



**Australian Institute
of International Affairs**
Victoria

Annual Report 2019-20

OFFICE BEARERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

Visitor

The Hon. Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria

Patrons

The Hon. Sir James Gobbo AC CVO

Mr. John Landy AC CVO MBE

Life members

Mr. John Brookes

Mr. Michael Coultas OAM

Ms. Zara Kimpton OAM

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Mr. Patrick Moore

VICE PRESIDENT

The Hon. Justice David Harper AM

TREASURER

Mr. Christopher Cicutto

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Alastair Roff

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FAIIA

Ms. Robyn Byrne OAM

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Ms. Jean Dunn PSM

Mr. Benjamin Freeman

Mr. Richard Iron CMG OBE

Ms. Kelly MacDonald

Mr. Will McEniry

Mr. John Richardson

Mr. Greg Wills

Mr. John Woods PSM

Mr. Mitchell Vandewerdt-Holman

COMMITTEES

Finance	Chair: Mr. Christopher Cicutto
Events Program	Chair: Mr. Alastair Roff
Sir Zelman Cowen Oration	Chair: Ms. Kelly MacDonald
Study Tours	Chair: Mr. Patrick Moore
International Careers Conference	Chair: Mr. Benjamin Freeman
VCE Schools Program	Chair: Ms. Robyn Byrne OAM
University Development	Chair: The Hon. Justice David Harper AM
Building, OHS & Library	Chair: Ms. Robyn Byrne OAM
Students & Young Professionals	Chairs: Mr. James Carey & Mr Mitchell Vanderwerdt-Holman
Membership	Chair: Mr. Will McEniry

ABOUT US

The Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) is an apolitical, independent membership-based organisation which promotes the objective study of International Affairs. It is apolitical and provides a forum for discussion and debate on international issues. Founded in 1925, it was established as a Federal organisation in 1933. The Institute now has its National Headquarters in Canberra. It has branches in all States and Canberra. Like its sister Institutes in New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and India, it is affiliated with the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, London.

The AIIA provides a forum for discussion and research on subjects of topical and continuing interest through meetings, study tours, conferences and seminars addressed by distinguished specialists and public figures.

AIIA Victoria is housed in Dyason House in East Melbourne, named after E.C. Dyason, a prominent past member and one of its most generous benefactors.

Membership is open to any individuals who are Australian residents, to corporate bodies, to diplomatic representatives, schools and students.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The year to 30 June 2020 was going along swimmingly well; until the lockdowns as a result of COVID-19 hit.

Thank you to all members who have been most supportive of the AIIA through your membership, attending events and study tours and your donations. This support of yours does much to encourage me and everyone else involved in the AIIA to improve our offerings to you.

During the first nine months of the year, we were having about one Dyason House event weekly except over the Christmas and New Year period. The bulk of the work for these events fell mostly on Alastair and Ingrid. It was terrific seeing how easily and seamlessly Alastair and Ingrid led the AIIA in Australia into bringing to you the webinars. Post COVID-19, they have continued to have at least one event each week.

The efforts of many made the Sir Zelman Cowen Oration led by Kelly MacDonald and the International Careers Conference led by Warren Evans most successful. The Hon. Margaret Stone AO FAAL, Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security gave the most interesting of insights about her job to a very attentive audience. Professor the Hon Gareth Evans AC QC FASSA FAIIA was the keynote speaker at the International Careers Conference and drew a record crowd.

Furthermore, we receive terrific help from our Interns and Volunteers. Their contribution must not be under-rated for without them, we could not support the many activities we carry out. They are listed on page 9.



Annual Giving and Benefaction

Thank you to all for participating in Annual Giving. Your response this year was wonderful. Again, over 10% of our membership donated. This is an extraordinary healthy number and demonstrates your support for the organisation. The medium donation was \$200; with some being given jointly. Never hesitate in giving a small amount because “*every mickle makes a muckle*”. We raised just under \$24,000 in our Annual Giving Program. When added to other Donations received during the year, the total amount given is over \$30,000; a terrific result given the state of the economy and that we are all hurting financially to some extent.

We are again most grateful to The Walter Mangold Trust Fund for its support of our Interns, particularly on Study Tours, volunteers and youth. The impact of their giving is vital in the support they give. That support was crucial in funding some to attend the AIIA National Conference in Canberra and the International Careers Conference in Melbourne.

Study Tours

After running two study tours last year we decided to have a smaller program this year. We had a terrific Study Tour of Taiwan; a most incredible country with a population the size of Australia and less than half the area of Tasmania. We were lucky enough to have Manting Chong as our intern; fluent in Mandarin.

