



President's August 2018 Newsletter

President's Introduction

If you thought the first half of this year provided some excitement on the international front, just wait until the second half!

There will be further movement on North Korea, the South China Sea, Brexit, US mid-term elections, the outcome of the Turkish elections, German Government instability, problems in the Gulf, Israel-Iran proxy battles and many surprises as always.

To Our New Members

We welcome all new members to AIIA Victoria. I encourage you to introduce yourselves at your next visit to Dyason House to all members and particularly Council Members.



*AIIA Victoria President
Patrick Moore*

Speaker Events Program

Over the past eleven months, over 2,500 members and guests have attended a series of most informative Speaker Events.

We are most fortunate and thankful for the strong support we receive from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Victorian State Office with speakers, particularly Heads of Mission coming to Australia. All such speakers do so under the Chatham House Rule.

Over the past months, we have welcomed an impressive collection of insightful speakers on topics ranging from free trade to the role of foreign correspondents.

The British High Commissioner to Australia HE Mrs Menna Rawlings CMG drew a large crowd to her briefing on the future of the Commonwealth, while former Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Christopher Lamb spoke with great insight to a diverse audience about the Rohingya Crisis.



*HE Mrs Menna Rawlings CMG at
Dyason House*

AIIA Victoria's Young Professionals Forum (YPF) hosted two engaging and interactive events in the first half of the year, attended by over 100 people.

The YPF Asia-Pacific Hypothetical event hosted Dr Jeremy Youde from the Australian National University's Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs. He worked closely with young professionals to workshop their skills in a real-world setting and advance their employability.

We also welcomed the attendance of young professionals at the YPF Internship and Networking Evening. Many government, private sector, and not-for-profit organisations attended, allowing young people to make contacts and gain insight into what it takes to build a career in International Affairs.



Participants at the YPF Internship and Networking Evening



Contributor Katrina Lee-Koo (left) with Editor Prof. Jacqui True (right) at the Revisiting Gendered States book launch

A collaboration with Monash University Gender, Peace & Security saw the launch of the new book *Revisiting Gendered States*.

The book explores collective theories of the modern state and its intricate relationship to security, identity politics, and gender, focusing on states in Africa, Europe and Asia-Pacific, featuring contributors from all parts of the world.

Dr Sharman Stone, Ambassador for Women and Girls, delivered the keynote speech, followed by a panel discussion between the authors and co-editors led by Professor Jacqui True, and a Q&A and reception afterwards.



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Podcast Series

We have launched the Dyason House Podcast, created by AIIA Victoria intern Peter Bateman. It offers unparalleled insight into topical issues in the realm of International Affairs. The podcast series grants listeners an intimate audience with global experts and leaders in the field.

To listen to any of the following episodes, please follow the link on our site: <https://goo.gl/DyfwQZ>

You can also access it from your iPhone:

1. Go to the iPhone search bar or App Store.
2. Search 'Podcast' app, it has a purple icon.
3. Find the 'search option' at the bottom of the page, click this, and enter 'Dyason House'.
4. When the page comes up, it should say 'Dyason House Podcast with Peter Bateman'.
5. You can then select which episode you want to listen to.

The podcast is also available on iTunes, the Podcast app for iOS and Soundcloud.

This technology will allow us to record future talks taking place at Dyson House for Members to enjoy at their convenience, wherever they may be!

Unfortunately, events held under the Chatham House Rule will not be recorded, as the Rule dictates that listeners are able to use information learned at events but unable to disclose where or from whom the information stemmed.



Season 1: Episode List

- E1: The Real Story of the Rohingya - with Christopher Lamb
- E2: So You Want to be a Humanitarian Aid Worker – with Denis Dragovic
- E3: Life as a Middle East Correspondent – with Matt Brown
- E4: Counter-Insurgent: The Battle for Basra – with Richard Iron CMG OBE
- E5: The United Nations, How to Get In – with Professor Ian Howie
- E6: Politics, Reporting on How the World Works - with Michael Brissenden (ABC)
- E7: How to Stop a Nuclear Bomb - with Tim Wright
- E8: Foreign Correspondent - with Michael Bachelard
- E9: Forty Years of Diplomacy - with John Woods



Annual Events

International Careers Conference

Our keynote speaker this year is Tony Wheeler AO FAIIA, co-founder of *Lonely Planet*. He is an inveterate traveller and takes great interest in international affairs. We are honoured to have La Trobe University as this year's major sponsor and the Australian National University's National Security College again sponsoring the Conference.

