

LETTERS

Response to the National President

I read with interest our National President's column in *United Service* 68 (2) June 2017 in which he invited suggestions from members. I agree with some of his sentiments, about membership in particular. Younger, yes; but gender-balanced and multicultural? What has happened to the ancient dogma of the best person for the job?

When I was at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, I read a short story by Rudyard Kipling, *The Brushwood Boy*, in which a young major, on leave from India, in the 1880s, speaks of going up to London to hear a talk at the United Services Institution – no 'Royal' in those days – on ammunition supply in the field. Kipling regarded it as normal that young officers would further their education at our Institute. Perhaps, we should look to the past occasionally.

David Watts

President, Rudyard Kipling Society of Australia
Wyongah NSW, 10 June 2017