



**Royal United Services Institute of Victoria**  
**for Defence Studies**

A Constituent Body of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia

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## **RUSI-VIC NEWS**

**Volume 1 – Issue 1 - JUNE, 2000**

### **Office Bearers**

**President:** Air Commodore Mike Rawlinson RAAF

**Vice Presidents:** Commander Hugh Jarrett RAN  
Brigadier David Noble CSC  
Lieut.Colonel Don Macleod

**Immediate Past President:**

Brigadier W.H. (Mac) Grant

**Secretary:** Miss Elizabeth Stevens

**Treasurer:** Flight Officer Neville Wright RAAF

### **Dates for your Diary**

**29<sup>th</sup> June** – Dr. Hugh White,  
will speak on the White Paper

**27<sup>th</sup> July** - Brigadier Doug Ball to speak on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Brigade of the Australian Army

**17<sup>th</sup> August** – Admiral Chris Barrie will give the  
Blamey Oration

### **President's Message**

This is my first written message since I took up the reins of the RUSI from Brigadier Mac Grant in January. It was my great disappointment that our long serving Secretary, Lieutenant Commander Bill Wallach was unable to continue in office for health reasons. In recognition of their great service to the RUSI, both Mac and Bill have been conferred with Honorary Life Membership by Council.

While Flying Officer Neville Wright has been a tower of strength as Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Librarian, I was most anxious to find a new Secretary, particularly one who was computer literate. I thank Councillor Captain Bob Seddon for suggesting Miss Elizabeth Stevens, Newsletter Editor and Public Relations Officer for the Naval Historical Society. Elizabeth agreed to try the position for a period of two months, which proved mutually successful, and Council has since confirmed her appointment.

Neville will be stepping down from his several positions at the end of June to spend the winter months in warmer climes. We are looking for a Treasurer and for members of a Library Group, which at this time number seven. Coming in once a fortnight or three weeks may appeal to those of you who are avid readers and already use our Library. We look forward to hearing from you.

The year 2000 has been busy for the RUSI. The "Australians in Korea" Seminar in April was very well attended with an excellent selection of speakers. At our luncheon addresses we have had a string of distinguished speakers, including Dr Allan Hawke the new Secretary for Defence, with more to come. I would particularly like to mention that the Chief of the Defence Force Admiral Chris Barrie will deliver our Blamey Oration on Thursday 17 August.

**Please note:** the new 'actual' start time for Luncheon Addresses is now 12.30pm following a 12pm lunch. We have moved the start time forward by 30 minutes to make attendance easier for Serving Members.

In the office, we are just about connected to the net. Rather than maintaining our own website, we will be providing information on our programme to the National Website – the one stop shop for RUSI information, and will advise the address in the next Newsletter.

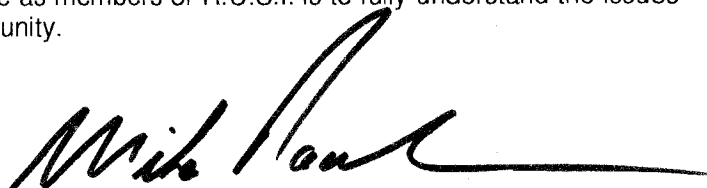
On the publications front, we are replacing the monthly reminders of the Luncheon Address with bi-monthly Newsletter, of which this is the first edition. The Newsletter will contain short articles, items of interest and current information, and we hope that you will enjoy our communication with you. You can expect the format and content to evolve progressively. Longer, more scholarly articles, such as the text of selected Luncheon Addresses will be printed in our Journal (formerly 'RUSI News') which we are still committed to producing twice a year.

Council has approved in principle the re-draft of our Constitution and the Incorporation of the Institute. These items will be put before a General Meeting later this year – please look out for the date. There is nothing radical involved, only modernisation and recognition of current Victorian and Commonwealth Legislation.

Other Legislation to affect the Institute includes the imminent tax reform. While the Institute is not subject to GST, we will pay it on the goods and services we purchase and our costs will therefore rise. This has already been reflected in the new membership fee.

The Government has foreshadowed a Defence White Paper later this year, preceded by a Green Paper for public discussion. We have started our consideration of the issues involved with the Secretary's address 'Money Matters', followed by Major General John Hartley's talk highlighting the difficult issues that the White Paper must address. I urge you all to keep in touch with these issues, as this will probably be the most important White Paper for decades. Our strategic environment is turbulent and uncertain, our forces are at their smallest and most efficient, but require a significant increase in expenditure just to maintain current capability. A hard task in an election year. Our role as members of R.U.S.I. is to fully understand the issues involved and to spread this knowledge in the community.

