

PRESIDENTS REPORT

The past two years have been a busy period with the establishment of the Branch after the coming together of individuals with a keen interest in international relations and foreign policy at the end of 2021. This followed a disruptive period brought about by the pandemic and a diminished AIA presence in South Australia. Under the leadership of Dr Naoise McDonagh and the first Council, the formative years of the Branch have been a successful journey, albeit a steep learning curve in relation to the holding of events, establishing our presence in the community, enhancing our administrative capacity, and building trust with members, organisations, as well as counterpart branches in other States and Territories.

In the first instance, it's important to recognise those who gave their time and contributed so much to ensure the success of our events and support establishment of our Branch, including;

- Dr Naoise McDonagh (President 2021-22)
- Angela Bogdan (Vice President 2023)
- Adriana Espejo Sanchez (Treasurer 2021-23)
- Ngoc Lan (Laura) Tran (Secretary 2022-23)
- Dr Gerry Groot (Events Coordinator 2021-23)
- Dr Maryanne Kelton (2021-23)
- Dr Michael Sullivan (2021-23)
- Marylene Vilorio Viola (2022-23)
- A/Prof Anthony Langlois (2021-23)
- Prof Peter Draper (2021-22)
- Robert Van Gorp (Emergent Co-lead 2023)
- Stephanie Madigan (Emergent Co-lead 2023)

It's also important to acknowledge the efforts of our interns Brandon Musolino and Wing Ho (Billy) Mak who have been readily available to assist, whether that be writing concept notes, developing board and research papers, taking attendance and being a welcoming person at the door. Every effort is appreciated during our formative years.

Event organisation

The Branch has been active organising events, bringing together our members, and the community. Since our establishment in early 2022, the Branch has held 28 events with dignitaries, ambassadors, academics, analysts, politicians, and public servants. These events provide the perfect mechanism to meet the mission of the AIA – to help Australians know, understand, and engage more in international affairs.

Council has also been innovative in the way we have designed and delivered events. Our Diplomacy at the Bar series has proven to be popular in facilitating conversation about international affairs in a more informal setting. Meanwhile, we continue to hold evening talks and lectures with visiting guests. Of course, our activities are not done in isolation, and where possible, we take a multistakeholder approach in the organisation and delivery of our events.

Partnerships

The Branch has worked hard to develop partnerships with organisations that have complementary goals. We have an established relationship with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in South Australia, as well as with the universities. In holding our events we have received significant support (both financial and in-kind), including financial support from The University of Adelaide, the Canadian Consulate, and Embassy of the Philippines, as well as in-kind support from Flinders University, the Jeff Bleich Centre, and local businesses – the Howling Owl, The Stag, and the Austral.

The Branch entered into a sponsorship arrangement with The University of Adelaide totalling \$1,800 to develop and delivery our Diplomacy at the Bar series. This support was crucial in enabling us to develop our event organisation and community engagement skills. We are also grateful for the in-kind support received from Flinders University, who allowed us to host events at their facility on Victoria Square.

Finally, our favourite local The Howling Owl has provided us so much support for the Diplomacy at the Bar series. The proprietors have backed our efforts from the very beginning, and we hope to hold many more events at their fantastic establishment.

We are thankful for the support provided by all our friends. Their confidence in our ability to deliver events for our membership and the local community drives us to do more as we work towards our mission.

Emergent program

In early-2023, we appointed two representatives from our student cohort to the Council – Robert Van Gorp and Stephanie Madigan. While we are still rolling out the emergent program, both Robert and Stephanie's efforts have brought a new perspective to our deliberations. In that regard, Council is keen to support further development of the emergent program and identify opportunities to bring together and grow our younger cohort.

Our Leadership Dialogue held in October is only the first step as we seek to further enhance this element of our activities, with the goal of instilling a practical and deep understanding of international affairs and foreign policy in our future leaders.

Administration

The establishment of the Branch came at an opportune time when the National Office and State and Territory Branches were in the midst of implementing our new administrative system – GlueUp. The system has provided us with the capability to manage the organisation of events, communicate with members and others in the community, and track our finances seamlessly and efficiently. While there have been issues with implementation in other branches, we are fortunate enough to have been spared any significant administrative disruptions caused through its implementation in mid-2022.

Council has also spent some time understanding our obligations under South Australian legislation as an unincorporated association. As such, we have worked closely with Consumer and Business Services in relation to deregistering the previous AIIA SA Branch, with the intention of incorporating under the *Incorporated Associations Act 1985*. Doing so would establish our Branch as a legal entity, and therefore capable of applying for grants, as well as appropriately manage our assets and liabilities. Efforts to build the case for incorporated status continues, with guidance and direction from members.

Finances

Despite only have been in operation for just under two years, the Institute is in a healthy and sustainable financial situation. Our earnings from membership, event ticket sales and sponsorship arrangement with The University of Adelaide have provided us the flexibility and confidence to continue delivering events and activities for our members and the broader community.

As a result of our activities, the Branch generated a surplus for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 amounting to \$4,501,51. While event costs exceeded receipts from event ticket sales, the shortfall is covered by membership subscriptions. We don't anticipate significant deviation in our financial position for the year ahead, although this will be dependent on our ability to enter into future sponsorship and grant arrangements.

