Preface

Twenty-five years before the conference recognised in these pages, The Australian National University’s Strategic & Defence Studies Centre (SDSC) marked its silver anniversary with a conference and resulting proceedings entitled New Directions in Strategic Thinking. SDSC marked the passage of another quarter century with a similar event graced by the offerings that follow: presentations by speakers from among the world’s most renowned thinkers in their fields. The following were fortunate in serving on the Centre’s faculty or staff in mid-2016: Joan Beaumont, John Blaxland, Jean Bou, Jack Bowers, Allison Cadzow, Andrew Carr, Aurore Chow, Rhys Crawley, Bel Curujo, Peter Dean, Stephan Fruehling, Robert (Bates) Gill, Russell Glenn, Chui Ling (Evelyn) Goh, Amy King, Tamara Leahy, Daniel Marston, Garth Pratten, Gregory Raymond, centre head Brendan Taylor, Helen Taylor, Joanne Wallis and Hugh White. These colleagues were joined by visiting professors and others holding honorary positions: Desmond Ball, Chris Barrie, Richard Brabin-Smith, Bob Breen, Leszek Buszynski, Paul Dibb, Peter Edwards, James Goldrick, John Gould, David Horner, Ron Huiskens, John McFarlane, Anthony Milner, Sam Roggeveen and Clive Williams.

Select staff from the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs and student volunteers were invaluable to the success of the conference. The former included Jasmine Henkel, Kerrie Hogan, Ashley Roge, Thea Gellerfy (Ross), Ravneet Deo and Elke Larsen. William Baulch, Matthew Bunten, Robert Cook, Matthew Gambrill, Nathan Randell, Brandon Smith and Bradley Wood provided student support.

Raoul Heinrichs assisted with the editing of this volume. Many thanks to our reviewers, Sheryn Lee of Macquarie University’s Department of Security Studies and Criminology, and Stephen Meekin, retired major general and former Deputy Secretary of Defence.
These men and women joined their forebears from the half-century since SDSC’s founding in 1966 to offer their services to the university of which they were a part, its students, the Australian Government and international partners, and broader academic communities spanning the globe. In so doing, they collectively set the stage for yet another 50 years of service in a half-century that promises to be no less in need of insight, innovation and original thinking than the one before.
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