

**** LUNCHEON SEMINAR ****

DS

Thursday 21 July 2022

at the National Press Club

16 National Circuit, Barton

June 2022

Speaker: Mr Peter Jennings, PSM

Principal, Peter Jennings Strategy Consultants Pty Ltd

'Russia, China and the emerging new Cold War'

(Nominations via separate Luncheon Notice & Registration Form)



**Newsletter
of the
RAAF
STAFF COLLEGE
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From the President

By now I had been hoping to be writing to you with advice that the incoming Chief of Air Force had accepted an invitation to become our co-patron. However, as those of us who are monitoring the expected leadership change know, the incoming ADF leadership team has not been announced as this edition of DS is being drafted.

Apart from the incidental interest that announcement will provide to us, there is no doubt that domestic and international events, all of which are worthy of study by the most conscientious staff college student, are proving that we indeed live in interesting times. That being so, the recall of one of our past speakers, Mr Peter Jennings, is entirely appropriate for our next lunch gathering on 21 July. Peter last spoke to us on 9 October 2020 as Executive Director ASPI, a post from which he has since stood down. However, he remains actively engaged in the national security space as Principal of Peter Jennings Strategy Consultants Pty Ltd, Senior Fellow at ASPI and through his insightful commentary as a columnist with *The Australian* newspaper and in Australian and international media on national security and defence matters. He will be well worth coming out to hear on what will otherwise be a cold and dreary mid-winter's day in Canberra.

That's the good news. The bad news is that, using the authority members granted to your committee at our 2020 AGM, the committee has determined that a modest rise of our lunch charge to \$60 is necessary to cover the cost of our main course, an individual cheese plate and beverages. For many of you this will come as no surprise, the Australian Aviation Club, of which about half of us are members, similarly increased their costs at the National Press Club this month, (albeit from \$50). The other consideration for the RAAF Staff College Association is that our costs are higher, noting the requirement to always pay the lunch costs for a guest speaker (and sometimes an aide), and the more expensive wine we use as a thank you gift for the guest speaker, and the door prize. The continuing challenge for the committee, which each of us takes very seriously, is to ensure that in all respects, our members feel satisfied that they are receiving value for money. I trust that each of you will find that it is.

After a full year using the National Press Club for our lunches, this will likely be the last time that I include the associated administrative details. As per the attached [map](#) the National Press Club is in Barton, with the car park, just behind the Club, accessible via Bourke Street from 1100 hours. The Club building is accessed via a stairway leading from the carpark to a door, coded with the same numbers as the car park boom gate. Of course you don't need to arrive at 1100, noting that the bar service nominally starts at noon, but if you wish to absolutely guarantee a convenient parking spot, feel free to arrive early 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 car park, accessible via Burbury Close, just across from the entrance to the NPC carpark entrance (also indicated on the [map](#)).

The code for the NPC car park boom gate and Club building door changes regularly. Those who have accepted to attend 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. Experience from our last three meetings at the NPC has been that this has been a very welcome arrangement. Enjoy a chat and relaxing coffee before driving home.

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 21 July.

Stay well,

Ian Pearson
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