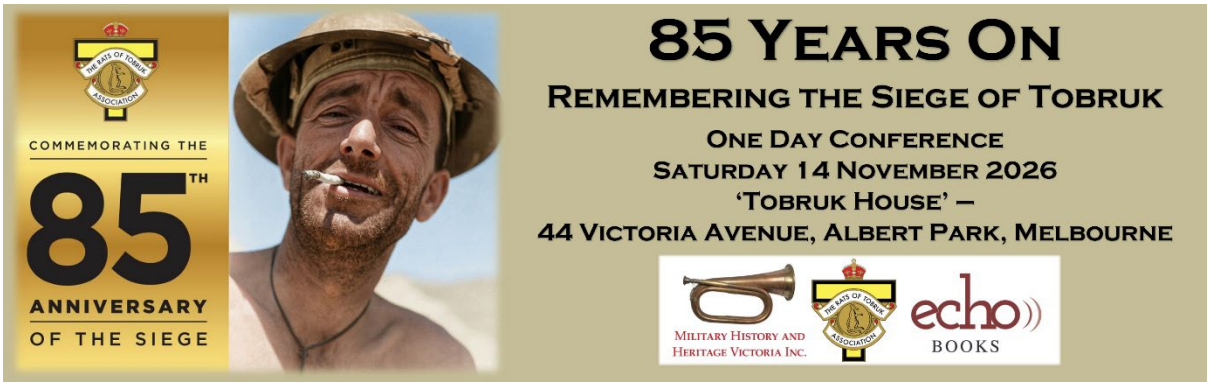
Military History & Heritage Victoria



85 Years On – Remembering the Siege of Tobruk – One Day Conference
November 14 @ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

***'The troops at Tobruk are caught like rats in a trap, would live like rats and die like rats.'* (Nazi propagandist Lord Haw Haw 1941)**

SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2026

8:30 – 9:00 am | Conference Registration

9:00 – 9:03 | Opening Remarks and Introductions
MAJ-GEN Jim Barry AM MBE RFD ED (Rtd)
Conference Chair and MHHV Patron

9:03 – 9:07 | 'War Stories: The Siege of Tobruk.'
'Rats of Tobruk 1941' film made in 2011 for 70th anniversary exhibition at the Australian War Memorial short film

9:07 – 9:09 | Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Dr Daryl Moran

9:09 – 9:29 | Keynote Speaker- 'A Brief Overview of the Siege.' (Recording)
Dr Robert Lyman MBE FRHS

9:29 – 9:43 | 'The Tobruk Siege Remembered by Six Australians Who Were There.'
Australian Department of Veterans Affairs – 75th Anniversary of the Siege of Tobruk film

9:43 – 10:25 | 'Exploring the Siege through Artefacts'
A Guided Tour of the 85th Anniversary Exhibition by descendants of Those Who Were There.

10:25 – 11:00 | Morning Tea

11:00 – 1:00 | Session 2 – THE SIEGE - The AIF

11:00 – 11:40 | Commanders, forces and actions at the Siege
David Mitchellhill-Green



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11:40 – 12:20 | Medical Facilities at the Siege
MAJ-GEN Jeffrey Rosenfeld AC OBE

12:20 – 1:00 | Edmondson VC and other gallantry award winners
Mike Rosel

1:00 – 1:45 | Lunch

1:45 – 3:45 | Session 3 – THE SIEGE – The RAN, RAAF, MEDIA

1:45 – 2:25 | The RAN's 'Scrap-Iron Flotilla'
CAPT Andrew Mackinnon CSC RAN

2:25 – 3:05 | The RAAF contribution
Adam Lunney

3:05 – 3:45 | Media at the Siege – Radio, Film, Print and Art
Dr Daryl Moran

3:45 – 4:10 | Afternoon Tea

3:45 – 5:00 | Session 4 – THE SIEGE – Q and A PANEL DISCUSSION

4:10 – 4:50 | Why were the Axis forces unsuccessful in recapturing Tobruk during the time of the Australian defence?
Chaired by Dr Daryl Moran with David Mitchellhill-Green, MAJ-GEN Jeffrey Rosenfeld AC OBE, Mike Rosel, CAPT Andrew Mackinnon CSC RAN, and Adam Lunney

