

Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies – Australia

Promoting understanding of defence and national security

National President:

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Mr Robert O'Donnell

National President's Column

Welcome to the first issue of *United Service* in 2022. I am pleased to advise that by agreement of all the State and Territory RUSIs, *United Service* has become our National Journal, replacing the now defunct *Journal of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia*.



Initially, RUSI NSW will continue to manage, edit and publish *United Service* and will maintain the high standards inherent in publishing a professional journal. Over time, all State and Territory RUSIs will join a National Journal Policy Committee and submit articles for publication in *United Service*.

This issue contains some very interesting and challenging papers on current defence and security issues affecting Australia and our region of influence, and I am sure that you will enjoy reading it. With the journal available online, by monitoring the number of hits on the various articles it is interesting to see the extent of the reach and influence of the journal from readers around the world.

I also wish to advise that at the Annual General Meeting of our National body (RUSI-A) held on 19 November 2021, it was agreed unanimously to amend the National Constitution to allow office bearers from State and Territory RUSIs to be elected to the National Board. This was an initiative of RUSI NSW.

As a result of the change to the National constitution, a new National Board was appointed at the Annual General meeting with office holders from RUSI QLD, RUSI NSW, RUSI VIC, RUSI TAS, RUSI SA, RUSI WA and USI ACT. At the first meeting of the new National Board in December 2021, I was appointed National President and COL Kerry Gallagher AM, President of RUSI QLD, was appointed Vice President.

I would like to thank the former National President, Paul Willee, RFD QC and the former members of the National Board for their work in maintaining the viability of RUSI-A over recent years.

There is no doubt that “we live in interesting times” and there is a growing and urgent national discussion and debate taking place in the media, National Parliament and “think tanks” on Australia’s defence and security needs. Our members have a wealth of experience and knowledge of defence and security needs and we are well placed to influence this debate. The new National Board is committed to revitalising our National body that in turn will assist the on-going work of the State and Territory RUSIs.

**Paul Irving AM, PSM, RFD
National President**