



**Australian Institute
of International Affairs**
Victoria

Annual Report 2020-21

OFFICE BEARERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**PRESIDENT**

Mr. Richard Iron CMG OBE

VICE PRESIDENT

Ms. Kelly MacDonald

VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. John Richardson

TREASURER

Mr. Christopher Cicutto

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Alastair Roff

COUNCIL

Ms. Robyn Byrne OAM

Mr. James Carey

Ms. Melissa Conley Tyler FAIA

Mr. Benjamin Freeman

Ms. Karla Lockett

Mr. Will McEniry

Mr. Justin Meyer

Mr. Prakash Mirchandani

Mr. Michael Moignard

Mr. Perry Wood

COMMITTEES

Finance	Chair: Mr. Christopher Cicutto
Events Program	Chair: Mr. Alastair Roff
Sir Zelman Cowen Oration	Chair: Mr. Justin Meyer
Study Tours	Chair: Vacant
International Careers Conference	Chair: Mr. Benjamin Freeman
VCE Schools Program	Chair: Ms. Robyn Byrne OAM
Building, OHS & Library	Chair: Ms. Robyn Byrne OAM
Students & Young Professionals	Chairs: Mr. James Carey & Ms Karla Lockett
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 past year has been a challenging and frustrating one with so many major events having to be cancelled or postponed. At the same time it has provided a stimulus for us to think strategically about where we as an organisation are going and what must be done to ensure our long-term viability. It is particularly pleasing that we have managed to come through the year with a financial surplus - with government support – and that our membership remains firmly committed. It has been a time of innovation and we have tried our best to continue to provide interesting and important presentations and discussions.



Our web-based and hybrid events (when audiences have been possible!) have been very successful but have also highlighted the need to upgrade our technological capabilities. We have had one of the most active programs and have introduced a number of new series.

Jim Middleton, former ABC Chief Political Correspondent and Sky News presenter, anchored “*Meet the Ambassador*”, a series of conversations with Canberra-based foreign ambassadors. Rowan Callick has explored with some of the world’s leading experts on China that country’s complexities, opportunities and threats in a series of three sessions. We have also had a series of four events exploring Australia’s geo-political, economic and cultural links with India and Sri Lanka. As one of our speakers said, there’s a lot more than Curry, Cricket and Commonwealth!

The restrictions on international travel have meant a suspension of overseas study tours, but we will review this at the end of the calendar year to see whether a study tour may be possible in the first half of 2022. Similarly both the Sir Zelman Cowen Oration and the International Careers Conference have had to be twice postponed now to early next year, despite the considerable work put into them by Council members. The Young Professionals have been active with both networking events when possible and web-based events, and represent a demographic we are keen to engage with more.

Dyason House has been the home of AIIA Victoria since its purchase in September 1963, but over time has become less fit for purpose (e.g. no lift access to the first floor), and maintenance

costs have been increasing. Having considered various alternatives over the past three years, the Council at an Extraordinary Council meeting on 22 March 2021 decided unanimously on the sale of the property. We intend that new premises will both meet our ongoing business needs but that there will be a net financial yield which will place AIIA Victoria on a firmer financial foundation into the future. A contract was exchanged on 6 August 2021 with a settlement date of August 2022 and leaseback terms thereafter to give us time to purchase, fit out and move into our new home. The search for New Dyason House is on!

My thanks to our Council members who have worked hard throughout the year to maintain an interesting program despite the challenges, and to Robyn Byrne OAM who having served on the Council for six years is not eligible for re-election in accordance with clause 14.9 (a) of the AIIA VIC Constitution.

My particular thanks to the Executive Director, Alastair Roff, and to the team of interns and volunteers who are so vital to our ongoing operations. I am very grateful to Council Member James Carey and Admin Assistant Jessica Wayne, who stepped in at short notice to cover for Alastair Roff while he was in hospital.

Thank you all for your continuing and generous support for our Institute. Please stay well, keep fit and remain interested in International Affairs! We look forward to better times ahead.

Richard Iron CMG, OBE – President

FINANCES

We are pleased to report that AIIA Victoria last year returned a surplus of \$31,548.