#### **New Members**



Following the Council Meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> May, we have pleasure in welcoming the following new members:

<b>AGAR</b>	Flt.Lt. (Rtd)	Patrick	of Kew	proposed by	T.C. Brown
<b>BURSTOW</b>	FL LT	Jason	of Sale	"	E. Stevens
<b>COYNE</b>	Mr.	Ralph	of Croydon	"	Harry Levy
<b>JARDINE</b>	Lt.	Peter E.	of Lara Barracks	"	D.Macleod
<b>O'SHAUGHNESSY</b>		Mr. Brian	of South Yarra	"	T.C.Brown
<b>WOLFE</b>	Lt.Col.	Kevan	of Glen Waverley	"	T. Grazebrook
<b>LYONS</b>	Mr.	Anthony	of Oakleigh South	"	E. Stevens
<b>RYAN</b>	WGCDR Rtd	Michael	of Altona	"	E Stevens
<b>RANKINE</b>	Mr.	Jack	of Windsor	"	A. Hall
<b>RANKINE</b>	Mrs.	Wendy	"	"	A. Hall
<b>HUMPHREYS</b>	Mr.	Edward	of Mt.Eliza	"	S. Bryan

#### **Vale**

We have been advised of the deaths of the following members:-

In January, Major Paul Costelloe of North Balwyn. Major Costelloe joined the R.U.S.I. on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 1939 and was elected a Life Member in 1968.

In March, Major Alfred Sheppard of Colac. He was a Sergeant in the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Machine Gun Battalion, and joined the RUSI in 1971.

In April, Lt. F. S Morris RANVR of Mornington, who joined the RUSI in 1968.

In May, Flag Officer F.C. Holdsworth of East Malvern, who joined the RUSI in 1972. Mr. Holdsworth served in Borneo and New Guinea.

We send our condolences to their families.

We are advised that Captain G. Armstrong is residing in the Newcomb Private Nursing Home, and send him our best wishes.

### **R.U.S.I. Library**

We would like to encourage use of our extensive library, to which have been added four new books.

**Wings and the Navy 1947-43** by Colin Jones published by Kangaroo Press 1997  
**Changing the Army** – the roles of doctrine, development and training edited by Michael Evans 2000  
**Korea** – Australians in the war of 1950-53 by George Odgers/Lansdowne Press 2000  
**Stalemate in Korea** – the RAR in the war of 1952-53 by Colin H. Brown/Aust. Military Hist.Pub. 1997

The Library is open from 10am to 4pm during the week. When borrowing books, please note that they have a **4 week** lending time. If you need more time, please ring 9282 7392 and ask for an extension. The following books have been borrowed by members (who will not be named here) and are outstanding. If you think you have them, please bring them in when you are next in town. If you are unable to come in, please let us know and we will arrange a visit and collect them. The books are:-

**Far above battle** by M. Barter    **King George V** by Sir. G. Arthur    **The Client** by John Grisham  
**Men of the 2/14<sup>th</sup> Battalion** by J.C. McAlleser    **Influence of Sea Power** by A.T. Mahan  
**Rulers of India** by W.H Hutton    **Cathedral** by De Mille Nelson    **Petain & De Gaulle** by J.R. Tournoux  
**A pictorial history of Australians at War** by Paul Hamlyn    **Scherger** by Harry Rayner

### **Past Speaker Luncheons**

This year, we have had many speakers of a high calibre, and for those of who have missed them, they have been:-

January            Mr. Alan Dupont on the subject of "Indonesia and East Timor"  
February          LTCOL Richard Wegener, a member of the RUSI Victoria, spoke on the topic of "The National Resources Route". His book of the same name was launched at the meeting.  
March              MAJGEN Mike O'Brien, Support Commander – Army, on the subject of "Logistic support for INTERFET", with an audio-visual presentation.  
April                Dr. Allan Hawke, Secretary – Department of Defence, spoke on "Money Matters"  
May                 MAJGEN John Hartley, National Vice President, RUSI, spoke on "The Next White Paper – a positive step or a whitewash"

Membership attendance has been very good, and it was pleasing to see serving officers in the audience.

### **Annual General Meeting**

This will be held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2000 and will follow BRIG Doug Ball's talk on the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade and the Army today. Please put this date in your diaries now.

### **Geelong Branch Annual Dinner**

This will be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June with guests LTCOL Jim Bancroft – CO/CI Fort Queenscliff; Mr. George Facey – President of Colac Branch, and Air CDRE Mike Rawlinson – President of the RUSI.

We invite the Secretary to let us know how it went, and any other news for the next Newsletter.