This year's event takes place on Friday 31 August at the Arts Centre Melbourne. It presents a terrific opportunity for individuals of all ages to meet with leaders in the field of international affairs and enables graduates to supercharge their career opportunities.

The 12th Sir Zelman Cowen Oration and Dinner

The 12th Sir Zelman Cowen Oration and Dinner will be held on Tuesday 23 October at The Australian Club. It is held in memory of former Governor-General Sir Zelman Cowen.

This year, we are honoured to announce the Hon Dr Brendan Nelson AO as our orator. Having previously held a variety of esteemed positions including Australian Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg, the European Union and NATO, Dr Nelson is now the Director of the Australian War Memorial.

The theme for the event is yet to be confirmed, but will pay homage to the Centenary of Armistice. He will be introduced by The Honourable Ted Baillieu and David McLachlan AO, Major General Retired, will deliver the vote of thanks.

Forthcoming Events

Looking forward, we are excited to host several exciting events, including:

- *07/08: Islam, Law, and the State in the Philippines: The Mindanao Conflict* with Associate Professor Kerstin Steiner;
- *22/08: Afghanistan: The Way Forward* with HE Mr Wahidullah Waissi, Ambassador to Afghanistan;
- *23/08: The People's Republic of China; Turning 70, and Planning World Leadership* with Rowan Callick OBE, FAIIA;
- *05/09: Australia's Moment in the Asia-Pacific: Ensuring Security, Stability, and Prosperity* with Peter Khalil MP;
- *11/09: Demography, Politics and Power Transitions - Developments Across Sub-Saharan Africa* with Anna Rabin;
- *13/09: Dr Alan Finkel, Chief Scientist, on the topic of Artificial Intelligence (AI).*



Australian and Global Politics Essay Competition

We invited all Victorian secondary students of Australian and Global Politics to submit to our 2018 Australian and Global Politics Essay Competition which closed on Thursday 19th July.

With the chance to win up to \$500 dollars and tickets to the 2018 International Careers Conference (ICC), the competition aimed to foster interest in International Affairs among young people and gave students the chance to engage with AIIA Victoria and our network.

Vale

The Council was saddened to learn of the death on February 24 this year of Robert Bruce. Robert was an important Member of the Iran 2017 Study Tour. We all enjoyed his very warm company.

The Walter Mangold Trust Fund

We thank the Walter Mangold Trust Fund for their continued support of AIIA Victoria through their generous support of young people engaging in international affairs.



*Amelia Ekkel
(Iran 2018 Study
Tour Intern) –
Golestan
Palace, Tehran*

Their generous student subsidy initiative allows student Members to attend Dyason house events free of charge. In addition, the Fund also enables interns to take part in study tours, including intern Amelia Ekkel who recently participated in the Iran Study Tour, thanks to the Fund's generous financial support.

Dyason House Appeal

Constructed in 1869, a mere 34 years after the foundation of Melbourne City, Dyason House has long been a wonderful asset to the institute. We rent out part of our premises under a three-year agreement, which provides us with valuable income.

However, our historic Melbourne home is in need of some essential maintenance. There is currently water leakage from the roof and guttering entering our tenant's upstairs room. This must be repaired. We have a quotation for \$18,000, the biggest portion of which is scaffolding costs. This expense is unfortunately unavoidable. We do not have the

resources to pay for this without your financial help and that of others. The Council has approved this Appeal and encourages all Members to make a contribution.



*Dyason
House
circa 1970s*

Zara Kimpton OAM, Patrick Moore, Richard Morgan, and Allan Myers have together pledged \$10,000 towards this appeal, providing more than one half of the total required. We are most indebted to these Members.



Donations

Our Annual Giving raised a total of \$29k from 56 donors. This really is a terrific response, and all donors should take pride in being a part of it.

