



Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, New South Wales, Incorporated

*A constituent body of the
Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies Australia Limited
Promoting defence and national security since 1888
ABN 80 724 654 162*

BOARD'S REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTE FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2019 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

Overview

During the period 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020, the Institute's Board managed the Institute's affairs in accordance with established policies, governance arrangements and priorities.

The key challenge faced by the Board was the impact of the restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic on our normal activities. Despite these restrictions, the Board conducted an effective programme of interesting lectures on video podcasts; distributed the Institute's journal; and continued operations in the library, but with limited access to members.

The Institute

The Institute was founded in 1888 and is an independent, apolitical, not-for-profit, public education association, incorporated in NSW. The Institute seeks to promote an understanding of defence and national security. Its focus is the defence of Australia and its interests, within the broader context of national, international and global security concerns.

The Institute:

- assists members to maintain their awareness of contemporary defence and security issues;
- contributes to the continuing professional education of those members professionally active in the defence and security community;
- promotes informed understanding of contemporary defence and security issues;
- investigates and analyses significant issues of contemporary public policy related to Australia's defence and national security, and informs government, the defence community and the wider Australian community of its findings; and
- encourages and facilitates the study of, and research into, contemporary and historic military campaigns, issues related to defence and security policy, and military art, science and technology, with a view to better informing present and future policy and practice.

Ursula Davidson Library

The Library is a public library containing a nationally significant collection of military books, journals, maps, military training manuals and other artefacts.

The library was managed by Library Manager, David Leece until December and then by Paul Irving, with support from the Library Committee and volunteers. During the year:

- the backlog in cataloguing and barcoding the book collection was considerably reduced;
- the progressive systematic stocktake of the entire collection continued (about 85% of the collection has been audited);
- the online catalogue was updated on a regular basis and a significant number of additional books were added to the collection;

- members and members of the public donated a substantial number of books to the library;
- surplus books were identified and sold that raised \$3885 during the 2019/20 financial year for re-investing into new book purchases;
- the Library Committee met monthly to review books and approve book acquisitions;
- sorting and cataloguing the large collection of Military Training Pamphlets commenced;
- around 300 books were repaired and rebound as part of a major book restoration project; and
- a number of missing journals were identified and obtained.

Education Programme

The Education Programme in 2019-20 delivered one visit to the Tactical Warfare Training Centre at HMAS Watson and 12 lectures, covering a range of contemporary defence and security issues, as well as relevant historical studies (Appendix 1). Lectures were held in the auditorium in the Centenary Extension of the Anzac Memorial until COVID-19 restrictions closed the Anzac Memorial, when lectures were recorded as podcasts and placed on the RUSI NSW YouTube channel.

Edited versions of the lecture presentations were also published in *United Service*.

Research Programme - Special Interest Group on Strategy

A key focus of the Special Interest Group (SIG) on Strategy, led by William Hobart, was enhancing SIG members' knowledge of military strategy. This was assisted by corresponding member Vice Admiral A. K. Singh of the United Service Institution of India, who sent opinion pieces on the contemporary international strategic situation and members David Leece, Chris Skinner, Ian Wolfe, Tim Ford and Ian Pfennigwerth, who provided updates on strategic and operational matters.

Social Events

The Institute's 2019 Christmas Luncheon was held in the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel and was a most enjoyable occasion. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not possible to hold an event to celebrate the Institute's 132nd Anniversary in August 2020.

Library Gift Fund

In 2017, the Institute embarked on a major fund-raising exercise to purchase a compactus, to pay for the incidental costs involved in the relocation, to employ a librarian if possible, and to repair the book collection. No matter how much care was taken in relocating the book collection, some books were damaged and required repair. This fund-raising exercise continued during 2018 and 2019.

In the 2018/19 financial year, the Board instituted a major book restoration project. The Board allocated \$25,000 from the Library Gift Fund for this project to continue into the 2019/20 financial year, but the project was put on hold in early 2020 due the COVID-19 restrictions.

Journal – *United Service*

The Institute's quarterly professional journal, *United Service*, now in its 73rd year of continuous publication, was distributed to our members and leaders of government, the ADF and defence industry at no charge. It was also published concurrently online, both on our website and in the RMIT University *Informit* Collections that are accessed by academic and like institutions worldwide, and with EBSCO Publishing, an international online publications service.

Papers from the journal were regularly downloaded from our website by people in more than 50 countries each month. Consequently through the journal, we are informing the defence and security debate in Australia and in bringing an Australian perspective to that debate internationally.

Key to the journal's success was positioning the journal as a professional rather than academic journal, maintaining a balance of topics [defence policy, national security, grand strategy, military operations, and military history], and keeping the articles short, readable and free of jargon, without compromising academic rigour.

Website

The Institute's excellent website is at www.rusinsw.org.au. The website was indispensable to our operations and gives the Institute an international presence. Most new members join via the website. The website is linked to the national website of the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies - Australia.

Defence and Security Newsletter

The Institute's Defence and Security Newsletter was issued by e-mail each month until February 2020 to Institute members with an e-mail address and to non-members (in total, over 1000 persons) who requested to receive it. It was also published on the RUSI NSW website and on the national website. The newsletter included defence and security news, details of recent and forthcoming Institute activities, upcoming defence related conferences, and information about new members and deceased members.

