

President's Column

Welcome to the March 2019 issue of *United Service*. A professional journal, it contains interesting papers on protecting Australia's sea routes, post-World War 1 operations in Russia and the Middle East, and Australia's role in the Treaty of Versailles and its effects on the post-war Pacific, plus significant book reviews. I am sure you will enjoy reading it.



At the end of 2018, we were advised that Pinnacle Publishing Pty Ltd, which had published the paper version of *United Service* for many years, was closing down. Expressions of interest in publishing the paper version were invited from 11 publishers of similar journals and negotiations were held with six potential publishers. Regrettably, we were not able to secure a cost-effective solution to publishing *United Service* in hard copy, so we determined to continue publishing it online only.

Following the public opening of the Centenary Extension of the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park South in Sydney on Armistice Day 2018, we have been operating the *Ursula Davidson Library* and the Institute from our new premises in the Centenary Extension. The library's reading room has been fitted out to a high standard and is now open to our members and the public. We also utilise the new auditorium in the Centenary Extension to hold our lectures and seminars, and our relations with staff of the Anzac Memorial are very good.

For the first time in almost 131 years, we have a permanent home in a prestigious building in the Sydney CBD. Our members and the public can access the library for educational and research purposes, thus increasing our interaction with the wider community. It also enhances the educational role of the Anzac Memorial and we consider that it is a wonderful gift to the people of New South Wales to mark the centenary of the end of the Great War.

The benefits of interaction with members of the public are significant. We are raising the profile of the work of the Institute, leading to an increase in membership and also of donations of books to the library.

Finally, can I express my warmest congratulations to all members of United Services Institutes across Australia who received an award in the Australia Day 2019 Honours List and also to our Patron, His Excellency, General The Honourable David Hurley, AC, DSC (Ret'd), who takes a close interest in the Institute, on his appointment as Governor General.

Paul Irving