



The Brisbane Line

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We must focus strongly on defence and security issues



From 26 to 28 October the National Conference of the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies Australia Ltd. took place in Canberra. This is the national body to which each State and the Australian Capital Territory are the stakeholders.

The Department of Defence wishes to only deal with "one body" in its relationship with each State of the Commonwealth, and the relationship between Government and each State vital to the existence of RUSI.

In the past, the Department of Defence made funds available in the form of a grant with which the National Body and each of the States and the Australian Capital Territory operated. For 2016 and 2017 the Department of Defence has not made an annual grant available. They argued that they gave support in the form of "kind", and this has been the use of RUSI Hall, in the case of Queensland.

For the year 2018 there is a grant application to Defence by RUSI National for grant funds to be made available. This will be conditional on the fact that each State and the ACT will focus on Defence and Security issues.

The undertaking from the stakeholders must now involve current issues on Defence and Security. In my opinion this is not a inappropriate requirement from Government, when they make funds available, with which to support RUSI in each of its branches. RUSI Queensland has overheads which must be met.

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The annual subscription and the small profit from each lecture will not sustain a substantial cash flow. RUSIQ has sought to attract a financial sponsor, but this has not materialised. A drop off in attendances and natural attrition does not help the position.

*The solution is for more senior ranking and informed speakers, on vital defence issues and security issues. In other words, returning to our core business. In the new year **Rear Admiral Simon Cullen AM CSC [Retd]**, and **Major General Paul McLachlan AM CSC** [Commander 1st Division, Deployment Joint Force Headquarters] will be our lecturers.*

We are also making an initiative to attract existing servicemen, and younger members to our organisation. It is my intention to recruit a young serving officer to the RUSIQ Executive. It may be that RUSIQ will conduct evening lectures in parallel to our Monthly Day Lecture.

We are on a journey to reinvigorate and grow RUSIQ.

**-- Peter Mapp,
President, RUSIQ.**



Rear Admiral Simon Cullen, recently retired, was in the Royal Australian Navy for more than 35 years. He had significant military planning expertise. He managed and executed executive orders in support of operations for both peace and wartime missions. Highly respected, he engendered an incredible record of trust at the most senior levels of government. He proved to be a successful leader of large and diverse groups of people during both peacetime and crisis. In 2014 he was Deputy Commander of RIMPAC, the world's largest naval exercise.



Major General Paul McLachlan enlisted in the Regular Australian Army in 1982 and graduated from the Royal Military College - Duntroon in 1985. In November 2015, he assumed command of the 1st Division and Deployable Joint Force Headquarters. He is a graduate of the Australian Defence Force School of Languages, where he was awarded a diploma in advanced Japanese in 1991. He also holds a Masters degree in Strategic Studies and recently completed a Diploma in Complex Strategic Procurement.



Peter Mapp made Life Member of RSL

In late November 2017 RUSIQ's President, Peter Mapp was inducted into the Life Members for The Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL). This is a very high honour, and proclaimed by the RSL national body.

The picture shows Peter (left) being presented with his Life Member's award by **Mrs Wendy Taylor**, President of RSL South East District and RSL State Director, and **Mr. John Strachan**, RSL State Vice-President.

To be eligible for Life Membership, an individual must have served at least 15 continuous years as an RSL member, and spent at least 10 years in "outstanding service

to the League". Outstanding service to the League must be service beyond normal expectations of a member, especially in an honorary capacity. The fact that the member has been an office bearer or member of a Sub-Branch Executive Committee for a number of years, on its own, does not qualify a member for Life Membership. Mrs Taylor said: *"It is particularly important that the efforts and dedication of the member's 'outstanding service' in achieving the Charter and Purposes of the Sub-Branch to the betterment of veterans. All aspects of members' RSL activities must be included and expanded in the citation."*

RUSIQ celebrated ALH history of 100 years ago with CAPT Catts



Above: The 2007 oil painting by Ron Marshall of the charge of the Australian Light Horse at Beersheba on October 31, 1917. Pictured is just one section of two regiments of Australian Light Horse that braved shell and machine-gun fire to gallop more than three miles of open plain, and with bayonets drawn, to charge and capture the Turkish stronghold of Beersheba.

