

# Chief of Army Symposium 2025

## Australian Parliament House

**Lieutenant General Simon Stuart, AO, DSC**

Chief of the Australian Army

**Brigadier Michelle Campbell, AM**

Director General Workforce Integration, Australian Army

**Professor Risa Brooks**

Keogh Chair and Allis-Chalmers Professor of Political Science at Marquette University

**Professor Peter Dean**

General Sir Francis Hassett Chair of Military Studies, Australian Defence College

**Dr Evan Laksmana**

Shangri-La Dialogue Senior Fellow and Editor of the Asia-Pacific Regional Security Assessment at the International Institute for Strategic Studies

## Australian War Memorial

**Dr Natalie Sambhi**

Senior Policy Fellow, Asia Society Australia

**LTGEN Peter Leahy, AC (Retd)**

Director of the National Security Institute, University of Canberra and former Chief of the Australian Army

**Tony Jones**

Journalist, Radio and Television Presenter and Writer

**Matt Anderson, PSM**

Director of the Australian War Memorial

**Professor Rory Medcalf, AM**

Head of National Security College, Australian National University

**Professor Sir Hew Strachan, CVO, FBA, FRSE**

Professor of International Relations, University of St Andrews

**Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman, KCMG**

Emeritus Professor of War Studies, King's College London

# Speakers and panellists

## Museum of Australian Democracy

**General Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK, AC, CVO, MC (Retd)**

Former Governor General of Australia

**Mathew Wilson**

Executive Co-Chair of PentenAmio

**Major General Ana Duncan, AM, CSC**

Commander Forces Command, Australian Army

**Major General Richard Vagg, DSC**

Head Land Capability, Australian Army

**Dr Carolyn Bull**

Director of RAND Australia

**Professor Duncan Lewis AO, DSC, CSC**

Chair of the European Australian Business Council and Chair of the Defence Company Thales Australia

**Brigadier David McCammon, DSM and Bar**

Commander Australian Army Cadets

**Dr Justin Garrick**

Head of Canberra Grammar School

**Secretary Alison Frame**

Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs

# Speakers and panellists

## Australian Parliament House

### Lieutenant General Simon Stuart, AO, DSC

Chief of the Australian Army



Lieutenant General Stuart assumed command of the Australian Army on 02 July 2022. Enlisting as a soldier in 1987, he commissioned into the Royal Australian Infantry Corps in 1990. He has over thirty five years' experience across leadership, operations, training and program management appointments in Australia and overseas.

LTGEN Stuart's regimental experience was in the 2nd/4th and 2nd Battalions, culminating in command of the 8th/9th Battalion from 2008-10. He has commanded on Operations at the Company, Joint Task Force, Brigade and Force levels in East Timor, Afghanistan and Egypt/Israel. Most recently, fulfilled the role of Head of Land Capability in Army Headquarters. LTGEN Stuart is a graduate of RMC – Duntroon (1990), UK Joint Services Command and Staff College (2003), US Army War College (2015) and Harvard Business School Advanced Management Program (2022).

He holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of New England and Masters' degrees in Project Management, Defence Studies and Strategy. LTGEN's honours and awards include the appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia (2011), the Distinguished Service Cross (2014) and advancement to Officer of the Order of Australia (2020).

Lieutenant General Stuart and his wife Katy are from Perth and have two children.

### Brigadier Michelle Campbell, AM

Director General Workforce Integration, Australian Army



Brigadier Michelle Campbell enlisted in the Army Reserve at Monash University Regiment in 1989 and commissioned into the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps in 1992. Over her 35 years, she has held leadership, operations, training, and project roles across Australia and overseas. She has commanded at unit and formation levels, including Melbourne University Regiment and the 4th Brigade. Her operational service includes three major bushfires task forces and in 2014 deployment to Afghanistan as NATO Chief of the Redeployment Fusion Cell. In her civilian career, she is a senior executive and non-executive director with two decades' experience leading transformations across government, financial services, infrastructure, and digital integration.

A Graduate of AICD and ANZSOG Executive Fellow, she holds a BA (Social Science), MBA (Melbourne Business School), and is a Fellow of the International Project Management Association. Her awards include the NATO Meritorious Service Medal (2014) and appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia (2025).

Brigadier Campbell has three adult children, enjoys competitive tennis and is a life-long supporter of Hawthorn Football Club.