### **Launch of new books**

#### ***"Don't forget me cobbler"***

Robin S. Corfield will be launching his book about the Battle of Fromelle of 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> July, 1916. The hard cover book of 480 pages, including 260 illustrations, maps, rolls of honour etc, is priced at \$45.00 plus \$4.50 GST and is the result of 5 years research. This Battle, "*is arguably the greatest military disaster in Australia's history and is the first detailed study of the event since the official history appeared in 1929. Particular mention is made of Major Geoffrey McCrae of 60<sup>th</sup> Btn.*"

**Date:** Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2000

**Venue:** Christ Church Anglican, Cnr Church St & Bridge Road, Hawthorn (on the hill)

**Programme:** 10am Church Service

1.30pm Church will be open to view the window & plaque of MAJ McCrae in this historic church which is undergoing restoration for its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2003.

2pm Book launch in the Memorial Hall of Christ Church which was built in memory of the men from the parish who served in the Great War. Light refreshments will be served.

'Friends of the 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade' will be hosting this launch and will need to know if you are coming, for catering purposes. Please call Jacqui Todd (Secretary) on 9551 9001 or Lambis Englezos on 9489 6951.

#### ***"We band of brothers"***

Dr. Peter Brune of Adelaide and author of "*Those ragged bloody heroes*" & "*Gona's Gone*", is having this book about LTCOL Ralph Honner, launched by MAJGEN Peter Cosgrove.

**Date:** Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2000

**Venue:** Auditorium at Victoria Barracks

**Time:** 10.30am to 12 noon

As this is bound to be well attended and spaces are limited, please call RUSI on 9282 7498 or 9282 7392.

### **Millenium 2000 International Humanitarian Law Conference**

This Conference is to be held at the Hyatt Regency in Perth from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> July, and will explore the interface between International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law. Several prominent speakers will include MAJGEN Peter Cosgrove and Mr. Ravi Nair, Executive Director of South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre, New Delhi.

The Australian Red Cross has asked the RUSI to promote this Conference to our members.

### **Albert Coates – a life**

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria recently held a "*Gold Museum Touring Exhibition*" in association with The Albert Coates Memorial Trust, to tell his story and redress his omission from the public's gaze.

Sir Albert Ernest Coates was born in Ballarat in 1895, served as a medical orderly in WWI in Gallipoli, where he served with distinction. After the war he put himself through medical school and moved quickly into a notable career in surgery and teaching. Aged 46, he volunteered for duty in WWII and became a prisoner of war with his men at the fall of Singapore, working on the Thai-Burma Railway, and saving more prisoner of war lives than any other doctor in the prison camps with his improvised techniques and scarcely any medical equipment.

Upon his return from War, Sir Albert became Senior Surgeon at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and Stewart Lecturer in Sydney, and was a mentor of Sir Edward Dunlop, who paid tribute to him in his diaries. At Sit Albert" memorial service, Sir Edward said: "*so we have this man, a master surgeon, soldier, teacher, orator, ambassador extraordinary – a man so gifted, so full of spirit and endeavour and so courageous and who gave so much of himself to the public good and our good, that his whole life is on a plane so far above the average man...all in all we can say, 'there was a man, we may not see his like again.'*"

## Army News

The army is to have a new DCA with the appointment of MAJGEN Peter Leahy to the position held by MAJGEN Peter Abigail, who is vacating this to take up the appointment of Land Commander Australia.

W.A. RSL branches are sponsoring young people to take part in 'The Quiet Line Tour' pilgrimage conducted by former POW diggers, to Thailand each year.

WA based soldiers presented the 21<sup>st</sup> Governor, MAJGEN Mike Jeffrey with a fishing rod as a retirement gift at Irwin Barracks. "I've had so many joys and experiences from being a cadet and being moved by the infantryman," he said. MAJGEN Jeffrey is looking forward to retirement in Canberra.

NATO acknowledged Australia's role as a world leader in the integration of women in the military, with an invitation to address the organisation. Dr. Kathryn Spurling will also be spending a month at West Point Military Academy to attend a military history seminar series.

## Air Force News

The Canadian Air Force is studying options to add to its strategic airlift fleet. The Canadian military would create a rapid deployment force which would be made available to NATO or the United Nations, and there is a need for a roll-on, roll-off capability, which is currently not met by the second-hand airbuses.

## Worldwide Defence News

1. The Australian Government will assume near-complete control of Australian Submarine Corporation Pty.Ltd. to restructure its ownership and bring in new international partners equity investors in the company. Meanwhile, the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corp. in Falls Church, Virginia was awarded a technical consulting contract from the Navy's submarine project office, to help overcome outstanding software and hull problems. They will be invited to buy into the A.S.C.

