



RUSI NSW

# Newsletter

Issue No.74 – May 2022

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Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park  
South, Sydney NSW 2000

PO Box A778 SYDNEY SOUTH  
NSW 1235

[www.rusinsw.org.au](http://www.rusinsw.org.au)

[office@rusinsw.org.au](mailto:office@rusinsw.org.au)  
Telephone: (02) 8262 2922

Welcome to this month's issue of the electronic newsletter of the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies NSW, Inc 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.



Major General J. S.  
Richardson CB, Founder  
of RUSI NSW

## **Visit to ANSTO Lucas Heights Wednesday 18 May 2022**

Timing: 10.00am to 1.30pm Meeting time: 9.30am.

Cost: \$20.00 per head BOOK and PAY. Booking deadline: 10 May 2022

Some walking involved. Please advise any health or mobility restrictions.

Meeting Point: The Discovery Centre, ANSTO,

Site details to follow upon booking.

Booking only via RUSI Website.

Group size limited to 20 visitors, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Link for more details and to book: <https://www.rusinsw.org.au/site/Activities.php>



## **Sydney Under Japanese Attack 1942: 80-year Anniversary is now fully subscribed**

**Three-hour cruise on Sydney harbour. Tuesday 31 May 2022**

**Check-in time: 0930h**

This Cruise on Sydney Harbour will highlight the events of 31 May 1942 when three Japanese midget submarines entered Sydney Harbour to attack Allied warships. Thank you to all who subscribed!



## **June 2022 Lecture**

Continuing our series: *Improving Australia's Regional Security*

**Tuesday 28 June 2022**

### **The Significance of Armour and Artillery Upgrades**

Speaker: BRIG Ian Langford DSC\* (PhD) ADC, Director General of Future Land Warfare at Forces Command.

The recently announced upgrades in the Abrams Main Battle tank and the 155mm Self Propelled gun and their ability to increase our defence capability in the region.

Bookings: <https://www.rusinsw.org.au/site/ActPay.php>



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## ***Institute Membership News***

A special welcome is extended to the new members:

**Mr Peter Limebeer, Dr Paul Myers and Miss Dilani Arulanandam**




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## ***RUSI NSW President's Message May 2022***



This month I had the privilege of attending by invitation the Indo Pacific 2022- the International Maritime Exposition and Navy Sea Power Conference held at Darling Harbour as an official guest, and I commend this 2 yearly Conference to you when it occurs again. It is a major international scale event- strongly supported by our Defence Industries, Government, and our international allies- with many Heads of Foreign Navies as official guests. I had the privilege of attending both the Chief of Navy's reception, and the official reception honouring the Battle of the Coral Sea, both events held on board our latest AWD- HMAS Sydney V- at Fleet Base East, and was most impressed by the efficiency of the events, the impressive scope of the exhibits, and the wide range of 'foreign power' senior Military officers attending. It was also an excellent opportunity for me to promote awareness of RUSINSW and our Ursula Davidson Library.

### **Our New Office Manager Mr. Greg Stevenson**

As announced last month, we have two new volunteers filling key positions at RUSI NSW as from 30 Jun- Mr. Roger Perry as incoming Treasurer and Mr. Greg Stevenson the new Office Manager.

Greg has previously occupied the role of book sales manager, and at present he plans to continue on in both roles- Office Manager as from nlt 30 Jun and Book Sales Manager- so thanks Greg!

As Greg has actively commenced the transition working with Phil Wood, I have chosen to introduce him this month. Here are Greg's details as provided by him, and his photo is attached. Please welcome Greg into his new role when you see him-thanks.

