

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN The Advertiser BUSINESS JOURNAL

Incorporating Business Daily



Giving berth to new optimism

PORT Adelaide's MG Engineering has reached a key milestone in a \$6 million project for NZ's Penwarden Holdings that has inspired it to forge ahead with growth plans. As one of four to be invited by future frigates bidder Fincantieri to tender for construction of cruise ship blocks, managing director Anthony Brdar sees a strong pipeline of opportunities ahead.

PAGE 27



'Dream job'

IT'S a change of guard at the Jodi Lee Foundation, with new chief executive Kathryn Quintel hoping to draw upon her personal experiences in guiding the charity that raises awareness about bowel cancer. Founder Nick Lee will become chair of the organisation he set up in 2010 in memory of his wife.

PAGE 24



High pitch

BOUTIQUE Adelaide design agency Voice now has a global platform for its bespoke work through new client, French food giant Danone.

The owner of Evian water and the world's third largest bottling company will work with Voice on its "premium/innovation" brand categories.

PAGE 26



CBD uplift

INCOME will be the prime driver behind new investment as established world city real estate markets face lower capital growth over the next decade, reports a global property outfit.

Adelaide CBD will be well positioned to take advantage despite SA's coming foreign investor tax.

PAGE 30





Engineers hope their ship has finally come in

GIUSEPPE TAURIELLO

PORT Adelaide's MG Engineering has reached a key milestone in a \$6 million project that has inspired the company to forge ahead with ambitious growth plans.

Six months after starting work on a fishing trawler for New Zealand's Penwarden Holdings, cranes were called in last week to turn over three hull and superstructure blocks to form one complete ship structure.

The blocks, which weigh more than 100 tonnes in total, were built upside down due to the vessel's configuration and to limit the amount of overhead work needed.

MG Engineering will now undertake a fitout of the vessel, with a view to completion in the middle of next year.

Managing director Anthony Brdar said the project had enabled the company to rebuild its workforce to 30 staff after having to downsize following completion of work on the Air Warfare Destroyer project in 2014.

"Unfortunately due to only building three of the mast blocks, we did lose quite a few people after the work

dried up, but the good thing about this project is that we've been able to redeploy our workforce," he said.

"The vessel that we're building has created a lot of interest and the New Zealand fishing industry is quite a big market.

"There are hundreds of these types of vessels that have reached their lifespan and so we're talking to other companies over there as well as several fishing companies in Australia."

The scampi trawler is MG Engineering's first shipbuilding contract for the export market. Last month the company was one of four to be invited by future frigates bidder Fincantieri to tender for construction of three cruise ship blocks.

That project is expected to start in the second quarter of next year, with the work understood to support about 40 to 50 jobs.

Mr Brdar said a strong pipeline of opportunities in defence and commercial shipbuilding underpinned the company's ambitious growth plan.

"With the future frigates, the offshore patrol vessels and the submarines – the arrival of all that work is huge for us, and the potential to have 20 years of work is great

for long-term planning," he said.

"We're looking to expand the business and one of my aims is to have two markets – defence and commercial. In the future, if one of the markets has an insufficient amount of work, then we won't be affected like we were before.

"In three years we'll create 100 new jobs and we'll be expanding our existing facility to cater for that. That will be direct jobs at our company and across the supply chain, so there might be 50 at MG and another 50 in the supply chain."

Mr Brdar said a major challenge for the industry would be ensuring there is enough skilled labour in South Australia to meet the resourcing needs of the \$89 billion naval shipbuilding program.

"I think what the government is doing with the shipbuilding college is great – I think that's definitely going to help with the shortage of skilled labour in the future," he said.

"But I feel the government should also consider increasing the number of migrants. Migrants and interstate workers may be necessary as the industry ramps up and it would also allow for population growth, which has been stagnant for years."

OPPORTUNITIES: MG Engineering managing director Anthony Brdar with the 24m scampi trawler at the Port Adelaide business.
Picture: MIKE BURTON/AAP

Important events for small business

SIMPLE STEPS TO SAFETY

Clear steps to understanding work, health and safety requirements for the small business workplace with SafeWork SA's Simple Steps to Safety resources. Attend in person or via online webinar.

Friday
8 December 2017
9:00am - 10:30am

Level 13,
99 Gawler Place,
Adelaide

RETAIL & COMMERCIAL LEASING

A guide for tenants on their rights and obligations under the *Retail and Commercial Leases Act 1995* as well as provide some essential information on signing a lease agreement. Attend in person or via online webinar.

Thursday
14 December 2017
5:30pm - 7:00pm

Level 13,
99 Gawler Place,
Adelaide

Registration is free but bookings are essential.
To register visit www.sasbc.sa.gov.au or phone 8303 2026



RESOURCE INDUSTRY - SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE A FREE PUBLIC LECTURE

Special Guest Speaker:
LAURA TYLER
Chief of Staff &
Head of Geoscience - BHP

Topic:
**"Make or break:
The future skills to
harness our prosperity."**

Thursday 7th December 2017,
5:15pm
UniSA City West Campus
Allan Scott Auditorium, Adelaide
**Free to attend but
registration essential**
adelaide@ausimm.com.au
Networking drinks and canapes
follow the lecture

Essington Lewis was the first BHP executive officer to take a seat on the Board in 1926 and ultimately became Chairman. He was instrumental in Australia's defence and strategic capabilities, appointed as Director of Munitions in 1940. Essington made BHP one of the most efficient steel companies in the world, and his influence was felt in every industry and occupation. This public lecture has been held on an annual basis since 1975 and recognises this enormous global contribution.



43rd Annual
Essington
Lewis
Memorial
Lecture

Laura Tyler
Chief of Staff
& Head of
Geoscience -
BHP

The AusIMM Adelaide Branch Committee invites you to attend the lecture:

"Make or break: The future skills to harness our prosperity."

Covering highly topical matters pertaining to the workforce of the future:

- A fundamental change to the way we educate professionals,
- The urgent need to act now on raising the profile of STEM skills,
- How the mining sector can take a leadership role in reshaping the jobs of the future.

About the Speaker:

Laura joined BHP in 2004 and was appointed Chief of Staff to the CEO in 2015, joining the Executive Leadership Team in 2016, working to deliver on the company's strategic plan. Prior to this, Laura worked for WMC, Newcrest and MIM in technical and operational roles in Australia and globally for two decades.

Renewal SA is seeking developers who are interested in commercial opportunities at Bowden. Unique sites exist within the vicinity of the Bowden Town Square. Whether it's retail, recreation, medical, independent living, short stay accommodation or commercial, we're looking for developers to further the success and diversity of our growing community.

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