# Speakers and panellists

## Australian Parliament House

### Professor Risa Brooks

Keogh Chair and Allis-Chalmers Professor of Political Science at Marquette University



Dr. Risa Brooks is Allis-Chalmers Professor of Political Science at Marquette University, Wisconsin, USA, a non-resident fellow in the Future Security program at New America and non-resident Senior Associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

She is the author of *Shaping Strategy: The Civil-Military Politics of Strategic Assessment* (Princeton University Press), coeditor (with Elizabeth Stanley) of *Creating Military Power: The Sources of Military Effectiveness* (Stanford University Press), and coeditor (with Lionel Beehner and Daniel Maurer) of *Reconsidering American Civil-Military Relations: Politics, Society and Modern War* (Oxford University Press).

Her research and commentaries have appeared in publications such as *Foreign Affairs*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times* and in numerous academic journals. Brooks received her Ph.D. from the University of California, San Diego, and formerly held positions as research associate at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, U.K. and postdoctoral fellow at Stanford's Center for International Security and Cooperation. Her primary research interests include U.S. and comparative civil-military relations, strategic assessment and military professionalism.

### Professor Peter Dean

General Sir Francis Hassett Chair of Military Studies, Australian Defence College



Professor Peter J. Dean PhD SFHEA is the Hassett Chair of Military Studies at the Australian War College and Professor of Strategic Studies at The ANU. An international award-winning author he has authored numerous books, policy papers and articles on the US-Australian alliance, Australian defence policy, military operations and regional security. Previously Professor Dean has been the Director of Foreign Policy and Defence at the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, the University of Western Australia's (UWA) first Chair of Defence Studies and director of the UWA Defence and Security Institute.

In 2022-23 Professor Dean was Co-Lead of the Defence Strategic Review (DSR) Secretariat where he served as senior advisor and principal author for the Independent Leads, His Excellency Professor the Hon. Stephen Smith and Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK AC AFC (Retd). In 2024 he was the principal consulting author for The Australian Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance Plan.

# Speakers and panellists

## Australian Parliament House

### Dr Evan Laksmana

Shangri-La Dialogue Senior Fellow and Editor of the Asia-Pacific Regional Security Assessment at the International Institute for Strategic Studies

Dr Evan A. Laksmana is Shangri-La Dialogue Senior Fellow for Southeast Asian Security and Defence the International Institute for Strategic Studies and Editor of its annual Asia-Pacific Regional Security Assessment.

He previously held senior research positions at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy of the National University of Singapore and the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Jakarta, Indonesia. He also held non-resident affiliations with Carnegie China, the Lowy Institute for International Policy, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, the National Bureau of Asian Research, Sydney University, German Marshall Fund of the United States, and the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies.

His research on civil-military relations, military change, and Southeast Asian defence and foreign policies has appeared in leading peer-reviewed outlets and global media platforms. He earned his doctorate from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University as a Fulbright Presidential Scholar.



# Speakers and panellists

## Australian War Memorial

### Dr Natalie Sambhi

Senior Policy Fellow, Asia Society Australia



Through her research, presentations and publications, Dr Natalie Sambhi is committed to helping people gain a more nuanced understanding of Indonesian civil-military relations, Indonesian defence policy and Southeast Asian security.

Natalie is Founder and Executive Director of Verve Research, an independent think tank focussed on the relationship between militaries and societies in Southeast Asia. She is also a Senior Policy Fellow at Asia Society Australia and a Non-resident Fellow with the Brookings Institution's Foreign Policy Program. Natalie works as a lecturer at the Australian War College for Deakin University, convening modules for the Australian Command and Staff College and other programs. She has a PhD from the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, the Australian National University on the Indonesian military's history. Follow her on Twitter [@securityscholar](#).

### LTGEN Peter Leahy, AC (Retd)

Director of the National Security Institute, University of Canberra and former Chief of the Australian Army



Peter Leahy AC retired from the Australian Army, after a 37-year career, in July 2008 as a Lieutenant General in the position of Chief of Army, a position he held for 6 years.

He is currently a Professor at the University of Canberra and the Director of the National Security Institute. His main passion at the University is teaching undergraduates on matters relating to national security and the challenge of modern terrorism. Since leaving the Army he has been a director of several publicly listed companies including Codan Pty Ltd, Citadel Group Limited (Chair) and Electro Optic Systems (Chair).