Looking ahead

It's important for the Council and members to reflect on our achievements over the past two years. The ability to build and bring together a community after such a challenging period is a testament to everyone's desire to know, understand and engage more in international affairs. While we have experienced substantial growth in our activities and membership, we should recognise that this growth happens at the speed of trust. And it's our desire to continue building that trust with those most important to our success.

Michael Cook
President

Date	Event
2022	
March	<i>China's Socialist Market Economy: How and Why it Became a Systemic Rival to the Liberal Trade Order</i> - Dr Naoise McDonagh
March	<i>Argentina's Importance to Australia: a discussion with Australia's Ambassador to Argentina, Mr Brett Hackett</i> - HE Ambassador Brett Hackett
April	<i>Diplomacy at the Bar with Prof Matt Fitzpatrick – the Shattered Peace of Europe: What Next?</i> - Prof Matt Fitzpatrick
May	<i>Not your Parent's European Community – The Economic Integration of Europe</i> - Prof Richard Pomfret
June	<i>Reception hosted by Her Excellency the Governor for the Australian Institute of International Affairs, South Australia</i>
July	<i>The Ukraine Conflict's New Phase</i> - Dr Jessica Genauer
August	<i>Autocracy vs Anglosphere</i> - Dr Tim Legrand
September	<i>The Ukraine War: Perspectives & Reactions from Asia</i> - Dr Purnendra Jain, Dr Priyambudi Sulistiyanto, Dr Michael Sullivan
October	<i>Through the Defence Industry's "Valley of Death"</i> - Mr Nathan Gray
October	<i>The future of space – for the benefit of all humankind</i> - Prof Fred Watson, Mr Marco Aliberti
December	<i>Making a career out of international relations</i> - Mr John Bruni, Mr David Olney
December	<i>Global wealth chains: Asset strategies in the world economy</i> - Prof Leonard Seabrooke
2023	
March	<i>Diplomacy at the Bar – New Year's Networking Session and Launch of "Emergent Track Program"</i> - Mr Michael Cook, Ms Jill Collins, Ms Angela Bogdan
March	<i>AUKUS – Right or Wrong?</i> - Mr Rex Patrick
April	<i>Bringing Defence Policy Home</i> - Mr Sam Roggeveen
May	<i>Reflections on COP27 – South Australia and the Future</i> - Deputy Premier the Hon Dr Susan Close MP
May	<i>ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth</i> - HE Dr Siswo Pramono, Ambassador of Indonesia to Australia
June	<i>National Hydrogen Symposium</i> - Mr Daisuke Akimoto, Mr Alexander Brown, Mr Sam Crafter, Dr Anamitra Anurag Danda, Prof Peter Draper, Prof Michael Goodsite, Mr James Hancock, Mr Craig Johnson, Ms Natalie Lonergan, Mr Hemant Mallya, Prof Paul Medwell, Consul General Junji Shimada, Mr Nick Smith, Dr Deepak Yadav, Ms Tuyu Zhou
June	<i>Creative Industries as a Pathway to Diplomacy</i> - Consul General André François Giroux, Mr Jerome De Baecque
July	<i>Muslims, Politics and Interfaith Relations</i> - Prof Mohammad Abdalla AM
July	<i>Stronger together: Working with the Nordics on the great challenges of our times</i>

	- HE Ambassador Kerin Ayyalaraju
August	<i>Mastermind Shinzo Abe: Contribution and Legacy</i> - Dr Purnendra Jain
August	<i>Modern Slavery: Why it's every Australian's business</i> - Dr Katherine Christ
October	<i>Tackling inequality, pursuing reconciliation: Illiberal welfare in post-genocide Rwanda</i> - Prof Phil Clark
October	<i>The Philippines and Australia: Strategic Partners</i> - The Hon Enrique Manalo, Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines
October	<i>Managing Fukushima: An overview of the radioactive water release</i> - A/Prof Tony Hooker
October	<i>Emergent: Leadership Roundtable</i> - Mr Angus Acton-Cavanough, Mr Benjamin Cherry-Smith, Dr Minerva Nasser-Eddine, Ms Kate Rush, Prof Nicola Sasanelli AM, Mr Ian D'Arcy Walsh
November	<i>Book Launch: Outer Space, Social Studies, Power and State</i> - Dr Alice Gorman, Dr Rodrigo Praino
November	<i>The Indonesian Presidential Election 2024</i> - Dr Priyambudi Sulistiyanto

TREASURERS REPORT

Australian Institute for International Affairs South Australia

Statement of receipts and payments for the year ended 30 June 2023

		\$	\$
Bank Balance 1 July, 2022			-
(Plus)RECEIPTS			
Sponsorship University of Adelaide		1,800.00	
Membership Subscriptions		4,345.00	
Event Registration		3,000.00	
Other		10.00	
			9,155.00
(Minus)PAYMENTS			
Events Costs		4,077.50	
Square pay Device		39.00	
Gifts		211.00	
GlueUp Fee		305.99	
Refunds		20.00	
			4,653.49
Balance 30 June, 2023			4,501.51

Treasurer: Adriana Espejo Sanchez

President: Michael Cook