There were thirteen delegates on the Study Tour. It was a busy tour in that we averaged more than one meeting each day. One of the highlights were visiting a fourteen-storey farm producing over two tonnes of food daily. Others were being entertained by their Ministries of Economics and Foreign Affairs. We met with the personal adviser to President Tsai and with other Think Tanks. We learned about their history and culture. Their geography is incredibly beautiful with the plains on the West, the rugged coastline on the East and the high country in the centre of the island where many of the aboriginal tribes live.

Looking back, it was not surprising that Taiwan has escaped the worst ravages of COVID-19. The TECO office in Melbourne and our representative in Taiwan both were most helpful in making the Study Tour seamless and most worthwhile.

Council Membership

The support we receive from your Council Members is of the greatest importance. Alastair and I continue to rely greatly on it. Much of the work on our programs is carried out by them.

Joan Beaumont, Jean Dunn, Benjamin Freeman, John Richardson and Kay Stevens (as Vice President) all joined the Council during the year.

Cate Pickett resigned as Vice President during the year. We thank her for her wonderful service to the AIIA over many years. John Webb, Warren Evans and Kay Stevens all resigned from the Council during the year.

Each of John Woods and Greg Wills, having given dedicated and very valuable service to the Institute over the past six years, retire from Council in accordance with clause 14.9 of the Constitution and are therefore not eligible for re-election. David Harper has also advised that he will retire as Vice-President and as a member of Council at the AGM. The Council and the Institute are deeply indebted to all of them.

We thank all our resigned and retiring Councillors for their contribution to the AIIA. During their time on Council, they contributed in so many ways to give our membership broader and more interesting topics.

Honorary Councillors

It has been invaluable having access to our Honorary Councillors from time to time to cover various matters. All have taken a keen interest in the affairs of the AIIA and made solid contributions. It is with regret that Jonathan Forster resigned as an Honorary Councillor.

Dyason House

We continued to carefully examine the future of Dyason House and our requirements. One conclusion is certain; Dyason House is not suitable for the growth and development of the Institute. It continues, through repairs and maintenance, to be a burden on our finances. Some members have resigned because of the difficulty of access. The increased attendance prior to the COVID-19 restrictions resulted in our having to impose wait-lists for some events because of the size limitations of the Sir Russel Madigan Room.

The Future

The limitations on our activities as a result of COVID-19 will not last forever. We therefore continue to plan for the future. We still hope to have the Silk Road Study Tour at some point. Dana Rice, one of the interns for the Silk Road Study Tour has already done much preparatory work in arranging meetings and the itinerary as well as organising one webinar to do with that Study Tour already.

If we are prevented from going on the Silk Road Study tour, we already have plans in place for a Study Tour to the Pacific. Ewan McDonald who is Head of the Office of the Pacific in DFAT has been most helpful in guiding us. That would mean doing the Silk Road Study tour later in 2021 or in 2022.

Our Executive

I would lastly but not least, like to thank Alastair and Ingrid for the continual smooth and seamless running of the office in support of all our activities.

This is my last report as President. Over the past six years of my Presidency, a number of significant changes have occurred in AIIA Victoria. Much of this has come about because of the terrific support and great contributions made by many Council Members and particularly Alastair Roff. I think that you will see a different sort of Council in the future with a different focus.

The stepping stones I wished to accomplish during my Presidency were to have a better organised executive, a strong and committed Council, an improved offering of Dyason House Events and Study Tours to our members, the introduction of Annual Giving and the redevelopment of Dyason House. I regret not accomplishing the last step; but it needs to be done and I leave that to the next President. It will be a fitting tribute to that person.

I wish you all well into the future.

Patrick Moore – *President*

FINANCES

We are pleased to report that AIIA Victoria last year returned a small profit of \$10,317.

By comparison, the profit in the previous financial year was \$7,878 and despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on our operating activities this is a great outcome.

All membership activities of the Institute (Memberships, Functions and Events, and Study Tours) saw strong financial performance. Our members and friends of the Institute contributed significantly to the results through their generous donations. The government support packages have also assisted in maintaining the financial performance of the Institute in the later part of the financial year. This has provided relief from the impact of revenue reduction as result of restrictions and supported our costs of remaining open.

The overall financial performance is again another positive step forward for the Institute as it has enabled us to maintain our financial position. Cash reserves have increased year on year and there is over \$200,000 in cash reserves at balance date.

The forecast for the 2021 financial year is a small profit, largely supported by the expected Government fiscal assistance. Obviously, the ongoing pandemic creates significant financial uncertainty, and the Executive and the Council members have committed to undertaking strict monitoring of the financial performance against the forecast in the coming year to ensure the Institute remains in a positive financial position.

