



# AIDN NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4 OF 2020

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## Upcoming events in 2021

### FEBRUARY 2021

**3 February**

ADM Congress, Canberra, ACT

**3 February**

AIDN National Gala Dinner, Canberra, ACT

### MAY 2021

**6 May**

AIDN NSW Dinner

*More events on page 18*

## In this issue

<a href="#">Meet the Board</a>	3
<a href="#">Upcoming events</a>	4
<a href="#">AIDN Board Advisors</a>	6
<a href="#">AIDN NT News</a>	7
<a href="#">AIDN QLD News</a>	9
<a href="#">AIDN NSW News</a>	11
<a href="#">Growing Indigenous Construction Talent</a>	13
<a href="#">AIDN National Gala Dinner</a>	14
<a href="#">Training partnership wins Premier's Industry Collaboration Award</a>	18
<a href="#">Queensland Gaskets and Rheinmetall Commonwealth Defence Project Tender worth \$18 billion</a>	19
<a href="#">Local chapter contacts</a>	22

## LETTER TO MEMBERS FROM THE AIDN NATIONAL CEO BRENT CLARK

Welcome to all to the summer edition of the AIDN Newsletter. I hope that you will find this to be both informative and interesting.

For this edition we will be introducing the new AIDN National Board, it is important to thank the outgoing Board members, Angus Hutchinson, Kerryn Smith and the outgoing Chair, Lester Sutton.

All three of these talented individuals have been instrumental in driving through change within the organisation and they have been great advocates for driving towards the AIDN National organisation.

Now we commence a new phase in the AIDN story as we finalise the creation of AIDN National, working closely with the State and Territory Chapters to achieve an outcome that ensures we continue to be seen as the peak industry body for the Australian Defence Industry and the SME community that we strive to serve. The individual Chapters remain vital to the success of AIDN, National needs the input from each committee as they directly interact with you. We look forward to continuing to work closely with the individual AIDN Chapters.

AIDN National continues to advocate for you our members. We continue to work closely with Government, the Department of Defence and the Prime Contractors to ensure that we as a nation can achieve greater self-reliance and a truly sovereign industrial capability.

AIDN has been actively involved in a variety of working groups in order to assist the Department to develop and update the Government's policy to ensure that Australian Industry is able to compete in a fair and equitable way on these large and vitally important acquisition programs.

It is clear that the Government has recognised the importance of Australian Industry involvement in these programs. Increasing Australian Industry Content

goes directly to the heart of achieving the economic recovery that Australia needs to achieve as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is good to see that our country is opening back up after some hard times. Clearly with the borders opening back up we will hopefully find that our economy and therefore the opportunities for your businesses increase.

I am sure all of us will relish the ability to physically meet with each other and get the human contact we all need and desire.

For some of us who had spent hours on planes or travelling between venues for meetings this will be a little novel, however I for one am looking forward to getting around to all the Chapters and having the opportunity to actually meet as many of you as I can.

What we can say is that Government is listening to the need to ensure that Australian industry is at the front and centre for all these programs, Ministers Reynolds and Price are driving this change and requiring Defence, through policy, to ensure that Australian Industry has every opportunity to succeed.

The change process can take longer than we may want and with any change there can and will be misunderstandings and missteps, rest assured AIDN will remain as active and as vocal to ensure that the Defence ecosystem continues to change and to do so quickly to ensure that all of you can make the required business decisions going forward.

AIDN will continue to reach out to you, our important membership base. We need to understand the issues that you are facing and how we can work with all parties to ensure that you can be successful – as I have previously stated without you our members there is no AIDN, no industry and no Australian Industry content or capability.



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# MEET THE BOARD



**Graham Priestnall**  
Chairman of the Board  
board@aidn.org.au

Since 2002, Graham has held AIDN leadership positions at both the Chapter and National level. These include President of AIDN WA from 2002 until 2009 and membership of the AIDN ACT Board from 2011 to 2018, including three years as Chairman. Graham is the current Vice-President of AIDN SA and was a member of the AIDN National Executive from 2002 until 2018, including Vice President (2007) and National President (2008 to 2013).

