



Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies - Australia

Promoting national security awareness

RUSIDSS-A BOARD – 6 MAR 2018

Rear Admiral Simon Cullen AM CSC, RAN (Retd) – Chairman and National President



Simon retired from the RAN in 2016 after a long and successful career serving both ashore and at sea. Commands included HMAS SYDNEY and HMAS ALBATROSS, as well as serving as Deputy Commander of the Australian Fleet. He served twice in HQ US Central Command as the Director of the Combined Planning Group and the Deputy Director of Operations and was later posted to Washington as the Australian CDF Liaison Officer to the US Joint Chiefs of Staff. He was elected to his present position as the inaugural Chairman and President and re-elected in September 2017.

Air Commodore Anker Brodersen, CSC RAAFAR – Deputy Chairman and Deputy National President



Anker served for over 34 years with the RAAF, retiring from active service in 2016. His most recent postings related to the US Force Posture Initiatives, strategic planning for the Defence Estate and Defence Preparedness. While he does some reserve work, he also runs his own strategic governance and management consultancy. He is a Fellow of Engineers Australia and a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, having completed both the Company Directors' Course and the Mastering the Boardroom program. He is also Chair of the Engineers Australia National Professional Standards Committee and a founding Board member (and now chair) of Uniting Care Kippax.

Dr John Bruni - Director



Dr. John Bruni is Founder and Director of SAGE International; an Adelaide based online think tank and consultancy in operation since 2008. He is an experienced lecturer in international relations, politics and national security. His primary area of expertise is defence acquisition and has authored a book on this topic: 'On Weapons Decisions'. He is a researcher and analyst who worked for IHS Jane's UK and the Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies & Research in Abu Dhabi. He is a past Vice President of the RUSI of SA, an institution he has been involved with for well over two decades.

Air Commodore Graham Bentley AM (Retd) - Director



Air Commodore Bentley's RAAF career spanned 34 years. He accumulated 6000 flying hours in many aircraft, commanding at most levels including commanding all Australian forces in the Middle East in 2003. After his Air Force career, he spent seven years with Lockheed Martin as their Business Development Director associated with the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter acquisition by the RAAF working with Australian SMEs involved with the program. He is a director of the Sir Richard Williams Foundatio

RUSIDSS-A promotes understanding of national security and defence issues

Ms Meaghan D'Arcy - Director



Ms Meaghan D'Arcy is Director, Advisory for Defence and National Security in KPMG. Before joining KPMG, she served in the Australian Army, holding a range of logistics operations management and command positions in Australia and on deployment overseas. She has extensive experience in providing organisational reviews, workforce planning, organisational change and business performance services. Clients have included DFAT, ANAO, and in Defence: Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group, Joint Logistics Command, Navy, People Group, Joint Health Command, CIO, DAIGO, and the ADC.

Major General Steve Meekin, AM (Retd) – Director



Steve Meekin retired as Deputy Secretary of Defence in July 2016. He had led the Department's Intelligence and Security Group since March 2012. Earlier, he had been Director of the Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organisation, following a career in the Australian Army. Before retiring as a Major General in 2010, he gained extensive operational and intelligence experience as an artillery and intelligence officer and in senior appointments in all three Defence strategic intelligence agencies. He has served with the UK and US armed forces and completed a number of operational deployments in the Middle East, including command of a task force in Iraq. He is an Officer of the United States Legion of Merit; and a Member of the Order of Australia.

Captain Paul Willee RFD, QC RANR (Retd) - Director



Paul Willee enlisted in 1961 and became OC of Diving Team 6 after qualifying as a Ships Diving Officer (SDO2), before transferring to the legal branch. He set up the Commercial Crime Group, and was one of the four founding members of the Maritime Law Association of Australia and New Zealand. He served as a Judge-advocate (1985-2004), Defence Force Magistrate (1996-2004) and a Section 154 Defence Force Discipline Act Reviewing Officer (2000-2006). He was Victorian Vice President of the RAN Ski Club until 1995 and President of the Naval and Military Club from 1995-8. He was Advisor to the Chief of The Defence Force 1997-2001) and Chief of Navy (2000). His final posting was as Head of the Military Bar (2002-2006). Earlier this year he completed 50 years in practice at the Victorian Bar.

EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

Air Commodore Peter McDermott AM CSC (Retd) – Company Secretary



BRIEF BIO: Peter served for over 40 years with the RAAF, retiring from active service in 2003 with the rank of Air Commodore, and then serving as a reservist for another six years as the Director-General of RAAF Reserves. He is well-connected with the Defence Establishment in Canberra, initially as Adjunct Professor of Defence Management at the University of Canberra, and from 2009 until the present as National Secretary of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management and a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He was a founding Commandant of the Australian Command and Staff College, and is a graduate of the USAF Air War College and the Japanese National Institute for Defense Studies.

Mr Herbert (Mickey) Michaelis – National Support Manager & Treasurer



Mickey is a retired businessman with extensive experience in the NFP and voluntary sector following his retirement. He has held several positions in the RSL: National Projects Officer at RSL National Headquarters, RSL National Veterans' Affairs Committee Secretary, Hon Treasurer of the Canberra Services Club Board (2011-2014) and Hon Treasurer of Morshead Home. He is employed in the RUSIDSS-A as its National Support Manager and Treasurer. He is well-experienced in accountancy and company governance.