Christopher Cicutto – *Treasurer*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I am pleased to report on a very active year across all facets of the Institute's operations. Thanks are due to members of Council for their support and involvement throughout the year, and to Ingrid Valladares our Office Coordinator for so competently helping to run the Executive Office.

Equally, we could not operate without the time and effort so generously given by our many Interns and volunteers, and more details of their contribution are given on page 9.

We again enjoyed very close cooperation from the Victoria State Office of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and were able to host at Dyason House several visiting Ambassadors and Heads of Mission, whose insights into their respective areas of responsibility are always appreciated. Our relations with the wider Consular Corps in Melbourne are strong and expanding.

48 regular events were held this year covering a wide range of international topics, 6 more than the previous year, and over 4,000 members and guests participated. Brexit; US Foreign Policy; US-China Tensions; Health Security Policy; Australia's Future in Space Exploration; Asia after the Pandemic and many others were discussed in depth. The UK and the EU featured strongly as did India, Taiwan, the Middle East, Indonesia, and the wider Indo-Pacific. A new series of *Women in International Affairs* has been a great success and will be continued as a regular feature.

But COVID-19 of course then had a sudden and drastic impact:



Before 16 March



After 16 March

Having started 2020 with a series of successful full-house events, the Council took the decision on 16 March to suspend all in-person events until further notice. With great innovation and teamwork, we were able within two weeks to replace the speaker program with webinars, and we have endeavoured to maintain as regular and varied a program as we can in order to keep our members engaged during lockdown. One advantage of the webinars is that it enables us to reach a wider audience as well as to host experts from overseas, and it is likely that we will continue to live-stream and record events once we are able to resume public gatherings.

We are always interested in suggestions from members on topics to cover or on speakers whom we should consider inviting.



Dyason House Webinar 'Studio'

The [Walter Mangold Trust Fund](#) has again in calendar years 2019 and 2020 provided generous support to our young people. Their funding has allowed over 750 student attendances at Dyason House events free of charge and enabled us to keep student membership rates at an affordable level.

Our aim is to ensure the sustainability of the Institute post-COVID in what is an increasingly competitive environment and we are confident that we have the team to meet this challenge.

Finally, my thanks for the interest and support shown by all members and their guests at our events, and we look forward to when we can once again meet up in person.

Alastair Roff – *Executive Director*

STUDY TOURS

Taiwan November 2019

Taiwan has been a focal point of Sino-American relations in the Indo-Pacific region of the last 40 years. Our visit was prior to the presidential election in January 2020. In early November 2019, a delegation of 13 AIIA members travelled to Taiwan, the Republic of China for a two-week-long study tour.

The delegation encompassed a wide range of professions, from medical to investing, from engineering to academia. During this two-week-long study tour, the delegation travelled from the north of Taiwan (Taipei) down to the south of Taiwan (Tainan) and up to the Taroko National Park and Alishan (the Ali Mountain) for tourist attractions and other sightseeing activities.



The Australian Office Taipei

The tour aimed to gather a full understanding of how Taiwan has transformed itself politically and economically, from a developing country with martial law to a prosperous, democratic country with its own democratically elected government.



Taiwan Foundation for Democracy

The delegation attended various meetings with vital Taiwanese stakeholders, such as the Australian Office in Taipei, the National Taiwan Normal University, the Yes iFarm, the Taiwan Institute of Economic Research, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Institute of National Policy Research, the Trade investment Queensland and the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy.

On the first day, the delegation met with Mr Gary Cowan, who is the Australian Representative in Taipei. He shared in-depth information on Taiwan's current political situation and economic development with the delegation. He also highlighted the importance of Taiwanese-Australian bilateral relationships.

The delegation also visited the Yes iFarm which has innovative solutions to modern farming practice; having developed a 14-storey farm! We visited Pastor Wong of the Tong Kwang Church. It was the first church in Asia to support the LGBTIQ movement. It played a pivotal role in the process of legalising gay marriage in Taiwan.

The Taiwan Institute of Economic Research shared many insights about the US/China trade war and how it affects Taiwan economically and politically.

The highlight of the study tour was the meetings with the minister Ms Cynthia Kiang of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and with Mr Tien, the chairman of the Institute of National Policy Research. Both these meetings were genuinely impactful. In the meeting with the National Taiwan Normal University, the Dean had expressed keen interest to establish long term relationship with Australia and with the AIIA. These meetings made us acutely aware of the fragile relationship Taiwan has with China.

On the second last day of the study tour, the delegation had met with the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy with the President Mr Bo Tedards. He shared insights on how Taiwan had successfully moved forward from martial law in 1949 through to 1987 to now a thriving democracy.

This Taiwan study tour was a massive success with AIIA Victoria building and strengthening partnership with the Taiwanese counterparts and with interns likely to come in 2020 as a result of a new working relationship between the National Taiwan Normal University and the AIIA.