In addition to his AIDN Board responsibilities, Graham has represented AIDN on a number of senior Defence and defence industry and advisory Boards, including the Defence Industry Innovation Board, the Capability Development Advisory Forum, the Defence Industry Innovation Centre Advisory Committee and the AIG's National Defence Executive Council.

Graham has over 20 years' experience in the defence industry working for large and small medium enterprises (SMEs), this includes Managing Director and Senior Business Manager roles. He has an MBA, a MA in Maritime Policy and BA in Strategic Studies. Graham is currently an AIPM certified practicing project director (CPPD).



**Carl Quarterman**  
Secretary & Board Member  
board@aidn.org.au

Carl is the President of the Australian Industry and Defence Network Queensland (AIDN QLD). AIDN is an organisation promoting Australian SMEs to win a larger portion of Australian Defence related work. He is a Director on the AIDN National Board which has the vision of creating a more secure Australia through enhancing industry and defence capability. He is the Managing Director of Queensland Gaskets, an Australian Manufacturing company operating in the Australian and Global Defence Supply Chains. Carl is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



**Julie Savage**  
Treasurer & Board Member  
board@aidn.org.au

Julie has been a member of AIDN since 2012 and has supported AIDN as a member with the AIDN QLD Group and now as a supporter of the National Organisation.

Julie has been the Director of Cognesis Contractors since 2006 and believes in the importance of relationships with customers, customers' customers, employees and contractors. Mostly, Julie and her team work

with Engineers in the industry and have had input to several Aerospace and other Defence projects. Her company has also worked in Transport projects. Having been initially employed by an Aerospace Company herself and being based in Brisbane, Cognesis developed their early reputation on rotary wing projects. It is exciting that after participating in Aerospace and Land projects, Cognesis contractors are now involved in Navy programs. As the industry has changed, clients have looked for specialized and talented resources that consistently seek high quality people to add value to their projects. She believes the SME community delivers in this regard.

Julie asserts that the quality and calibre of the people she has been able to work with, have greatly contributed to her success in the business and her participation on this and other boards. She believes that while industry changes are significant, the values that people bring to their companies and roles are both enduring and rewarding. She enjoys seeing the progression of individuals through their careers in the industry. She especially enjoys having the opportunity to play a role in a national organisation such as AIDN that represents the largest number of SMEs across Australia. Julie understands the operations of SMEs and as a Professional Services Provider to Defence projects relates to the challenges and successes that come with SMEs.

Continued on page 4



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# MEET THE BOARD

Continued from page 3



**Emily Frizell**  
Board Member  
board@aidn.org.au

An accomplished and capable engineer, Emily Frizell is founder and CEO of AeroPM. AeroPM provides Professional Consulting Services above-the-line to Defence and other government departments. Under Emily's leadership AeroPM experienced 3800% growth in 2 years, was awarded the MyBusiness Awards Professional Services Business of the Year Award 2019 and Outstanding Veteran Employee of the Year 2020.

Emily is a veteran with over 20 years' experience in Defence and Defence Industry. She has an excellent reputation within Defence and Defence Industry alike, having recently been recognised as a finalist for the Female Defence Leader of the Year Award 2020, ADM Women in Defence Awards 2019, and ACT Telstra Businesswomen's Award 2019.

Emily is well connected. She is a graduate of the Defence Industry Study Course 2019 and the AICD Company Directors Course 2019. She is also the recipient of a UN Women in Leadership Scholarship to study her Executive MBA commencing in 2021. A highly energetic person, with strong leadership and team-building skills, Emily is comfortable in working the detail with a forte for developing a strategic picture and a plan for action. When strongly motivated on an issue, she is a strong and passionate advocate in pursuit of achieving the desired results and outcomes.

Currently a member of the UNSW School of Engineering and Information Technology Academic Advisory Board, Minister for Veterans Affairs Industry Advisory Committee and Enterprise for Veterans Advisory Council, Emily was previously a Board member for

AIDN-ACT and a Committee Member for Engineers Australia.

Emily's prime focus for term of office is a successful transition to the National structure and representing the views of above-the-line Australian SMEs.



**Toff Idrus**  
Board Member  
board@aidn.org.au

Presently the Managing Director of JFD Australia, a niche undersea capability provider to both the Defence and Commercial sectors most notably providing the current Submarine Rescue Service to the Royal Australian Navy Submarine Force, Toff has both strong military and industry experience.

