

THE RUSI OF TASMANIA - CENTENARY GAZETTE 2024

1924 - 2024



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HOW IT ALL STARTED – 1831 LONDON

The RUSI began life in 1831 in the United Kingdom when the Duke of Wellington realised that the Army and Royal Navy were largely ignorant of each other's operational needs and procedures thereby creating difficulties in respect to any combined operation which, Britain being an island nation, was likely to experience. The Crimean War of 1854-56 highlighted the total lack of understanding that existed between the two Services.

Although the Duke died in 1852 he had much earlier realised the problem and in 1831 has asked his colleague, MAJGEN Sir Howard Douglas, to create a Forum wherein senior officers could meet, discuss and analyze military operations. Howard Douglas called his venture the Naval and Military Library. Very soon patronage began to grow and in 1839 the name was changed to the United Service Institute. By the time Douglas died in 1861 the Institute had grown in popularity, the Prince Regent had become the Patron, and the reputation of the Institute was soaring. The Royal Prefix was granted and a grant equal to \$200,000 in today's money set the scene for the beginning of the world class research body we know today.

Foreign military officers were invited to come to London and to both speak to members and to discuss Tactics, Command and Control, Logistics and combined operations. It was the very first Staff College equivalent. The RUSI undertook a study of many military actions and occurrences and the reports have found their way into the Library of West Point in the United States and a number of other military academies around the world. Many foreign countries today commission the RUSI to undertake significant military research on their behalf and the standing of the Institute is at an all-time high. It is a major 'think tank'.

The Institute was bought to Australia in 1888 (to NSW) and then to other states including Tasmania in 1924. All this then is the heritage we commemorate and celebrate this Centenary Year.

The Centenary Dinner (which also marked the 90th Anniversary of the Launceston Branch – founded in 1934) was held at the Colonial Hotel Restaurant in Launceston on Wednesday 19 June 2024 and was attended by 60 members and partners. Members of Hobart and Launceston Branches joined the State Council for a truly memorable evening. The Principal Guest was MAJGEN Paul Irving AM, PSM, RFD, National President of the RUSI for Defence and Security Studies - Australia.

THE CENTENARY DINNER PHOTOS



From left: LTCOL Mark Cooper (Hobart Branch President), SQNLDR Al Robertson (XO RUSI of Tas), MAJGEN Paul Irving (National President RUSI-A), LTCOL Graeme Barnett (State President RUSI of Tas), CAPT Kevin Best (Launceston Branch President).



FLTLT Carroll James, with Pam Robertson and Barbara James



LTCOL Wayne Chard with CAPT Kevin Best



Mrs Christine Best and Mrs Sherrill Chard.



From Left: Helen & Graeme Tonks, Pam and FLTLT Bob Peters and MAJ Brian Swinton



From Left: John and Hillary Bennett with FLTLT Bob Peters



MAJ Martin Bastick, Mrs Jeanne Hodge and LTCOL Peter Hodge



From Left: Mrs Nellie Cooper, LTCOL Mark Cooper, MAJGEN Paul Irving and MAJ Alec Young.

SAD TO REPORT

Michael Shipp, a long-time member of the RUSI, passed away in Launceston after a long illness on Monday 01 July 2024. Michael served on the Committee of the Launceston Branch for several years. RIP Mike.

