



Royal United Services Institute  
New South Wales

# Newsletter

Issue No 3 - September 2014

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## ***Introduction***

Welcome to the third issue of the electronic newsletter of the Royal United Services Institute of NSW (RUSI NSW), the aim of which is to provide members, stakeholders, and other interested parties up to date news of our latest activities and events as well as selective information on defence issues.

To continue to receive this newsletter electronically recipients will need to register their email contact details to the following link <http://www.rusinsw.org.au/Newsletters> There is no charge to receive the newsletter and recipients are not required to be a member of the RUSI of NSW.

## **Latest News and Events**

### ***Institute News***

- ❖ The monthly Council Meeting was held at the Institute's Offices in the Defence Plaza Sydney on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September. It was well attended by Councillors both long-term and new and considered a wide range of items including annual reports and the licence agreement for the lease/occupancy of our office and library facilities in Defence Plaza Sydney.
- ❖ The Annual Meeting of the National Council of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia will be held in Canberra 24-26 September and will be attended by our President.
- ❖ With the commemoration of the centenary World War 1 now underway, a number of events, including some organised by our Institute, have occurred while others are planned. The Institute has been well represented at these events.
- ❖ The Institute is also involved in, and has been contributing to, the consultation process for the development of the Defence White Paper to be issued mid-2015.

### ***Upcoming RUSI NSW Events***

Tuesday, 30 September 2014 – Seminar at 1.00 to 5.00pm at the SMSA Theatre (Level 1) 280 Pitt Street. The subject will be “The Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (ANMEF) Centenary Seminar”. At the outbreak of World War I, the ANMEF was raised to seize and occupy German colonial possessions in the Pacific. It was formed in August 1914 and, supported by the Australian Fleet, it captured Rabaul and began occupying German possessions, especially wireless stations, in New Guinea, Nauru, the Solomon Islands and nearby islands in September 1914. A panel of five



naval and military historians will outline the background to war in 1914, naval operations in the Pacific in 1914, the raising and training of the ANMEF and its subsequent operations in New Guinea, and the aftermath. The seminar is open to anyone but prior booking and payment (\$30.00 for members and \$45 for non-members) is required through the office 02 93932325.

Tuesday, 30 September 2014 – The RUSI of NSW Annual General Meeting 5.00 to 5.30pm at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts Theatre Level 1, 280 Pitt Street. Registration is not required. Our [Activities page](#) lists the details and documents for the AGM. Please note that this meeting will follow the ANMEF Centenary Seminar at the same location.



Tuesday 28 October 2014 – Lunchtime Lecture at 1.00pm at Wesley Conference Centre, 220 Pitt Street – the speaker will be Major James Nol, of the Royal Australian Medical Corp and his subject will be “Understanding Islam and conflict in the Middle East”. The lunchtime lectures are open to anyone interested.

Tuesday 18 November 2014 – Lunchtime Lecture at 1.00pm at the SMSA Theatre (Level 1) 280 Pitt Street – the speaker will be Mr Peter Hartcher, Political and International Editor, the Sydney Morning Herald, and his subject will be “The 2014 Sir Herman Black Lecture: 2014 - the Year in Review”. The lunchtime lectures are open to anyone interested.



Tuesday 2 December 2014 - Christmas Lunch at Victoria Barracks – Details and costs to be advised.

Tuesday 27 January 2015 – Lunchtime Lecture at 1.00pm at the Wesley Conference Centre, 220 Pitt Street – the speakers will be Commodore Michael Flynn and Colonel John Hutchison, MC, of the Royal United Services Institute, New South Wales, and the subject will be “The 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre as we observed it” The lunchtime lectures are open to anyone interested.



Tuesday 26 May 2015 - The Institute’s next Dialogue will be held in Sydney (possibly at Parliament House) on Tuesday 26 May 2015. Planning for the event will soon commence for the proposed topic: “Indonesia – Australia’s most important regional strategic relationship”.

