

DS

Luncheon Meeting

27 July 2023

[Dr Ross Babbage AM](#)

July 2023

[‘The Risk of a Major War in the Indo-Pacific’](#)



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

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From the President

At our last meeting (on 20 April), Emeritus Professor Paul Dibb treated RAAF Staff College Association members and guests to a strategic level analysis of the geo-political implications of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Given current events, it would be hard to imagine a more timely presentation.

Since then we have seen the public release of the Defence Strategic Review, and as foreshadowed in the March DS, members of Canberra's national security establishment now being fully engaged in providing departmental responses to the DSR.

Even from what is publicly available in the media, none of us can be in any doubt about the changed strategic landscape. Most can only speculate about what implications this will have for Australia and in particular, for our security posture. However, in keeping with one of the aims of our Association, 'to promote a continuing awareness within the RAAF and elsewhere of Defence issues and of air power in particular', and with the excellent updates we periodically receive from our high-level speakers, any speculation by our members should be more informed than that of many others in the broader community.

If events in Russia and the Ukraine seem too distant to concern us, perhaps developments much closer to our shores might more readily seize our attention. They have certainly done so for our next speaker, [Dr Ross Babbage](#), who has recently published his latest book, 'The Next Major War - Can the US and its Allies Win Against China'.

Among its many glowing reviews, this book has been described as 'A serious, important, and timely gem that is mandatory reading for all senior officials charged with deterring Chinese aggression and, should deterrence fail, defeating it.'

Given such an accolade, we are indeed fortunate that Dr Babbage has agreed to travel to Canberra to address us on what, without doubt is an issue of great moment. I look forward to returning to Canberra next month in time to join what I expect will be a large audience of members and guests, to hear Dr Babbage's presentation and of course, the always interesting questions from our audience. Those wishing to get a head start may wish to obtain a copy of Dr Babbage's book as pre-reading, (and take advantage of the 20% saving now available on print editions of, as outlined in the flyer about ['The Next Major War'](#)).

Finally, as with our last meeting, I wish to acknowledge the outstanding assistance from AVM Bob Richardson in securing our speaker for next month, and of course the excellent work by our committee who have kept the show running. I fully expect all their efforts will be rewarded by a good showing from members and guests on 27 July.

Stay well,

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