

# 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 March 2020 issue of *United Service*, a highly professional journal now in its 73<sup>rd</sup> year of continuous publication. This issue contains a review of the significant issues that have influenced global defence and security in 2019; incidents that occurred during the 1982 Falklands War where ethical decisions were made contrary to the Laws of Armed Conflict; and a summary of the three wars in Vietnam post the end of World War II. I am sure you will enjoy reading it.



Sadly, in early 2020, we lost our former President and Chief of the Naval Staff, Vice Admiral David Leach AC CBE LVO – see obituary p. 18. We also lost Brigadier Paul Blood AM, former Commander of the 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade, and Colonel John Haynes AM, the driving force behind the magnificent Boer War Memorial in Anzac Parade, Canberra.

In response to the bushfire crisis over the Christmas period, significant elements of the Australian Defence Force, as well as elements from the defence forces of a number of other countries, were utilised in Operation Bushfire Assist. For the first time since World War II, 2,499 Reservists were called out for full-time service, with another 501 Reservists being utilised using reserve training days.

RUSI NSW is continuing to reap the benefits of interfacing with members of the public and our members in our new permanent home in the Centenary Extension of the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park South, Sydney. We open four days a week and with more volunteers, we aim to open five days a week. We host visits to our library by Probus Clubs, RSL Sub-Branched, Men's Sheds and other community groups. This is raising our profile in promoting an understanding of Australia's defence and national security.

We have continued our stimulating programme of lunch-time lectures on defence and security issues, and visits to defence establishments, such as HMAS *Watson*, which provided a unique opportunity for our members to see Navy's premier maritime warfare training and simulation establishment.

With the generous support of the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society, we have continued to progressively scan our extensive collection of maps.

I am also pleased to report that a small but positive start has been taken to revitalise the Board of our 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.