



October 2021

The 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
12:00 hours, Friday 19 November 2021

at the National Press Club, Barton
to be followed at 12:30 pm by a luncheon

Speaker:

Mr Michael Shoebridge

Director - Defence, Strategy & National Security

Australian Strategic Policy Institute

**'Making Sense of Emerging Indo-Pacific Dynamics -
China, The Quad and AUKUS'**

(Please see separate notice and meeting papers included with this newsletter.)

From the President

I am pleased to finally be able to write to you with advice of a firm date for our final lunch meeting for our 2021 end-of-year AGM and luncheon meeting. We will again meet at the National Press Club, on this occasion using a larger space downstairs so that our numbers can be accommodated in compliance with Covid-safe separation requirements.



**Newsletter
of the
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GPO Box 1204, Canberra ACT 2601

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Unlike last year, despite the challenges imposed by Covid-19, in 2021 we have managed our customary three meetings throughout the year. Our change of venue to the National Press Club was driven initially by the need to find a venue available to accommodate our mid-year speaker's tight diary. That change of location proved most worthwhile, not only because we were able to hear the [Deputy Chief of Air Force](#) as our guest speaker, but also because members were charged \$10 per head less than the \$65 lunch charge agreed at our last AGM. (The lower rate will remain in place for the immediate future, at least while we continue to be able to meet at the National Press Club.) I was also pleased to hear from a number of our members who found The National Press Club's parking arrangements far easier to manage than the challenges they have experienced with the long distance cross-country hikes sometimes required at our previous venue.

With 2021 being the Air Force's centenary year, the year's speaking program began appropriately with Air Commodore (Dr) Mark Lax speaking to us about Air Force's history during the years 1972-1996 – an enjoyable and informative trip down memory lane for all of us. Ending (starting) the year in review since our last AGM, our last speaker for 2020 was [Mr Peter Jennings, PSM, Executive Director of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute](#), who provided a masterclass on regional security developments.

Given recent landmark developments in the national security space, including the announcement that Australia will be equipping with nuclear-powered submarines, and the signing of the AUKUS treaty, a further update on the national security climate is entirely appropriate. To that end I am very pleased to announce that very highly regarded strategic analyst, [Mr Michael Shoebridge](#) has kindly accepted our invitation to address us at our next meeting.

For those who did not attend our July lunch at the National Press Club and are unfamiliar with the venue, parking is accessible from 1100 hours through a coded boom gate accessible from Bourke Street, just behind the National Press Club (NPC). (See attached [map](#).) The Club building is accessed via a stairway leading from the carpark to a door, coded with the same numbers as the carpark boom gate. Of course, you don't need to arrive that early, but if you wish to absolutely guarantee a nearby parking spot, feel free to do so and relax with a coffee in the Club's lounge area. If you arrive late and are unable to find a parking spot at the NPC, the closest guaranteed parking is available at the underground carpark, accessible via Burbury Close, just across from the entrance to the NPC carpark entrance (also indicated on the [map](#)).

The code for the NPC carpark boom gate and Club building door changes regularly. Those attending our lunch will receive email advice of the code on Tuesday, immediately prior to the lunch.

Also, as previously advised, The National Press Club management has indicated that at the conclusion of our activities in the meeting room, irrespective of whether we are Press Club members or not, we are very welcome to linger in the lounge. In short, those conversations that so often follow our lunch presentations need not be abruptly terminated. Enjoy a chat and relaxing coffee before driving home, as many of our members did after our July lunch!

Finally, and as always, I encourage you to monitor our website for earliest advice of any changes to the program, and other news, and of course, I look forward to seeing you on 19 November for our lunch, preceded by a quick AGM.

Stay well,

Ian Pearson

Mob: 0407 561 080