*"My name is Greg Stevenson and I'm a retired Qantas Aircraft Engineer with over 42 years' experience and now taking up the important role of Office Manager with RUSI NSW. Looking forward to achieving all that is asked of me and looking after all the Members of this great Institute."*

### **Our RUSI NSW activities during May/ June**

We have been advised that our scheduled April monthly lecture- which was always scheduled to be a webcast only due to its proximity to Anzac Day celebrations- will now be further



Roger Perry - Treasurer



Greg Stevenson  
- Office Manager

delayed (although I can confirm it has been finalized), at the request of Head of Army Aviation Command-MAJGEN Stephen JOBSON AM CSC- the webcast will be now be released after the election date of 21 May

### Visit To ANSTO: - Wed 18 May at 1000

Our advertised visit to the Medical Nuclear Research facility at Lucas Heights is scheduled soon and is designed to follow-up the excellent (Jan 22) RUSI NSW presentation by CAPT Chris Skinner RAN (Ret'd) on the AUKUS agreement and Nuclear Propulsion for our future submarines. Date: Wed 18 May 2022 / Timing: 10.00am to 1.30pm. For details see page 1 of this newsletter. [Booking only via the RUSI NSW Website.](#)

### Tue 31 May: -Harbour Cruise- Commemorating Japanese Submarine Attack on Sydney Harbour

This event has been fully subscribed and on behalf of our RUSI NSW Board, I thank the event coordinator Ron Lyons and everyone who has made this such a successful event by committing to support it, and we hope that the weather is kind for us on the day!

### Our Next Half Year Program: -

Our theme for the remainder of 2022 is "Exploring the AUKUS Agreement" which many will realize is far wider than just an agreement for nuclear propulsion for submarines, and we are also in final stages of planning a major 1-day event- an International Dialogue titled: - "Managing Strategic Tensions in the Indo-Pacific Region"- for 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022.

Please check our website and newsletters for the actual details as the programs emerge and please support them by attending!

### A New Series of Monographs

Our RUSI NSW Board has now approved the launching of a new series of RUSI monographs around the parallel themes of "Looking Forward" and "Looking Back"- and when you realize the rich scope and depth of the contents of our RUSI NSW Ursula Davidson Library for example, much content is available and waiting to be accessed.

We hope you are motivated to write a monograph on a topic of your and our interest under these broad themes, and we will publish them (electronically only) as often as they become available.

Our newly appointed Board member Ms. Diana Figgis has taken charge of this project, and I thank her for the enthusiasm and commitment she has provided already in organizing this new program

### Membership Renewals

It is that time of year coming up again, and I am pleased to advise that the RUSINSW Board has again kept cost increases to a minimum and the annual membership fee has risen by \$A5 only to make it \$A50 for full individual membership. As an additional incentive to renew and / or join RUSINSW, the Board has also approved that after 01 July 22 there will be NO monthly lecture attendance fee for RUSINSW MEMBERS, although nonmembers attending will still be requested to pay a \$A15 admission fee for the monthly seminar.

Finally, to each of you as RUSI NSW members and supporters, thank you for the many ways that you contribute to our fine organization, and I request your continued support by your prompt renewal of your membership very soon, **OR** by joining RUSI NSW **OR** by getting at least 1 new member to join us.

Thank you Sincerely

**Professor Michael HOUGH AM RFD ED JP**  
President      14 May 2022

## Ways to connect with RUSI NSW and build your network

*Roll your mouse over these icons below to connect*



## **Current Geostrategic Issues**

### **Current Geostrategic Issues**

Four issues currently are driving the defence and national security debate in Australia: China's development of potential military bases in our neighbourhood; the war in the Ukraine; AUKUS; and implications for Australia's defence strategy. We will comment on each in turn.

#### ***China's development of potential military bases in our neighbourhood***

China and the Solomon Islands have now signed a security agreement which, *inter alia*, will allow China to send police and military forces to the Solomon Islands to protect infrastructure funded by China as well as Chinese citizens and their businesses. It also may permit Chinese naval vessels to visit Solomon Islands ports, including for resupply. The government of the Solomon Islands, however, insists that it will not allow China to establish a military base in the islands.

Papua New Guinea also has been in discussions with China for some time about potential bases at Daru in the Torres Strait, on the mainland in the Gulf of Papua and on the northeast coast, and on Manus Island. Fiji and Tonga have been having similar discussions with China. As well, China has five research stations in Antarctica and a Chinese firm has leased the Port of Darwin.

As to the Solomon Islands, this is potentially a major security risk for Australia as the Solomons sit astride our maritime lines of communication from our east coast to Asia and North America. Our Pacific undersea communication cables also potentially could be liable to interdiction from a Solomons base.