In work related to charities he is the Chairman of Soldier On and the Red Shield Advisory Committee in the ACT. He was Chairman of the Australian International Military Games, which brought the Invictus Games to Sydney in 2018.

### Tony Jones

Journalist, Radio and Television Presenter and Writer



Tony Jones is one of Australia's most respected journalists, he brings over 30 years of award winning journalism to the table. Tony is known for his incisive and probing interviews on the breaking issues of the day. Tony Jones has won pretty much every award an Australian journalist could wish for. He's covered the seminal news events of the last three decades – from the fall of communism in Eastern Europe, through the collapse of apartheid in South Africa, to the rise of the Taliban and, closer to home, the revelations of sexual abuse in remote Aboriginal communities.

# Speakers and panellists

## Australian War Memorial

### Matt Anderson, PSM

Director of the  
Australian War Memorial



Mr Matt Anderson PSM commenced as Director of the Australian War Memorial in April 2020.

He joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) as a graduate in 1995, and was most recently the Deputy High Commissioner to the United Kingdom (2016-20). He is also a former Ambassador to Afghanistan (2015-16) and High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands (2011-13) as well as Samoa (2007-11). He has also had postings to South Africa, Papua New Guinea and served as the Chief Negotiator of the Peace Monitoring group on Bougainville (2001-02).

He has a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Strategic Studies from Deakin University, and a Master's Degree in Foreign Affairs and Trade from Monash University.

Mr Anderson was awarded the Public Service Medal for his role in leading the humanitarian and consular response to the 2009 Pacific tsunami. In 2014 he led DFAT's MH-17 Task Force following the downing of the aircraft over Ukraine. He was made a Fellow of Monash University in 2018 and is proud to be both the son of a National Serviceman and Patron of the National Servicemen's Association.

He is a Graduate of the Royal Military College, Duntroon (1988). He served with the Royal Australian Engineers as a Troop Commander.

Mr Anderson is married to Lou, a currently serving DFAT Officer, and has three children.

### Professor Rory Medcalf, AM

Head of National  
Security College,  
Australian National University



Professor Rory Medcalf AM is Head of the National Security College at The Australian National University.

His career spans diplomacy, academia, intelligence analysis, journalism and think tanks, including with the Lowy Institute. Professor Medcalf was a senior strategic analyst with the Office of National Assessments, Australia's peak intelligence agency, and a diplomat with service in India, Japan and Papua New Guinea.

He has played a lead role in Australia's informal diplomacy with India and a range of other countries. Professor Medcalf is recognised globally as a thought leader on the Indo-Pacific strategic concept, as articulated in his book *Contest for the Indo-Pacific* (published internationally as *Indo-Pacific Empire*). In June 2022 he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to international relations and tertiary education.

# Speakers and panellists

## Australian War Memorial

### Professor Sir Hew Strachan, CVO, FBA, FRSE

Professor of  
International Relations,  
University of St Andrews



Sir Hew Strachan, CVO, FBA, FRSE, has been Wardlaw Professor of International Relations at the University of St Andrews since 2015.

He is a Life Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge and an Emeritus Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford. He was Professor of Modern History at Glasgow University 1992 to 2001, and Chichele Professor of the History of War at Oxford 2002 to 2015. He served on the national committees for the centenary of the First World War of the United Kingdom, Scotland and France. He has been a specialist adviser to the UK's Joint Parliamentary Committee on the National Security Strategy 2011-24; a member of the Strategic Advisory Panel of the UK Chief of Defence Staff; and a Visiting Professor at the Royal Norwegian Air Force Academy 2000-24.

His publications include *The First World War: To Arms* (2001); *The First World War: a New Illustrated History* (2003; based on his 10-part series for Channel 4); *Clausewitz's On War* (2007); and *The Direction of War* (2013).

### Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman, KCMG

Emeritus Professor  
of War Studies,  
King's College London



Sir Lawrence Freedman is Emeritus Professor of War Studies, King's College London, where he was Professor of War Studies from 1982 to 2014 and Vice-Principal from 2003 to 2013.

He was educated at Whitley Bay Grammar School and the universities of Manchester, York and Oxford. He previously held research appointments at the IISS, Nuffield College Oxford and Chatham House. Elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1995, he was appointed Official Historian of the Falklands Campaign in 1997. In June 2009 he was appointed to serve as a member of the official inquiry into Britain's role in the 2003 Iraq War.