By comparison, the surplus in the previous financial year was \$10,317 and despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on our operating activities which is a great outcome.

Both Federal and State government support packages greatly assisted in maintaining the financial performance of the Institute including \$76,372 of income from the various support packages. Our members and friends of the Institute again gave generously, and we recognised \$35,036 of donations during the year.

Cash reserves at the end of the financial year have been maintained from last year with over \$240,000 in cash. In addition, the sale of Dyason House provides further certainty for the Institute's financial position. Further to this, there is recognition of \$2,316,847 in the income statement which is reflective of the increase in carrying value of Dyason House in the financial statements less costs of sale.

Obviously, the ongoing pandemic creates significant financial uncertainty, however the Executive and the Council members will continue to undertake strict monitoring of the financial performance against the budget. Given the strong financial position at balance date, we are buoyed for the future of the Institute.

Christopher Cicutto – Treasurer

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I am pleased to report on a very active year for of the Institute despite the ongoing challenges of lockdowns. Thanks are due to members of Council for their support and involvement throughout the year, and to Asha Reeves and Jessica Wayne 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 below. One way that we can give back to them is to provide references to potential employers. It is clear that the AIIA is regarded as an important reference by the number of times we are contacted, particularly by government agencies, and it is encouraging to see the number of former AIIA interns and volunteers who continue to succeed in obtaining employment even in the current times.

46 regular events were held this year covering a wide range of international topics, in which over 4,000 members and guests participated. It is galling to be reporting for a second consecutive year on the impact of COVID-19, but it is highlighted by the fact that well over half of our events have been held purely online. We covered a wide range of topics and speakers (listed in the appendix on pages 10-11). A booklet highlighting the 2020-21 Year in Review is [available here](#). We are always interested in suggestions from members on topics to cover or on speakers whom we should consider inviting.

The [Walter Mangold Trust Fund](#) has again in calendar years 2020 and 2021 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 regularly meet up in person.

Alastair Roff – *Executive Director*

STUDY TOURS

The planned Silk Road Study Tour (to Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan) had attracted great interest, but with borders closing, and uncertainty over vaccines it became clear that it was going to be too challenging to proceed. Once there is further clarity over international travel in general, we will review destinations with a view to resuming Study Tours when we can.

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: Jake Black; Asha Reeves; Daniel Starceвич; Emily Meggs; Dana Pjanic; Benjamin Edwards; Anet McClintock; Sam Bissett; Phoebe Young

Program and Event Management: Antonia Robson; Honzi Harrison

Creative Content: Thenu Herath; Elliot Goodyer

International Careers Conference 2020: Shashwat Tripathi, Eva Ullinger, Tiana Mahncke, Nick Pentney, Nick Pentney

Silk Road Study Tour: Dana Rice; Maya Sekine

South Asia Seminar Series: Lewis Baker

How Wars End Conference: Charlie Ellingham; Ian Rintala

Sir Zelman Cowen Oration: Catherine Scheffer

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

Georgina Lamont
 Lucy Drew
 Danielle Egan
 Carly Norman
 Dev Sharma
 Jessica Wayne
 Jack Patterson
 Brendan Sheahan
 Marina Daley
 Aidan Johnson
 Helet Kalay
 Evan Ross
 Dimitri Arvanitakis
 Ezekiel Dobelsky
 Anisha Gupta
 Asha Reeves
 Adam Rajic
 Elise Coorey
 Aiden Mocicka.



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 2020-2021:

Sue A'Beckett
 Mark Auchinleck

John & Dani Balmford
 David Brewer

John Brookes
 Robyn Byrne OAM
 Laura Chan
 Suzanne Chapman
 Christopher Cicutto
 Peter Clements
 Ann Cohn
 Marcel Colman
 Leith Doody FAICD
 Prof. Peter Dowling
 Dr. Peter Eisen
 Prof. the Hon Gareth Evans AC QC FASSA
 FAIIA
 Andrew Farran
 Prof. Allan Fels AO
 Dr. Trevor Findlay
 Helen Freeman
 Dr. Ian Fry
 Hakim Gassiep
 Prof. Stewart Gill OAM
 Dr. Alexander Gillies
 Jordie Gundersen
 The Hon. David Harper AM QC
 Ronald Hay
 Hartmut & Ruth Hofmann
 William Holder
 Peter & Robin Hone
 Richard Iron CMG OBE
 Erik & Gillian Jensen
 Dr. Suzanne Keene