Of the options now open to Australia, we suggest that Australia should continue to use quiet, empathetic diplomacy to monitor the situation and dissuade the Solomons from expanding the agreement with China. Following the Australian elections on 21 May, the incoming government will need to take the Pacific Islands community far more seriously than its predecessors have recently. It will need to work with New Zealand, France and the United States to address issues such as taking serious action in Australia to address climate change, boosting foreign aid funding to the Islands, providing permanent residency in Australia for Pacific Islanders, and strengthening the security forces of Pacific Islands Forum member states. Radio Australia news services into the Pacific also need to be re-established and expanded.

Further, consideration may need to be given to developing defence forward operating bases on Australian soil proximate to the Solomons, say on Norfolk and Thursday Islands, and at Townsville, Cairns and RAAF Base Scherger (near Weipa). This would be in addition to the joint United States/Australian/Papua New Guinea Defence Force major upgrade of the PNGDF naval base on Manus Island currently underway.

#### ***Russia's invasion of the Ukraine on 24 February 2022***

The invasion continues to be characterised by the remarkable Ukrainian response and the poor performance of the Russian Army. At the diplomatic level, increasing support from the United States and its European allies, but also Australia and others, is replenishing the Ukrainian war and humanitarian stocks. Ukraine, though, continues to rely on its own manpower and has not been provided with desperately needed combat aircraft – the NATO desire being to avoid engaging in direct combat with Russian forces.

Having abandoned its attempts to capture the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, Russia has withdrawn from northern Ukraine is now concentrating on securing the Donbas region in Ukraine's east and its southern (Sea of Azov) coastline linking the Donbas with Crimea. Here, while its advances have slowed to a crawl, it has had some successes. Reports suggest Russia, whose proxies controlled perhaps one-third of the Donbas before the war, may now control most of it, although the situation on the ground is very fluid, changing daily. Russia also has now secured the Sea of Azov coastline, including the port of Mariupol, in effect creating a land bridge between the Donbas and Crimea and providing the Donbas with a port on the Sea of Azov.

Russia also continues to harass cities in western Ukraine with air strikes and long-range rocket and artillery fires, particularly targeting key rail infrastructure through which Western resupplies are transported. While Ukraine's successes include sinking the *Moskva*, flagship of Russian Black Sea Fleet, the Russian navy now can control shipping movements in the Black Sea, preventing Ukraine from exporting the wheat and other grains desperately needed especially in the Middle East, Africa and Asia.



Russia apparently now hopes to advance further west to secure Ukraine's Black Sea coast, through Odessa and into the Transnistria province of Moldova which is controlled by Russian proxies. If Russia is successful, Ukraine would become land-locked.

Observing Russia's fate in Ukraine, China now may be less willing to invade Taiwan. On the other hand, the US has demonstrated under both Trump and Biden that it is no longer a power that its allies can rely on militarily and it may be less likely to deter China's ambitions in the Indo-Pacific as a consequence. Hence, the Indo-Pacific 'middle powers' must be prepared to defend themselves, just as Ukraine has been forced to defend itself.

The recent United Nations General Assembly vote to require Security Council Members to attend a General Assembly meeting within 10 days to explain their use of the Veto Vote is a welcome, if small, positive development. We will watch closely to see what follow-on reform eventuates as Australia needs the UN to become far more effective and proactive.

### **AUKUS**

There remains uncertainty about value of the Australia-United Kingdom-United States defence technology sharing agreement. It is a long-term commitment to conduct research and development on novel weapons and communication systems and the like, some of which may prove highly successful and others of which less so. The successful ones may take a decade or two to enter service – nuclear submarines especially.

The problem for Australia is that it has an immediate need for weapons systems such as precision-guided munitions, including medium and long-range missiles, which are built and maintained in Australia, and it needs them at scale. AUKUS is able to contribute little to this need and it may prove a distraction from the immediate requirements.

