

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

*Promoting national security awareness*

## National President's Column

Welcome to the Summer 2018 edition of *United Service!* There are excellent papers on past, current and future aspects of national security, as well as some worthwhile book reviews.



Since the last edition two significant events have occurred. First was the relocation of the NSW Institute offices and Ursula Davidson Library to the Centenary Extension of the Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park South. By all accounts, the opening by HRH The Duke of Sussex was quite a memorable event. Congratulations to all involved!

The second event was the centenary of the World War I Armistice. I hope you managed to participate in one of the myriad of events around the country or overseas, and pay respects to not only those who served in that war, but also all of our service veterans who have served or are still serving in the many conflicts since. Lest We Forget.

Since the national body, the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, Australia, was established as a company two years ago, the Board has focused on bedding down its governance and charting a way forward. The members (or owners) of the company are the seven state/territory-based independent united services institutes, our 'constituent bodies'. At the October annual general meeting, they provided helpful comments regarding the way forward for the company. Key tasks include:

- ensuring we remain financially viable;
- actively liaising with the Department of Defence and other government departments and agencies;
- providing shared services for and co-ordination between the Constituent Bodies;
- maintaining links with our counterparts overseas, for example in the United Kingdom, India and Canada; and
- leading national events (such as conferences) where practicable and appropriate.

We have made good progress in many areas, but 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 event and membership management.

Our Constituent Bodies enjoy strong leadership and continue to offer varied and interesting programmes designed to promote understanding of defence and national security. While the South China Sea, Middle East and Korean Peninsula still garner much public attention, there are also many issues domestically and much closer to home in South East Asia and the South Pacific that are worthy of debate on the implications for Australia. These events are held around the country, so I encourage you to attend those nearby and engage in the discussion.

**Anker Brodersen**  
*Deputy National President*