

Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies New South Wales

President's Column

Welcome to the Spring 2020 issue of *United Service*, a highly professional journal that is now in its 73rd year of continuous publication. This issue contains a very diverse range of topics including: ethics in the Australian Defence Force; the strategic plan for the Defence Science and Technology Group; the impact of climate change on national security; and the tactical training of military officers.



Whilst the Board of RUSI NSW was aiming to resume normal operations, including our programme of lunch-time lectures by June 2020, after reviewing the restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and the health of members and guest lecturers, we determined not to proceed with holding any lunch-time lectures during the remainder of 2020.

We have, however, continued to record the presentations of our guest lecturers and these are accessible on the RUSI NSW YouTube channel – <http://www.rusinsw.org.au/YouTube>.

I am aware that, for many of our members, the COVID-19 restrictions have been quite difficult but, hopefully, we will be able to resume our normal services in 2021.

In accordance with the RUSI NSW Constitution, I will be standing down as President at our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, 24 November 2020. This will be a virtual meeting and details will be provided to all members shortly.

The last four years have been an exciting time for RUSI NSW as we implemented a detailed plan to move the Ursula Davidson Library and RUSI office from Defence Plaza Sydney to our new home in the Centenary Extension of the Anzac Memorial. Having a permanent home in a new purpose-built facility in such a prestigious building in the centre of the Sydney CBD is a wonderful opportunity for RUSI NSW. We also consider that the Ursula Davidson Library enhances the educational role of the Anzac Memorial and is a wonderful gift to the people of New South Wales to mark the centenary of the end of the Great War.

Sadly, we recently lost, quite suddenly, a stalwart of RUSI NSW, Colonel John M. Hutcheson MC (Ret'd). John was a life member, our current Vice President, a Board member for many years, a member of the Library Committee and custodian of the sale of surplus library books. John worked in the RUSI NSW library until the day before his death. There will be an obituary for John published in the Summer 2020 issue of *United Service*.

Paul Irving