"The men of the Australian Light Horse (ALH) were dramatic, almost glamorous figures and it is easy to see their exploits as some splendid adventure. But theirs is a record that is superb in its own right. We don't need to embellish it. The history of the ALH is a great story and one worth telling and re-telling". This is how **CAPT Adele Catts**, (pictured right) Manager, Army Museum South Queensland, warned RUSIQ members about not propagating myths about Beersheba and other military successes. CAPT Catts has a personal interest because her grandfather, SGT **Geoffrey Rowney**, served with the 12th Light Horse Regiment of Northern New South Wales at both Gallipoli and Beersheba. She proudly wears medals in honour of her grandfather and the "sweetheart badge" he later passed to her mother. CAPT Catts talk to RUSIQ on October 31 thus well-commemorated the 100th anniversary of the charge of the ALH at Beersheba by



the 4th and 12th Light Horse Regiments of the 4th Light Horse Brigade on 31 October 1917. "No other action by Australians in the Middle East of WW1 has caught the public imagination as has the charge at Beersheba. It has been the subject of two feature films: *Forty Thousand Horsemen*, 1941 and *The Light Horsemen*, 1987." She said: "In this lecture I am not providing the definitive look at the charge rather outlining the context and exploding some myths. For those whose interest is aroused, RUSI has an amazing Library from which you may borrow."

"Re-enactment troops, such as the local QMIHT, are often formed to recognise and honour those men and horses of a district who served in the ALH. I have an ambivalent feeling towards many of these troops as they are often inaccurate in their dress or drill. However, for my sins I have been made a Life Member of QMIHT. I try to keep in mind that they are groups of civilians keeping LH heritage alive," she said. "Let me clarify the term 'Light Horse' (abbreviated to LH). It was because of the build of the horses that the mounted infantry and mounted rifles were known as Light Horse". These horses were suited for reconnaissance and mobility tactics. **The men would ride up, dismount, fight and ride off.**

They were not the heavy horses used by the artillery for pulling guns or by the Service Corps for pulling supply wagons. The horses used by the mounted troops were known as "Walers" a short form of New South Wales from where they originally came. Remember Queensland was originally part of the mega state of NSW. The Walers were not a breed but could be a mix of English thoroughbred, semi-draught horse, Welsh pony, Timor pony and brumby. The term was first coined by troops in India where, since the 1830s a healthy trade had been built up in the export of Australian horses to the British Army stationed there. These horses were able to supplement their feed by eating available herbage and to go for long periods between watering enabling them to produce incredible feats of endurance.

The ALH were volunteers, 35% recruited from among the tough outdoor men of the Australian bush and about 65% from towns and cities. Their uniform set them apart from the other corps; their most distinguishing embellishment being the emu plume which had its origins here in Qld. CAPT Catts said that the Australian contribution to the Palestine Campaign must be placed in context. Some rather poor histories stated that the LH was the most important part of the EEF, and that it brought the victory; also that the Charge at Beersheba was **the** turning point of the Palestine Campaign. Though the Australian contribution was sizable and important, it was neither decisive nor war-winning; it was a British imperial army acting together with its allies that achieved victory.

At the war's end there were 36 horsed regiments in the Desert Mounted Corps, of which only 14 were Australian. This was the largest but only just, there being 13 Indian cavalry regiments, 5 British, 3 New Zealander and one French. The number of Australian horsemen who fought in the campaign was dwarfed by the numbers of British and Indian troops who served in the EEF's two infantry corps, artillery regiments, air squadrons and transport and support services.

