



Royal United Services Institute of Western Australia

Newsletter

September 2013 Edition

Promoting National Security and Defence

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

President: Colonel Mike Brennan Secretary/Treasurer: Ms Louise Austen

RUSI of WA, Leeuwin Barracks, Riverside Road, East Fremantle
Postal Address: C/- Department of Defence, Locked Bag 5001,
Fremantle, WA, 6160

In this Newsletter

Page 2 – Annual General Meeting and Lecture

Page 2 – Biography – Major General Simone Wilkie

Page 3 – Australian War Memorial Travelling Exhibition

Page 4 – Australian Defence College – A Quick Background

Page 5 – Reading Suggestions – The Privatisation of War

Page 5 – Hard Work Ahead at the Security Council

Page 6 – Presidency of the Security Council

YOUR PATRONS, OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE

2013 PROGRAM

| SEPTEMBER | |
|---|--|
| 26 September | 7:00 for 7:30pm Major General Simone Wilkie, Commander Australian Defence College (Venue - Army Museum of Western Australia - "The Australian Defence College: Leading Defence Training and Education in Order to Build Defence Capability") |
| OCTOBER | |
| 23 October (Wednesday) | 7:00 for 7:30 pm Professor Sarah Percy UWA - " <i>Mercenaries, Private Military Companies, and Private Security Companies</i> "- |
| NOVEMBER | |
| 28 November | 7:00 for 7:30pm Colonel Michael Page, Senior Military Liaison Officer, Directorate of Indigenous Affairs - <i>The Defence Indigenous Development Program</i> |
| January 2014 | In lieu of a Christmas Sundowner, the RUSI will launch 2014 with a special function and lecture in late January. Details will be forthcoming. |
| The next Newsletter will be published on 1 October 2013 Copy Deadline 15 September 2013 | |

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND LECTURE

The Annual General Meeting saw the retirement of Councillors Justin Court, Judith Dowson and Ernest McEntee. Welcomes were extended to newly elected Councillors Kim Carter, Lindsay Dorman, Megan Fox and Mitchell Sutton. Otto Pelczar stood down as Secretary-Treasurer bringing to a close an association with the RUSI extending over 51 years. In addition to the President's Report published in the August Newsletter, Colonel Michael Brennan extended appreciation and thanks to all those who had assisted the RUSI during the previous year.

The AGM formalities were followed by a lecture on Media and National Security by Dr Martin Drum of the University of Notre Dame Australia. In his presentation Dr Drum charted the evolution of ideas of press freedom and responsibility from the ideas of John Stuart Mills to the age of social media. He charted an historical reluctance to report on national security issues through avoiding doing harm to others – the "Harm Principle".

The challenges of today in a "war on terror context" was the difficulty of verifying information, pressures to be the first to respond and the ease of access to community journalism or electronic content. The "Harm Principle" was being supplanted by the concept of a "public interest test" when it came to reporting on security and defence issues. Dr Drum used the Holdsworth Terrorist Plot and the Bradley Manning Wikileaks cases to illustrate some of the issues arising in contemporary reporting and how they can shape public perceptions.

[Return to Page One](#)

BIOGRAPHY – MAJOR GENERAL SIMONE WILKIE



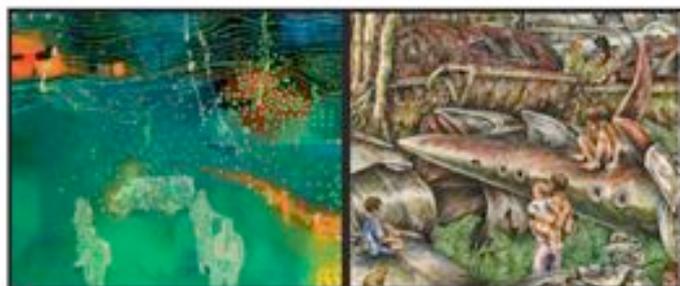
Major General Wilkie will speak on her career in Australian Army and her vision for development of training and education conducted by the Australian Defence College.

Major General Simone Wilkie was commissioned into the Royal Australian Corps of Signals in 1983. Her regimental and instructional appointments include serving as a platoon commander at the 1st Recruit Training Battalion; instructor at the Royal Military College – Duntroon and Adjutant of the Force Communications Unit, Cambodia. In 2007 she served as the Assistant Chief of Staff on the Multi National Force Headquarters Iraq (MNF-I).

Major General Wilkie's command appointments include OC 136 Signal Squadron; CO of the Corps of Staff Cadets, Royal Military College Duntroon; Commandant of the Army Recruit Training Centre; and Assistant Commander, Joint Task Force 633 in Afghanistan 2011/12.

Major General Wilkie has a Bachelor of Social Science (HRM), a Graduate Diploma in Telecommunications Systems Management, a Graduate Diploma of Strategic Studies, and a Masters of Defence Studies. Her personal awards include Member of the Order of Australia, a Commendation for Distinguished Service, and the United States Bronze Star.