His most recent book is *Command: the Politics of Military Operations from Korea to Ukraine*. With his son, Sam, he publishes the substack *is Freed*.



# Speakers and panellists

## Museum of Australian Democracy

### General Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK, AC, CVO, MC (Retd)

Former Governor General of Australia



Peter Cosgrove served as the 26th Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia. He was Knighted at his swearing in 2014.

Born into a military family, Sir Peter followed in the footsteps of his father and joined the Australian Army, attending Royal Military College, Duntroon in 1965.

He was deployed to Malaysia with 1st Battalion RAR and later to Vietnam with 9th Battalion RAR where he commanded an infantry platoon, and was awarded the Military Cross (MC) for his performance and leadership during an assault on enemy positions. In 1999 he commanded the International Forces in East Timor (INTERFET) overseeing that country's transition to independence. He was Chief of Army from 2000 to 2002 and Chief of the Defence Force from 2002 to 2005.

He then retired from active duty and went on to serve on several corporate boards before becoming the Governor-General.

In retirement Sir Peter is actively involved with defence, health and other charitable organisations. He acted as Ambassador for the Department of Veteran Affairs Commemorations of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War; Patron of the Virtual War Memorial of Australia; Patron 9 RAR Association; Patron INVICTUS Australia; Patron National Vietnam Veterans Museum among other involvements. He is an avid sports fan with a particular interest in rugby and cricket.

### Mathew Wilson

Executive Co-Chair of PentenAmio



Matthew Wilson is the Executive Co-Chair of PentenAmio, a global leader in digital security solutions formed through the successful 2025 merger of Australian company Penten and UK-based Amiosec.

With approximately 300 security-cleared professionals and sovereign facilities in both Australia and the UK, PentenAmio is one of the largest and most advanced teams globally dedicated to secure classified mobile communications and AI enabled defence. Matthew is an accomplished technology entrepreneur with more than 25 years' experience developing and commercialising cyber and communications technologies.

In 2014, Matthew co-founded Penten, focusing on secure mobility and applied AI solutions. Under his leadership, Penten developed cutting-edge technologies such as the AltoCrypt mobility suite and AI-powered EW deception capabilities like TrapRadio. These scalable encryption and deception solutions are trusted, sovereign-certified, and have been actively deployed in classified environments by more than 20 national security and defence organisations across the UK, Australia, and Canada. Penten's rapid growth and technology excellence earned it recognition as one of the Australian Financial Review's Most Innovative Companies and multiple Cyber Business of the Year in the Australian Defence Industry Awards from 2019 to 2021.

# Speakers and panellists

## Museum of Australian Democracy

### Major General Ana Duncan, AM, CSC

Commander Forces Command, Australian Army



Major General Ana Duncan was appointed as Commander of Forces Command in January 2025.

Major General Duncan has held senior staff appointments in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Office of the Chief of Army, Strategic Policy Division, Deployable Joint Force Headquarters, and Career Management – Army. As a brigadier, Major General Duncan deployed to Iraq as the Director Future Plans and Strategy (CJ5) for the military coalition to defeat the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Her senior commands include the Commandant of the Royal Military College – Australia, and most recently, as the inaugural Commander of the ADF's Cyber Command.

A graduate of the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies, and various senior Australian and United States military courses, Major General Duncan also holds a Bachelor of Arts, a Master of Arts in Strategy and Management, and a Master of Science in Telecommunications. She is a trustee of the Defence Bank Foundation.

### Major General Richard Vagg, DSC

Head Land Capability, Australian Army



Major General Richard Vagg, DSC Born and educated in country Queensland, Major General Vagg joined the Army in 1992, graduating from the Royal Military College – Duntroon in 1993 to the Royal Australian Artillery. He has enjoyed an exciting career with regimental experience at 4th Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment and on exchange with 40 Regiment (AS-90), Royal Artillery. He was also the inaugural Commanding Officer of 16th Air Land Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery.

His training experience includes appointments at the School of Artillery and Duntroon, while his staff experience includes appointments at the British Defence Intelligence Staff, the Defence Intelligence Organisation, as well as Modernisation and Strategic Plans – Army. He was MA to Commander Forces Command, the Director of Military Art, Royal Military College – Duntroon and the Director General Systems and Integration – Army. After working as Director General Air and Land Capability Analysis in Contestability Division, Major General Vagg was seconded to the Defence Strategic Review as the lead military Director General. He assumed his current position as Head Land Capability in March of 2023.