To identify the Charge of Beersheba as the decisive turning point of a three-year campaign, or to suggest the LH won the war by itself, does not give the rest of the EEF its hard earned due. The capture of Beersheba was important, but was only the opening phase of a much larger offensive that, in its totality, decided the outcome in southern Palestine. The contribution of the LH and other Australian units **was** substantial.

The LH regiments took part in every major engagement of the WW1 Desert Campaign and many minor ones. It was one of Australia's most significant military commitments of WW1. "Of this we can be justifiably proud," she said.

Let's look more closely at Beersheba. The enemy was Turkey, Imperial Germany's eastern ally. They held the line, Gaza-Beersheba. Hence this battle was part of a larger action known as the Third Battle of Gaza. Beersheba's main significance to the British advance was as a water source to support operations to the north, and it was essential that its wells be captured intact. In a combined assault, the infantry of the British XX Corps were to attack Beersheba from the west and south-west, while the mounted troops of **LT GEN Sir Harry Chauvel's** Desert Mounted Corps were to encircle the town, capture the town itself, secure the town's water supply and cut off the enemy's retreat.

The key to the plan was to deceive the Turks into believing that the attack would be at Gaza. Artillery sites were prepared near Gaza, an army corps moved into position during the day, secretly removed at night and marched in as new troops the next day, and a dummy railway terminal constructed.

Offshore, warships prowled and information was leaked about an amphibious landing. In an elaborate ruse, phoney documents were "dropped" so that they would be found by the enemy. As a result the Turks moved their reserve division stationed at Beersheba to Gaza.

Having spent months making preparations and getting the army ready, on 27 October the operations commenced with a bombardment of Gaza by the guns of XXI Corps. This was merely a diversion, however, to induce the enemy to think the forthcoming assault would again be at Gaza. Instead, on the night of 30 Oct, XX Corps and the Desert Mounted Corps commenced an approach on Beersheba from the west and south.

The Plan: The battle was to be a three phase operation for the Light Horse supported by the British. The first phase was to be a night ride into position. The second phase was to advance to Tel El Sakati ('tel' meaning 'hill'), cut off the Hebron Road to Beersheba and secure Tel El Saba. The third phase was to be the capture of Beersheba.

Phase One – Night Ride: The men of the Desert Mounted Corps carried three days of rations. They rode 30 kilometres through the night pausing at Asluj to water the horses. They circled far to the south and moved in from the eastern desert flank. Two weeks' work by Australian and NZ field engineers enhancing the wells produced enough water sources to support two cavalry divisions at Khalasa and another at Asluj.



Beersheba after the battle.

Phase Two – Cut off and capture of Tel El Saba: The British infantry assault, with over 100 supporting guns, began at 0600 and was carried out in copybook style. They secured their objectives by mid afternoon. However, the advance of the mounted troops was held up by fierce Turkish fighting. The Tel el Saba position did not fall to the 1LHBDE and the NZ Mounted Rifles until 4.00pm. At last the ANZACs had secured the Hebron Road and Tel El Saba.

Phase Three – occupation of Beersheba: Chauvel appreciated that failure to secure the town by nightfall meant that the horses faced a gruelling 12 hour march back to water. He agreed with **BRIG William Grant's** unorthodox suggestion of a cavalry charge by Light Horse. Unorthodox – **remember LH tactics were to ride up, dismount and fight, not stay mounted like cavalry.**

With the 11LHR scattered on other tasks, the famous charge by the 4LHBDE took place with only 800 men of the Victorian 4th and Hunter Valley 12th Light Horse Regiments. At 4.30pm, only 20 minutes before sunset, the two regiments formed up in three lines and charged across four miles (6.4km) of open terrain through artillery, machine gun and rifle fire. They rode with bayonets in hand – not swords.