[Return to Page One](#)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL TRAVELLING EXHIBITION**Perspectives:
Jon Cattapan &
eX de Medici**

Left: Jon Catapan Night patrols (around Maltana)[detail] 2009, oil on Belgian linen, AWM ART93993.001-003. Right: eX de Medici Tetanus [detail] 2009, watercolour on paper, AWM ART 94226 An Australian War Memorial Traveling Exhibition

Australian War Memorial **Perspectives** Exhibition will be in Perth over August and September. The City of Wanneroo Library and Cultural Centre has a strong relationship with the Australian War Memorial and it is one of a small number of venues in Perth approved by the AWM to house their works of art.

The **Perspectives** exhibition presents the unique work of two official war artists: Jon Cattapan and eX de Medici. Jon Cattapan's art captures the work carried out by peacekeepers deployed with the International Stabilisation Force in Timor Leste in July 2008. eX de Medici's work captures the work of peacekeepers involved in Operation Anode, in the Solomon Islands in March 2009.

The Australian War Memorial Official War Art Scheme was initiated during the First World War and was based on similar models in Britain and Canada. War artists were deployed during the Second World War, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

In 1999 the Scheme was renewed when artists were appointed to depict peacekeeping operations in East Timor (Timor-Leste). More recently war artists have deployed to Afghanistan and other regions in the Middle East, and to the Solomon Islands.

Typically, the artist is embedded with Australian military forces in conflicts or on peacekeeping missions. This allows artists to create a unique works of art from a personal and well-informed perspective of the particular conflict.

RUSI WA President, COL Mike Brennan, was invited to give a talk on his personal experiences as a peacekeeper, as an adjunct to the exhibition. On 14 August Mike Brennan spoke on his experiences as the Commanding Officer of a peace Monitoring Team in northern Bougainville, as part of the Peace Monitoring Group, in 2000. He also spoke on the Australian Defence Force involvement in peacekeeping operations in East Timor over 1999-2012.

The **Perspectives** Exhibition closes on the 22 September. More details are available on the City of Wanneroo web site www.wanneroo.wa.gov.au .

[Return to Page One](#)

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE COLLEGE – A QUICK BACKGROUND

http://www.defence.gov.au/adc/docs/hqADC2013/ADC_Evolution.pdf



Australian Defence College (ADC) was established to meet the strategic needs of the Australian Defence Force for joint professional military education and individual joint warfare training. This is achieved through delivery of courses, exercises and programs of study at the Australian Defence College and the Australian Defence Force Warfare Centre. Each centre has a different role in preparing Australian Defence Force personnel, Australian Public Servants and members of Defence industry for senior roles within a joint operating environment.

The Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies

The Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies (CDSS) is the senior educational institution of the Australian Defence College. It is responsible for providing Australian and overseas participants with the knowledge and skills required to operate at the strategic level in a complex and modern security environment.

To achieve this, the principal activity of the CDSS is delivery of the Defence and Strategic Studies Course - the senior course in Australia for senior military officers and Government officials engaged in national security issues.

CDSS is part of the Australian Defence College (ADC) Campus located at Weston Creek in the south-west of Canberra. It was opened in January 2001, and has replaced the Australian College of Defence and Strategic Studies and the Joint Services Staff College, both of which previously operated at Weston Creek.

Australian Command and Staff College

The Australian Command and Staff College (ACSC) aims to prepare selected career officers for command and staff appointments at the O5 level in single Service, joint and integrated environments. The College vision is to promote excellence in war-fighting and develop quality leaders. This is done through delivery of three courses - the Australian Command and Staff Course (Joint), the Royal Australian Navy Staff Acquaint Course, and the Australian Command and Staff Course Army Reserve.

Selection to attend ACSC is an expression of confidence in an officer's superior performance to date, and of potential for increased responsibility. ACSC marks transition from a tactical operational to an operational-strategic focus. More than any other course or program of development, ACSC will determine the level of contribution an officer will make to the nation in the future.

With officers from the Australian Regular and Reserve military, the Australian Public Service, and from over 20 allied and partner countries represented at ACSC, Course Members are exposed to a sometimes challenging diversity of perspectives and given an invaluable opportunity to establish firm professional and personal relationships with the future leaders of Australian, allied and partner forces.

[Return to Page One](#)

READING SUGGESTIONS – THE PRIVATISATION OF WAR
"Mercenaries, Private Military Companies, and Private Security Companies"

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-privatization-of-war-mercenaries-private-military-and-security-companies-pmsc/21826>

<http://www.army.gov.au/Our-future/DARA/Our-publications/~media/Files/Our%20future/DARA%20Publications/WP/wp138.ashx>

<http://www.cgsc.edu/carl/download/csipubs/kidwell.pdf>

http://www.privatemilitary.org/private_military_companies.html

[Return to Page One](#)

HARD WORK AHEAD AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL

by Melissa Conley Tyler & Almog Elijis - 30 August 2013

Melissa Conley Tyler is National Executive Director of the Australian Institute of International Affairs. Almog Elijis is an AIIA intern.

