

# Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies Australia Limited

*Promoting national security awareness*

**Patron:** His Excellency, General The Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove,  
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## National President's Column

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Winter 2018 edition of *United Service*. It contains excellent papers on Australia's relationship with America one year into Trump's first term as president; the Australian Border Force; the development and employment of air power between the Great War and World War II; and the Allied counter-offensive on the Western Front launched in August 1918; plus several book reviews. I commend them all to you.



Our national body, the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, Australia, Limited, was established nearly two years ago and since that time the Board has focused on bedding down governance for the company and charting a way forward. The Board members are:

- Rear Admiral Simon Cullen, AM, CSC (Ret'd) – chair;
- Air Commodore Anker Brodersen, CSC (RAAFAR) – deputy chair;
- Air Commodore Graham Bentley, AM (Ret'd) – non-executive director;
- Dr John Bruni – non-executive director;
- Ms Meaghan D'Arcy – non-executive director;
- Major General Steve Meekin AO (Ret'd) – non-executive director; and
- Captain Paul Willee QC – non-executive director.

In recent months we have received very helpful input from some Constituent Bodies on their views regarding the way forward for the company. Key tasks include:

- ensuring that the company remains financially viable;
- actively liaising with the Department of Defence and other government departments and agencies;
- providing shared services for and co-ordination between Constituent Bodies;
- maintaining links with our counterparts overseas – the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies (United Kingdom), the United Service Institution of India, and the Royal United Services Institutes of the Canadian provinces; and
- leading events (such as conferences and symposia) where practicable and appropriate.

We have made good progress in many of these areas, but much more needs to be done. The growing use of the national website by Constituent Bodies is encouraging, with the United Services Institute of the Australian Capital Territory leading the way in management of events and sharing of information with members. The company has also accepted responsibility for distribution of this *United Service* journal on behalf of the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, New South Wales. Every member throughout Australia now receives the journal as part of their membership entitlement.

All our Constituent Bodies continue to offer varied and interesting programmes designed to promote understanding of Defence and national security issues. If you are reading this and have not yet had the chance to attend one of our events around the country, I urge you to do so.

**Simon Cullen**