The Turks recognised them as LH men and orders were given to the entrenched Turkish soldiers **not to open fire until the Australians halted and dismounted.** But they just kept coming! The bewildered enemy failed to adjust their sights and soon their fire was passing harmlessly overhead. The 4th took the trenches; the enemy soon surrendered. The 12th rode through a gap and on into town. Theirs was a bitter fight. Some enemy surrendered; others fled and were pursued into the Judean Hills. In less than an hour it was over; the town was captured. The charge was incredibly successful with the relatively few casualties of 31 killed, 36 wounded and the loss of 70 horses. The enemy resistance in Beersheba quickly collapsed. More than 1,100 Turks were taken prisoner. Importantly only two of the 17 wells were destroyed. For days, the charge was the talk of the camps and messes. The Australian Light Horse had galloped into history.

A common myth since has been that Beersheba was the last great cavalry charge and that the action won the Palestine campaign (or even the war, if you believe some commentators)

Facts: There were other charges during WW1 by members of the Allies after Beersheba (at Wadi Sheria a week later, then at Huj, then at El Mughar, then a year later at Kaukab Ridge). In 1920 there was a successful Polish charge against the Soviets. Then during WW2, at least 16 confirmed cavalry charges by the Poles and two by the Italians. In 1953 British cavalry charged during Kenya's Mau Mau emergency. And lastly, during the war in Angola in 1971, Portugese dragoons charged a force of guerrillas and succeeded.

The capture of Beersheba was a joint effort by the combined forces of the British Army's XX Corps and the Australian, British and New Zealand troops of the Desert Mounted Corps. It certainly opened the way to Gaza and affected the outcome of the Palestine Campaign, but the way to the holy city of Jerusalem was not opened until the fall of Gaza. And it was not the ALH of the Desert Mounted Corps who took Gaza, it was the hard-marching, hard-fighting British infantrymen of the XX Corps. It took another 12 months to win the Desert Campaign.

The final Palestine campaign was launched a year later in September 1918.

General Edmund Allenby's mounted divisions began "*The Great Ride*", an epic achievement even under current military standards, that took them through the Jordan Valley to the Esraeldon Plain, Megiddo and onto Damascus; a distance of 300 kilometres.

An armistice in the Mid-East was signed on 31 October 1918, only 11 days before the armistice on the Western Front, bringing an end to WW1.

The horse cruelty myth also needed dispelling. CAPT Catts said that one of the most common myths about the ALH was that at the end of WW1 the horses were sold to the local Middle Eastern/Arab market or that they were all shot. It was historical fact that the horses of the AIF, not only in the Mid-East but also in the UK and France, did not return to Australia. There were 122,000 horses exported from Australia during WWI. At the end of 1918 approx 9,700 were still in use with AIF units in the Middle East. These were classified by age and condition. Those too old (riding horses over 12 years old and draught horses over 15 years old) or not fit for further use (2,569) were humanely destroyed under strictly controlled conditions. Their manes and tails were shorn, as horse hair could be sold, and shoes removed, for recycling. Their skins were salted, the hide being another commodity.

"Far from selling the remainder to the local populace, the AIF made careful arrangements to transfer all its fit riding and draught horses to the British Army, the Indian Army and other governments, including 1,000 to Finland. 600 mares were sent to England for breeding purposes," CAPT Catts said.

As well as being too costly and uneconomic, it was for quarantine reasons that wartime animals could not be brought home. They posed an unacceptable risk of possible disease introduction (eg foot and mouth disease) into an economy that was very firmly agriculturally- based.

So, what started as a rumour in the *Kia Ora Coo-ee* (soldiers newsletter) in November 1918 by **HS Gullett** was reinforced by the poem "*The Horses Stay Behind*" by **TPR Bluegum** (the pen name of **Oliver Hogue**, a journalist who originally enlisted in 6LH) which was first published in 1919. It has found a place in almost every book on the light horse since then.

"I even came across the words that "*all Australian Army horses were shot after First World War*" in a primary school handwriting text book. I encouraged the children in my class to write to the publisher to highlight the error and the publisher promised to correct the details for the next year's edition," CAPT Catts said. This myth has had a powerful & pervasive impact through the years. In **Graham Wilson's** words in his book, *Bully Beef & Balderdash*, he said: "it does neither the history of the Australian Army, nor of the Light Horse any justice".