Man Ting Chong – Study Tour Intern

VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS

With such a busy program of events we rely heavily on the contribution of our volunteers. We are most appreciative of the time that they so willingly give up, and our sincere thanks to all those who have helped out over the last year.

We also rely on our interns to fulfil specific roles that support vital functions of the Institute.

Internships awarded throughout the year include:

Social Media: Tishya Desai, Shelley Dalapu, Michelle Kittikhoun, Charlotte Liddicoat, Madeleine Constanti, Jake Black, Asha Reeves, Daniel Starcevich

Program and Event Management: Nadia Wilkins, Jessica Soares, Aiden Mocicka

Creative Content (Film Production): Daniel Marinopoulos

Dyason House Podcast: Elliot Goodyer, Thenu Herath, James Cafferky

International Careers Conference 2019: Alex Chudleigh, Liana Rawlings, Eura Roh, Katherine Walton, Nicholas Van Schoten, Michaela Bugara, Daria Impiombato

Study Tour (Taiwan): Man Ting Chong

Study Tour (Silk Road): Dana Rice and Maya Sekine

The following generously volunteered their time regularly to help at evening events:

Aiden Mocicka, Ainsley Carter, Alan Wang, Alexandra Alun-Jones, Anthony Mattioli, Bella Mckellar, Carly Norman, Cate Hooton, Charlotte Pelozza, Cristina Vara Almirall, Dan Sloan, Dominic Simonelli, Emma Pearson, Evan Freidin, Eylem Kim, Frances Moran, Georgia Houweling, Georgina Nichols, Greta Newman, Hugh Whittaker, Jessica Wayne, Jonathan Lim, Kat Mooney, Katherine Walton, Lachlan Leeds, Laura Knott, Lucy Drew, Luke Collins, Maggie Milne, Marina Daley, Mia Trinh, Michelle



Interns & Volunteers' Christmas Drinks December 2019

Kittikhoun, Mitchell McIntosh, Mitchell Vandewerdt-Holman, Nadia Sebunya, Nadia Wilkins, Natalia Kuti, Nicholas Van Schoten, Nick Reynolds, Nicole James, Oz Malik, Paloma Kostur, Patrick Russell, Pranav Arora, Renata Santos Marques, Shaz Sivanesan, Shrikaavya Karthikeyan, Victoria Gillett, Wesley Kajirwa, Winuri de Alwis, Zahn Gane.

EVENTS PROGRAM: THE 2019-20 YEAR IN REVIEW

Over the past twelve months, AIIA Victoria has been remarkably active. To that end I thought it worth publishing the flyers of all of our activities over that period in one volume in what really is a remarkable document.

This booklet is available on our website [here](#).

Patrick Moore - *President*

BENEFACTORS

We are again most indebted to our many Donors.

In particular we are indebted to The Walter Mangold Trust Fund for their continued support of our interns, volunteers and younger members. This has enabled them to participate in functions such as the Sir Zelman Cowen Oration, and at the International Careers Conference. The Trust also provides funding for four young people to attend the AIIA National Conference in Canberra each October:



2019 AIIA National Conference, Canberra.
L to R. Prof. Stewart Gill OAM; Alastair Roff; Ingrid Valladares; Mitchell Vandewerdt-Holman; Eylem Kim; Patrick Moore; Luke Collins; Natalia Kuti

The Sir Wilfred Brookes Charitable Foundation has also been terrific in promoting the AIIA.

I thank overleaf all who have contributed to the financial well-being of the Institute.

Patrick Moore - *President*

DONATIONS

We are most grateful to all who contribute to AIIA Victoria. Those contributions enable us to do that little bit extra which makes the Institute such a wonderful organisation.

The following individuals generously donated in 2019-2020:

Sue A'Beckett	John King
John Allen	Tom Kudelka
Tom Bamforth	David & Doone Lamb
Ian Binch	John & Penny Lewisohn
John Brookes	Terence Little
Robyn Byrne OAM	Kelly MacDonald
John Chapman	Prof Robin Marks AM
Christopher Cicutto	Will McEniry
Michael & Ann Cohn	Patrick Moore
Liz Denborough	Richard Morgan AM
Prof. The Hon Gareth Evans AC QC FASSA FAIIA	Wayne Morgan
Andrew Farran	Baillieu Myer AC
Jonathan Forster	Jon Norling
Ian Fry	Brendan O'Brien
Hakim Gassiep	Bill Pickford
Prof. Stewart Gill OAM	Dr Margaret Rees-Jones
Alexander (Sandy) Gillies	Julie Reid
Dr Meg Gurry	John Richardson
The Hon. Justice David Harper AM	Alastair Roff
David Hawker AO	Frank Mahlab & Dr Eve Mahlab AO
Ronald Hay	Peter & Robin Seaman
Dr Michael Henry AM	Joy Selby Smith
Hartmut & Ruth Hofmann	The Hon. Jim Short
William Holder	Julie Soares
Edwin Huck	Andrew Townsend
Erik & Gillian Jensen	Jenny Varcoe-Cocks
Margaret Kelleher	Maxine Wain
Zara Kimpton OAM	Tony Ward
James Kimpton AM	John M L Woods PSM

