

# ADM announces Women in Defence Award finalists

## COMMUNICATIONS



**NICOLE DAVIES**  
**BROADSPECTRUM**

**Role: National Manager Communication and Customer Service, Defence**

Nicole has been a member of the Defence industry community for 15 years. Her career history demonstrates her commitment to the industry. She has passion for Communication as a profession and ensuring its value is demonstrated as critical to business operations. She strives for solutions that improve services for the Defence customer and engage the internal workforce.



**SARAH VALENTINE**  
**RAYTHEON AUSTRALIA**

**Role: Head of Corporate Affairs and Communications**

Sarah has advanced Raytheon Australia's corporate objectives as a communications leader and a member of the company's leadership team. Sarah's Corporate Affairs and Communications organisation has been transformed from a supporting function to one which has a key role in setting the company's strategy. Regarded as a strategic partner to the business units, Sarah provides counsel and support to her leadership team colleagues.



**HELEN WARD**  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE - CAPABILITY ACQUISITION AND SUSTAINMENT GROUP**

**Role: Senior Advisor Industry and Communications, Land 400**

Along her Land 400 journey, Helen's role has evolved substantially from her original pure communications role, to industry liaison with the hundreds of small to medium enterprises involved in delivering Australian jobs. As part of this, she developed a national series of industry workshops that gave over 400 businesses nationally a chance to showcase their wares to the primes involved. This initiative has now become the Defence industry standard for such activities, and is set to be emulated by subsequent, even larger projects.

After receiving over 100 entries across the six categories, *ADM* is pleased to announce the finalists for the inaugural Women in Defence Awards for 2018. Judges gathered in Canberra last month to narrow down the stellar field of contenders, with a mix of SMEs, primes and government (both APS and uniformed personnel) making their way into the hotly contested list.

Winners will be announced at a gala lunch on July 27 at The Pialligo Estate in Canberra, where Minister for Defence and WIDA patron Senator Marise Payne will deliver a keynote address and announce the Hall of Fame inductee. Ahead of the awards ceremony next month, we have a look at each of the contenders by category. *ADM* would like to thank each and every nominee, and their nominators who took the time to recognise an extraordinary woman in their midst.



## LEGAL/CONTRACTING



**KIRSTY BUCHAN**  
**BAE SYSTEMS AUSTRALIA**

**Role: Senior Sub-Contract Officer, Hawk Lead-In Fighter**

Kirsty has spent the majority of her career in Defence contract management roles employed with three defence suppliers. She is a unique character, possessing exceptional interpersonal skills which allow her to relate to all levels of an organisation. Her enthusiasm and self-motivation are evident in standing up the Lean-In Circles.



**BRONWYN ATKINSON**  
**BOEING DEFENCE AUSTRALIA**

**Role: Senior Manager Supplier Management**

Bronwyn brings to her role a unique mix of legal skills with commercial acumen. Coupled with her strong leadership skills, Bronwyn has shown herself to be an invaluable contributor to Boeing's defence success in Australia. As a member of the Command, Control, Communications and Information Solutions (C3I) divisional leadership team, Bronwyn contributes a balanced view to a heavily engineer-centric part of the business.



**SARAH FULKER**  
**JLL**

**Role: Procurement Manager – Defence**

In this role, Sarah is responsible for a team of procurement analysts and provides advice, direction and training across the broader project delivery team. This team is responsible for delivering facilities and infrastructure projects across Australia in support of the Defence Estate Works Program (EWP).

For more information on the awards and luncheon, please contact event coordinator Jess Havard [[Jessica@twodefence.com.au](mailto:Jessica@twodefence.com.au)].

## PROJECT MANAGEMENT



### DEBBIE-SUE MCGOVERN BROADSPECTRUM

#### Role: EMOS Manager RAAF Pearce & Remote Sites

Debbie's commitment is demonstrated in her love for the job and the people she works with. In her own words, she likes to know that she is making a tangible difference with Defence. Her intimate understanding of Defence at one of the busiest flying training schools in Australia means she can pre-empt requirements to support the critical objectives of the Air Force. Debbie is already an outstanding ambassador for the industry and colleagues, teaching her team about communication and the complexities of managing contracted services in Defence.



### ESTI COGGER JLL

#### Role: Project Director Defence Estate Works Program NSW

Esti has demonstrated success in the delivery of projects in alignment with Defence requirements and her commitment to working with multiple stakeholders to bring desired outcomes. Her mastery of technical details, team leadership and achievement of value for money on all projects deserve special recognition. She has also been a strong advocate and instrumental in building awareness around the diversity and inclusion of others, including those with diverse cultural backgrounds, and particularly Indigenous Australians.



### GROUP CAPTAIN WENDY BLYTH DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE – CAPABILITY ACQUISITION AND SUSTAINMENT GROUP

#### Role: Officer Commanding – Surveillance and Response Systems Program Office (SRSPO)

Leading the most complex sustainment organisation within Aerospace Systems Division, Wendy has successfully managed the transition into service of the P-8 Poseidon. At the same time she has been unwavering in ensuring the continued safe operation of the P-3 Orion, especially as it nears the end of its operational life. In addition Wendy has ensured continuing sustainment support for the niche capability of common Aeronautical Life Support Equipment across 18 different aircraft platforms to meet Army, Navy and Air Force requirements. She successfully closed the Heron capability, ensuring the contract continued to deliver support to the Capability Manager right to the contract's end, whilst minimising cost.