Dr. Margaret Kelleher
 Zara Kimpton OAM
 John King
 Thomas Kudelka
 Josie, Lady Blyton
 David & Doone Lamb
 Ruth & Grahame Leonard AM
 John & Penny Lewisohn
 Kelly MacDonald
 Prof. Robin Marks AM
 Prof. Derek McDougall
 Will. McEniry
 Prakash Mirchandani
 Patrick Moore
 Richard Morgan AM
 Baillieu Myer AC FAIIA
 Kui Meng Ng
 Brendan O'Brien
 Cate Pickett
 Dr. David Price OAM
 Dr. Margaret Rees-Jones
 John Richardson
 Alastair Roff
 Peter & Robin Seaman
 Darren Skidmore
 Dr. Julie Soares
 The Hon. Justice Lesley Taylor
 Jenny Varcoe-Cocks
 Nick Varvaras
 Tony Ward

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:

Christopher Cicutto
 Ann Cohn
 Prof. the Hon Gareth Evans AC QS FASSA
 FAIIA
 Andrew Farran

Helen Freeman
 Jordie Gundersen
 The Hon David Harper AM QC
 Hartmut & Ruth Hofmann

Erik & Gillian Jensen
 Zara Kimpton OAM
 Tom Kudelka
 Prakash Mirchandani & Susan Green

Patrick Moore
 Baillieu Myer AC FAIA
 Brendan O'Brien
 Alastair Roff

We acknowledge the following Lifetime Friends:

Prof. the Hon Gareth Evans AC QS FASSA
 FAIA
 Helen Freeman
 The Hon David Harper AM QC
 Hartmut & Ruth Hofmann
 Zara Kimpton OAM
 Patrick Moore

Richard Morgan AM
 Baillieu Myer AC FAIA
 Allan Myers AC QC
 Brendan O'Brien
 Alastair Roff
 Joy Selby Smith

AIIA FELLOWS

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

Professor Nick Bisley – for his distinguished contribution to education and the national discussion on foreign affairs, particularly on Asia.

VALE

The Institute was saddened to hear of the death in April of our valued member Michael Cohn.

Michael regularly attended our events and was a highly valued and dear supporter of the Institute. He also travelled to Iran in 2017 with the Institute as part of our study tour delegation.

We send our condolences to his family and friends.



Michael Cohn and the Iran Study Tour delegation at the Winter Palace in Tehran in 2017

SIR ZELMAN COWEN ORATION 2020

Unfortunately the restrictions on public gatherings meant that we were unable to hold the Sir Zelman Cowen Oration and Dinner in 2020.

16th INTERNATIONAL CAREERS CONFERENCE 2020

Unfortunately the restrictions on public gatherings meant that we were unable to hold the International careers Conference in 2020.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

AIIA Victoria's Young Professionals have hosted two successful networking events at the Kelvin Club in the CBD this year. These social and relaxed evenings saw large numbers of young people get together and share their experiences, goals, and ambitions.



COVID restrictions prevented further planned in-person events being held.

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 Karla Lockett – *Council Members*

MEMBERSHIP

Membership numbers have held up well despite COVID. We are working hard to keep the membership engaged, and to follow up to encourage renewals. We thank all those members who have renewed during the year, and we are glad that we continue to welcome new members.