On Sunday, Australia will take up the presidency of the UN Security Council for September. Given the federal election and the unfolding situation in Syria, the timing could hardly be more challenging. Australia worked hard to win a place as an elected member of the UN Security Council, the diplomatic version of the chance to host the Olympics. The next month will show that it's not just a prize.

It was a difficult campaign. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd announced Australia's candidacy in March 2008 six years after competitors Luxembourg and Finland. The Opposition campaigned against the bid, describing it as 'extravagant' and distracting 'from core foreign policy interests'. So it was with a certain amount of relish that Foreign Minister Bob Carr announced 'a big, juicy, decisive win' with Australia elected in the first round of voting with an emphatic 140 votes.

Australia's campaign slogan was 'Making a Difference for Small and Medium Countries' and it has been trying to deliver on this promise. Australia is the chair of three sanction committees: Iran, Al Qaeda and the Taliban. It is also the 'pen holder' for Afghanistan with responsibility for preparing resolutions.

So far Australia has achieved a number of things, including playing a role in resolutions on Mali; promoting the women, peace and security agenda; and contributing to the reform of UN Security Council working methods. Something that gained attention was Australia's contribution to the Arria Formula meeting on climate change and security, convened by Pakistan and the UK, where Senator Carr recorded a video with President Tong on a beach in Kiribati talking about the impact of climate change on small island states and the threat of rising sea levels.

Usually Australia would see its month as UN Security Council president as a way to shape the international agenda. September is a particularly prized month because it includes the 'Leadership week' with world leaders attending.

The federal election has made it harder for Australia to leverage this opportunity. Whether and how the newly elected or re-elected prime minister will be involved in UN Security Council presidency post-election is not yet clear. As Russell Trood has noted, it's an example of an important diplomatic opportunity falling prey to domestic politics.

The biggest issue for Australia and for the Security Council as a whole is the unfolding situation in Syria, which is set to dominate the next month. Australia is on record as desiring a strong Council response based on Kofi Annan's Geneva Plan. Minister for Foreign Affairs Bob Carr has put forward a proposal for all sides to the conflict to allow medical equipment to reach civilians and protect hospitals, and in recommending referral to the International Criminal Court.

Given the continuing deadlock, Australia counted it as a win for its advocacy that the UN Security Council hosted a dedicated session on the situation back in April and that Rwanda delivered a press statement on the humanitarian situation as president. Australia has also convened an Arria Formula meeting on Syria. Australia is continuing to raise the issue and advocate an active response by the international community in order to promote a Syrian-led political transition.

The next month will be a test of Australia's ability to make its mark at the UN Security Council. Lessons from other small and middle powers show there are a number of methods Australia can use to maximise its influence, including participating actively, coalition-building, confidence-building, strong and creative leadership and engagement of parties in discussions that affect them. New Zealand's last term on the UN Security Council during the 1994 Rwanda genocide showed that it is possible for a small state to decisively influence the international response.

[Return to Page One](#)

PRESIDENCY OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Section 30 of the United Nations Charter states that the Security Council is empowered to establish rules of procedure, "including the method of selecting its President". The Security Council has established the following method of selecting the president: the presidency rotates monthly among the state members of the Security Council. The rotation takes place in alphabetical order of the member states' official United Nations names in English.

All members of the Council, including the President, must present credentials issued by either the head of state, the head of government, or the minister of foreign affairs of their respective states to the Secretary-General, except if the representative is also the head of government or minister of foreign affairs.

The Permanent Representative (ambassador) of the state that holds the presidency is usually the president of the Council, but if an official from the state who is higher in authority than the Permanent Representative (such as a foreign minister, prime minister, or head of state) is present in the Council, the higher official is the president. For example, in January 2000, a month in which the United States held the presidency of the Security Council, U.S. Vice President Al Gore headed the United States delegation to the United Nations for a few days. As a result, Gore was the President of the Security Council during this time.

The role of president of the Security Council involves calling the meetings thereof, approving the provisional agenda (proposed by the Secretary-General), presiding at its meetings, and overseeing any crisis. The president is authorized to issue both Presidential Statements (subject to consensus among Council members) and notes, which are used to make declarations of intent that the full Security Council can then pursue. The President also usually speaks to the press on behalf of the Security Council.

Find out more: <http://www.un.org/en/sc/>

[Return to Page One](#)

**Subscriptions are due on 1 July annually
Please renew if you have not already done so**

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

Phone: (08) 9311 2429

Fax: (08) 9311 2460

e-mail: rusiwamembers@gmail.com

Office and Library Hours:

9.30 am to 4.00 pm

Tuesday and Thursday

Mobile/sms: 0417 802 618

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

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

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

Assistant Librarian: Mr Ernest McEntee

Newsletter Editor: Colonel Robert Mitchell

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

Air Commodore Norman Ashworth

Colonel Phillip Skelton, AM

Stay informed. Visit the RUSI web site: <https://www.rusi.org.au/index.php>

[Return to Page One](#)