## ***Upcoming Events by other Organisations***

22–24 September 2014 – Land Forces 2014 - Australia’s premier land defence exhibition and a leading land defence forum for Australia, Asia and the Indo-Pacific region to be held at Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre. It will provide an opportunity to connect to the land defence community. Further details at [www.landforces.com.au](http://www.landforces.com.au)





18 February 2015 – The Borella Ride – In 1915, Albert Borella simply started walking from Tennant Creek to Darwin to enlist in the Australian Army. Commissioned on the battlefield, he was recognized for his exploits with a Mention in Despatches, then the Military Medal, and finally the Victoria Cross. He survived the war. The Borella Ride will re-enact his journey in February next year and will include his grandson. More information can be obtained from the website <http://www.theborellaride.com.au>

## Recent Past Events

- Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2014 - Lunchtime Lecture at by Dr Brendan Nelson, Director Australian War Memorial, on the topic “The Australian War Memorial – it’s past and future” was extremely well received and attended by 73 members and 11 visitors.



- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2014 – Following the lunchtime lecture the Institute hosted a Public Consultation Forum on the 2015 Defence White Paper (DWP). The event was



well attended by and was chaired by Rear Admiral James Goldrick (Ret’d) a member of the Expert Panel which has been established to advise on the development of the DWP and attended by 2 other members of the Panel. The Institute will be making a submission to the DWP and members and the public can also make submissions which will be accepted until 29 October. Further details on the consultation process and how to make

submissions can be found at [www.defence.gov.au/whitepaper/](http://www.defence.gov.au/whitepaper/)

- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2014 – the 126th Anniversary Luncheon was held at the Masonic Club. It was a most enjoyable lunch and a typical pleasurable Institute social event.



- Tuesday 26 August 2014 –

Lunchtime Lecture at 1.00pm at the SMSA Theatre (Level 1) 280 Pitt Street – the speaker was Professor Alan Dupont, Director Institute for International Security and Development, University of NSW and his subject was “The White Paper - Challenges Facing Defence”. Another most informative presentation.

- Saturday 30 August 2014 – The Street Parade held to commemorate the formation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Light Horse in Macquarie Street Parramatta and then afterwards at the Lancer Barracks Parramatta was a huge success.



- 9–14 September 2014 – A New Guinea Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force Centenary Battlefield Tour is currently being undertaken by a number of the Institutes members – it includes a visit to the Rabaul battlefields and will provide great background to the upcoming Seminar of the ANMEF.

- Representation at Events The Institute was represented at the following recent events:
  1. The Victory in the Pacific Day Commemoration Service and Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph, Martin Place, on 15 August 2014.
  2. A Service in Commemoration of Lieutenant William Malcolm Chisolm of the East Lancashire Regiment, “the first of the Australian fallen of the First World War”, at St Stephen’s Uniting Church, Macquarie Street, Sydney on Tuesday, 26 August 2014, the centenary of his death.
  3. A Choral Evensong in Commemoration of Admiral Arthur Phillip, RN, First Governor of New South Wales, at St James’ Anglican Church, King Street, Sydney, on 31 August 2014, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death.
  4. The Commemoration of the Battle for Australia at the Cenotaph in Martin Place on 3 September 2014 and a luncheon following the service organised by the Battle for Australia Association.

## ***General Defence News***

- Defence Operations

1. **Military Stores Drops in Northern Iraq -**

Using RAAF C-17A Globemaster aircraft the Australian Defence Force has delivered 3 shipments of military stores to Erbil in Northern Iraq. The missions have been carried out without incident and the Chief of Joint Operations, Vice Admiral David Johnston said the shipments are evidence of Australia’s continuing commitment to the people of Iraq. “These supply runs are vital and most appreciated by those at the forefront of the campaign against Islamic extremists,” Vice Admiral Johnston said.



2. **Humanitarian Air Drops -** The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has completed its first humanitarian drop to Iraq, delivering nine tonnes of badly needed supplies



to Yezidi civilians, trapped on Mount Sinjar in the country’s north. The RAAF C-130J Hercules delivered 10 large bundles of Australian humanitarian supplies. The cargo included 150 boxes of high energy biscuits and 340 boxes of bottled water – enough to feed and hydrate 3700 people for 24 hours. The ADF’s contribution in Iraq is part of a coordinated international humanitarian response. The mission on 13 August 2014 was planned and coordinated through Joint Task Force 633 including the logistical efforts of RAAF’s Combat Support Unit-11, Joint Task Force 633.2 (Air Component Command) and the Army’s 176 Air Dispatch Squadron (176 AD SQN) who deployed personnel to prepare the air cargo. The operational air drop was the first mass air delivery of humanitarian cargo since the outbreak of violence in Timor Leste in 1999.

