

## LETTERS

### **Masters of strategy**

I attended David Leece's presentation on the Masters of Strategy in January [now published as *United Service* 68 (2), 21 – 26 (June 2017)], which was a masterful and insightful overview of an immense subject spanning thousands of years. I was already acquainted with some of the writings of Sun Tzu, Machiavelli and Liddell Hart, but he covered so many others, which has enriched my knowledge, and widened my access to invaluable sources.

I also commend him for his critical comments, in the discussion following the presentation, on the Australian Government's 2016 Defence white paper. To me the criticisms ring so true, and yet such dissent seems to be crucially absent from mainstream media and political debate. It is vital that the Institute provides independent and fearless yet informed views, in effect an alternative perspective on defence and security. David Leece does that in a considered, credible and dispassionate way, drawing on his study, career experience and a perspective of many years.

Despite President Trump's overt failings in many areas, his criticisms of many United States allies for not expending sufficient resources on their defences, and in effect relying too much on America, do pinpoint a basic truth. Australia must do more for its own defence.

**Bryn Evans**

Wollstonecraft, 5 April 2017