The Institute aims to re-commence publication of the Newsletter shortly.

Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/RUSIDSSNSW/>

The Institute used the internet and social media to enhance our reach, to provide a communication point for young people and to engage with members. With COVID19 restrictions, our web and social media presence became even more important.

In July 2019, we launched a YouTube channel (mirroring our presentation pages on our website). This provided an opportunity for members to view our past and current lectures and presentations at home or in the office. We now have 35 unique lectures added to our YouTube library and have registered an average of 129 views per month, with a total of 12,860 views over the past 12 months.

Theodora Fox, our Social Media Manager, provided regular reports to the Board on the number of hits on our Facebook site, as well as the number of visits to our webpage, the top countries visiting our pages and most popular downloads.

Over the past 12 months, we averaged 19,095 hits to our webpages per month, with a total of 14,821 unique visitors during the past year. Our webpages have a global reach that is most popular with USA, Great Britain, Germany and China.

The RUSI NSW Facebook page has been operating for more than two years with 110 followers and has reached 2,533 people in the last 12 months through organic growth.

The Institute has a LinkedIn group profile to encourage networking for professionals in the defence and security industry. The LinkedIn page has 64 members.

Members are encouraged to explore the RUSI NSW internet and social media pages to join our electronic community.

Events Notices

The Institute emailed Events Notices of forthcoming lectures, visits and social events to all members with an e-mail address and to non-members who wish to be informed of our events.

Finance

While the Institute's reporting year was from 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020, the Institute's financial year was from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020. The audited Financial Report for year ended 30 June 2019 is at Appendix 2.

The Institute recorded a trading or operating surplus for the financial year of \$11,386. This surplus can be attributed to:

- the policy, introduced several years ago, that each event conducted by the Institute (lecture, seminar and social activity *etc.*) is to cover its cost;
- the continuing support of our events by our members;
- income from our investments;
- generous donations from members;
- reviewing all expenditure and reducing expenditure wherever possible; and
- reducing planned expenditure on book preservation in the latter half of the financial year

The Institute's financial position remains sound. As a result, the Board decided to maintain the membership subscriptions for 2019/20 at the level last set in 2015.

The Board appreciates the generosity of many members in making donations to the Institute. A list of donors who have agreed to have their names published is at Appendix 3. This on-going support is vital to our viability.

Membership

During the year, we welcomed 41 new members. We were saddened to receive notification of the deaths of a number of members and the Institute extends its sympathy to the relatives of the deceased. In particular, we lost a stalwart of the Institute with the death of Vice President, John Hutcheson on 18 August 2020.

A small number of members did not renew their membership or transferred interstate. At the end of the year, we had 514 members, including 12 student members.

The Institute's Board

The Board is set out below. The Board met monthly and focused on the strategic management of the Institute; regularly reviewed its investment policy and reviewed its corporate governance arrangements.

President	Paul Irving AM, PSM, RFD
Immediate Past President	David Leece PSM, RFD, ED
Vice President	John Hutcheson MC (deceased)
Secretary	Steve Bell
Treasurer	Graham Brown
Board Members:	Yvonne Butler
	Theodora Fox
	Michael Flynn RAN
	Michael Hough AM, RFD, ED
	Kim Turner RFD
	Lyall Wood AM, RFD
	Kim Turner RFD
Public Officer	Ronald C. G. Grace JP, FCPA, FCIS, FGIA
Auditor	John Rudd, OAM, FCPA from December 2019

Special Acknowledgements

We have been fortunate to enjoy the patronage and active support of our Patron, the Governor of New South Wales and Vice Patrons, the Commander Australian Fleet, Commander Forces Command, Air Commander Australia, Commander 2nd Division and Chief Executive Officer, Thales Australia and New Zealand, as well as our Councillors Emeritus.

Special thanks are also due to: David Leece, Editor of *United Service*; William Hobart, Co-ordinator of the Special Interest Group on Strategy; John Rudd and Steve Bell our Secretary; Graham Brown, our Treasurer and Office Manager; John Howells, our Website Manager and video producer; the journal's Editorial Advisory Committee [Bob Treloar, Ken Broadhead, and Ian Pfennigwerth]; the journal's typesetter, Marilou Carceller; John Hutcheson (deceased) for the sale of surplus books; Theodora Fox for design and distribution of our newsletters, brochures and managing our social media; Doug Roser for sourcing material for the Defence and Security newsletter; Ken Broadhead for organising lecture presenters, for cataloguing the map collection, and with Norm Symon, for organising our social event; and our volunteers (Sergio Zampatti, Chris Ballantine, John Hutcheson, David Button, Colin Kay and Barry Porter) who showed our members and members of the public around the library's reading room; our library volunteers (Theodora Fox, John Glen, Lisa Sangiolo, Lou Cunningham and Cris Garigliano, who worked on the cataloguing of books; Ken McGuire, our library stocktake officer; Ron Grace and John Rudd, our Hon. Auditor; and the Library Committee [Peter Court (chair), David Leece, John Hutcheson and Colin Baker].