1. **Heron Operation at Kandahar Airfield** - The Heron Remotely Piloted Aircraft mission was extended in December 2013 to provide real-time Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance to ISAF Regional Command-South during the final transition of security responsibility to Afghan National Security Forces and April's Afghan Presidential elections. It was subsequently extended to support ISAF until the end of 2014. The 14th Rotation of the Heron Detachment recently handed over to a new team after five months deployed to Operation SLIPPER. More than 455 Air Force, Navy and Army personnel have deployed to Heron during its 14 rotations to Operation SLIPPER.



- **Defence Exercises**

1. **Exercise Kakadu 2014** – Exercise KAKADU is a biennial exercise, now in its 23rd iteration. Over 1,200 people, eight warships and 26 aircraft from 15 coalition forces will be in Australia 25 August - 12 September for the Royal Australian Navy's largest maritime warfare exercise for the year. Participants



from the Asia Pacific and Indian Ocean regions will conduct tactical warfare planning and cultural exchanges in Darwin for the first week of the exercise then head to sea for high-end warfare

serials including naval gunfire, communications, boardings and air defence in the following two weeks. Many countries will be represented including Australia, Japan, the Philippines, Pakistan and New Zealand who are sending warships and aircraft. Representatives from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vanuatu have key roles, either in KAKADU's two Task Groups or as part of the 'observer-at-sea' program. The RAN is represented by HMA Ships *Sydney*, *Stuart*, *Newcastle* and *Arunta* along with S-70B-2 *Seahawk*, Bell 429 helicopters and MRH90 *Taipan* helicopters while the RAAF assets include four 127 Hawks, four F/A-18 Super Hornets, one E-7A Wedgetail, one AP-3C Orion, one LR35 Learjet and four GAT36 Learjets.

2. **Exercise Croix du Sud** - Croix du Sud, which means "Southern Cross" in French, is a multinational military exercise organised every two years by the French Armed Forces in New Caledonia, with a scenario based on the devastating aftermath of a category four cyclone. Around 200 Royal Australian Navy, Australian Army and Royal Australian Air Force personnel were among members

from 10 international defence forces contributing to the exercise, held from 25 August to 5 September, 2014. Along with a headquarters element, sailors, soldiers and airmen across the wider Australian Defence Force contributed across all facets of the exercise. Australian Navy members provided a Deployable Geospatial Survey Team to survey landing areas, while landing crafts HMA Ships *Labuan* and *Tarakan* facilitated troop and vehicle movements with support from HMNZS *Canterbury*. Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, formed a rifle company to assist in providing security alongside French Armed Forces, New Zealand Army, Tonga Defence Services, British Army and US Marines personnel. Royal Australian Air Force members provided airlift with a KA350 King Air, supporting air operations with the French Armed Forces and Royal Canadian Air Force. The Exercise also demonstrates the close cooperation between the ADF and the New Zealand Defence



3. **Exercise Red Flag** Two Royal Australian Air Force E-7A Wedgetail aircraft have returned from Exercise Red Flag in Alaska where they participated in the world's most advanced international air combat training activity. Fifty-nine personnel from Number 42 Wing at RAAF Base Williamtown participated in



world-class air combat training in the skies above Alaska for two weeks from 7 to 22 August. Officer Commanding Number 42 Wing, Group Captain Antony Martin said that Exercise Red Flag Alaska is one of the biggest exercises the new E-7A Wedgetail aircraft participate in each year, involving a series of air combat and surveillance scenarios that test operational air and ground crews to the highest level. Red Flag Alaska is led by United States Pacific Air

Forces Command and is designed to replicate a high-end combat environment. Aircrew were exposed to large force employment on a scale not possible in Australia, when they performed counter air, precision strike and offensive air support in groups of up to 60 aircraft. Red Flag Alaska saw participants from Australia, the United States, the United Kingdom and others come together in a large-forces exercise conducted in Alaska to simulate an air combat war-time scenario. Aircrews operated in a 67,000 square-mile Joint Alaska Pacific Range Complex, which offers adequate space and ranges for crews to simulate full-scale aerial battles.

- **Defence Industry**

**New Special Operations Vehicles** – The Australian Government has awarded a multi-million dollar contract to provide specialised vehicles for the Australian Defence Force's Special Operations. Defence Minister Senator David Johnston recently announced that Supacat Ltd will supply 89 Special Operations Vehicle – Commando, in a contract that will create approximately 150 new jobs in western Sydney and Victoria. Senator Johnston said the contract was valued at more than \$130



million. “These are modern, highly mobile vehicles that can be re-configured to suit the individual mission and the communications on board will provide digital connectivity to across the ADF as well as Coalition partners.” Supacat has partnered with Australian companies located throughout NSW and Victoria within Supacat Team Australia to manufacture components and assemble the vehicles at a facility in Western Sydney.