In his near-23 year service in the RAN as a Marine Engineer Officer (MEO) and submariner, Toff's military highlights include two operational deployments to the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO), establishing the Collins Class Systems Program Office and being its inaugural Director under the then Defence Materiel Organization, sea service as a Charge Engineer in Oberon submarines, including the first home porting of a submarine to WA in 1987, as well as MEO of HMAS ANZAC and Deputy MEO in HMAS SUCCESS, and finally as Chief Staff Officer (Engineering) in Fleet Command before transferring from the Permanent Forces in the rank of Navy Captain at the end of 2007. He cites his greatest honour while in the navy was undoubtedly serving beside the sailors that he was privileged to have led, as they taught him so much about so many things. Being a worthy leader amongst them. Toff was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) on the 2000 Australia Day's

Honours List for distinguished service to Naval Engineering, a reflection Toff says of the quality of the people who served with him along the way.

Since his naval career, Toff has held Program or General Management positions across a variety of sectors. This includes being responsible for the functional and strategic planning of data centres across Asia Pacific for a well-known global blue chip IT company, the General Manager for all Rollingstock and above rail assets for a national Australian rail freight company, the GM for the previous ANZAC Class Ship Alliance and some asset management consultancy for a major Australian iron ore mining company. His current role as MD JFD Australia since Dec 2015 interestingly brings Toff back to supporting the community that he spent so long in service of, and to this day respects and honours: our submariners. Toff has built a portfolio of varied experiences which ultimately has culminated in becoming a strong business leader with sharp commercial sense but well understanding of the uniqueness and needs of Defence.

Originally from Melbourne, Victoria, Toff now calls Safety Bay WA home with his wife of 30 years Rosemary, with his adult sons Daniel and Hayden pursuing their careers away from home in paramedicine and dance respectively.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JUNE 2021

**1-3 June**

Land Forces – Brisbane, QLD  
(date change from 1-3 September 2020)

**15-17 June**

Rotortech 2020 Helicopter and Unmanned Flight Systems, Brisbane, QLD

### SEPTEMBER 2021

ADM Defence Estate and Base Services Summit, Canberra, ACT

### NOVEMBER 2021

**23-28 November**

Avalon Airshow, Melbourne, VIC  
(date changed from February 2021)

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# MEET THE AIDN BOARD ADVISORS

The AIDN National Constitution provides the AIDN National Board with 2 additional places as Advisors to the Board. These Advisors are appointed by the Board, with support from AIDN Chapters and have no voting rights.



**Chris Williams**  
Managing Director, HIFraser  
Pty Ltd

Chris commenced his career by spending 11 years in the Australian Navy as a Submarine Navigator and Warfare Officer. On leaving the Navy, Chris transitioned into industry where he managed and directed several technical naval, renewable energy and oil and gas projects.

Chris is the Managing Director of HIFraser, a sophisticated defence sector advanced manufacturing and maintenance gas and fluid system business with global relationships. Chris particularly enjoys working with the exceptional, technologically astute people who make up the HI Fraser team.

HIFraser has won a number of awards under Chris's leadership including 2010 Australian Manufacturer of the Year, 2015 SAGE Zenith Machine Builder of the Year, and 2016 Institute of Engineers Innovation Award.

In addition to Chris' Managing Director role, he sits on the Federal Government Centre for Defence Industry Capability (CDIC) Advisory Board, is Deputy Chair of the Australian Industry Group (AIG) National Defence Council Executive, is Deputy Chairman of Defence Industry Voice, is an Industry Board Member

of the NSW Defence Innovation Network (DIN), and was the founding Chairman of the Sydney Aerospace and Defense Interest Group (SADIG).

Through travel and working with teams and organisations across the globe, Chris has a truly international perspective of leadership, management and mentoring best-practice, and a joy of international cuisine, language, red wine and rugby.

Chris was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2003 by the Governor General for exceptional service and leadership as a submariner, has an MBA (2009 Deans List) and BSc (Hons) Ocean.