### ***Australia's defence strategy***

In the light of China's increasing regional assertiveness, including its demonstrations against Taiwan and its security agreement with the Solomon Islands, coupled with America's chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021, Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, the United States' unwillingness to directly support Ukraine militarily in February-May 2022 against Russia (as noted above), and America's prospects, although currently very low, of facing war on two fronts, the Australian *2016 Defence White Paper* and *2020 Defence Strategic Update* are starting to look dated.

While we are just becoming used to the idea of the Indo-Pacific as the centre of global geopolitical and economic power, the Russo-Ukrainian War has ensured that Europe is now a second centre of global geostrategic gravity, albeit secondary to the Indo-Pacific. Inevitably, the US will be drawn back to Europe to some extent which will restrict what it can commit to our region – the Obama 'tilt to Asia' will have a lesser lean in future.

These developments warrant a new Defence White Paper or, failing that, a Defence Strategic Update, including revised force structure and posture plans. The emphasis must reflect the need for much greater self-reliance in the defence of Australia and our neighbourhood.

**Note:** The above commentary represents the personal views of the authors. It draws primarily on personal research and has been informed, in part, by the dialogues within the Institute's Special Interest Group on Strategy (within which there are a wide range of views). In this rapidly evolving field, it includes some yet to be validated assumptions and informed speculation.

**David Leece and Ian Wolfe**

12 May 2022

## Recent RUSI NSW Lectures – Catch up online

These recent lectures were recorded and can be viewed on [YouTube](#) or our [Videos Page](#)



### April Lecture

Speaker: Commander Army Aviation Command - Major General **Stephen Jobson**, AM, CSC

Subject: **Significance of Army Aviation Capability Upgrades**

This webcast will be released after the election date of 21 May



### Tuesday 29 March

Speakers: GPCAPT **Matthew McCormack** OC 81 Wing RAAF (left image)

GPCAPT **Chris Hake** RAAF Air Combat Group

Director, Loyal Wingman Program RAAF (right image)

Subject: [Aviation Capability: Air Combat Capability - F35 & Loyal Wingman Program](#) 58 minutes



### Tuesday 22 February 2022

Speaker: AVM **Kym Osley** AM CSC, NSW Defence Advocate

Subject: [Defence & Aerospace NSW – Building a Sovereign Defence Industry Capability](#)

70 minutes



### Lecture Tuesday 25 January 2022

Speaker: CAPT **Chris Skinner** RAN Ret'd

Subject: [Nuclear Powered Submarines and other AUKUS technologies for the ADF](#)

72 minutes



### Christmas Lunch Presentation 15 December 2021

Speaker: **Ron Lyons** RFD

Subject: [Sydney at War 1939-1945](#)

28 minutes



### Lunchtime Lecture 14 December 2021

Speaker: **Peter Hartcher**

Subject: [The Sir Hermann Black Lecture - 2021 The Year in Review](#)

44 minutes



### Seminar 23 November 2021

Subject: [Island Australia - Improving Resilience in a Rapidly Changing Region](#)

**Part 1** includes an introduction by our Patron Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of NSW and laying the ground work for understanding our defence position: Commander Australian Fleet; Commander

Forces Command; RAAF Air Commander; and Comd 2 Div

**Part 2** is a revealing discussion covering **Strategy and Resilience within Australian Academia and Defence Industry presented by NSW Defence Advocate; Thales CEO; and University of Newcastle Vice-Chancellor**

## Tackling our Archives

At the time of our relocation to the Anzac Memorial in July 2018, we undertook a review of our archive situation keeping in mind that we would have a space restriction in our new home.

### **Issues which we were confronted with were:**

- We did not really know what was contained in most of the archive boxes i.e., the labelling was rather minimal or non-existent.
- The Great Flood of Defence Plaza basement several years earlier, had necessitated the *Grand Rescue* by Doug Roser and Theo Fox of a significant quantity of our archives which were stored in a compactus, down in the underground car park.
- Saving the records was more important than ensuring they were maintained in an orderly manner. Some of the boxes did not survive – the contents were more fortunate.

The archives were then located either along the bottom row of a normal library shelf, whilst the very old leather-bound ledgers/journals/registers were kept in the old glass cabinet or on top of a library shelf. Even the kitchen cupboards were utilised for archive storage.