THE FRIENDS OF THE AIIA SOCIETY

The Institute owes an enormous debt of gratitude to those who show their support through donations and bequests. Their generosity and forethought is vital for the continued growth and sustainability of the AIIA as an important voice in the promotion of knowledge and understanding of international affairs.

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 dedicated to recognising and honouring those individuals who have made an outstanding financial

contribution to the organisation. If you donate **\$500** or more or indicate your intention to leave a bequest to the AIIA, you will be recognised as a Friend of the AIIA in the Annual Review. Those who cumulatively donate **\$5,000** or more become Lifetime Friends.

We thank our Friends for this year:

Mr. Christopher Cicutto	Mr. Patrick Moore
Mr. Michael & Mrs Ann Cohn	Mr. Wayne Morgan
Prof. the Hon Gareth Evans AC QC FASSA FAIIA	Mr. Baillieu Myer AC
Mr. Andrew Farran	Mr. Brendan O'Brien
The Hon. Justice David Harper AM	Mrs. Julie Reid
Mr. Hartmut and Mrs. Ruth Hofmann	Mr. Alastair Roff
Mr. Erik and Mrs Gillian Jensen	Mr. Frank Mahlab and Dr Eve Mahlab AO
Ms. Zara Kimpton OAM	Ms. Joy Selby Smith
Mr. James Kimpton AM	The Hon. Jim Short

We acknowledge the following Lifetime Friends:

Mr. Brendan O'Brien	The Hon. Justice David Harper AM
Mr. Alastair Roff	Ms. Zara Kimpton OAM
Ms. Joy Selby Smith	Mr. Richard Morgan AM
Mr. Patrick Moore	Mr. Baillieu Myer AC
Mr. Allan Myers AC QC	

AIIA FELLOWS

We are delighted to advise that the following Victorians were appointed as Fellows of the AIIA:

- **Melissa H. Conley Tyler** – for her distinguished contribution to track-two diplomacy, non-profit organisations, the community, research and publications and conflict resolution research.
- **Professor Stephen Cordner AM** – for his distinguished commitment to mass casualty management, disaster victim identification and international forensic medical capacity development.
- **Sir Rod Eddington AO** – for his distinguished commitment to international business, and leadership in the promotion of international affairs and bilateral relationships to numerous academics, political figures and executives.

VALE Cynthia Gurner OAM

The Institute was saddened to hear of the death in May of Cynthia Gurner OAM, aged 99. Cynthia was a member of AIIA Victoria and for a time during the 1990s an active member of the Council.

SIR ZELMAN COWEN ORATION 2019

On Tuesday 8 October 2019, the Hon. Margaret Stone AO FAAL, Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security, delivered the 13th Annual Sir Zelman Cowen Oration speaking on the topic of "Ethical Problems in Intelligence Collection".

Margaret Stone was introduced by Kelly MacDonald, AIIA Victoria Council Member responsible for organising the Oration, and the Appreciation was given by Melissa Conley Tyler FAIIA, AIIA Presidential Associate and Director, Diplomacy at Asialink.

The 2019 Oration was held in the beautiful Main Dining Room of The Australian Club. AIIA Victoria President Patrick Moore welcomed AIIA National Vice President Zara Kimpton OAM; Dr Tobias Feakin, Ambassador for Cyber Affairs; many members of the Consular Corps, and other distinguished guests.

Margaret Stone delivered an insightful and interesting address on a complex topic and left guests with a better understanding of the considerations and challenges of intelligence gathering and management.



L to R: Susan Coles, DFAT Vic State Office; Patrick Moore; Kelly MacDonald; The Hon. Margaret Stone AO FAAL; Dr Tobias Feakin, Ambassador for Cyber Affairs; Ms Vanessa O'Neill, Consul General of New Zealand; Ms Mazita Marzuki, Consul General of Malaysia; Alastair Roff

The night could not have gone ahead without the contribution of Kelly MacDonald, Patrick Moore, Alastair Roff, Ingrid Valladares, Christopher Giradi and Christopher Cicutto. Our thanks go to the Walter Mangold Trust Fund for providing generous support to our young members. Special thanks also to DFAT Victoria State Office, Morgan Wealth Management Group Pty Ltd, Monash University Politics & International Relations, Deakin University and all members who organised tables.