**Alexander Robinson**  
Lead for Training and  
Simulation, Seeing Machines

Passionate and enthusiastic about Defence and aerospace, Alexander has over eighteen years of combined multinational, SME, startup, and military experience. Alexander began his career in the Royal Australian Air Force, studying at the Australian Defence Force Academy before undertaking pilot training. Alexander's time in the Air Force shaped his ongoing enthusiasm for Defence and aerospace; and, on separating Alexander worked for Caterpillar Inc. managing

Defence, military business, and other major accounts, based throughout Australia as well as Singapore.

In 2014 Alexander co-founded Airly, a membership-based travel and aviation technology start-up; and in 2016 Alexander joined Seeing Machines, an ACT computer vision and transport safety company. Alexander is currently Lead for Training and Simulation at Seeing Machines, managing aviation and Defence engagements and capability delivery; and still serves as a Director for Airly.

Alexander is an Associate of the Royal Aeronautical Society; is a Member of the Royal Australian Air Force Association, Australian Federation of Air Pilots, and Aviation/Aerospace Australia; and is a recipient of the Australian Defence Medal.

Having lived and worked in Europe, Asia, and Australia, Alexander enjoys travelling with his partner and their two girls; is an avid trail and medium-to-long distance runner; and enjoys flying recreationally. Alexander writes for Australian Aviation, and co-hosts Ticker Air, a weekly aviation digital TV news network. Alexander holds a Bachelor of Business, Executive MBA, Lean Six Sigma credentials, Diploma of Government, and is undertaking coursework to obtain his Commercial Pilot Licence.

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## AIDN NT

AIDN-NT co-hosted in conjunction with its Platinum Sponsor Thales and other sponsors yet another successful Annual Gala Event on 28th October at the Hilton, Darwin.

Over 150 Guests enjoyed the AIDN-NT Awards Cocktail Evening, celebrating the capabilities of some fantastic finalists and the following winners:

### Minister's Award for Excellence in the Defence Industry

SAGE Automation is an Australian sovereign manufacturer and control system integrator who has been in the NT for more than a decade. SAGE now has a team of 30 across the NT undertaking more than 10,000 hours of work on Defence assets each year.

Major projects, including the RAAF Base Darwin Fuel Farm 3 and Fuel Farm 7 Control System Upgrade meant SAGE was maintaining the project schedule and compliance of the RAAF Base Darwin Fuel Facility during a global pandemic. Due to COVID, SAGE had to adopt and develop a visual commissioning training method to teach local Defence personnel how to use the Fuel Farm control panel.

SAGE's increased involvement with Defence has contributed to the channelling of new infrastructure, business partnerships, training and bringing human capital to the region.



Presented by: Hon Nicole Manison, Minister for Defence Industries to Andrew Meaney, SAGE Automation.

### Innovation Award

SPEE3D has designed and built metal 3D printers that enable the most affordable metal additive manufacturing process in the world. In November 2019, the Royal Australian Navy announced a \$1.5 million investment in a pilot of SPEE3D technology.

The Australian Army announced a similar program in February 2020 with a 12-month trial designed to test the feasibility of developing 3D metal printers both on base and in the field.

### Young Achievers Award

As Project Delivery Service (PDS) Project Manager, Emily delivers a suite of services to advance Defence Industry Capability by developing and delivering a range of projects that meet the Defence Capability requirements.



Presented to Steven Camilleri and Aerin Langworthy SPEE3D by Steven Densmore, Ventia – Innovation Award Sponsor.



The winner of the Young Achievers Award NT 2020 was Emily Prunnell from Aurecon.