"The men of the Light Horse were dramatic, almost glamorous figures and it is easy to see their exploits as some splendid adventure. But theirs is a record that is superb in its own right. We don't need to embellish it. Light Horse is a topic that still fascinates many, even one hundred years on, so it is important that we get the details right and give a true depiction of what happened during that time in our history," CAPT Catts said.

Background: CAPT Adele Catts enlisted in the Australian Army Reserve (WRAAC) on 11 February 1981. In 1983 she worked at Army Museum, NSW while studying. In 1993 she completed the "Army Curator's Course" at the AWM, and was posted as Curator at the 3rd/9th Light Horse (SAMR) Museum in Adelaide. She has completed a further five University courses in Museum studies. CAPT Catts became well known in southern Queensland circles during her 18 years as Curator of the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI) Museum at Enoggera. In July 2013 she was posted to Victoria Barracks, Brisbane, as the Manager, Army Museum South Queensland, her current posting. CAPT Catts attended the centenary celebrations of the Anglo-Boer War in South Africa, 2000, and Gallipoli and Beersheba, 2008, in an official capacity. She was an Honorary ADC to two Queensland Governors (2003-08)

Next Issue: CAPT Catts will review all the WW1 achievements of the Australian Light Horse - which fought at Gallipoli and across Mid-East countries such as Israel and Syria.

Visit Victoria Barracks for a guided tour

Highly successful tours at Victoria Barracks Brisbane are available on most Wednesdays. The walking tours are famous for their Devonshire Teas and a 1 ½ hr guided walking tour of the Barracks including this 1875 building and the RUSIQ Hall (which was once the stables for the Queensland Police). CAPT Catts encouraged RUSIQ members to visit the current exhibition "ALH in WW1" in the Victoria Barracks Mess before it finishes on 13 December. Exhibitions such as AMSQ's in the Mess are part of the mission to promote and preserve the history of the "Australian Light Horse in War".

Railways in WW1 were part of a much longer journey.

Throughout World War 1, railways proved to be a crucial logistical part of the war effort for all combatants. A most interesting presentation on this point was made to RUSIQ members on November 14, by two railways experts. They are **Rob Shiels** (left), and **Jeff Hopkins-Weise** (right). Jeff is an historian and curator, specialising in Queensland, Australian, New Zealand and Pacific history. Rob is the Collection Manager at The Workshops Rail Museum (TWRM), located in North Ipswich, which is part of the Queensland Museum Network.

They were each presented with a RUSIQ tie (see picture). Both said that, throughout the United Kingdom, Western and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and elsewhere, railways fed the voracious war machine, but no more so than on the Western Front. In Australia railways supported the war effort from recruitment trains through country and regional areas, troop trains transporting soldiers and nurses to their ports of departure for overseas service (and later, their return), as well as hospital trains, supplies, equipment and the



movement of horses. Part of this experience included the formation of Australian railway units to aid in the critical logistical support on the Western Front. But what is less known is the largely unexplored pre-1914 experience of railways in wars during the nineteenth century. Railways in fact feature in all conflicts in which Australia has been involved. This presentation explores these and other military rail themes, including the postwar service of former Western Front narrow gauge veteran Hunslet trains in places such as Queensland.

Note: The two authors submitted a 26-page paper on their talks. The brief details above cover only a small part. Anyone wishing to receive the paper online can apply to the editor.

Background:

Rob Shiels has, since 2012, also been the Project Manager of the WW1 Western Front veteran narrow-gauge Hunslet train restoration project at TWRM.

Jeff Hopkins-Weise is a historian and curator with a strong fascination for, and a background in Queensland, Australian, New Zealand and Pacific history. Areas where Jeff has delved include the role and experience of the British Army in colonial Australia and New Zealand; the trans-Tasman dimensions of Australian involvement in the New Zealand (or Maori) wars during the 1840s and 1860s; and Australasian humanitarianism and memorialisation in association with conflict, the British Army and Royal Navy.

