



---

## EVENTS COVERAGE

---



30<sup>th</sup> December 2016

### **CHRISTMAS ON THE SWAN**

Long having been AIDN-WA's Christmas function venue, the delightful Aqua Viva, set on a jetty over the Swan River in Nedlands, once again hosted a capacity crowd of some 120 members, friends, and guests in December 2016.

Both sides of politics in WA, and a Federal senator were present and addressed the assembly concerning their commitment to WA's defence industry. The Hon Michael Mischin, Minister for Commerce, who has the immediate responsibility for industry development, informed the meeting of achievements under the Barnett Government and its approach to facilitating WA participation in the multi-billion dollar Defence build program.

Labor's shadow minister for Defence issues, Paul Papalia, MLA followed, emphasising that the two Parties' policies have significant points of difference. He reiterated Labor policy to elevate the standing of the defence industry by having a minister with the specific responsibility for its issues and interests. He noted that Adelaide had many years ago received such high level attention and the results were now clear. He passionately expressed his intention to press for a fairer share of the national build program, which is currently but a fraction of that slated for Adelaide.

Senator Linda Reynolds, who has been an energetic contributor to recent efforts to promote WA's defence industry, took the opportunity to respond, disagreeing that WA had an entitlement to a share, as such, and that the WA industry should continue on the present trajectory of promotion and competition.

In summary, AIDN-WA members and the broader defence industry have reason to be pleased that the political sector is now engaged with their industry in a way that could not have been expected just three years ago.

Summing up his term as President of AIDN-WA over those years, Serge DeSilva-Ranasinghe spoke to the following achievements:

- the appointment of a Board of high calibre professionals with deep roots and knowledge of the defence sector.
- appointment of six Senior Associates with outstanding senior Defence and/or defence industry experience to support the work of the Board.
- growing the membership to an all time high.
- organising a program of events, each now attracting over 100 attendees, to both promote networking and speak to issues of relevance to WA defence industry.
- fostering the West Coast Defence Dialogue, a Chatham House discussion forum to serve as WA's premier defence policy development mechanism.
- establishing the Sir John Forrest Oration, AIDN-WA's premier annual keynote speaker event now in its third year.
- a comprehensive submission to the 2016 Defence White Paper.
- contribution to corporate social responsibility by hosting events on the recruitment and retention of Indigenous people in Defence, and on the take-up of women in Defence.
- commenced an advocacy and briefing program to inform about the WA defence industry sector by engaging politicians, peak-body heads, federal, state and local government officials.
- engagement with sponsors to fund AIDN-WA events.

Vice President Terry Booth led a general acknowledgement and thank-you to the 2016 Christmas event sponsors, who were Naval Ship Management (NSM), Oropesa Port Management, the Department of Commerce, and the Perth City Council.

#### **ENDORSEMENTS:**

"The City of Perth is pleased to support initiatives that lend support to the defence industry within Western Australia, and promote diversity in the local economy. Being a key advocacy body for the defence industry, the Australian Industry & Defence Network (AIDN-WA) provides much needed networking and knowledge sharing opportunities for industry stakeholders. By sponsoring events such as the 2016 AIDN-WA Christmas function, the City of Perth hopes to facilitate opportunities within the defence sector and provide attainable benefits to the rate-payers and businesses within the City."

- **The City of Perth**

“Naval Ship Management (NSM) was proud to attend the AIDN-WA Christmas Party and also to sponsor the event. The benefits for NSM are wide-ranging noting the sheer number of personnel that attended the event from a wide variety of backgrounds NSM considers the benefits will be recognised long after the evening has ended. The event provided a perfect backdrop to not only reconnect with old friends but also presented the opportunity to be introduced to new people and potential clients. AIDN-WA should be congratulated on an outstanding event and NSM looks forward to other events in the future to promote Defence Industry.”

- **Mark Potter, General Manager, Naval Ship Management (Australia)**

"AIDN is the epicentre of Defence Industry excellence in Western Australia and our sponsorship of their events are in line with our Company's desire to promote and contribute to the future of this States' efforts into our National Defence capability. The formal and informal meetings and gatherings coordinated by AIDN-WA are considered a worthwhile and essential networking forum for Oropesa as we seek to develop relationships and synergies with other like-minded W.A. companies in the Defence space. Naturally, our sponsorship is a firm endorsement of the efforts AIDN and we will continue to support these activities in the future as it is a valuable opportunity to lend our 'shoulder to the wheel' in advancing an integrated effort."

- **Michael Edwards, Managing Director, Oropesa Port Management**

**To view the photos from the event please click on this link:**  
**<http://www.aidn-wa.org.au/Christmas-Party-2016>**

\*\*\*\*\*