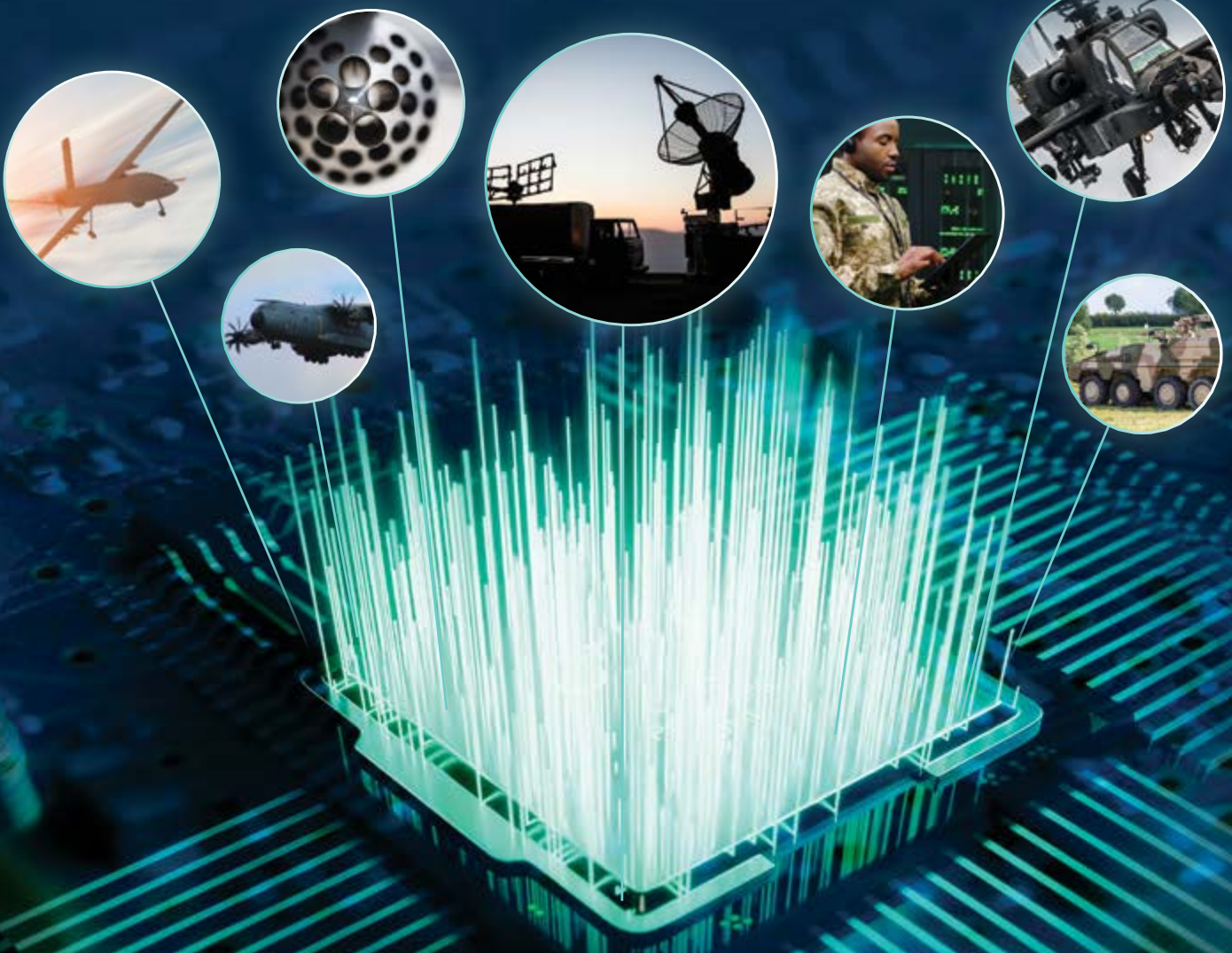




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## AIDN QLD

### Monthly Meetings

AIDN QLD hosted its regular monthly meetings in the latter half of the year, and hosted an online meeting with Thales as their host in August. AIDN QLD hosted their first post-COVID socially distanced face to face meeting in September with Outsource Institute as the host and featuring guest speakers from Outsource, RUAG, Deloitte and the Queensland Government.

AIDN QLD's October monthly meeting was hosted by Products for Industry featuring guest speakers from Products for Industry, Queensland Government, Lockheed Martin and Synengco.



### Annual Gala Dinner and Young Achievers Award

The AIDN QLD Annual Gala Dinner was postponed from July and was held in November, with mess hall style socially distanced seating and guest speakers including Gary Stewart from Rheinmetall as the Platinum Sponsor, LTGEN Greg Bilton (Chief of Joint Operations, Department of Defence) and Scott Carpendale from Boeing Defence Australia.

AIDN QLD also announced the Young Achievers Award and QLD had a record 11 applicants for this award! Congratulations to Priyank Menezes from Airbus for winning the AIDN QLD YAA!

