

Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies Australia Limited

Promoting national security awareness

Patron: His Excellency, General The Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK, MC (Ret'd),
Governor-General of Australia

Nat'l President and Board Chair: Rear Admiral Simon Cullen, AM, CSC, RAN (Ret'd)

Deputy Nat'l Pres. and Deputy Board Chair: Air Commodore Anker Brodersen,
CSC, RAAFAR

Company Secretary: Air Commodore Peter McDermott, AM, CSC (Ret'd)

National President's Column

As National President of the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies-Australia, I am pleased to share the outcomes of our 2017 Annual General Meeting held in Canberra on 27 October 2017. The meeting was attended by the members of the company, namely the Constituent Body (CB) Presidents (NSW, VIC, QLD, WA, SA, TAS and the ACT) or their nominated representatives, the National Board, our Company Secretary, the Company Treasurer and our Department of Defence Liaison Officer.



2016/17 marked the first full year of operation of the Institute as a company, with principal activities being to bed down new governance arrangements and develop a new relationship with the Department of Defence. Other activities included provision of support to CBs, especially the provision of services through the national website and the preparation and submission of bids for funding from the Department of Defence. All activities were undertaken to support our objective of promoting informed debate and improving public awareness of defence and national security issues.

We successfully implemented a new system of licensing with the Department of Defence which provides the CBs and the national office clearly defined and agreed access to the Defence Estate. This licence will remain in place until 2021.

We continued to develop and implement an interactive national website www.rusi.org.au that showcases our activities and encourages public debate. The website provides comprehensive support to participating CBs in terms of membership, financial administration and event management, enabling them to run their own activities with a reduced administrative burden.

During the AGM, members agreed to some minor administrative changes to the company's Constitution proposed by NSW. In addition, and in accordance with the Constitution, one third of the Board rotated at the end of the financial year. The Board now comprises Simon Cullen (Chair and National President), Anker Brodersen (Deputy Chair and Deputy National President), Graham Bentley, Meaghan D'Arcy, Steve Meekin, John Bruni and Paul Willee. The Directors Report has been submitted to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission for display on their website. A copy of the report is also available from RUSIDSS-A national office.

While the company has had a successful first year of operation, and while there is reform underway in many CBs, much work still needs to be done to sustain the organisation into the future. We must continue to strive to attract a younger membership and through our activities, provide support that the Department of Defence values and which is also attractive to sponsors.

Simon Cullen