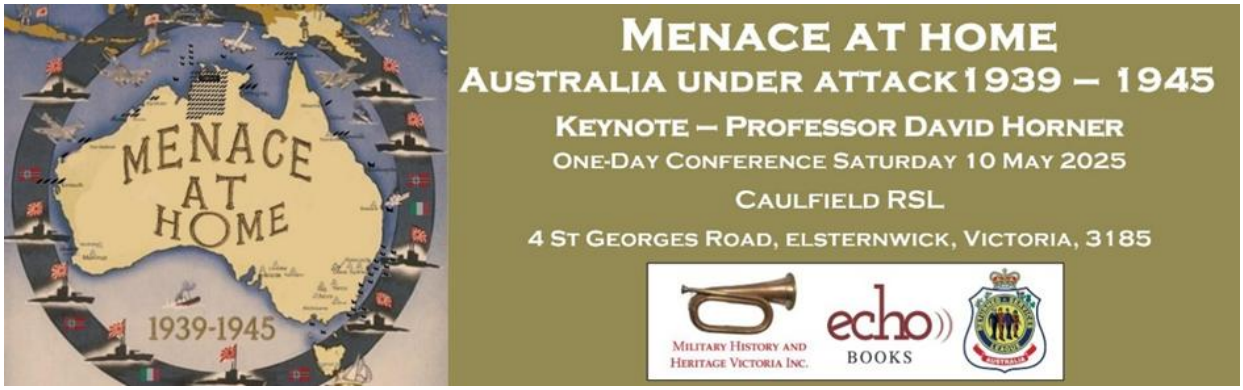


Menace at Home - Australia Under Attack 1939-1945.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Saturday 10 May 2025 (Caulfield RSL, Elsternwick)

9:00 AM – 9.30 AM	Conference Registrations
	SESSION ONE | Keynote
9.30 AM - 9.40 AM	**Welcome** **Opening of the Conference** **Major-General Jim Barry AM MBE RFD ED (Rtd)** MHHV Patron
Session Chair	**Lieutenant Colonel Michael Buckridge RFD (Rtd)** President, MHHV Introduction of Keynote Speaker
9.40 AM– 10:10 AM	**Keynote Speaker: Professor David Horner**
10.10 AM – 10:15 AM	**Q&A**
10.15 AM – 10.45 AM	**Morning Tea**
	SESSION TWO | Trouble in the water
Session Chair	**Lieutenant Colonel Murray Duckworth, CSM**
10.45 AM – 11.10AM	**'Hitler's Pinguin Parade - David Mitchellhill-Green**
11.10 AM – 11.35 AM	**The Secret Submarine: how the RAAF sank the Japanese I-178 off Sydney – Dr Tom Lewis OAM,** military historian
11.35 AM – 11.45 AM	**Q&A**

SESSION THREE | Menace off the East Coast

Session Chair	**Mr David Phillipson**
11.45 AM – 12.10 PM	**Submarine reconnaissance of the Victorian Coast – Jason McGregor,** MHHV Secretary and Conference Convenor
12.10 PM – 12.35 PM	**War at the Door; Sydney 1942 - Dr Catie Gilchrist,** Exhibitions Research Officer, Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park, Sydney.
12. 35 PM – 12.45 PM	**Q&A**
12.45 PM – 1.45 pm	**Lunch** (Bar open)

SESSION FOUR | Friends or Foes

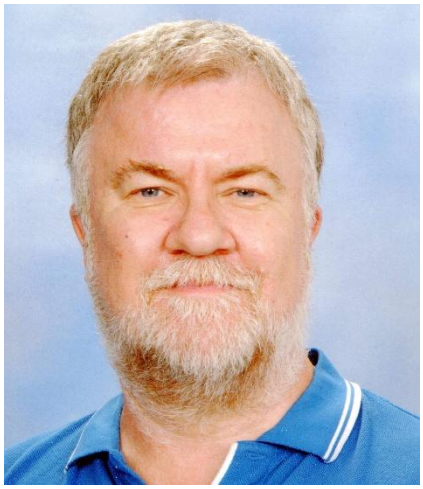
Session Chair:	**Colonel Marcus Fielding (Rtd)**
1.45 PM – 2.15 PM	**Murder at Dusk: How US Soldier and Smiling Psychopath Eddie Leonski Terrorised Wartime Melbourne - Ian W Shaw**, author
2:15 PM – 2:20 PM	**Q&A**
2.20PM – 2.50 PM	**Cowra – A battle fought on Australian land - Mat McLachlan**
2.50 PM – 3.15 PM	**POW and Internment Camps in Central Victoria during WW2 - John Gribben & Tim Whitford**
3:15 PM – 3:20 PM	**Q&A**
3.20 – 3:50 pm	**Afternoon Tea**

SESSION FIVE | Terror in the sky.

Session Chair:	**Mr Brent Taylor**
3.50 PM – 4.15 PM	**Enemy Aircraft across Northern Australia - charting 1,889 incursions 1942-1944 - Dr Tom Lewis OAM,** military historian
4.15 PM – 4.40 PM	**Bogey over the Kimberley - Brad Manera**, Senior Historian / Curator, Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park, Sydney.
4.40 PM – 4.50 PM	**Q&A**
4.50 PM – 5.00 PM	**Closure of the Conference - Major-General Jim Barry AM MBE RFD ED (Rtd),** MHHV Patron

David Horner, AM, FASSA, is an emeritus professor in the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, Australian National University. He served as an infantry platoon commander in the Vietnam War and later, as a colonel, was head of the Australian Army's Land Warfare Studies Centre. He is the author or editor of 37 books on Australian military history, defence and intelligence, including The Spy Catchers, SAS Phantoms of War, Duty First, Blamey, and Battles that shaped Australia.