Thank you to our AIDN QLD Gala Dinner sponsors:

**Platinum:** Rheinmetall Defence Australia

**Gold:** NIOA and L3Harris

**Silver:** Products for Industry, Outsource Institute, Headmark Consulting

**Bronze:** HE Tech, IntellDesign

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## AIDN NSW

### AIDN NSW AIC Policy Review Session

AIDN NSW held a successful Panel session on AIC Policy on Wednesday 18th November at the SMC Conference Centre in Sydney. The panellists were: Brent Clark, AIDN CEO (online); Chris Williams, HI Fraser; Mark Purcell, TBH; and Neville Teague, Adroitia. The discussion, moderated by Travis Harvey of TBH, was an in-depth and honest look at how AIC policy and the review of the ASDEFCON Framework impacts SMEs, including issues that SMEs would like taken into consideration as part of the review. The session was both face-to-face and

livestreamed and had over 60 attendees, including Primes and relevant Defence personnel. The online attendance was interactive via the chat function and those attendees also provided valuable input into the discussion. The event was recorded and went towards the NSW input to National for the review. The recording can be found [here](#).


It was generally agreed to have been a very successful session and AIDN NSW will look at organising more events in this format in the future as it gives members a chance to ask questions and be interactive.




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### The AIDN NSW Young Achiever Award Lunch

The AIDN NSW Young Achiever Award Lunch was held on Friday 27th November at the Grace Hotel in Sydney. Roland Stephens, Executive Director, Jobs and Innovation, NSW Treasury was the keynote speaker for the event. Roland spoke about the importance of recognising young talent as well as supporting those in Defence Industry who are just starting out in their careers. The NSW government recognises the importance of the Defence Industry in NSW and its diversity. Brent Clark, CEO AIDN was livestreamed in to say a few words on how important state governments are to AIDN and its SME community. Even though AIDN has been working towards becoming a national organisation for some time now (and expects to have achieved this in 2021), Brent stated that the support of the state governments for their own Defence industry was incredibly important and that AIDN would continue to work very closely in each state with the relevant representation. Defence NSW has been very supportive of AIDN NSW for many years now.

The 2020 Young Achiever Awards were sponsored by HTR Engineering. From eight outstanding applications, short videos from

the 5 finalists were shown before the award recipients were announced and presented with a certificate by Roland Stephens and a cheque envelope by Chris Hughes of HTR. The award recipients were:

**Winner:** Guillaume Jounel, Vision AI Team Lead, DroneShield

**Runner Up:** Michael Robertson, Hardware Development Engineer, Jenkins Engineering Defence Systems

**Third Place:** Nicholas Tsom, Engineer, Jenkins Engineering Defence Systems

Guillaume goes on to compete in the National Young Achiever Awards at the AIDN National Gala Dinner in Canberra on 3rd February 2021.

The presentation with videos of the finalists and further photos of the event can be found [here](#).





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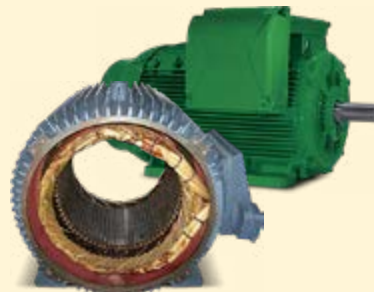
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# Growing Indigenous Construction Talent

As an Indigenous owned national contracting business, Indigenous engagement is not something we do it is who we are.

Our goal is to support our First Nations people by investing in and engaging with the local communities in which we operate. We do this by proactively searching for local Indigenous contractors to work with, consulting with Indigenous organisations and Elders when it comes to engaging with Indigenous employees, and taking actions to break barriers that typically hinder employment for Indigenous members of our community.

## Closing the Gap

In 2007, Commonwealth, state, territory and local governments made a commitment to work together to 'Close the Gap' in Indigenous disadvantage. The aim was to reduce inequality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in areas such as life expectancy, child mortality, education and employment.

While some targets, particularly in the area of education, are still on track other areas have not been so successful. The target of halving the gap in employment by 2018 was not achieved, so BY Group is committed to helping meet this goal. By offering education, work experience and employment opportunities to Indigenous members of our community, we hope to help close the employment gap and improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Currently, 70% of our directors and staff are proud Indigenous Australians.