15th INTERNATIONAL CAREERS CONFERENCE 2019

The 2019 International Careers Conference (ICC) was the 15th iteration of what has become one of the Institute's flagship events. It is a complex and multifaceted conference to produce, involving considerable research, marketing, communications and administration, as well as deft execution on the day. Preparations began in February, with a six-month timeline and a sizeable team contributing to the effort. Its success, as the premier, one-day conference for upcoming professionals interested in a career with an international outlook, is a tribute to the hard work of all involved.

The ICC continues to build on the experience of previous years, and the 2019 edition further refined the structure and content of the conference in response to attendee feedback and insights from the organising team, resulting in a streamlined experience that delivered informative, relevant and timely advice to a highly-engaged audience. The ICC organising committee was led by Chair Warren Evans, with support from Deputy Chair Benjamin Freeman, a team of six committed and proactive interns, and Alastair Roff and Ingrid Valladares at the Institute's office.

In 2019, the ICC adopted a similar format to that implemented in 2018. The day started with a keynote address, *So You Want to be a Diplomat* delivered by Prof. The Hon Gareth Evans AC QC FASSA FAIA. Gareth Evans spoke to his lengthy and diverse career and provided the captivated audience with a range of valuable insights in both establishing a career in international affairs and being successful in it. Following the keynote address, the conference featured a series of panel discussions, covering a broad spectrum of international careers in business, law, not-for-profits, academia, government and more. To streamline the Q&A component of the panel session, the organising committee decided to implement, for the first time, a mobile application enabling attendees to submit their questions via their phone. Other attendees could then vote for the questions they were most interested in an answer to, ensuring that the most pertinent queries were discussed.



The afternoon Career Workshops in 2018 were rebranded as Masterclasses for the 2019 ICC, more accurately reflecting their style and substance. Again, they presented Conference attendees with the opportunity to interact in small, relaxed groups with professionals in the earlier stage of their careers, to learn more about the pathway into a specific industry. The Masterclasses covered *Foreign Affairs and Diplomacy; United Nations; International Law; Defence, Intelligence and Cyber; National Security; Conflict Reconstruction and Disaster Management; International NGO; Not-for-Profit Sector; Academia, Think Tanks and Research; International Business*, and *Victoria's International Engagement*. Thanks to the extensive efforts of the team at the Institute, the interns and the volunteers, close to 250 attendees flowed seamlessly between 12 different Masterclasses running concurrently over a three-hour period.

We wish to thank the 2019 ICC sponsors: ANU College of Asia & The Pacific, and the National Security College of the ANU.

This one-day event is the product of months of planning and preparation by a dedicated team. At the Conference, it is supported by a large number of Institute volunteers, who help to deliver a carefully structured event with many moving parts. The success of the 2019 event is undoubtedly enhancing the Institute's reputation and will continue to drive greater engagement with Melbourne's young professionals.

Ben Freeman – Council Member and ICC Chair

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

FY19/20 was a big year for the newly named AIIA Victoria Young Professionals. Following a change in identity to reflect the prevailing interests of the younger AIIAV membership, the portfolio underwent a restructure. We welcomed onto the Council Mitchell Vandewerdt-Holman who, along with the existing Council member James Carey, sought to clarify the suite of programs and events on offer for our younger members. We also want to note the invaluable contributions of Ingrid Valladares and Karla Lockett, who with Mitch and James formed the core Young Professionals working group.

This change in structure was followed by a large-scale campaign of asking younger members and non-members who attended events what they wanted to see more of and,

using that information, we restructured existing programs and events. The feedback was that the 'Young Professionals Forum' was a confusing brand and that more networking events were preferable. Responding to this, the YPF brand was retired, along with its social media presence, and pulled back under the AIIAV branding. During 2019, we ran events on how to network, an international careers information evening, a hypothetical event with the ANU Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, as well as our yearly Thesis Showcase, which allows young scholars to present their research. These were all well received and widely attended. Additionally, we ran an in-person trivia night in the centre of Melbourne, which was open to the wider community.



In 2020, we had big plans to launch an in-person monthly networking event, with a different speaker each month, held at the Kelvin Club. The appetite for such events was overwhelming, as the first of these events in March, with Richard Iron CMG OBE as the guest speaker, had well over 100 booked tickets. This event was advertised through various channels and alumni groups and promised to lead to a fantastic and profitable series. However, with COVID-19 changing the environment within which we operated our events, we had to quickly shift to an online offering.