4:50 | Closing Comments – MAJ-GEN Jim Barry

Conference Sponsors:

THE RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION

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ROBERT LYMAN

Dr Robert Lyman was born in New Zealand and educated at Scotch College, Melbourne, Australia. He was an officer in the British Army for twenty years, being commissioned into the Light Infantry from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, in April 1982. He has a First-Class Honours degree in History from the University of York and Master's degrees in Strategic Studies (University College of Wales, Aberystwyth), War Studies (King's College, London), Military Studies (Cranfield) and a Doctorate from the University of East Anglia. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in 2009 and awarded an MBE in 2024 for services to military history and charity work in Nagaland in India. A critically acclaimed historian, his interest to date has been the experience of both warfare and of military command during the Second World War, producing narrative studies that explore campaigns in the Middle East, Far East and North Africa. He is Field Marshal Bill Slim's military biographer and was the BBC's historical adviser for the VJ commemorations in 2015 and 2020 and is a regular contributor to documentary films on aspects of the war. In 2009, following a lengthy visit to the battlefield, he published *The Longest Siege: Tobruk, the Battle that Saved North Africa.* He has written nearly thirty other books including *A War of Empires* on the Japanese invasion of South-East Asia. With General Lord Dannatt, he co-wrote his acclaimed *Victory to Defeat*, on why the British Army was catastrophically unprepared for the Second World War and lessons to be learned. He is a trustee of the Kohima Educational Trust, a noted guest speaker and lecturer and an experienced battlefield guide.



ANDREW MACKINNON

Andrew Mackinnon is a former Anti-Submarine Warfare specialist officer. He joined the RAN College in 1963 and spent 38 varied and rewarding years in uniform at sea and later ashore, including command of the patrol boat HMAS *Wollongong* and Navy's shore establishments at HMAS *Cairns* and HMAS *Coonawarra.* He later served as the Australian Defence Adviser in New Zealand for three years. From mid-1991 to 1994 he directed a wide range of Southwest Pacific Defence cooperation projects in International Policy Division, mostly focused on multilateral fisheries surveillance and enforcement in the region. He commanded HMAS *Coonawarra* in Darwin in 1995-96, for which he was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross. He served for three years as Australian Defence Adviser in Wellington, New Zealand from 1997-99, followed by a period in International Policy Division, working on Peacekeeping and Arms Control issues. In 2001 he joined the Australian Public Service and served a further 16 years in Navy Headquarters, as the Director Navy Infrastructure Plans, before he retired to Melbourne in 2017. His recreational interests focus on infrequent fly-fishing, riding steam engines and rugby. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Deakin University and a Graduate Diploma in Strategic Studies. He is a member of the Naval Association in Victoria and is Secretary of the philanthropic Melbourne Naval Committee. Andrew has an abiding interest in the history of the Royal Australian Navy and is currently the President of the Victoria Chapter of the Naval Historical Society of Australia.



