

DS

February 2025



Newsletter
of the
RAAF
STAFF COLLEGE
ASSOCIATION Inc

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LUNCHEON SEMINAR

Thursday 27 March 2025

at the National Press Club

16 National Circuit, Barton

Speaker: MICHAEL SHOEBRIDGE

Founder and Director,

Strategic Analysis Australia

"2025 - a bit like 2024

but on steroids, with ADHD"

From the President

Belated New Year greetings to all members and your families.

The expression, "we live in interesting times" remains at least as pertinent today as it ever was. While media headlines are dominated by commentary on a new administration in the United States, the forthcoming federal election in Australia, the continuing war in Ukraine, an uncertain truce in the Middle East (and all the associated flash points in the region), and continuing uncertainty about China's intentions with respect to Taiwan, there are countless other international uncertainties that might affect the international strategic dynamic during the coming year. And that's before we consider the impact of what Donald Rumsfeld famously characterised as the "unknown unknowns": who predicted the 7 October 2023 attacks?

By our 27 March lunch, we will likely know when our federal election will be held, but we will only be able to speculate on its outcome. As we fasten our seatbelts in anticipation of the bumpy ride ahead, that speculation will be better informed, thanks to the return of [Michael Shoebridge](#) as our guest speaker. Michael's chosen topic, "2025 - a bit like 2024 but on steroids, with ADHD" certainly sets the stage for an interesting, and in Michael's unique polished style, a very entertaining presentation.

Ordinarily I would be ending by writing that I look forward to seeing those of you who can attend on Thursday 27 March. However, having been so pleased to have been able to secure Michael as our guest speaker, it is with mixed feelings that I must declare that I will be unable to attend. On that day I will be in Brazil, hopefully enjoying myself, and certainly without the option for a quick return to Canberra for what is bound to be an excellent presentation and a very pleasant get-together for members and your guests. Vice-President Paul McMahon will be deputising for me, and given the excellent job Paul did last time he stood in for me, I know that you will be in good hands. I will be back in time for our July lunch, but in the meantime, enjoy lunch on 27 March, and as always, please monitor our website for earliest advice of any changes to the program, and other news.

Finally, I take this opportunity to remind you of the Australian Aviation Club lunch on Thursday 27 February, to which RAAF Staff College Association members have reciprocal access. Details are on the home page of the website.

Stay well,

Ian

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