We began this by beginning bi-weekly coffee catch-ups for younger members to discuss international affairs, current events, and their lives in lockdown. These have attracted a core group of volunteers and interns and have proven to be a really successful way to ensure that those volunteers can still feel connected to the AIIA. More broadly during lockdown, the YP has run a Hypothetical event with the US Consul-General, Michael F. Kleine, and three virtual trivia nights that have attracted a wide range of members and non-members.

In addition to these events, James launched the '*Meet The Diplomat*' series. This series, which has been generously supported by DFAT Victoria State Office has to date interviewed former Ambassadors John Richardson and Colin Heseltine, and the current Australian Ambassador for Gender Equality, HE Ms Julie-Ann Guivarra. It aims to allow younger members to hear about what it is like to be a diplomat, and the types of experiences they have in their careers.

For the coming year, the new YP aims to build upon these successes and develop new funding streams for the AIIAV by providing engaging and relevant content for members and non-members. Whilst COVID-19 has forced the YP to reconsider the types of programs and events we had planned, the continual development of new events has allowed us to pivot effectively so that we can still deliver interesting content, add value to the AIIAV as a whole, and enrich the personal and professional lives of our young members.

James Carey and Mitchell Vandewerdt-Holman – Council Members

VICTORIAN GLOBAL POLITICS ESSAY COMPETITION 2019

In 2019 AIIA Victoria and Social Education Victoria (SEV) successfully ran the third Global Politics essay competition with a number of students across Victoria lodging essays. We appointed three interns to liaise with schools: Mitchell Vandewerdt-Holman, Kate Clayton and Shanika Saputantrie, and they each did an outstanding job.

Students were asked to submit a 1,000-word essay on one of the following topics:

- *Climate change moves from crisis to emergency, yet world leaders hang back from acting. Analyse.*
- *The involvement of the United Nations in any existing global crisis has only ever served to exacerbate the situation.*
- *Evaluate the effective use of power by two or more states in the pursuit of their national interests.*

At the International Careers Conference in August 2019 the winners were announced, and prizes were presented by Patrick Moore. The first prize winner was Sam Warner from Mazenod College who received \$500. The second prize winner was India Rowe of Star of the Sea College, Brighton who received \$300. The equal-third prize winners were Billy Pearson of Brighton Grammar and Liam Taylor of Christian Brothers College St Kilda who each received \$100.

Our sincere thanks go to our donors Zara Kimpton OAM and Joy Selby Smith. In supporting this essay competition AIIA Victoria maintains its commitment to promoting international relations among secondary students.

Robyn Byrne OAM – Council Member

MEMBERSHIP

We have experienced some decline in certain membership categories since COVID-19, but are working to keep the membership engaged, and to follow up to encourage renewals. We thank all those members who have renewed during the year and continue to welcome new members.

Membership rates have again been held at the same level with no increase.

Members as of 30 June	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Standard	127	128	112
Premium	40	61	57
Concession	106	113	120
Premium Concession	52	55	45
Student	193	169	115
Corporate	7	8	8
School	2	3	3
Life Members & Patrons	6	6	6
Total	533	543	465

2019-20 Speaker Events & Webinars	
Monday 1 July	Australia in East Africa HE Ms Alison Chartres, High Commissioner to Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda. <i>Chatham House Rule</i>
Tuesday 9 July	India's Elections; a Retrospective Prof. Robin Jeffrey
Monday 22 July	Brexit: Deal or No Deal? Dr. Ben Wellings. Monash University
Wednesday 24 July	Thailand: History, Politics and the Rule of Law James Wise, former Ambassador to Thailand <i>Co-hosted with Asialink</i>
Thursday 25 July	US-China Tensions: a New Cold War? Prof. Nick Bisley, La Trobe University
Tuesday 30 July	Australia - Role Model in a Turbulent World? Tom Switzer, Executive Director, The Centre for Independent Studies
Monday 5 August	Update from Vientiane HE Mr Jean-Bernard Carrasco, Ambassador to Laos <i>Chatham House Rule</i>
Tuesday 6 August	Update from Taiwan Mr Gary Cowan, Representative, Australian Office, Taipei. <i>Chatham House Rule applies. Members only</i>
Wednesday 7 August	The Rising Tide: Among the Islands and Atolls of the Pacific Ocean Tom Bamforth (Book Launch)
Tuesday 13 August	The End of Europe: Dictators, Demagogues, and the Coming Dark Age James Kirchick, Visiting Fellow Brookings Institution, <i>Co-hosted with AIJAC</i>
Tuesday 20 August	Comparing Notes: Australia and Canada HE Ms Natasha Smith, High Commissioner to Canada
Wednesday 21 August	Evolving North Korea-US Relations: Implications for Australia Professor Gordon Flake, CEO Perth USAsia Centre
Tuesday 10 September	Taiwan - Beijing's Next Target After Hong Kong? Rowan Callick OBE FAIA
Thursday 12 September	NATO at 70 Assoc. Prof. Alexey Muraviev, Curtin University WA
Tuesday 17 September	Indonesia Study Tour Report Presented by Study Tour participants
Thursday 17 October	An Outline of International Law Dr Dominique De Stoop