JEFFREY ROSENFELD

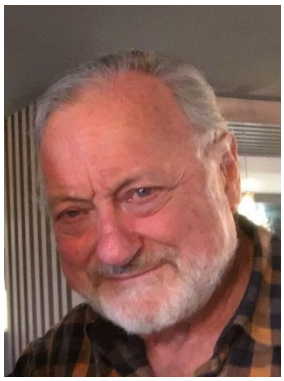
Major General Jeffrey V. Rosenfeld AC, OBE is a distinguished Australian military surgeon He was Surgeon-General ADF (Reserves) 2009-2011 and was Chair Defence Human Ethics Committee 2012-2015. He joined the Australian Army Reserve in 1984 as a Medical Officer and was posted to 6th Field Ambulance. He has deployed on eight ADF Deployments including Rwanda, East Timor, Bougainville, Solomon Islands and Iraq. He has been awarded the International Award for Excellence in Military Surgery, the United States Airforce Commendation Medal for his service during the Battle for Fallujah (2007) and the US Armed Forces Meritorious Service Medal for Service during the Battle for Mosul (2017). He is currently a Member, Expert advisory group on Repetitive Mild Blast Traumatic Brain Injury to the ADF and DVA and Specialist Medical Review Councillor, DVA. Professor Rosenfeld is an international expert on trauma particularly blast and penetrating injury to the head and brain. He is currently Senior Neurosurgeon, Alfred Hospital; Emeritus Professor of Surgery, Monash University; Adjunct Professor in Surgery at the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, Uniformed Services University of The Health Sciences (USUHS), Bethesda, MD, USA; and was the Foundation Director, Monash Institute of Medical Engineering (MIME).

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DAVID MITCHELLHILL-GREEN

David Mitchelhill-Green is based in Melbourne. His books include *Desert Diggers* (BSP 2024), *Tobruk: Fiercely Stand or Fighting Fall* (BSP 2021), *Air War Over North Africa* and *Hitler's War in Africa* (Pen & Sword 2021) and *Fighting in Ukraine* (Pen & Sword 2016). David won first prize for literature in the 2021 RAAF Heritage Awards: *Wings Over Malaya: 1 Squadron RAAF* will be published in 2025. In 2024, David contributed the chapter *'Double Sunrise: Qantas across the Indian Ocean'* to *In the Fight*. He is a PhD candidate at UNSW Canberra and is writing a thesis on the Dunsterforce operation in WW1.



MIKE ROSEL

Mike Rosel is a Melbourne writer, author of *Unknown Warrior*, the biography of Australia's greatest fighter pilot, Alec Litle, and *A Rat of Tobruk*, where his father's photos from Tobruk are complemented by never-before-published letters from Tobruk by Private Harry Frazer. Mike's interest in military history began very early when his father, Lt John Rosel MC, gently declined to open up on how he won the award during 'The May Show' in Tobruk in 1941. Mike has been a daily newspaper journalist, public affairs officer in our Washington Embassy and the High Commission in London, national public relations officer for the Bureau of Meteorology and in retirement, a travel writer whose itineraries often incorporated military research.



ADAM LUNNEY

Adam Lunney is an independent historian and researcher and holds a Master of Arts (Military History) from UNSW College at the Australian Defence Force Academy. He has had a 26-year career in law enforcement, at the state and national level. *Ready to Strike: The Spitfires and Australians of 453 (RAAF) Squadron over Normandy* (2018) was his first book and this was followed by *We Together: 451and 453 Squadrons at War* (2020). Adam contributed a chapter addressing the media coverage of the RAAF to the 2025 release, *Airpower and the Normandy Campaign*. This book was included in the RAF Centre for Air and Space Power Studies Chief of the Air Staff's Reading List 2026. Adam is currently writing and researching the contribution of RAAF and RNZAF air crew to operations in the Normandy campaign of the Second World War.



DARYL MORAN

With a PhD from the University of Melbourne and over 45 years of experience in the field of education in Melbourne and India, Daryl Moran has worked at every elevel as an educator and administrator, public speaker, as well as a senior leader in Rotary International. For Military History and Heritage Victoria (MHHV) he has convened conferences concerned with Australian Air Power in both World Wars, as well leading a conference that reviewed the pivotal war year of 1943 for Australia. He is a published author writing *Empire's Noble Son,* the biography of an Australian WWI pilot in the Royal Flying Corps and *First to Serve and Sacrifice,* the stories of 26 Australians who served in the Anglo-Boer War. As a co-author and co-editor with Dr Andrew Kilsby, he has published *In the Fight: Australians and the War in Burma 1942-1945, Resolute: The Australian Air War in Burma in 1942-1945,* and to be published in 2027, *Allied with India*, the history of Australians who have served in the Indian Army from colonial times to the post-World War 2 era.