Richard and his wife Charlotte have two adult children and one school aged son. The family enjoys spending time improving their hobby farm.

# Speakers and panellists

## Museum of Australian Democracy

### Dr Carolyn Bull

Director of RAND Australia



Dr Carolyn Bull is the Executive Director of RAND Australia. In this role, she delivers research and analysis on Australian policy issues and collaborates with RAND's US and Europe offices to strengthen Australia's voice in global policy research.

Prior to joining RAND, Carolyn served as Deputy Head of the ANU National Security College, where she led policy contestability, stakeholder engagement, and international partnership initiatives across a diverse range of national security challenges. Carolyn has extensive Australian Government experience, most recently in senior analytical roles at the Office of National Intelligence, Australia's peak intelligence agency. Her other professional experience spans diplomacy, international development, and academia, with a strong focus on China and Southeast Asia.

Carolyn has a Ph.D. in Politics from the University of New South Wales, specialising in peacebuilding operations, transitional justice and state building. Her current research interests include social licence in national security, democratic resilience, hybrid threats, and Australian statecraft in the Indo-Pacific.

### Professor Duncan Lewis AO, DSC, CSC

Chair of the European Australian Business Council and Chair of the Defence Company Thales Australia



Duncan Lewis is currently a Professor of Practice at the Australian National University National Security College, Chairman of the board of Thales Australia, and Chair of the European-Australia Business Council (EABC). Duncan has just completed a term on the Advisory Board of the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations (NFAAR) and is the honorary Colonel Commandant of the Special Air Service Regiment.

Duncan completed his five year term as Director General of Security and Head of the Australian Security Intelligence Service (ASIO) in late 2019. This was his last full-time appointment in a 47 year career with the Australian Government both in and out of uniform. Following Duncan's retirement from the Australian Army as a Major General, Commander of Special Operations Command, he served for 15 years in the Australian Public Service in the most senior positions including as the Secretary of the Department of Defence, National Security Advisor to two Prime Ministers, and Australian Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg, the European Union and NATO.

Duncan served as the Army attaché in Jakarta from 1994-96 and speaks Bahasa Indonesia.

# Speakers and panellists

## Museum of Australian Democracy

### Brigadier David McCammon, DSM and Bar

Commander, Australian Army Cadets



Brigadier David McCammon is the Commander of the Australian Army Cadets, leading a national youth development organisation that fosters resilience, service, and leadership in young Australians. Throughout a 30-year career, he has demonstrated a deep commitment to developing people.

He has commanded at every rank, including on operations at platoon, company, battalion, and joint task force level. His operational service includes deployments to East Timor, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq, and most recently as Commander Joint Task Force 1118 during the 2023–24 Middle East crisis. He has led both mechanised and light infantry units and worked alongside coalition partners, including secondments with the British Army and the US Army's 3rd Infantry Division. His senior appointments include Commander 3rd Brigade, Commandant of the Combined Arms Training Centre, and Director INDOPAC Operations at Joint Operations Command. Brigadier McCammon is a leader defined by his passion for service, mentorship, and mission-focused command.

### Dr Justin Garrick

Head of Canberra Grammar School



Dr Justin Garrick is Head of School at Canberra Grammar School. He has led during a period of significant growth and transformation, including the School's transition to full co-education, its campus redevelopment programme, and the introduction of new curriculum models in the Primary and Senior years. Before joining the School in 2011, he held roles as a teacher, IB Coordinator, Head of subject and Deputy, both in the UK and Australia. Justin has degrees in Arts and Education from the Universities of Sydney and New England, and an MBA from the University of London. He attained his doctorate as a Cambridge Australia Scholar at the University of Cambridge. Justin was Chair of the Association of Independent Schools (AIS) ACT and a Board member of Independent Schools Australia from 2020 to 2023. He received the AISACT Award for Excellence in Leadership in 2023, and he is currently a member of the Board of Anglicare (NSW South, NSW West & ACT) and the AISNSW.

### Secretary Alison Frame

Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs



Alison Frame commenced as Secretary of the Department of Veteran's Affairs in January 2023.

Prior to that Alison was Deputy Secretary – Social Policy in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet from August 2020 Alison has led social policy initiatives and reform across both the Commonwealth and the NSW governments as a senior executive for over 17 years.