Conclusion

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NSW has been in a state of crisis for much of the reporting year and as a result, it has been a most difficult year for our members.

Nevertheless, I am confident that in the near future, we will be able to resume our normal activities and provide the full range of services to our members.

In accordance with the Institute's Constitution, I will be standing down as President at the Institute's AGM in November. I will continue to undertake the responsibilities of Library Manager, as well as continue on the Board as Immediate Past President.

Whist the last four years has been somewhat of a roller coaster ride, the relocation of the Institute and its library to its now permanent home in the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park, Sydney in October 2018 has provided a wonderful opportunity for the Institute. Our members, as well as the public, can access the library for educational and research purposes that in turn is increasing our interaction with the wider community.

I thank the Board Members for their great assistance over the past four years, our loyal members and especially David Leece for his wise counsel.

Paul Irving

President

30 October 2020

Appendices

1. Education Programme 2019-20
2. Financial Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2020 (forwarded separately)
3. List of Donors 2019-20

Education Programme - 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020

29 October 2019 – Lunch-time Lecture: *Does Australia Need a 'Plan B' for its Defence Policy?*- Speaker: Dr Peter Jennings, Executive Director, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

26 November 2019 - Lunch-time Lecture: *To Shoot or not to Shoot*, Major Andrew Brayshaw

10 December 2019 – Lunch-time Lecture: *Sir Hermann Black Year in Review*: Speaker: Mr Andrew Greene, ABC Defence Correspondent

28 January 2020 – Lunch-time lecture – *The Three Vietnam Wars 1946 to 1975*– Speaker: Colonel David Wilkins OAM (Ret'd)

25 February 2020 – Lunch-time Lecture: *Averting Crisis: American Strategy, Military Spending and Collective Defence in the Indo-Pacific* – Speaker: Ashley Townshend, Director of Foreign Policy and Defence, United States Study Centre, University of Sydney

4 March 2020 - Visit to Tactical Warfare Training Centre at *HMAS Watson*

31 March 2020 – Lecture: *Assessing the Ambitious Reforms of the Chinese People's Liberation Army*– Speaker: Professor Bates Gill, Macquarie University

28 April 2020 –Lecture: *Australia's Pivot to Pacific; destiny, duty, denial, and desires* – Speaker: Mr Graeme Dobell, Journalist Fellow at Australian Strategic Policy Institute

26 May 2020 – Lecture: *Ethics in the ADF* - Speaker: Dr Simon Longstaff AO

23 June 2020 – Lecture: *Defence "Star Shots" Benefitting Defence and the Community* - Speaker: Professor Tanya Monro, Chief Defence Scientist

28 July 2020 –Lecture: *Why Climate Change is an Important Component of National Security*– Speaker: Admiral Chris Barrie AC (Ret'd)

25 August 2020 – Lecture: *The State of Trans-Atlantic Relations: the United States and Europe*– Speaker: Dr Gorana Grgic, Department of Government & International Relations University of Sydney

29 September 2020: Lecture: *Battle of the Bismark Sea* – Speaker: Lieutenant Colonel Peter Sweeney, RFD

Appendix 3

List of Donors 2019 - 2020

The Institute acknowledges and sincerely thanks the following donors for their support in 2019 - 2020. The list aggregates donations to both the General Fund and the Library Gift Fund.

\$1,000 & above	\$50 to \$99	Below \$50
R P Irving	I Andrews	A R Abadee
D R & P Leece	P K H Bridie	C J Ballantine
G F Paton	P J Cameron	J Bineham
P W P Salisbury	D Cannon	T R Duchesne
	J Coggan	R J Flint
\$200 to \$999	I M Crawford	D R Gillies
K J Broadhead	J R Dart	W E Glenny
G D Brown	D H Delley	R Guest
B F Collins	J J Doyle	V E Hallinan
S M Corby	J Fleming	S Harco
R I George	T R Ford	T R Harwood
J G Hitchen	B Goulston	M J Hough
C J Lynn	I M Guild	A L Hunt
K R Turner	C R Hoeben	J J Jeans
	J M Hutcheson	J Kirkham
\$100 - \$199	J W Hyland	B Korendijk
M R Adamson	R W Joseph	AA W Lanach-Jones
M M Bastick	I Kuring	K M McGuire
S G Bell	F H Lang	K J McKay
J I Braid	I G Lenthall	B Nebenzahl
D J Button	N Lewis	A R Price
N J Cameron Smith	G M McCormack	A J Segall
P K Court	K J McCracken	D G Sharp
N Dettmann	M G McEvoy	I G Watkins
M R Downey	M J Miller	
D A Dufall	I G Mitchell	
M J Flynn	J Morley	
J C Frear	R B Newton	
R E Freeman	R A Osborn	
S M Kelly	J G Pegg	
C J Knowles	R J Perry	
J F McDonagh	K M Reith	
K D Myers	H S Smith	
D J Roser	A T Williams	
J C W Rudd		
J H Skipper		
T J Smith		
G W Steventon		
R B Treloar		
G R Usher		
L A Wright		
D E Wynn		