## Empowering our Future Leaders

A key to achieving our goal of supporting our Indigenous community is in Growing Indigenous Construction Talent. Here at BY Group, we understand that the young people of today are our leaders of tomorrow, and it's our responsibility to supply them with the education, tools and experience they need to thrive within their chosen profession, and lead their community towards a better future. That's why we provide on-the-job training and work experience for our Cadets, who are all undertaking a Construction Management Degree, or Construction TAFE course.

As a participant of the BY Group graduate program, our Cadets become a part of a diverse team-based environment, with access to structured professional experiences that ensure that they develop and grow within the industry.

Every one of our Cadets is supplied with a personal development coach who can offer the support and guidance they need to pursue their careers in the construction industry. Mentored by our Senior Managers, we offer our Cadets the work-experience they need to prepare themselves for their future career, while making sure to provide enough time to focus on completing their studies.

During the holidays, Cadets are offered five days of work a week, and are paid wages which are well above the standard award. This gives Cadets the opportunity to experience life in the construction industry without having to hold down a second job to support themselves.

Cadets can participate in the program until they complete their studies, at which point they will be offered full-time roles with BY Group.

## Summer Dann - Cadet Contract Administrator

*The best thing about my job is getting to learn from more experienced people within the industry.*

*Working for BY Group has had a very positive effect on my life and my colleagues and Managers are extremely supportive and encourage me to do and be my best. Being a part of the BY Group family has allowed me to grow as an individual by setting an example for the younger generations.*

*My position within BY Group and future goal-setting has had a positive*



*influence on my family and friends by helping them to also thrive and do better for themselves. As I continue to grow in my position I also hope to influence the greater community and create a pathway for many to come.'*

Summer Dann is a proud descendant of the Yuin Nation along the South Eastern Seaboard through her mother. She is connected to the Wandandian tribes through to Tomakin, Murramarang Walbunja up to the Snowy Mountains Monero Ngarigo. Summer is also a Descendant of the Wajarri and Amangu through her father.

Summer commenced work at BY Group as a Cadet Contract Administrator in 2019 with no prior experience or qualifications in the construction industry.

Receiving extensive training and mentoring from Senior Project and Construction Managers from BY Group, Summer has since changed her Arts Degree to a Bachelor of Construction Management and is receiving the support and flexibility she needs to complete her studies.

## Committed to Community

By engaging with local Indigenous contractors and businesses in the areas in which we operate, and providing the training needed to empower Indigenous students to start their careers in the construction industry, BY Group is steadily working towards 'Closing the Gap'.

We hope that, by our actions, we can help support our community, and better the lives of our Indigenous brothers and sisters for generations to come.



# THE AIDN NATIONAL GALA DINNER

The AIDN National Gala Dinner will be held in Canberra on 3rd February 2021, where we will present the AIDN annual National Young Achiever Award.

Those who will be invited to attend the AIDN SME Dinner will include:

- The Minister for Defence Industry
- The Secretary and Deputy Secretaries of Defence
- The Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman
- Chiefs of Defence and Services representing our ultimate customer, the men & women of the ADF
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# Training partnership wins Premier's Industry Collaboration Award



TAFE Queensland's Engineering Teacher, **Chris Corsetti** with participants at the Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence (MILVEHCOE)

TAFE Queensland and Rheinmetall Defence Australia are proud to be recognised as the Premier's Industry Collaboration award winner for delivering the ISO 9606 Fusion Welding Program at the 2020 Queensland Training Awards on Friday 18 September.

TAFE Queensland Chief Executive Officer Mary Campbell said the award recognises the outstanding achievements of TAFE Queensland and Rheinmetall Defence Australia in delivering high level welding skills and training vital to the production of Australia's newest combat vehicles in Queensland.

"Defence is a rapidly growing global industry and skilling participants with the right qualifications to build sovereign capability will make Queenslanders more competitive in securing work in defence and advanced manufacturing industries," Mrs Campbell said.

"The program enables local engineering and advanced manufacturing businesses to upskill existing workers and transitional welders to the international welding standard, providing them with the opportunity to become part of the Defence Industry supply chain," she said.

