• Good evening.

• Where were you at 7:30 this morning?

• Were you at a breakfast meeting, dropping the kids off at school, or wrestling with your commute to work?

• Think back to 7:30 this morning because exactly 100 years ago – to the hour and to the day – Britain declared war on Germany.

• At 11pm on August 4th in London – which makes it 7:30am in Adelaide on August 5th - Britain’s ultimatum to Germany expired and Australia went to war.

• At midnight a war telegram was flashed to the ships and establishments under the White Ensign all over the world. Commence hostilities against Germany was the message.

• As Winston Churchill wrote: ‘I walked across the Horse Guards Parade to the Cabinet room and reported to the Prime Minister and the Ministers who were assembled there that the deed was done.’

• Thus began the war to end all wars, a war that changed Australia completely.
• So we have to ask: 100 years on from that horrible conflict, have we learned anything?

• Where do we stand – geopolitically – in this Asian century?

• And, since the risks and the challenges we face aren’t that much different than they were 100 years ago, do we know enough to meet them?

• Do we know enough about this part of the world we live in?

• And are we capable of avoiding the kind of conflict that was such a formative part of this nation’s history?

• Tonight it is my honour to introduce Professor Hugh White who, in delivering the 2014 Hawke Lecture, looks at what we can learn from 1914 about our place in the world.

• Hugh White is Professor of Strategic Studies in the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre at the Australian National University.
• His work focuses primarily on Australian strategic and defence policy, Asia-Pacific security issues, and global strategic affairs, especially as they influence Australia and the Asia-Pacific.

• He has served as an intelligence analyst with the Office of National Assessments,

• as a journalist with the *Sydney Morning Herald*,

• and as a senior adviser on the staffs of then Defence Minister Kim Beazley and to our friend and fellow audience member tonight, former Prime Minister Bob Hawke.

• He was, from 1995 to 2000, Deputy Secretary for Strategy and Intelligence at the Department of Defence and was the first Director of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

• And before he became an expert on defence, security and strategic affairs, he began with the much gentler pursuit of studies in philosophy at Melbourne and Oxford Universities.

• Please join me in welcoming Professor Hugh White.