We carried out a cull of non-archival material prior to our move. There were many cases of duplicate filings of material. For example, the printed annual report to members in 1932 had 15 spare copies presumably left over after the AGM. They were all filed away.

We are now in the middle of what we call Stage 2 where we are refining our cull and only keeping genuine archival material, placing it in archival boxes and most importantly, accurately recording and labelling the contents of each box so that a catalogue can be created. We are probably half way through this stage and 36 boxes completed.

### **Research value**

We are able to state that our archives have already earned a Phd. A research student from Newcastle University whose thesis was on Australia's military training in the period between the two world wars, requested if he could inspect our archives as part of his research. His thesis was accepted at its first reading and he now holds a position at the AWM as a historian with the prefix of Dr.

### **Some interesting items**

In one of the very old and fragile leather-bound ledgers, there are the minutes of a meeting held at Victoria Barracks on 20th August 1888 where it was decided to establish the United Services Institute. It is in magnificent script hand-writing. In those days a typewriter had only just been invented (1862) so that is how everything is recorded. A list of all officers present was recorded in descending rank order, with the notation of the chairman being "The General" (no Name). Richardson signed the minutes.

*These minutes are therefore the very first of our Institute.*

A small printed (NSW Government printer) document in the archives contains the 1st lecture given – "Defence of a Protected Harbour". A small but very detailed book/pamphlet.

**The USI Balls** (prior to our *Royal* prefix) in the intervening war years was a very big deal on the Sydney social calendar. *For the 1925 Ball at the Sydney Town Hall, the list of invited official guests included:*

The Governor General (Forster), The NSW Governor, The Prime Minister (Bruce), Minister for Defence (Howse), WM Hughes, Chief Justices Knox and Street, the Premier, Lt Gen Chauvel, Sir John Monash, Brig Gen Blamey.

To show how Sydney has changed, in the very extensive Operating Schedule, there is a section which states "Private vehicles may be parked in York Street where a NRMA patrolman will be on duty to supervise and assist, whilst those with chauffeured cars may park in George Street opposite the Town Hall".

The archives are very much a continuing project at this stage.

**John Rudd, Archivist 12 May 2022**



## Latest Defence News

### *Anzac Cove service a poignant one for bugler*



Musician Francis White sounds the Last Post during the Commonwealth memorial service in Gallipoli, Turkey.

The haunting tune of a lone bugler sounding the Last Post during the dawn service on Anzac Day is emotive and powerful for all Australians. This year at Anzac Cove in Turkey, it was especially poignant for the Australian Army Band bugler, who reflected on his family's proud connection to the battlefield.

Army musician Francis White, from Adelaide, was part of the Australian Defence Force contingent supporting the commemorative ceremonies at Gallipoli on April 25. Musician White honoured his great-grandfather Captain Francis Michael White, who served as a

lieutenant with the 3rd Light Horse Regiment at Gallipoli in 1915.

Like many who fought at Gallipoli, Lieutenant White was struck down with illness during the campaign and was sent to a hospital ship for recovery. Also, like many other Australians who served at Gallipoli and returned, he brought back seedlings from Lone Pine and buried them at Port Wakefield in South Australia. Musician White joined a compatriot from the New Zealand Army Band to sound the Last Post and Reveille at Anzac Cove. He performed at a similar moving Anzac Day ceremony at Sandakan, Malaysia, in 2019.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

### *Air Force refuels Japanese aircraft for the first time*

For the first time, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) has conducted air-to-air refuelling flight testing with the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF, or Koku-Jieitai). Conducted from April 4 to 27, the flight test engineering program in Japan involved a RAAF KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport (MRTT) and Mitsubishi F-2 aircraft of the JASDF.

Air Commander Australia, Air Vice-Marshal Darren Goldie, said the successful flight test program would facilitate the increasing complexity and sophistication of bilateral engagement between both nations. "Our ability to work seamlessly together will ensure we can continue to uphold and reinforce a secure, inclusive, and resilient Indo-Pacific region," Air Vice-Marshal Goldie said. "This flight test program is the culmination of two years of close cooperation between Australia's Aircraft Research and Development Unit (ARDU), and the JASDF Air Development and Test Wing (ADTW).