Rheinmetall Defence Australia and TAFE Queensland have established a strong partnership built around a Memorandum of Understanding which was endorsed by TAFE Queensland Chief Executive Officer Mary Campbell and Rheinmetall Defence Australia Managing Director Gary Stewart at the companies Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence (MILVEHCOE) in February 2020.

The partnership is vital to supporting the \$5.2 billion LAND 400 Phase 2 contract to build 211 Combat Reconnaissance Vehicles in South East Queensland. Without ISO 9606 qualified welders, Queensland engineering and manufacturing businesses would have needed to engage overseas workers.

The ISO9606 Fusion Welding Program also supports Rheinmetall's bid for the LAND 400 Phase 3 Mounted Close Combat Capability acquisition of up to 450 Infantry Fighting Vehicles and up to 17 Manoeuvre Support Vehicles.

"To be at the forefront of training that unites and supports our economy and the growth of local supply chain businesses within both the national and international market, is a milestone that TAFE Queensland is extremely proud of," Mrs Campbell said.

"Since the initial pilot program was launched, TAFE Queensland has already trained 130 participants in the new international welding qualification," she said.

The Queensland Training Awards are the peak state awards for the Vocational

Education and Training (VET) sector, recognising individuals, businesses and registered training organisations for their contribution to skilling Queenslanders.

The prestigious Queensland Training Awards, which celebrates top achievers in training in this state, will celebrate its 59th year in 2020.

Across 14 categories, the awards recognise individuals and organisations that strive for and have achieved success, best practice and innovation in vocational education and training (VET).

The awards showcase all that's great about VET in Queensland, with categories for apprentices, trainees, vocational students, teachers and trainers, as well as training providers and employers.



TAFE QLD Chief Executive Officer, **Mary Campbell** and Rheinmetall Defence Australia Managing Director, **Gary Stewart**



# Queensland Gaskets teams up with Rheinmetall to deliver Commonwealth Defence Project Tender worth \$18 billion

Queensland Gaskets has partnered with Rheinmetall Defence Australia for the \$18 billion LAND 400 Phase 3 project. Joining a growing team of Australian SMEs, they will deliver three LYNX KF41 Infantry Fighting Vehicles to the Australian Defence Force for Risk Mitigation Activity (RMA) trials over the next 12 months.

The collaboration has provided Queensland Gaskets a great opportunity to showcase their breadth of their manufacturing capabilities - from consultation and gasket cutting, to part assembly and everything in between.

Queensland Gaskets were selected as a partner to supply componentry and assemble parts to manufacture the new LYNX, a next generation IFV which is designed to deliver Australian troops in combat with world leading protection.

The opportunity to utilise local, skilled and high-quality manufacturers was a core consideration for Rheinmetall when engaging Queensland Gaskets, joining Team LYNX.

"We are an Australian company with a global supply network built over our 67-year history in industry. This means we have the skills and capability to deliver into complex, high quality, large-scale projects," said Carl Quarterman, Managing Director for Queensland Gaskets.

Rheinmetall will deliver three LYNX vehicles to compete in RMA trials conducted in Australia. The extensive testing regime, considered world leading, will put vehicles through a range of trials including lethality, mobility and blast tests.

Queensland Gaskets are solutions-based experts. After an initial consultation, the team worked with Rheinmetall engineers to



create the specialised part that matched the project's requirements within two months.

"Specific premium-grade materials including metal, foam and rubber were sourced through our network of suppliers. Components were cut by the team on our CNC router and water jet cutter, followed by the hand assembly of parts at our factory in Brisbane," Mr Quarterman said.

The value-adding end-to-end process that Queensland Gaskets takes ensures that the parts it manufactures meet the high standards required to ensure the protection of Australian soldiers in combat. This helps place Rheinmetall in a strong position to win the tender for this national defence project by engagement with local industry.



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### Key Defence Projects

- Larrakeyah / Coonawarra Barracks *(pictured)*
- Tindal RAAF Base / NACC Project
- Project Land 121 - Australia wide
- Growler Airport & Maintenance Facility
- Control Towers - various locations Australia wide
- Tindal Stage 6 - redevelopment works

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## Do you have news?

Share your recent success stories, products or services with us!

We'd love to tell our Member Companies and people with an interest in the defence, security and aerospace sector.

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## Contact

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