



The United Service Institute (USI) was established in London on 26 June 1831 by its founding President, Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington. Sixteen years earlier, on 18 June 1815, Wellesley had won the Battle of Waterloo in Belgium, defeating Napoleon Bonaparte's French army and closing the era on the Napoleonic wars. The significant lessons of military warfare from the Napoleonic wars and England's colonial wars inspired military officers who fought in the wars to create the Institute to promote professional military learning in the art and science of soldiering and warfare.

In Australia, The United Service Institute of New South Wales was established in Sydney on 20 August 1888. The first President was Major General John Soame Richardson, CB (Companion of the Order of the Bath), the Commandant of the New South Wales Military Forces.

Institutes in the other Australian jurisdictions were subsequently established: in 1890, in Victoria by Major General Alexander Tulloch, a British officer, who was the Military Commandant of the Colony of Victoria at that time; in 1892, the United Service Institute of Queensland, in Brisbane under the presidency of Major General John Fletcher Owen, Commandant, Queensland Defence Force; in 1902, the United Service Institute of Western Australia, in Perth; by 1904, the United Service Institute of South Australia was flourishing in Adelaide; and in 1924, the United Service Institute of Tasmania was established in Hobart. In 1973, the respective state Institutes were federated as the United Services Institute of Australia. In November 1979, Her Majesty The Queen granted the prefix "Royal" to the Institute, becoming thereafter the Royal United Services Institute of Australia (RUSIA). In 2016, RUSIA became the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies - Australia (RUSIDSS-A) and was incorporated as a company and a registered charity.

The RUSIDSS-A aims to promote and inform a professional and balanced debate on, and to improve public awareness and understanding of, defence and national security. This includes an understanding of Australian defence strategy, contemporary and historic conflict, developments in military science and technology, and all aspects of defence and security as they relate to Australia now and into the future.

The nature of military science and warfare, confined in 1888 principally to a colonial perspective, has since changed seismically in the 20th and 21st centuries. The mosaic and scope of current warfare has global implications where respective national and regional political imperatives drive the politico-military narrative. In the recent decade, threats to national security from autocratic and expansionist regimes which undermine the just international order and pursue grey-zone activities have changed the military landscape and the dynamics of warfare in its multifarious adjuncts. In the current context, the Indo-Pacific and the Asia-Pacific regions have become the principal geopolitical bubble for global military dominance, aggressive military posturing and exertion of political will. The follow-on impacts have significantly affected the respective national security perspectives of the nations that comprise the Indo-Pacific, the Asia-Pacific, and the Pacific regions.

United Service, the journal of the Royal United Services Institute of New South Wales, was first published in 1889, initially as annual proceedings and, since 1947 as a quarterly professional journal. In conjunction, RUSIA also published a journal for 26 years, initially named the *Australian Journal of Defence Studies* (from 1977 to 2003). Beginning with this March 2022 issue, *United Service* is being published as the national journal of the RUSIDSS-A, including all its constituent bodies, and is available online in an open-access form at...

www.rusinsw.org.au.

Dr David Leece, the previous Editor of *United Service* over the last 17 years, and a recent President of the Institute in New South Wales, was committed to driving the vision and objectives of the Institute. The Institute and the *United Service* journal is in a sound professional space due to David's selfless contributions. I am honoured and privileged to take over the Editorial Chair of the *United Service* from David. I intend building on the accomplishments of David as the Editor of *United Service*, and commit to the vision of the RUSIDSS-A becoming a respected Australian defence and security think-tank.

Joe Matthews
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and Security Studies - Australia