2. Local sourcing of repairs, maintenance and spares will save \$518 million during the ship's 25 year service life. If Australia wishes to be the parent navy for a new class of ships, as it is for the Anzac class, then the Dept. of Defence must support local industry

3. South Korean & U.S. negotiators will be bringing divergent agendas, pending discussions on America's military presence on the peninsula, including regaining some of the land used by U.S. troops, since the end of the Korean War in 1953.

## Navy News

The Minister for Defence, Mr. John Moore, has announced that a \$30 million Defence Service Centre will be established in Cooma, N.S.W. This will be a telephone call centre offering a "one-stop-shop" for Defence personnel who need assistance with employment issues, personnel policy and procedure.

The ADF has the task of supporting the Sydney 2000 Games, providing about 4000 personnel. These sailors, soldiers, airmen and women will be selected for the numerous tasks at the Games, representing Defence and Australia at a time when the world spotlight will be focused on our nation.

A joint commissioning ceremony for nuships Leeuwin class hydrographic ships, *Leeuwin* and *Melville* will be held at Trinity Wharf, Cairns on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2000. It is to be believed to be the first time in the history of the RAN that two ships have been simultaneously commissioned.

The *USS Iwo Jima*, the 7<sup>th</sup> Wasp-class amphibious assault ship built by Litton Ingalls Shipbuilding, is scheduled to undergo U.S. Navy sea trials by year's end. She was christened at a March ceremony after being launched in February. This LHD 7 is set to be commissioned into the Navy by the middle of next year.

Budget 2000 – provision of services for 2 ported hydrographic ships at *HMAS Cairns*.

" " - naval ammunition facilities at Eden.

" " - upgrade of power facilities to support ships at *HMAS Waterhen*.

" " - redevelopment of Nowra base to support continuing air operations & relocation of Naval Avn Log Mgmt Squadron from Sydney.

Budget 2000 – Stage 1 of north Australia naval Infrastructure incl. Ship berth facilities.

The ADF Academy in Canberra held its annual parade following the end of initial military training for the new intake of 2000. CDRE Brian Adams witnessed his last parade as Commandant of the Academy, and departed, being replaced by Brig. Gordon Jones.

An 80 page study "*Impact of major defence projects – a case study of the Anzac ship project*" highlights the major achievements from this project, including pumping some \$3 billion and 8000 full-time jobs into the country's economy during its 1990-2005 construction phase.

### Australians in Korea Seminar

This very successful seminar was held on 8<sup>th</sup> April in the Victoria Barracks Auditorium. It was attended by about 90 people, including members of the Korean Veterans Assoc. The Seminar was opened by MAJGEN Paul Stevens, following a welcome by President Mike Rawlinson. Speakers were:-

Dr. Chris Coulthard-Clark –	Political and Strategic Overview
WG CDR Dick Creswell –	The RAAF in Korea
LTCOL. Alf Argent & LTCOL Ben O'Dowd –	Up to Kapyong
LTCOL Ben O'Dowd –	The Battle of Kapyong
CDRE Dacre Smyth –	The RAN in Korea
MAJGEN Jim Hughes –	The Battle of Maryang San
LTCOL Colin Brown –	Stalemate

This was followed by a panel discussion in which members of the audience were invited to ask questions. Thank you to the convenor, Dr. John Bradley, and to all who contributed to the Seminar's success.

### New and Recent Books

**New:** *Private Wars – Personal records of the Anzacs in the Great War* by Greg Kerr

This book traces the experiences of 160 participants in the Great War, using 200 rare photographs to illustrate the front line, as seen by soldiers, and thus preserves invaluable records of Australia's participation in one of the defining events of the twentieth century. Cost: \$39.95

**Recent:** *Lost Anzacs – the story of two brothers* by Greg Kerr

In this book, Greg goes in search of his soldier grandfather and his brother, who enlisted in WWI in different battalions, using their diaries and photographs. A moving account of two very different Anzac stories. Cost: \$19.95

published by Oxford University Press Tel: 9934 9122

### Department of Veterans Affairs Media Releases

1. Budget recognises a century of service
2. Increased support for Vietnam Veterans and their families
3. Budget extends Veteran's entitlements
4. Complete home care package for Veterans
5. Century of Service honoured
6. Veterans of South-east Asia 1955-75

If you would like copies of these media releases, please call the office on 9282 7498 or 9282 7392

*Elizabeth L.*



"Would you limit your call to three minutes?"

courtesy of 'White over Green' 2/4th Battalion History