2. **P-8A Posiedon Aircraft** – The Minister for Defence Senator David Johnston recently announced that the United States Navy has executed an Advanced Acquisition Contract for Australia’s P-8A Poseidon aircraft. Senator Johnston said this key Defence procurement would allow the withdrawal of the ageing AP-3C Orion fleet, and enable Boeing US to place lead time orders in support of Australia’s first four P-8A aircraft. “Together with high altitude unmanned aerial vehicles, these aircraft will replace the Royal Australian Air Force AP-3C Orions that have served Australia so well for over four decades.



Delivery of the first aircraft is set for 2017 with all eight to be delivered

3. **Submarine Acquisition** – Speculation is rife that Australia is leaning towards a multibillion-dollar purchase of a fleet of stealth submarines from Japan. This is the background against the recent agreement between Australia and Japan to enhance their security and defence cooperation including the transfer of military equipment and technology. A flurry of public comment has accompanied the speculation. The defence minister said the government was considering a range of options



for the future submarine project before the release of a defence white paper next year. A unilateral decision to sole source a Japanese solution seems low against the background of current source selection practices.

- **International**

1. **Relevance of NATO** -With conflicts in Ukraine, Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, the NATO summit held recently in Wales and hosted by Britain was reported to be one of the most important since the cold war. Many commentators also have reminded the world that NATO’s role at the heart of western defence remains as relevant today as it did when the organisation was founded in 1949. Back then the security threat was very different from that which is evident today but, ironically, fear caused by the threat remains. NATO remains as relevant for the west today as it ever was.



2. **Dutch Safety Board Report of Flight MH17** - The Dutch Safety Board, which is leading the investigation into the bringing down of Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17, has now produced a preliminary report of what evidence it has found so far. The report says that Flight MH17 broke up mid-air having been hit by numerous objects that pierced the plane at high speed. Importantly, the preliminary report says that there was no evidence of technical malfunction or human error on the part of the pilots or anyone else on board. At this stage the report suggests that the plane 'probably' broke up as a result of structural damage caused by a large number of objects penetrating the aircraft from outside. The Dutch authorities have said that the final report into the tragedy should be published within a year. In conducting the investigation so far they have used information gathered for the data recorder and voice recorder boxes, air traffic control, satellite images, photographs and film of the scene.

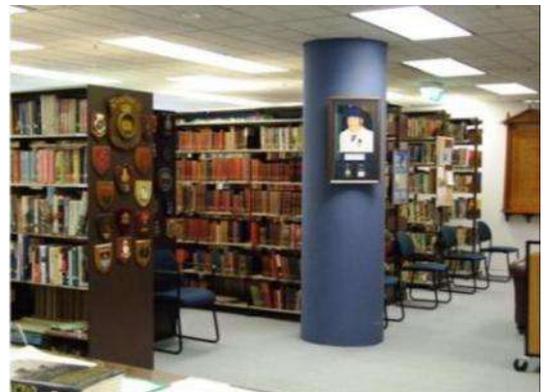


## **About the RUSI of NSW**

Founded as the United Service Institution of New South Wales in 1888, the Royal United Services Institute of New South Wales today is one of seven self-governing constituent bodies of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia.

The aim of the Institute is to promote informed debate on, and to improve public awareness and understanding of, defence and national security. To this end, the Institute:

- contributes to the national debate on defence and security policy;
- publishes a highly-respected professional journal;
- arranges regular lectures and occasional seminars on military history, defence and security issues;
- organises visits to defence and security establishments;
- operates a public library, specialising in defence and security literature dating from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century to the current day; and
- conducts social and networking functions for members.



The Institute's rooms and the Ursula Davidson military history Library are on Level 20, Defence Plaza, 270 Pitt Street, Sydney – very close to Town Hall and Museum railway stations. Tea/coffee and biscuits are available without charge and members and visitors are encouraged to use the facilities for reading or research, or just as a base when visiting the city of Sydney. However, prior to visiting for the first time please contact the Office Manager to arrange access to the Office. For additional information please visit our website at [www.rusinsw.org.au](http://www.rusinsw.org.au) or call the Office at (02) 93932325.