



[Australian Institute of International Affairs, Victoria](#)

Promoting understanding of International issues

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May 2016 Newsletter

Dear Fellow Members and Supporters of the AIIA,

[Welcome New Members](#)

It is with great pleasure that I welcome the following new Members to the AIIA.

David Andrew	Mohamed Jama	Marian Schoen
Dimitre Artakov	Stephanie Le Quesne	Daniel Seehusen
Steven Blundell	Peter Lee	Kegan Smith
Matthew Blundell	Jun Yi	Bhanuka Wanasinghe
Alister Braithwaite	Benjamin Loewenstein	Mahad Warsame
Mark Burgess	Min Lu	Roger Hurcombe
Lachlan Clohesy	Egide Nujimbere	Antonietta Curtis
Hugh Congleton	Justin O'Day	Casey Williams
Jean Delos Reyes	Estelle Parker	James Guest
Teresa Hall	Stephen Parcy	Mark Skulley
Adriana Hendrickson	Lale Ramadan	

[Sri Lanka Study Tour](#)

We have now finalised the details of the Sri Lanka Study Tour. Already 28 Members have registered their interest and the size of the Tour is limited to 25 Members. But please register as not all 28 may go on the Study Tour.

Please [click here](#) for all the details and our Brochure. We have organised many of our meetings; and the Travel plans throughout Sri Lanka have been settled.

Council News

We welcomed Jenny Bloomfield onto Council at our April Meeting. Jenny was recently appointed Victorian State Manager for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; having completed her term as the Australian Ambassador to Greece.

From a financial point of view, we are likely to make a small surplus for the year to June 30, 2016. That is due not only to all Members coming to Events; but also to Council Members who actually make a terrific contribution and do more than is asked of them.

Forthcoming Events at Dyason House

Topic	Speaker	Date	Day
The Outlook for the Arabian Peninsula	Tom Harley, Dragoman Global	May 5th	Thu
Australia's Place in Africa – Diplomacy, development and deeper relations	H.E. Mr Mark Sawers, Ambassador to Ethiopia and the African Union	May 12 th	Thu
Crimes Against the Environment under International Criminal Law (Law Week Partner Event)	Prof Steven Freeland, Western Sydney University	May 16 th	Mon
Sri Lanka – Peace and Prosperity, Democracy and Development	H.E. Mr Somasundaram Skandakumar High Commissioner	May 25 th	Wed
Brazil and the Rio Olympics – Now not the only games in town?	Brett Hackett, DFAT	June 1 st	Wed

Major Forthcoming Events this year

International Careers Conference

This is being held on August 26th at the ANZ Pavilion. Last year it attracted 250 participants. The major Sponsor is La Trobe University. The National Security College at the ANU is also sponsoring the Event. As with last year, Tim Costello, CEO of World Vision, is speaking again about careers in Not for Profits.

The programme this year will vary a little from last year's in that La Trobe is offering a service to participants to have their Curriculum Vitae reviewed; both during Registration and Lunchtime by a number of La Trobe professionals. Furthermore, at the end of the formal proceedings, there will be about 11 workshops where Middle Management people in the field of International Affairs will be available to talk with participants and share their career paths.

Fields covered include:

- Federal State Graduate Program
- Media
- Overseas Aid and

- Development
- Trade and Investment
- Ethical Business
- Food Security and Environment
- Refugee/Migration issues
- Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution
- Emergency Humanitarian Response
- Further Studies
- International Law

[Sir Zelman Cowen Oration](#)

We are delighted to announce that the Hon. Andrew Robb AO will deliver the Oration at the Australian Club in Melbourne on Thursday October 13th.

[Gala Luncheon/Dinner December 8th -](#)

Please put this date in your diary for our Gala Luncheon.

[General Meeting](#)

You will soon receive notice of our General Meeting at Dyason House for Thursday May 26th.

We are holding this meeting because there was a general feeling after our December Annual General Meeting that Members would like to have a mid-year briefing; and more importantly for Council to receive feedback from Members on suggestions for activities. I look forward to seeing you there.

[Past Events at Dyason House](#)

So far this year we have had a record number of Members and Guests attending events at Dyason House.

Set out below is a summary of some of the Events. Please be aware that some of our Events are carried out under Chatham House Rules; in other words, we are unable to tell you about what was said!

[Dangerous Global Warming – Fact or Fiction. The Limits of the Paris Accord](#)

Des Moore pointed out that most governments around the world and their agencies still work on the premise that global warming is a threat to humanity and that many argue that there is a scientific consensus.

Mr Moore questioned this consensus by showing a number of measures where there is uncertainty and in particular a graph put together by Roy Spencer (University of Alabama) of global temperature predictions over the past 35 years and the much lower actual measurements from balloons and satellites over the last 15 years.

He concluded by stating that the best policy for governments, businesses and individuals was to adapt to changes in climate and welcome the additions to CO₂

Zika

Professor Cameron Simmons shares his insights on the gaps in knowledge, policy complexities and the response thus far in the efforts to contain, prevent and treat the Zika virus. With a large outbreak in Brazil last year, the Zika virus has spread rapidly across the Americas, causing birth defects such as microcephaly. While there is much we do know experts are still discovering how the virus affects the human body and US authorities report a vaccine could be years away.

Cuba

What does the thawing of US-Cuba relations mean for Australia? How will the dismantling of the 1960 US Trade Embargo be addressed? How will Cuba's political system accommodate increased trade and investment? How will President Obama's visit be received at home and abroad? HE Mr Jose Manuel Galego Montano, Ambassador of Cuba, provides answers to these questions, sharing his insights into the challenges and opportunities facing Cuba at a pivotal moment in its history.

Associate Professor Adrian Hearn gives an update on his recent visit to Cuba with the former Trade and Investment Minister the Hon. Andrew Robb AO. He follows on from a speech given by the Ambassador of Cuba, HE Mr Jose Manuel Galego Montano, who provided insights into the challenges and opportunities facing Cuba at a pivotal moment in its history.

Sri Lanka

The Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, Minister of Foreign Affairs, discussed Sri Lanka's path to peace and prosperity through “democracy, reconciliation and development”. The full text can be seen by [clicking here](#).

Amongst other matters raised, he emphasised the problems that Sri Lanka has with languages; citing the example of a Tamil going to a police station in Colombo and finding no one who could speak his language. Thus the importance of having a common language such as English.

He also pointed out that whereas Australia has invested \$200 million in Australia, Australia has only invested \$60 million in Sri Lanka. Attractive areas for investment in Sri Lanka include Tourism, Dairy and Aquaculture.

Australia's Public Diplomacy Challenges in the Asian Century

Professor John Fitzgerald discussed the long History of Australian Investment in China and the importance of the Chinese Diaspora in Australia; citing as an example the building of department stores in China by the diaspora in Australia.

Thank you to all who make all this possible: Council Members, Volunteers, Interns, Peta and many others.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

Patrick Moore
President
AIIA Victoria