

# 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 2019 issue of *United Service*, a highly professional journal that is now in its 72<sup>nd</sup> year of continuous publication. This issue contains interesting papers on quite diverse topics: power struggles in the Indo-Pacific; the Indonesian Armed Forces; the role of the Joint Defence Facility, Pine Gap, in intelligence sharing between Australia and the United States; and, the Boer War and its influence on modern Australia. I am sure you will enjoy reading it.



Thanks to our small band of volunteers, we are now operating the *Ursula Davidson Library* in our new permanent home in the Centenary Extension of the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park South, Sydney, four days a week. This is increasing our interaction, not only with our members, but also with a large number of local people, as well as with interstate and international visitors. It is also raising our profile in promoting an understanding of Australia's defence and national security.

It is interesting how many inter-state visitors have no knowledge of the United Services Institute (USI) operating in their state or territory. This is something that all USIs need to address.

Thanks to the generosity of many of our members, we have embarked on a major book restoration project. We aim to repair and rebind several thousand books over the next few years. We are also continuing to expand the library collection with purchases of new books and donations of books.

With the generous support of the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society (HARS) in Albion Park NSW, we are also progressively scanning our extensive collection of maps.

We have continued our stimulating programme of lunch-time lectures and are recording these lectures as podcasts that can be downloaded from our website. We have also created a RUSI NSW YouTube channel that contains podcasts of our lectures, as well as an RUSI NSW Facebook site that keeps our members and members of the public informed about our events, publications, news and interesting defence and security matters.

Our next big challenge is to grow our membership, particularly from current serving members of the Australian Defence Force.

In the last edition of *United Service*, the Deputy National President spoke about the work being undertaken to ensure the future of the national body, the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies–Australia. I strongly support this work – a strong national body can only assist the on-going work of the individual USIs across Australia.

**Paul Irving**