Preparing for the worst while undergoing necessary change



Today's Fire and Emergency Services in Queensland is at last under one banner, according to **Commissioner Katarina Carroll** APM (pictured).

She told the November 15 meeting at RUSIQ that Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) was established as a department on 1 November 2013 and sits within the public safety portfolio, under the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services.

QFES is the primary provider of fire and rescue, emergency management and disaster mitigation programs and services throughout Queensland, and includes Fire and Rescue, Emergency Management, Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) and the State Emergency Service (SES).

Through Service Agreements, QFES also supports other emergency response volunteer organisations/agencies including Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ), Royal Life Saving Society Queensland (RLSSQ), Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (AVCGA) and Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland (VMRAQ).

Each organisation had its unique area of operation and culture. Many of these organisations also have their workforce profile changing dramatically, while the volunteer organisations have

had to manage a declining community volunteer ethos. Commissioner Carroll and her leadership team have strived to bring these organisations together despite myriad challenges.

Commissioner Carroll said that while every Queensland summer had the potential to severely test the impact resistance of our state's infrastructure and its emergency response capability, 2018 also brought the challenges of the Commonwealth Games to South East Queensland.

QFES was preparing for the worst, while continuing the process of change.

Background: Commissioner Carroll joined the Queensland Police Service in 1983 and worked in various roles early in her career including detective work, a commission of inquiry, criminal investigation branches, the Joint Organised Crime Task Force and the Covert Unit. She undertook a number of senior roles throughout Queensland and, in 2010, was promoted to Assistant Commissioner. In 2012 she became Program Executive, G20 Group, where she planned and was the Operations Commander for Australia's largest peacetime security operation. In January 2015 Commissioner Carroll was appointed as the Interim Commissioner of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and was permanently appointed to the position in August 2015. The QFES is the primary provider of fire and rescue, emergency management and disaster mitigation programs and services throughout Queensland, and includes Fire and Rescue, Emergency Management, Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service. Commissioner Carroll has several tertiary qualifications including an Executive Masters in Public Administration, a Degree in Criminology and a Graduate Diploma in Applied Management.

Sovereignty dispute in the South China Sea has economic considerations

What's behind the increasing militarization of China's occupation of 30 islets? Why has China constructed four "unsinkable" aircraft carriers, with 7.46 miles of runways capable of supporting 80 aircraft, in the middle of a busy \$5.3 trillion trade conduit? These were questions addressed by **David Hayward** when he spoke to a RUSIQ group in October.



Other questions he tried to answer were: Why has Hainan Island become a fortress for the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) South Fleet and Jin Class SSBN submarines? Why have countries littoral to the SCS retaliated by occupying other SCS and East China Sea islets (number of occupied islets in parenthesis): Indonesia (1), Japan (11), Malaysia (7), Philippines (16), Russia (4), South Korea (2), Taiwan (2) and Vietnam (29)? What's the basis for the prevailing territorial disputes finding their way to the Permanent Court of Arbitration Court and the U.N. Security Council? What is rules-based global order? What are FONOPS? What are the geopolitical, logistic, economic and military implications for Australia?



Mr Hayward provided answers on which many RUSIQ members had a contrary view. Above, left are pictures from the Internet on one of the islets developed by the Chinese military, plus



(immediate left and below) some of their new equipment being focused on the South China Sea bases. Reputed as the new-generation "maritime cavalry", the 056 frigate (above, left) is rapidly augmenting the PLA Navy's littoral warfare capabilities, especially in the South China Sea and East China Sea. This new class of small combatant augments the 60 HOUBEI-class wave-piercing catamaran missile patrol boats. The new frigate will be deployed primarily for patrol and escort missions as well as anti-submarine operations and sea combat tasks, independent or in coordination with other forces. Its primary duty is to patrol sea areas. That is also a task for the Chinese 094 nuclear powered submarines (left).



