

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

National President and Board Chair: Vacant

Deputy National President and Acting Board Chair:

Air Commodore Anker Brodersen, CSC, RAAFAR

Company Secretary:

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

Company Treasurer: Mr Herbert (Mickey) Michaelis

National President's Column

The two issues most raised with me about the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) at the national level (RUSIDSS-A) relate to the purpose of the RUSIDSS-A as a national body and to the activities of the National Board.

RUSIDSS-A is a company established by Australia's independent state and territory united services institutes (its 'constituent bodies' or CBs) to promote understanding of Australia's defence and national security, to foster co-operation among the CBs, and to represent the RUSI as a whole (a 'one-stop-shop') in dealings with the Commonwealth and other external persons and bodies.

Having no natural persons as members, RUSIDSS-A relies on CB volunteers to act as Board members; to run the national office; and to maintain the national website (www.rusinsw.org.au). The website enables the public to learn about the CBs and their activities; and it can be used by CBs to manage their membership records and their events – some rely on it wholly; others only use it to provide a link to their independent websites. National office also is the conduit for submission of grant requests from the CBs to Defence; and it negotiates the licence for CB access to Defence facilities, including the provision of passes enabling CB staff to conduct CB activities on the Defence estate.

Rolls Royce sponsors our website. We currently have no other source of income. We no longer receive assistance from Defence with office administrative expenses, although individual CBs may be successful from time-to-time in attracting Defence grants for specific conferences and the like. The CBs have not contributed to the cost of running of the national office for more than 40 years.

Formerly, RUSIDSS-A employed a company secretary and a support person. They were the main link to Defence, maintained the website and ran the office. With little income, however, the paid company secretary position was ended two years ago and the support manager role will cease shortly.

The National Board is now focused on the future of the company and how to raise revenue. Sponsorship is being sought, but, to be successful, there have to be activities or outcomes that sponsors believe are worth supporting. We are developing a national programme of CB activities. We also are in discussion with your CB councils about contributing financially to the running of the company.

Please don't hesitate to contact the national office through the website if you are interested in assisting, either in the office or on the Board.



Anker Brodersen
Deputy National President