

Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies New South Wales

*Promoting understanding of defence
and national security since 1888*

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President's Column

Welcome to the March 2018 issue of *United Service* – a professional journal containing interesting articles on the strategic character of the world in 2017 and counter-terrorism, plus some significant history papers and book reviews that I am sure you will enjoy reading.



I am pleased that our national body (the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies-Australia) has agreed to take over the responsibility for distributing *United Service* to all members of State and Territory Institutes (its 'Constituent Bodies') as part of its goal of promoting national security awareness. I see this as a first step in the redevelopment of a national professional journal on defence and security issues.

By the time you receive this issue of *United Service*, we will be only a few months from the move of the Institute and the *Ursula Davidson Library* to the new wing of the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park that is currently under construction. Construction work is ahead of schedule, so we expect to commence the move around May/June 2018. For the first time in our 130 years of existence, we will have a permanent home in a prestigious building right in the middle of Sydney. Importantly, we will be able to provide an educational and research centre that will enhance the study of defence and security issues, and allow members easy access to the library.

Over the last 130 years, we have collected a large amount of archival material that we are systematically sorting and culling. It is interesting to read this material and to learn of our 10 moves over the last 130 years.

Thanks to a small band of volunteers, work on getting the library ready for the move is progressing well. All books are being catalogued and a progressive stocktake of books and maps is being undertaken. Spare books are being identified and offered for sale.

We have entered into a contract for a large purpose-built compactus in the Anzac Memorial to house the book collection that will allow for future growth in our book holdings.

Thanks to the generosity of our members and donors, we are well on the way to raising the considerable funds required to purchase the compactus and meet other costs associated with the move of the library.

We are also working with our Vice Patrons to deliver lectures and seminars that are relevant to serving members of the Australian Defence Force; and we are continuing a programme of lunch-time lectures covering a mixture of contemporary defence and security issues, as well as relevant historical studies.

Paul Irving