

LUNCHEON SEMINAR AND AGM

DS

Friday 18 November 2022

at the National Press Club

16 National Circuit, Barton

16 October 2022

Speaker: MATT ANDERSON, PSM

Director, Australian War Memorial

'The Australian War Memorial - an Update'



**Newsletter
of the
RAAF
STAFF COLLEGE
ASSOCIATION Inc**

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From the President

I write to you hot on the heels of our most recent meeting, when [Michael Shoebridge](#) provided us with an excellent insight into the development of the current Strategic Review, couched in terms of such strategic developments as Russia's incursions into Ukraine and China's activity in our region. Michael kindly filled in at short notice behind [Senator Jim Molan](#). Jim has been in touch with me a couple of times this week, prior to and after our lunch, to express his regret that his current medical treatment precluded his attendance at our lunch. I expect we would all agree that he made the sensible decision, and that our uppermost thoughts are with Jim and for his health.

While the expectation of Senator Molan's attendance certainly served as a big drawcard for the healthy attendance we had, I doubt that anyone felt let down by Michael Shoebridge's superb presentation. I know some travelled great distances to attend last Thursday and in at least one case, overcame great adversity to be able to be with us. AVM Bill Collins certainly won the prize for the furthest distance travelled, having flown down from the Gold Coast (a journey not without its own difficulties as airline travel struggles to adjust to what we hope is our exit from Covid), but AVM Bob Richardson must take the prize for the most determined attendee. Not only did he have to take a large diversion around the closed Barton Highway on his drive from Yass to Canberra, he also had to contend with a blown tyre enroute. And after all that he still arrived on time, looking as fresh as someone who had just walked into the room from their home next door.

I am very pleased to advise that our guest speaker for our final lunch for 2022 will be the Director of the Australian War Memorial, [Mr Matt Anderson, PSM](#). Much is happening at the Australian War Memorial in these interesting times, as Canberra residents in particular would be well aware. As Director, Matt is well-placed to provide us with an authoritative overview of the current redevelopment program, and what that might mean, for example for improved accessibility to the Memorial, and what it might mean in terms of the aircraft that will be displayed there. I am unashamed supporter of the Australian War Memorial and the redevelopment in particular. So, while there has been criticism from a vocal lobby group about such things as the budget for the redevelopment, (the current budget standing at \$550 million), this needs to be seen in context. For example, the budget for the proposed redevelopment at the National Gallery of Victoria currently stands at \$1.7 billion. I encourage members to visit the website for the [Australian War Memorial redevelopment](#) - like me, I trust you will be very impressed by what you see and be looking forward to the completion of the works, and all that they will bring.

As well as looking forward to hearing from Matt Anderson, our next meeting will be preceded by our Annual General Meeting. Please fortify yourself with a drink from the bar, claim your name tag and seat in the Situation Room and be ready for the meeting to start at 1215. I aim for a short sharp meeting, with the lunch service commencing at 1230. You will find the meeting pack included with this edition of DS. The intention is to take the reports as read prior to the meeting - not an unreasonable expectation for staff college-trained officers! Of course we will entertain questions should there be any, but the broad intention is to have the reports, as presented, seconded and accepted before we move on to the election of your committee. All four office holders have agreed to continue, should there not be anyone with a greater desire to assume one of those four roles. Alternatively, members may wish to participate as committee members, the Association's constitution currently being silent on the number who can so participate.

By way of President's Report I am pleased to advise that the incoming Chief of Air Force, [Air Marshal Robert Chipman AM, CSC](#) has kindly agreed to the now long-standing tradition of the Chief being patron of our Association - or more accurately co-patron since ACM Binskin wishes to continue his support for the Association. I am hoping that Air Marshal Chipman will be able to address us at our lunch meeting at the end of 2023. In terms of 2022, we have enjoyed another successful speaker program with an appropriate focus on receiving high-level updates. The year started with Deputy Chief of Joint Operations, [Air Vice-Marshal Michael Kitcher](#) providing an operational update, followed by two strategic updates, in July, from [Peter Jennings](#) and most recently from Michael Shoebridge. I look forward to a similarly impressive speaker list in 2023. Meanwhile, a significant development this year has been the agreement between your Association and The Australian Aviation Club to provide reciprocal access to each other's lunch meetings. From 2023 this will result in members having access to a lunch meeting each month from February through to November - a very positive development, particularly in light of how well our meetings have been supported throughout this year, suggesting that their members have an appetite for more opportunities to attend such occasions.

I conclude my President's Report by thanking most sincerely my fellow committee members, and our honorary auditor, LTCOL Maurice Gault (Ret'd) whose continuing efforts have ensured the good governance of your Association, maintaining our record of complying with all legislated requirements for such organisations and clubs - in short, we are legal! I would also like to thank the management and staff of the Australian Press Club who remain keen to do what is required to ensure the success of our lunches.

I look forward to seeing those of you who can attend on Friday 18 November, and as always, encourage you to monitor our website for earliest advice of any changes to the program, and other news.

Stay well,

Ian Pearson
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