An air-to-air refuelling flight test between Royal Australian Air Force KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport aircraft from No. 33 Squadron and Japan Air Self-Defense Force

The flight test program will help facilitate Japan's participation in Exercise Pitch Black 2022, which will take place in the Northern Territory this August.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)



## Further support for Ukraine



Two Bushmaster protected mobility vehicles bound for Ukraine wait to be loaded onto a C-17A Globemaster III aircraft at RAAF Base Amberley.

The Australian Government will provide further support to the Government of Ukraine by gifting 20 Bushmaster protected mobility vehicles, including two ambulance variants, to aid the Government of Ukraine's response to Russia's unrelenting and illegal aggression. Australia's response follows a direct request from President Zelenskyy during his address to the Australian Parliament on 31 March 2022.

The Bushmaster was built in Australia to provide protected mobility transport, safely moving soldiers to a battle area prior to dismounting for close combat. The Bushmaster is well suited to provide protection to the Ukrainian Armed Forces

soldiers and Ukrainian civilians against mines and improvised explosive devices, shrapnel from artillery and small arms fire.

The 20 vehicles are painted olive green to suit the operating environment. Additionally, a Ukrainian flag is painted on either side with the words 'United with Ukraine' stencilled in English and Ukrainian to acknowledge our commitment and support to the government and people of Ukraine. The ambulances will have the traditional Red Cross emblem.

The Bushmaster will be fitted with radios, a global positioning system and additional bolt-on armour to increase their protection. Defence will continue to work with the Government of Ukraine to develop a suitable logistics support package, while training will be conducted through Army video training with Ukrainian subtitles.

Australia stands with the Government and people of Ukraine, and calls on Russia to cease its unprovoked, unjust and illegal invasion of Ukraine. The Australian Government will continue to take steps, together with our partners, to ensure Russia pays the highest possible price for its actions.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

## General Defence News

### HMAS Ararat trains with Ocean Protector

The crew of HMAS *Ararat* recently conducted interoperability activities with Australian Defence Vessel (ADV) *Ocean Protector* while deployed near the remote Australian territory of Christmas Island on Operation Resolute. The training included officer-of-the-watch manoeuvres, rafting and refuelling and other activities, demonstrating the versatility of both the Armidale-class patrol boat and ADV *Ocean Protector*.

Commanding Officer of *Ararat*, Lieutenant Commander David Martinussen, said ADV *Ocean Protector* was a welcome sight for the crews of patrol boats working in Australia's northern approaches. "*Ocean Protector* has been a valued partner in sustaining our recent patrol activities; we simply couldn't have gotten the job done without her," Lieutenant Martinussen said.

Defence Maritime Support Services, under Commander Shore Force Captain Michael Oborn, enables ADV *Ocean Protector* to deliver support to government operations via an out-of-port contract.



HMAS Ararat rafted alongside ADV Ocean Protector for refuelling at Christmas Island

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

### Bond as strong as ever



Papua New Guinea Defence Force and Australian Army personnel who were classmates at the Royal Military College at Duntroon are reunited at the Headquarters 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Royal Pacific Islands Regiment, in Wewak, Papua New Guinea.

Three years after graduating from the Royal Military College at Duntroon, a surprise reunion has left Army and Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF) officers feeling nostalgic and inspired. Australian Army officers Lieutenants Elizabeth Roberts from Headquarters 3rd Brigade and Liam Frye from 4th Health Battalion were thrilled to see their Duntroon classmates again in Papua New Guinea during Exercise Olgeta Warrior.

"It was nostalgic to see my Duntroon classmates again; connecting instantaneously proves that the bonds we formed will endure," Lieutenant Roberts said. "I felt really proud and a sense of

respect to see the leaders they have become and it solidifies how imperative it is for our forces to train together as relationship building is the core of who we are as leaders and as people."

Echoing his sentiment, Second Lieutenant Nikita Urum-Oresi, a PNGDF engineer battalion troop commander, said their relationship enabled the two nations to work efficiently.