David Mitchelhill-Green is a Melbourne-based historian. Awarded first prize for literature in the 2021 RAAF Heritage Awards for his manuscript on the Cold War in Malaya, he is currently studying for his PhD at the UNSW, Canberra. David's books include *Desert Diggers: Writings from a War Zone 1940–1942* (2024), *Fighting in Ukraine* (2016), *Tobruk: Fiercely Stand or Fighting Fall* (2021) and *Hitler's War in Africa* (2021). An interest in Japan led to the co-authoring of *Castles of the Samurai* (2013) and *Samurai Castles* (2018).



Military historian; author of 23 books, and a retired naval officer, Dr Tom Lewis received the Order of Australian Medal (OAM) for services to naval history. He served in the Iraq war as an Intelligence analyst. He is an expert on World War II, especially in the Pacific, but has also written in areas including medieval battle, and the reality of battlefield behaviour. He has worked as a divemaster, high school teacher, and journalist. His latest books are The Sinking of HMAS Sydney, which examined life on board WWII warships as well as the final fight between Sydney and Kormoran; Cyclone Warriors – the Armed Forces in Cyclone Tracy, and The Secret Submarine, revealing the RAAF's sinking of the Japanese I-178 off Sydney in 1943.

Jason McGregor is the Secretary of MHHV Inc. He has a keen interest in Australian military history as well as in Victorian colonial history and heritage. He volunteered with the Australian Army History unit for 2 decades, finishing his time as President of the Fort Queenscliff Museum Association. Jason has served on several not-for-profit boards and was a team member of Cooee History. Some of his written articles can be found on the MHHV website. Jason is the conference convenor for “Menace at Home - Australia Under Attack 1939-1945.”

Dr Catie Gilchrist is a Sydney-based historian who has published widely on convict, colonial and military history. Her first book *Murder, Misadventure and Miserable Ends: Tales from a Colonial Coroner's Court* was published by Harper Collins in 2019. Catie is the Exhibitions Research Officer at the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park, Sydney, and is an Honourary Affiliate in the Discipline of History at the University of Sydney. In her spare time she writes book reviews and wanders around Sydney's cemeteries.

Tim Whitford is a former tank troop sergeant. He was part of the team whose research and advocacy led to the discovery and identification of the so called “Missing of Fromelles” and was awarded the Medaille de commune de Fromelles by the people of that village for his work there. Before retiring in 2022, he worked as an educator on the staff of the Shrine of Remembrance, as a professional veteran’s advocate for RSL Victoria, and as a battlefield guide, leading over a dozen groups to the Western Front Battlefields of France and Belgium. Tim’s Great Grandfather, a WW1 veteran served as a guard at Murchison POW camp during the Second World War. Alongside his friend John Gribben he has a strong interest in the POW and Internment Camp experience from both sides of the barbed wire.

John Gribben is an amateur historian near Tatura, who has a keen interest in the WW2 Prisoner of War (POW) and Internment Camps in Central Victoria. John has conducted tours, given talks and written numerous articles in local newspapers about the WW2 Camps.

Mat McLachlan is a war historian and battlefield guides who has spent two decades following in the footsteps of Australian troops on battlefields around the world. He has written four books: 'Walking with the Anzacs'; 'Gallipoli: The Battlefield Guide'; 'The Cowra Breakout'; and 'Krithia: The Forgotten Anzac Battle of Gallipoli'.

As a media history commentator Mat is a regular on the ABC, The History Channel, Channel 7, Nine Radio (4BC, 2GB) and in the Herald Sun. As a podcaster he hosts and produces three of the leading history podcasts in Australia: Living History, BattleWalks and Pete & Gary's Military History. His 'Living History' YouTube channel has over 5M viewers a year. In 2008 Mat launched Mat McLachlan Battlefield Tours, which has grown to become Australia's most successful battlefield tour company, which sends thousands of Australians to battlefields around the world each year.

Ian W. Shaw is an acclaimed writer of narrative nonfiction who has made an important contribution to Australian history and to the understanding of our nation. Ian has published 12 works of Australian and military history, all of which are characterised by his ability to locate and access hidden tales from our past, and for his meticulous and far-reaching research. He has a gift for effectively and sympathetically rendering the individuals within these stories on the page. He writes on Australian history with a rare emotional depth, presenting clear, engaging and accurate narratives that help make our collective past accessible and relatable. Ian's most recent book is The Golden Gang, a biography of Australian bushranger Frank Gardiner and was published in 2024 by Simon & Schuster. Other recent books include Missing, the tragic story of a WWII fighter pilot's brutal sacrifice and the painstaking search for the truth (Big Sky Publishing) and Into the Sunset, exploring the story of the Dalton gang (University of Kansas Press). Ian is also the author of Operation Babylift – published by Hachette in May 2019 – that tells the remarkable story of the Australian women who fought hostility, entrenched racism, sexism and bureaucratic atrophy as they attempted to evacuate hundreds of orphans from South Vietnam in the dying days of the Vietnam War.

Brad Manera is the Senior Historian and Curator of the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park, Sydney. His career in museums and war memorials spans forty years. His recent publications include principal author of *Ninety Treasures 90 Years of the Anzac Memorial* (2024), *In That Rich Earth* (2020) and a chapter for *Mobility and Coercion in an age of Wars and Revolution* (2024) as well as writing regular articles, presenting podcasts and lectures, curating exhibitions and leading tours of foreign battlefields. He is an Affiliate in the History Department at the University of Sydney. A recent dive trip to the Kimberley revived his interest in the Second World War over his home, Western Australia.

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