICTION

ECHOES OF ANZAC  
Edited by Graham Seal  
Reviewed by Malcolm Orchard

As the cover of “Echoes Of Anzac” says, here is a collection of the songs, verses and yarns that have been sung and spoken by Australian troops from the Boer War to Vietnam. And thus they come “*from trenches, dugouts, ships and fighter planes, from POW camps and the home front. ...most are laced with black humour.....some are bawdy, some sardonic and some heart breaking*”.

Out of Gallipoli of course came stories concerning Lieutenant-General Sir William Birdwood, and here I quote:

*I ducked!*

Birdwood was known to the Anzacs on Gallipoli, and after, simply as ‘Birdie’. His rapport with the troops made him highly respected as a digger with stripes, a view reflected in most of the many yarns about him:

*He [Birdwood] was nearing a dangerous gap in a sap on Gallipoli when the sentry called out: ‘Duck, Birdie; you’d better ----- well duck’. ‘What did you do?’ asked the outraged generals to whom Birdwood told the story. ‘Do? Why, I ----- well ducked!’*

#### *The Digger’s Tenner*

Another Birdie yarn turns on the relationship of the general, his men and a small matter of ten pounds:

*A digger was lying in camp dead broke, so irreverently decided to write to God for a tenner. He addressed the letter ‘per General Birdwood, Headquarters’. When the General got it he was much amused. He took it into the officers’ mess, and all the officers entered into the humour of the joke. The General said: ‘We will collect amongst us and raise the tenner for this fellow’, but all he could raise was seven pounds; so he sent it to the digger.*

*Next day the receipt came to hand as follows:-*

*‘Dear God, - Thanks for sending me the tenner; but the next lot you send don’t send it through Headquarters, as Birdie and his mob pinched three quid of it’.*<sup>11</sup>

#### *Birdie Loves Us*

To the Sunday School tune ‘Jesus Loves Me, This I Know’, the Anzacs also commemorated Birdwood – succinctly – in song:

*Birdie loves us, this we know,  
For he often tells us so.  
He can kid to you and me,  
He could kid us up a tree.*<sup>12</sup>

### NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting of RUSI-SA Inc is planned for Monday, 4th September 2006. At the meeting, elections will be held for members of RUSI-SA Council for 2006/2007. In accordance with the Constitution, nominations for Council are to be submitted at least 21 days before the meeting. Consequently, any nominations for Council should be submitted to the RUSI-SA office by Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2006. Nomination forms are available from the secretary.