As the first female PNGDF graduate from the Royal Military College, Second Lieutenant Urum-Oresi described how seeing her classmates again has motivated her continue striving to be a better officer.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

## ***Big celebration at RAAF Base Amberley***

The United States Air Force (USAF) 22nd Airlift Squadron commemorated the 80th anniversary of its establishment in Australia by flying one of its C-5M Galaxy aircraft to RAAF Base Amberley. The squadron was established as the 22nd Transport Squadron at Essendon airport in Melbourne on April 3, 1942, coinciding with the establishment of several RAAF transport squadrons earlier the same year. To mark the occasion, a memorial service was held at the RAAF Amberley Aviation Heritage Centre on March 24, attended by USAF and RAAF personnel, along with local government representatives and guests.



The United States Air Force C-5M Galaxy strategic airlift aircraft from 22<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Squadron at RAAF Base Amberley, Queensland.

Director General United States Force Posture Initiatives, Air Commodore Sandy Turner, said the visit provided ADF personnel with a deeper understanding of how the 22nd Airlift Squadron supported operations. "The C-5M provides an important strategic airlift capability to the United States and its allies alike," Air Commodore Turner said. RAAF Base Amberley was a suitable host for the 80th anniversary, being the home base for Australia's own strategic air mobility fleet in Nos. 33 and 36 Squadron.

Officially the second largest aircraft in worldwide service, the C-5M is a modernised variant of the Galaxy strategic transport that first flew in 1968.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

## ***Air Force ready in all conditions***



Corporal Chathuri Rogers and Leading Aircraftwoman Mary-Anne Bryce from No. 3 Control and Reporting Unit check the AN/TPS-77 Tactical Air Defence Radar System antenna at Old Bar airfield, north of Newcastle, during Exercise Diamond Shield.

As an unfamiliar adversary approached over Australian waters at the start of Exercise Diamond Shield, exercise participants responded as a team to defend the airspace. This was the challenge presented to the air warfare instructor course candidates from March 14 to April 1, over the east coast of Australia.

Exercise director Group Captain Matthew Harper said the focus of Exercise Diamond Shield was to rehearse the integration of a vast array of Air Force assets with naval support to control and defend the airspace in a maritime environment. "We created a training environment for Air Force that focused

participants on overcoming the challenge of defending an extensive range of air space," Group Captain Harper said.



The exercise also provided appropriately challenging weather conditions for 3CRU which was operating a tactical air defence radar system (TADRS) and a secure communications cabin in the historic Old Bar airfield, north of Newcastle.

3CRU demonstrated that they can maintain equipment in some of the most inclement weather seen, and still achieve mission objectives.

Diamond Storm is the culminating activity for the exercise series where participants will be expected to apply the knowledge, they have gained over the previous six months.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

### ***Rare glimpse of Puckapunyal for public***

Members of the public got a rare opportunity when the Puckapunyal military area opened its gates for a day in early April. About 1000 people from across regional Victoria and Melbourne made the trip for a unique opportunity to see what was inside the restricted-entry base.



Sergeant Wei Huang, from the School of Armour, discusses the vehicles on display with Henry Rogers and his father, Tom, at the Puckapunyal Military Area community open day.

Commandant of the Combined Arms Training Centre Colonel Patrick Davison said the open day had grown from the original plan to connect on-base families with local community business and activities. "As the planning progressed, we broadened the open day to welcome members of the public

who rarely get to see inside the Puckapunyal base," Colonel Davison said. "I was very grateful that so many people chose to spend their Saturday with us, and I was especially proud of some of Army's newest men and women, who did such a fantastic job hosting our guests."

Alanah Purtell, Programs Coordinator for the Puckapunyal and District Neighbourhood Centre, said the day enabled them to speak directly to families about ways they could provide support. "It can be difficult for military families who may feel isolated in new postings like Puckapunyal, so our role in the community is really important. "We want these families to have a space where they can build connections and feel they are a part of something. Events like today's open day help new families in the area learn more about what we do. "It's been great to see so many families turning up. We've set up an area for the kids to play and parents to get off their feet, as it's the best demonstration of what we do at the neighbourhood house. We've really enjoyed the chance to engage with everyone."

