

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 2018 issue of *United Service* – a professional journal containing very interesting articles on countering violent extremism in Australia, air power between the two World Wars, and Sir John Monash's Battle of Le Hamel, plus some significant book reviews that I am sure you will enjoy reading.



By the time you receive this issue of *United Service*, we will have celebrated 130 years since 20 August 1888 when Major General J. S. Richardson, CB, Commandant of the New South Wales Military Forces and 31 other officers formed a Naval and Military Institute.

We will meet another considerable milestone by our 130th Anniversary date when we will have completed the relocation of our considerable book and map collection contained in the *Ursula Davidson Library*, and our archival material to the new wing of the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park that is currently under construction.

This has been a significant logistical exercise that involved double plastic wrapping the collection and archival material, expelling the air, freezing each tranche of books and maps to eradicate any silverfish for a week in two container-size freezers adjacent to the building site, moving the collection into the storage room, unwrapping the plastic and placing the books in the correct order onto different sized shelves of a large purpose-built compactus. The whole exercise has taken over a month on a very active building site.

Thanks to a small band of volunteers that worked on getting the library ready for the move, we were able to relocate the library, archival material and memorabilia with minimal damage. I expect that the new extension of the Anzac Memorial will be officially opened by the end of October 2018 or on Armistice Day 2018.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the Institute. For the first time in 130 years, we will have a permanent home in a prestigious building right in the middle of Sydney. All Institute members, as well as the general public, will be able to access the library for educational and research purposes thereby also increasing our interaction with the wider community. This will enhance the educational role of the Anzac Memorial and will be a wonderful gift to mark the centenary of the end of the Great War.

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

Paul Irving