Monday 21 October	Slovenia – at the Crossroads of Europe HE Mr Jurij Rifelj, Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia. <i>Chatham House Rule</i>
Thursday 24 October	FARC 2.0 and the Future of Colombia’s Peace Process Dr Alexandra Phelan, Monash University
Monday 28 October	Dilemmas in Counter-Terrorism Decision Making Prof. Boaz Ganor, International Institute for Counter Terrorism (ICT)
Thursday 31 October	The Muslim Brotherhood in Syria Dr Dara Conduit, Book Launch
Thursday 7 November	The Present and Future of Autonomous Weapons Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Alistair Pope
Wednesday 13 November	Accountability and Justice for the Rohingya Thom Woodroffe, Independent Diplomat
Wednesday 20 November	Diversity in Diplomacy HE Mr Ridwaan Jadwat, Ambassador to Saudi Arabia <i>Chatham House Rule applies</i>
Thursday 21 November	The Rising Tide: Among the Islands and Atolls of the Pacific Ocean Tom Bamforth
Tuesday 26 November	Australia’s Future in Space Exploration Carley Scott, CEO Equatorial Launch Australia
Wednesday 4 December	The Scope for Greater Five Eyes Cooperation in the Arctic and Antarctic Int’l Panel: Dr Dwayne Menezes, Maj Gen Randy Kee, USAF (ret), Prof. Heather Nicol, Prof. Christian Leuprecht & Alice Rogoff
Tuesday 4 February	In the Shadow of the Cold War: American Foreign Policy from George Bush Sr. to Donald Trump Associate Professor Timothy J. Lynch, University of Melbourne
Friday 7 February	Australia’s Relationship with India Roundtable with Rod Hilton, Deputy Head of Mission New Delhi <i>Chatham House Rule</i>
Tuesday 11 February	Unrest in the Arab World Richard Iron CMG OBE in Conversation with Michael Bachelard
Wednesday 19 February	Taiwan Study Tour - Report Launch Study Tour Delegates
Monday 24 February (DFAT VIC State Office)	The Year Ahead in US Politics: Insights from Washington Sarah Storey, Congressional liaison Chief, Australian Embassy Washington
Wednesday 26 February	Breaking Up is Hard to Do Colin Chapman FAIA
Thursday 5 March	Australia and the Western Balkans in 2020 HE Ms Ruth Stewart, Australian Ambassador to Serbia <i>Chatham House Rule applies</i>

Tuesday 10 March	Women in International Affairs (1 st of a new series) Dr Alexandra Phelan, Monash Gender, Peace & Security Centre
<i>Monday 16 March. COVID-19 – speaker events suspended; replaced by webinars</i>	
Thursday 2 April	Climate Change and National Security Assoc. Prof. Matt McDonald, University of Queensland
Thursday 9 April	Health Security Policy and Politics Assoc. Prof. Adam Kamradt-Scott, University of Sydney
Thursday 23 April	The Circular Advantage – from Denmark to Australia Dr Scott Valentine, Senior Circular Economy Specialist, KPMG Australia
Thursday 30 April	International Affairs – Reasons to be Optimistic Melissa Conley Tyler FAIIA. Fellow’s Address
Tuesday 5 May	Women in International Affairs #2 Karishma Vyas
Thursday 7 May	What’s wrong with Australia’s Middle East Policy? Richard Iron CMG OBE in Conversation with Ian Parmeter, former Ambassador to Lebanon
Wednesday 13 May	The 2014-16 West African Ebola Crisis: 2020 Hindsight Prof. Stephen Cordner AM FAIIA. Fellow’s Address
Tuesday 19 May	Asia after the Pandemic Prof. Nick Bisley, La Trobe University
Thursday 21 May	Women in International Affairs #3 Dr Carrie McDougall, Melbourne Law School
Thursday 28 May	Flattening the Curve without Flattening the Economy Prof. Neville Norman, University of Melbourne
Tuesday 2 June	Foreign Correspondent in Trump’s America Zoe Daniel, ABC News
Wednesday 10 June	Along the New Silk Road: Spotlight on Kazakhstan Dr Meruert Makhmutova, Public Policy Research Center, Almaty
Thursday 18 June	Meet the Diplomat: Experiences of Diplomacy John Richardson, former Ambassador to Brazil
Tuesday 30 June	Cyberspace, Security, Privacy and Human Rights Dr Sebastian Kaempf, University of Queensland