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)



## Defence Exercises

### King Air provides international exercise support



RAAF No 32 Squadron pilot Flying Officer Wyona Winslett conducts her inspection aircraft walk-around ahead of a KA350 King Air flight during Exercise Bersama Shield 2022

A team from RAAF No. 32 Squadron has provided air support to multinational forces during the annual Bersama Shield field training exercise hosted by Malaysia. The eight-person detachment and their KA350 King Air aircraft supported both maritime and air training serials involving forces from Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

Deployment commander for the detachment Squadron Leader Scott Tavasci said the engagement provided an opportunity for pilot development training as the squadron prepares for further international exercises later in the year. “It’s good to get back into

international operations again as COVID-19 restrictions in most parts of the world start easing,” Squadron Leader Tavasci said. “This has been a great training opportunity and allows us to put our operating procedures into practice and observe how other international forces work.”

Exercise Bersama Shield is conducted under the framework of the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA), the longest standing multilateral security arrangement in South-East Asia. The exercise was the first key event of 2022 for the FPDA and will be followed by Exercise Suman Protector 2022 in October, hosted by Singapore. Last year’s Bersama Shield was conducted as a virtual-only exercise.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

### Regiment gets its guns out



Corporal Callum Hite supervises the preparation of a Tiger armed reconnaissance helicopter for live-fire practise during Exercise Griffin Guns at Mount Bundy training area, south of Darwin.

Ground crew aircraft support (GCAS) soldiers provided vital functions for helicopters on Exercise Griffin Guns. GCAS are involved in the provision of aircraft fuelling, arming and ground support services necessary for the preparation and continued support of Army aviation aircraft operations. The exercise, held recently in the Northern Territory, enabled the 1st Aviation Regiment to develop gunnery proficiency in weapon system employment.

During the activity, Tiger armed reconnaissance helicopters departed from Robertson Barracks, RAAF Base Darwin, to upload live ordnance from a forward arming

refuel point at Mount Bundy training area. Corporal Callum Hite said he was glad for the opportunity to enhance GCAS small team skills. The ground crews prepared and loaded a variety of explosive ordnance, including 30mm ammunition, 70mm rockets and Hellfire missiles for daily live-fire missions. Corporal Hite said the aim of the exercise was to develop key skills to enable aircraft missions.

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## International

A number of international organisations publish excellent material on issues which impact on our region.

*The Strategist* published by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

28 April 2022 by Peter Jennings

### **Beyond thought bubbles: how to fix Australia's Pacific policy**

with the introduction of Australia's Pacific security problem is simple: we're not thinking big enough about our role and we have convinced ourselves that we're incapable of moving quickly to counter China. **Image:** Australian Department of Defence



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*The Strategist* published by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

23 April 2022 by Peter Jennings

**Ukraine's future and Australia's global interests are both on the line** with the following introduction "The war in Ukraine has entered a new phase. Russia's aim over the next few weeks is to deliver a paper victory for President Vladimir Putin to justify a parade on 9 May in Moscow marking Victory Day, the anniversary of the Nazi surrender in 1945" **Image:** Australian Department of Defence



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*The Interpreter Weekly Digest* published by the Lowy Institute

28 April by Alexandre Dayant

### **Solomons: How Australia stacks up in a China aid bidding War.**



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*The USNI News Weekly Update*

22 Apr 3 March has an article Report to Congress on **Russian Nuclear Weapons** by the U.S. Naval Institute Staff.

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## ***About the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, NSW Inc***



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

- educates the public about Australia's defence and national security;
- publishes a highly-respected professional journal;
- provides a forum for the discussion of defence and security issues by conducting regular lectures, seminars conferences workshops and visits to defence and security establishments;
- provides professional development programs;
- operates a public library, specialising in defence and security literature dating from the late 18th century to the current day; and
- conducts social and networking functions for members

The RUSI's office and the Ursula Davidson Library are located in the Centenary Extension of the Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park South, with access from Liverpool Street – close to Museum railway station, buses and car parking stations.

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