

Preface

The Strategic and Defence Studies Centre (SDSC) was established in 1966. Always a part of the Research School of Pacific Studies (RSPaS)/ Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies (RSPAS) at The Australian National University (ANU), it was for two decades the only academic centre in Australia devoted to research on strategic and defence issues, and is generally acknowledged to be Australia's leading academic centre for research and graduate education in this field.

This volume commemorates the 50th anniversary of SDSC. It contains contributions by the Centre's six successive heads: Dr T.B. Millar (1966–71, 1982–84), Dr Robert O'Neill (1971–82), Professor Desmond Ball (1984–91), Professor Paul Dibb (1991–2003), Professor Hugh White (2004–11) and Dr Brendan Taylor (2011–). It also includes contributions by three of its leading scholars over the half century: Dr Coral Bell, who was present at the creation of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in London in the 1950s, and was a visiting fellow in SDSC from 1990 until her death in 2012; Professor J.D.B. Miller, head of the Department of International Relations at The Australian National University from 1962 to 1987, who conceived the idea of the Centre in early 1966, together with Sir John Crawford, then the director of the Research School of Pacific Studies; and, finally, Professor David Horner, Australia's foremost military historian, having led several official history projects on peacekeeping and the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, and who studied at SDSC and joined the Centre full-time in 1990.

In Chapter 1, Coral Bell describes the formative years of IISS in London, explores the notion of strategic culture in Australia, and places the development of SDSC in these international and domestic contexts. Tom Millar in Chapter 2 and Bruce Miller in Chapter 3 describe the foundation of the Centre; Chapter 4 by Bob O'Neill and Chapter 5 by

Des Ball describe its growth to international repute during the 1970s and 1980s. Chapter 6 by Paul Dibb discusses the Centre's reorientation after the end of the Cold War. In Chapter 7, David Horner reviews of the role of military history in strategic studies and SDSC's role as the single largest centre for the academic study of military history in Australia. In Chapter 8, Hugh White discusses the place of academic strategic and defence studies and, more particularly, the Centre during his leadership between 2004 and 2011. In Chapter 9 Brendan Taylor, the current head of SDSC, concludes the volume. He details the move towards a larger education program and the significant expansion of staff to cover the Centre's contract to provide a course of study at the Australian Command and Staff College in Canberra.

Two of the contributions, those by Tom Millar and Bruce Miller, were originally prepared for a conference held in July–August 1991 to mark the Centre's 25th anniversary. They were published in 1992,¹ and are reprinted here with minor amendments. Chapters 1–6 were published in 2005 in *A National Asset: Essays Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre* and are reprinted here with minor amendments. Chapter 7 was revised by Hugh White to update the record of his full term as head of SDSC.

The Centre is greatly indebted to Bob Cooper and Darren Boyd for their photographic service over nearly four decades, going back to when Bob joined the Photographic Services unit of ANU in 1969. He transferred to the new Coombs Photography unit in 1993, from which he retired in 2005. Darren began at the Photographic Services unit in 1987, and also transferred to Coombs Photography in 1993. They have taken hundreds of photographs of SDSC personnel, conferences, meetings and other activities, many of which are reproduced in this volume. Darren also digitised most of the photographs reproduced herein. Bob O'Neill would like to thank Ross Babbage, David Horner, Jolika Hastings and Sally O'Neill for their comments on drafts of his chapter.

1 See Desmond Ball & David Horner (eds), *Strategic Studies in a Changing World: Global, Regional and Australian Perspectives*, Canberra Papers on Strategy and Defence No. 89 (Canberra: Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, ANU, 1992), chpts 3 & 4.

The SDSC 50th Anniversary Conference 'New Directions in Strategic Thinking 2.0' was held on 21 and 22 July 2016. A copy of the keynote address, delivered by Brendan Sargeant, Associate Secretary of the Department of Defence, is included. As is a copy of the conference program for the two days. The authors are grateful for Brendan for contributing his speech to include in the book, and to Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), ANU, for providing the foreword to this volume.

Desmond Ball would like to express a special thanks to his wife, Annabel Rossiter, who has shared most of his life with the Centre. She maintains the family photo collection, from which many of this volume's plates were copied. Andrew Carr would like to thank his wife, Katina Curtis, for her assistance with some of the new photos and support during the project.

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August 2016

This text is taken from *A National Asset: 50 Years of the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre*, edited by Desmond Ball and Andrew Carr, published 2016 by ANU Press, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.