We thank all those who have made donations to AIIA Victoria. The AIIA is enormously grateful for the individuals who show their support through donations and bequests.

Your donations are the lifeblood of the Institute as they allow us to invest in its growth, development, and longevity.

In addition to our established initiatives, including lectures and study tours, these donations allow us to explore new ways of disseminating information and raising awareness of International Affairs.

The new Dyason House Podcast is just one example of this ongoing development, made possible through donations.

As part of its 75th Anniversary celebrations, the AIIA launched a Friends of the AIIA society under the patronage of National Vice-President Zara Kimpton OAM. Individuals donating \$500 or more will be recognised as a Friend of the AIIA in the Annual Review, while those with cumulative contributions of more than \$5000 will be honoured as a Lifetime Friend of the AIIA.

All donations are tax deductible. Whether modest or substantial, all donations are greatly appreciated and contribute significantly to the Institute's growth and sustainability.

Study Tours

Iran (2018)

The AIIA was invited to Iran by the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS).

The prime objective of our Study Tour was to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with IPIS to enable us to form stronger links with Iran and its institutions. This was signed on our first day in Tehran. We were warmly welcomed by Ambassador Biggs at the Australian Embassy and later on at the Residence.

We were fortunate in meeting with a number of organisations including universities, not-for-profit organisations and consultants. The report on the Study Tour is available on the AIIA website. The visit was prior to the reintroduction of US sanctions, a topic which nevertheless arose a number of times.

There were a total of eighteen AIIA Study Tour Members from Queensland, Canberra, New South Wales and Victoria.

Of the 18 Members, seven were born overseas. Amelia Ekkel was our intern supported by the Walter Mangold Trust Fund, and the tour was led by Patrick Moore.

The group visited numerous UNESCO World Heritage sites around the country, including the Golestan Palace, the Lut desert, and Persepolis.

AllA delegates were welcomed into Iranian families' homes to dine with them in Kerman and Yazd.

The group was touched by the Iranian people's warmth and hospitality which could be felt across the country.



The Study Tour Group at the UNESCO World Heritage Lut Desert

Future Study Tours

Thank you to all 96 of you who completed the survey regarding future Study Tours. The survey revealed some surprising results.

Study Tours to Oman (and the UAE) and Ethiopia were much preferred. Much interest was shown in Indonesia, where we have had preliminary ongoing discussions with the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding a possible Study Tour in late 2019.

Russia, China, and Japan were also popular. In countries such as China, Australia has consular representation in the provinces, however in some cases the Victorian Government has representation.

Rather than selecting China as a whole, we should therefore consider going to destinations such as Chengdu, where there is both Consular and Victorian Government presence.



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Timor-Leste Study Tour (2018)

The Timor-Leste Study Tour will be a ten-day tour starting on October 10 2018. As Australia's northern neighbour, our relations with Asia's newest country are becoming increasingly significant.

With its coral reefs, untouched beaches, and ancient culture, Timor-Leste remains one of the world's last true wildernesses. Led by Peter McMullin SC – a long time traveller to and expert on Timor-Leste – our study tour this October offers the opportunity to explore the rich history and culture of this nation.



Cristo Rey statue in Dili, Timor-Leste

If you'd like to find out more or register your interest, you can do so until the 31st July. Please email events.vic@internationalaffairs.org.au.



View from Elephant Mountain, Taipei

Taiwan

In April, members of the AIA travelled to Taiwan as part of the AIA Delegation to the Republic of China (Taiwan). Amongst the attendees was National Vice-President Ms. Zara Kimpton OAM.

Discussing a range of topics including Taiwan-Australian relations, and with speakers including R.O.C. Foreign Minister Dr. Jaushieh Joseph Wu, the AIA delegation was extremely grateful to have the opportunity to experience Taiwanese culture and hospitality.

In the wake of these exciting and fruitful interactions, a Study Tour to Taiwan is in sight for late 2019, ahead of the Presidential elections likely to take place in January 2020.

If you have any suggestions for future study tours, speaker events at Dyason House or any other comments or queries, please email:

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