According to Internet sources, when China launched the maiden voyage of its first aircraft carrier for training, the *Shi Yang*, (pictured left) in August, it had many keen watchers. China purchased the *Varyag*, a Kuznetsov-class carrier from Ukraine, refurbished it, and sent it to sea as *Shi Lang*.

David Hayward's talk helped guide inquirers towards Internet sources on the South China Sea issue that has become clearer in recent months.



Radical Islam threat to Australia is "exaggerated"

A threat to Australia comes not from the effects of terrorism – however, tragic – but our reaction to it vis-à-vis both domestic and foreign policy. This is the view expressed to RUSIQ members when they were given a luncheon talk by University of Queensland lecturer, **Dr Tristan Dunning**, pictured.

He said that Australians must make sure that this doesn't exacerbate the situation by generating more grievances and/or societal divisions. Points he made were:

External intervention – whether this is military, economic, and/or the support of autocratic regions – has created socio-economic grievances and security vacuums, thereby providing both grist and space for the emergence of groups like al-Qa'ida and the ISIS.

He described key events from the First World War, through the Cold War, various conflicts, and the current wars in Iraq and Syria, and briefly discussed consequences "The threat to Australia is highly exaggerated, especially in terms of any existential sense. As a target, this is at least partially to do with Australia's military escapades overseas.

"Nevertheless, the actual threat to an individual in Australia in terms of the number of people killed by in the last 20 to 30 years is miniscule," he said.

The exaggeration of threat was problematic because it did al-Qa'ida and ISIS' propaganda for them both in terms of positing that the West attacks Muslim majority countries and heightening their prestige stemming from the ability to "strike back".

He said this heightened threat perception had also been exploited and instrumentalised by various domestic actors, including politicians, the media, the police and intelligence agencies, to further their own agendas and accrue more funding that could be spent on other more pressing matters such as health, education, infrastructure etc.

"This in turn runs the risk of alienating Australian Muslims and validating the jihadi narrative that Muslims will never be welcome in the West and thereby eliminate the 'grey zones of coexistence' between Muslims and non-Muslims," he said. Telling points made were:

- According to an ANU poll last year, more than half the Australian population feared being hurt in a terrorist attack.
- Since 2001, however, there had been two 'terrorist' attacks in Australia with three fatalities in the last 20 years
- According to the Australian Government, 110 others have been killed overseas since the Bali Bombings,
- The government claims that security agencies have foiled 11 terrorist plots and four major attacks on Australian soil since 2001
- Since 2001, 23 individuals have been convicted of terrorism-related offences in Australia
- In 2005, 22 men were arrested in Operation Pendeniss of which 18 were convicted of terrorism-related offences

About Dr Tristan Dunning: *He is a sessional teaching instructor and honorary research fellow, with a PhD in Political Science awarded by the School of Political Science and International Studies at University of Queensland. He authored "Hamas, Jihad and Popular Legitimacy: Reinterpreting Resistance in Palestine" published as part of Routledge's Critical Terrorism Studies Series in February 2016. This work is based on extensive fieldwork throughout Palestine and the wider Levant. Dr Dunning has also worked as a visiting lecturer at the University of Duhok in the semi-autonomous Kurdish Region of Iraq in 2013-14 and an-Najah National University in Palestine in 2010. He has lived, worked and travelled extensively throughout the Middle East including Palestine, the Kurdish Region of Iraq, Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Iran, Israel and the UAE.*

Donate your books to RUSIQ – and still use them!

Members of RUSIQ can donate their defence-related books and reports (or sound tapes or videos) to the RUSIQ library in side rooms of the RUSIQ Hall at Victoria Barracks, Brisbane.. It already has more than 9,000 books and reports on defence subjects, which members can borrow at no charge.