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

Members as of 30 June	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Standard	128	112	138
Premium	61	57	50
Concession	113	120	114
Premium Concession	55	45	44
Student	169	115	103
Corporate	8	8	9
School	3	3	8
Life Members & Patrons	6	6	6
Total	543	465	472

2020-21 Speaker Events and Webinars		
9-Jul-20	Bolsonaro - Trump of the Tropics?	Dr Deborah Leal Barros Farias
14-Jul-20	Norway's UN Security Council Role	HE Mr Paul Gulleik Larsen
23-Jul-20	Why has the UK Dropped Foreign Policy from Brexit Negotiations?	Prof. Richard Whitman
30-Jul-20	Russia's Greater Eurasia Initiative	Dr Glenn Diesen
06-Aug-20	The Outlook for Nuclear Disarmament	Tim Wright, ICAN
25-Aug-20	Women in International Affairs #4	Seeta Giri
27-Aug-20	Meet the Diplomat #3	HE Ms Julie-Ann Guivarra
02-Sep-20	Ending War: Lessons from Somaliland	Richard Iron icw Dr Sarah Phillips
08-Sep-20	Empathy at the Ballot	Dr Claire Yorke
09-Sep-20	US Presidential Election: Into the Final Straight	Sara James
23-Sep-20	Meet the Diplomat #4	Carlisle Richardson
29-Sep-20	UAE/Israel Peace Agreement	Prof. Clive Jones
13-Oct-20	The Kurds in a Fragmenting Middle East	Dr. William Gourlay
19-Oct-20	On All Fronts- The Education of a Journalist	Clarissa Ward icw Richard Iron
04-Nov-20	From a Tin Shed to the UN (WIIA #5)	Stephanie Woollard OAM
05-Nov-20	American Foreign Policy after the Election	Prof. Bruce W. Jentleson
17-Nov-20	Revolutions and World Order	Prof. George Lawson
25-Nov-20	What's Next? Australia's International Challenges	Gareth Evans & Tanya Plibersek
26-Nov-20	Whither the UK?	The Hon George Brandis QC
02-Dec-20	China's Grand Strategy and Australia's Future in the new Global Order	Geoff Raby icw Rowan Callick
08-Dec-20	The Psychological Cost of War	Prof. Sir Simon Wessely icw Richard Iron
27-Jan-21	America after Trump	Prof. Bruce Jentleson
4-Feb-21	The Ox Year in the China Shop	Rowan Callick
15-Feb-21	Myanmar - Update on Developments	Christopher Lamb
16-Feb-21	<i>Meet the Ambassador</i> - New Zealand	HE the Hon Dame Annette King
17-Feb-21	Biden's America and Great Power Conflict	David Kilcullen icw Richard Iron
25-Feb-21	Sports Diplomacy - Taking Australia's Game to the World	Andrew Hunter
4-Mar-21	Greetings from Trumpland	Zoe Daniel w Jim Middleton
16-Mar-21	<i>Meet the Ambassador</i> - United Kingdom	HE Vicki Treadell CMG MVO
23-Mar-21	Security through Sustainable Peace	Prof John Langmore AM
24-Mar-21	Biden's World	Emma Sky w Richard Iron
29-Mar-21	After Brexit: The Consequences	Dr Remy Davison
6-Apr-21	<i>Meet the Ambassador</i> - Brazil	HE Sergio Moreira Lima
13-Apr-21	The Chinese Communist Party's Ideological Core	Rowan Callick + panel
20-Apr-21	Young Professionals Networking Drinks	Networking
21-Apr-21	Expeditionary Diplomats	Paul Richter
29-Apr-21	Exposing Putin's Russia: The Navalny Challenge	Prof. William Partlett

5-May-21	New Perspectives on Diplomacy	Prof. Jack Spence OBE, Claire Yorke
10-May-21	<i>Meet the Ambassador</i> - European Union	HE Dr Michael Pulch
18-May-21	India's Geopolitical Role in the Indo-Pacific	Panel Discussion
25-May-21	Peace Operations and the International Order	Dr Shannon Zimmerman
1-Jun-21	Trade & Investment Opportunities between Australia & India	Panel Discussion
2-Jun-21	Britain after Brexit	Robert Jackson MP
15-Jun-21	Australia & India's Soft Power Diplomacy	Panel Discussion
29-Jun-21	Sri Lanka's Geopolitics and Trade Potential	Panel Discussion
30-Jun-21	The Taiwan Test: How to Keep Democracy Alive in Asia	Panel Discussion