

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 September 2017 issue of the *United Service* – a professional publication containing some interesting articles covering air power, border security, and naval and military history that I am sure you will enjoy reading.



Our challenges have been two-fold over recent months. The first is to continue to deliver a programme of lunch-time lectures that are varied, interesting and cover a mixture of contemporary defence topics and security issues as well as relevant historical studies. What has been most pleasing is the number of serving Australian Defence Force members who have been attending the lectures and clearly see value in the lecture topics and the standing of the guest lecturers.

The second significant challenge is to move the *Ursula Davidson Library* and the Institute's considerable archival records from Defence Plaza Sydney to a new educational and research facility currently under construction as part of the extensions of the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park, Sydney.

For the first time in our 129 years of existence and after a number of moves during this time, we will have a permanent home in a magnificent memorial. The move to the Anzac Memorial will enable us to provide an educational and research centre that will enhance the study of defence and security issues, and importantly will allow members access to the library without current security access issues.

The new facility will consist of a reading room with computer facilities where members of the Institute and members of the public will be able to access specific websites and resources relating to enlistee/veterans' research, as well as our online library catalogue. Adjacent to the reading room will be a storage room containing a large compactus that will hold our extensive collection of books, journals and videos, storage space for our more than 700 maps, a working area and room to store archival material.

Extensive and positive discussions are ongoing with representatives of the Anzac Memorial Trust on the fit-out of the reading room and the storage room.

The Institute Board has embarked on a fund-raising programme to raise the considerable funds required to purchase a purpose-built compactus and other matters associated with the move of the library. In addition, considerable work is being undertaken by volunteers in culling archival material and in getting the library ready for the move – both significant tasks, but we are on track to move the library collection in July/August 2018 before the official opening of the refurbished Anzac Memorial around Armistice Day in 2018.

Paul Irving