If your home space is cramped in retirement years, a good idea is to donate defence subject books to the RUSIQ library – and still have access to them whenever they might be needed. Or, your will might ask your partner or children to donate your defence books to RUSIQ. Either way it can be a big plus for all members.

The RUSIQ Librarian, **LTCOL Dal Anderson** RFD.ED (Retd), pictured, is currently registering donated books from several members. Offered books in surplus to the existing RUSIQ stock



are given to the Milne Bay Memorial Library and Research Centre for the Battle of Milne Bay.

It is located in the Chermside Historical Precinct, 61 Kittyhawk Drive, Chermside, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia 4032. The building is the former Sandgate Army Drill Hall, which was built in 1915.

On 14 December 1999, the Hall was moved to Chermside. Otherwise, surplus books are offered at a low price to other RUSIQ members.

The RUSIQ library is open to members on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Contact the RUSIQ Librarian – **LTCOL Dal Anderson** RFD, ED (Ret'd) by phoning RUSIQ on Tuesdays or Wednesdays during business hours.

What is the Royal United Service Institute?

RUSIQ in Brisbane, Australia follows traditions of the Royal United Service Institution and Defence Studies formed in London in 1831. Other RUSI organisations are located in major Australian cities, and in many Commonwealth countries. The inaugural President of RUSI Queensland in 1892 was **Major-General J.I. Owen**, Commander Qld Defence force. It was for many years known as the Naval and Military Institute. Just before World War 2, it was named the United Service Institute. Initially it was formed for the education of military officers of the three Services.

On 6 January 1989, the Institute was incorporated and on 12 September 1996, it changed its name from United Service Institute Queensland Incorporated to the **Royal United Service Institute Queensland Incorporated. (RUSIQ)**. The Institute is located at Victoria Barracks, Brisbane (Building D3). Membership is available to any adult person in sympathy with the aims of the Institute. The membership year runs from 1 July to 30 June. Membership application forms are available from the Secretary.

Obituary:

VALE: LT CDR Bruce Boneham, BEM, RAN (Rtd).

Sadly, I report the death in September of our highly-esteemed and long-time member of RUSIQ, **LT CDR Bruce Boneham, BEM**. Bruce was introduced to naval services through National Service. He progressed to service on corvettes and then the aircraft carrier *HMAS Vengeance* – during service with the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces (BCOF) in Japan. This included service on *HMAS Vengeance* when it carried aircraft to the conflict in Korea. He then became recruiting officer for naval reserves, and was commanding officer of the NAVAL Cadets Training Ship, *TS Bundaberg*, for 20 years. For distinguished naval service Bruce was awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM). He was also a naval pilot up to twin engine rating.

Following naval experience became proprietor of Alexander's Bakery in Murwillumbah, and a director of the bread manufacturer, Tweed Pty Ltd, plus a director of Caterers in Gundagai, Lismore, Rockhampton and Townsville. In addition he was chairman of bakeries in Bundaberg. He was also co-founder of a group of companies operating in Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Ireland, Europe and South Africa. His many business achievements were notable. But his life took a bad turn a few years ago, when he was admitted to a nursing home in Capalaba, where he spent his final years.

We pass on to his wife, Cheryl, and his family, RUSIQ's deepest sympathy for the loss of an officer and a gentleman. A gentle "Anchors Away" Bruce. May you have fair winds and a following sea in the sailors Valhalla.

- **Keith Victorsen OAM**



Leading author on war animals will talk to us

Former military war dog handler, trainer and supervisor of the New Zealand Air Force, **Nigel Allsopp** (see accompanying pictures of some of his book titles), has agreed to talk to a RUSIQ meeting early in 2018. He is currently a Senior Constable in the Queensland Police Service Dog Section – and is a noted author on animals in combat. Other key speakers are planned (see two others mentioned in the President's Message on pages 1 and 2). The 2018 year is expected to be scintillating on many defence and security issues. The RUSIQ Secretary will advise members of dates in good time.

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