## ENGINEERING



**DR CHRISTINE SHANAHAN**  
**DEFENCE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY GROUP**

**Role: Discipline lead for Internet of Military Things program for Land Division**

Dr Shanahan is to be commended for her outstanding and consistent delivery of engineering expertise and problem solving to Defence, which has resulted in both monetary savings and improving soldier survivability. This has been achieved through her highly motivated basic and applied research, complimented with extensive outreach and engagement with partner nations and academia. Dr Shanahan regularly shares her knowledge with Defence by engaging directly with the military, producing quality client reports and presenting at military forums.



**DR LAURA BROOKS**  
**ASC**

**Role: Specialist Signatures Engineer**

Laura thrives on developing and implementing strategic approaches that deliver tangible outcomes in the context of the bigger picture, which coupled with her rigorous research training and impeccable credentials in technical engineering, enables her to provide pragmatic solutions at an appropriate level without compromising technical accuracy.



**JENNY ABELA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE – CAPABILITY ACQUISITION  
AND SUSTAINMENT GROUP**

**Role: Chief Engineer – Land Command, Control and Communications System  
Program Office (LC3SPO)**

Jenny has been the Chief Engineer for LC3SPO for nearly a decade. Over this period she has been instrumental in the successful delivery of the Battle Management System to Army. During this time, Jenny has overseen the delivery of the capability across multiple mobile and static platforms. With over 3,000 systems delivered to Army, a rigorous design process was undertaken to ensure that a fully design accepted system was fielded to Army. As Chief Engineer she has taken personal accountability for the technical program in a complex and ambiguous environment. Her personal drive, leadership and commitment were crucial to the success of the program.

## TECHNICAL TRADE



**KRISTIE JAMES**  
**BOEING DEFENCE AUSTRALIA**

**Role: Maintenance Control Section Supervisor (MCS) for Army Aviation Training & Training Support (AATTS)**

Kristie is a highly motivated individual who is passionate about defence. She is a respected subject matter expert who regularly performs many duties outside the scope of her role. She also gives considerable time to advocating for veterans as a member of BDA's Veterans Working Group, and she's an active member of the Toowoomba and Oakey veterans' communities. Kristie is also actively involved in building a pipeline of skilled young people for the defence and aerospace sectors as a Boeing STEM Ambassador.



**JAMIE NEGGERS**  
**TOP ACES INC**

**Role: Lead Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer for Australian Fast Jet Trial**

Jamie has assumed a leadership role in a multinational maintenance team supporting RAAF/RAN and combat support training based at RAAF Williamtown. Being a start-up she has had to continually adapt and demonstrate resourcefulness to solve the myriad problems encountered on the path from importation to flight operations. Jamie has constructed a functional, deployed Alpha Jet maintenance organization in under six months with no previous start-up experience. She is often a one woman show and the JAS Fast Jet Trial has had a remarkable success rate to date attributable to her ability to lead her team.



**ALEXANDRA (LEXI) GRZYWACZ**  
**ASC**

**Role: Fabrication Tradesperson (welding)**

In addition to being regarded by management and her peers as an outstanding Fabrication Tradesperson, Lexi also participates in a number of roles that fall outside of her normal role. She is described as a driven, well-respected young woman who is clearly passionate about progressing her career and rising to greater levels of responsibility. She is active in creating a safe workplace which is free from occupational hazards, bullying and discrimination - evidenced by her lead role in ASC's Call Out bullying program and participation on the Major Hazards Panel.



## RISING STAR



**LAURA IMBER**  
**AIRBUS AUSTRALIA PACIFIC**

**Role: Airframe, Mechanical and Propulsion Structures engineer**

Based on her contributions to the MRH90 ASI program and her continued support to the platform in an in-service role, Laura is a quiet achiever who clearly demonstrates her commitment to the defence business. The fact that her work is so polished and precise when she delivers, makes her very well respected by her peers, managers and customers.



**TAMARA WHITE**  
**ASC**

**Role: Project Manager (PM) for HMAS Sheean**

Tamara seeks to improve as much and as quickly as she can. Her passion and drive has seen her achieve outstanding successes and make significant contributions to the maintenance of Australia's front line defence assets. Her work is noteworthy for its quality, completeness and thoroughness. Tamara's maturity, and excellent team-building and engagement skills allow her to work in a complex organisation and achieve outcomes. She has a very pragmatic perspective in negotiating, ensuring that the requirements of her project are achieved.



**CAROLINE CHAI**  
**BAE SYSTEMS AUSTRALIA**

**Role: Systems Engineer**

Caroline has earned a reputation as a top performer who isn't afraid of hard work or new challenges. Securing an international secondment and buy-in from the businesses reflects Caroline's ability to create opportunities and her determination to succeed. Caroline pushes herself to understand the defence industry and history. She regularly attends industry events to meet local businesses and experts, extending her knowledge and network. Caroline dedicates countless hours to STEM initiatives – programs include FIRST® Robotics, LEGO League, STEM Sista; speaking at schools, universities, and events such as National Science Week.